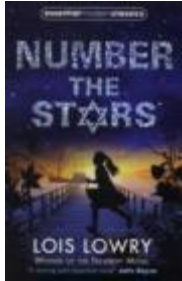


Holocaust Memorial Day – Reading List

Number the Stars by *Lois Lowry* 10+

Inspired by true events of the Second World War, this gripping novel brings the past vividly to life.



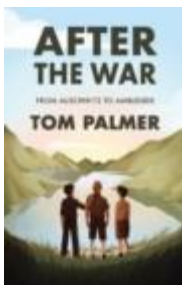
In Nazi-occupied Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie Johansen is called upon for a selfless act of bravery to help save her best friend from a terrible fate.

'They plan to arrest all the Danish Jews. They plan to take them away. And we have been told that they may come tonight.'

It is 1943 and life in Copenhagen is becoming complicated for Annemarie. There are food shortages and curfews, and soldiers on every corner. But it is even worse for her Jewish best friend, Ellen, as the Nazis continue their brutal campaign. With Ellen's life in danger, Annemarie must summon all her courage to help stage a daring escape.

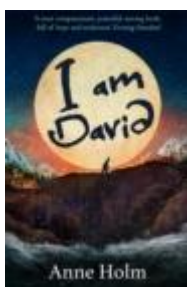
After the War by *Tom Palmer* 10+

A touching and lucidly-told true story of Jewish children sent to safety in Lake Windermere in 1945



The Second World War is finally over and Yossi, Leo and Mordecai are among three hundred children who arrive in the English Lake District. Having survived the horrors of the Nazi concentration camps, they've finally reached a place of safety and peace, where they can hopefully begin to recover. But Yossi is haunted by thoughts of his missing father and disturbed by terrible nightmares. As he waits desperately for news from home, he fears that Mordecai and Leo - the closest thing to family he has left - will move on without him. Will life by the beautiful Lake Windermere be enough to bring hope back into all their lives?

I am David by *Anne Holm* 10+



An incredible story of survival against all odds and self-discovery.

'You must get away tonight,' the man had told him. David escapes from the concentration camp where he has spent his entire life and flees across Europe. Sea, mountains and flowers, the colours of Italy, the taste of fruit, people laughing and smiling, all are new to David. And David learns that his polite manner, his haunted eyes and his thin features are strange to other people. He must now learn to fend for himself in this strange new world.

When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit by *Judith Kerr* 11+

This semi-autobiographical classic, tells the story of a Jewish family escaping Germany in the days before the Second World War.



Suppose your country began to change. Suppose that without your noticing, it became dangerous for some people to live in it any longer, and you found, to your surprise, that your own father was one of those people. This is what happened to Anna in 1933. Anna was too busy with her schoolwork and tobogganing to listen to the talk of Hitler. But one day she and her brother Max are rushed out of Germany in alarming secrecy, away from everything they know. Their father is wanted by the Nazis - dead or alive. This is the start of a huge adventure, sometimes frightening, very often funny, and always, always exciting.

Once by Morris Gleitzman 11+

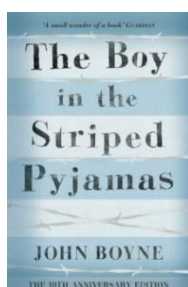
A moving and convincing child-eye view of what happened to the children of Poland after the Germans invaded.



For three years and eight months Felix has lived in a convent orphanage high in the mountains in Poland. But Felix is different from the other orphans. He is convinced his parents are still alive and will come back to get him. When a group of Nazi soldiers come and burn the nuns' books, Felix is terrified that his Jewish, bookseller parents will also be in danger. After escaping from the orphanage, Felix embarks on a long and dangerous journey through Nazi occupied Poland, befriendng a little orphan girl called Zelda and a kindly dentist, Barney, who hides and cares for Jewish children. But when the Nazis discover them, Barney makes the ultimate sacrifice for the children.

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by John Boyne 11+

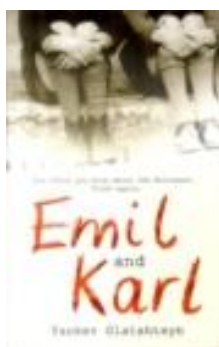
This story serves as a compelling and shocking symbol of the futility and horror of the holocaust.



Nine-year-old Bruno knows nothing of the Final Solution and the Holocaust. He is oblivious to the appalling cruelties being inflicted on the people of Europe by his country. All he knows is that he has been moved from a comfortable home in Berlin to a house in a desolate area where there is nothing to do and no one to play with. Until he meets Shmuel, a boy who lives a strange parallel existence on the other side of the adjoining wire fence and who, like the other people there, wears a uniform of striped pyjamas. Bruno's friendship with Shmuel will take him from innocence to revelation. And in exploring what he is unwittingly a part of, he will inevitably become subsumed by the terrible process.

Emil and Karl by Yankev Glatshteyn 12+

Yankev Glatshteyn had seen life under the Nazis, and his book chillingly anticipates the Holocaust that was about to unfold.

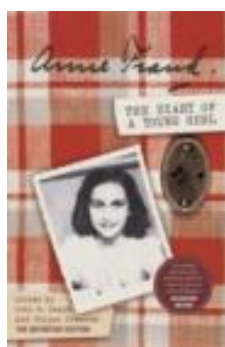


Written in the form of a suspense novel, Emil and Karl draws readers into the dilemmas faced by two young boys--one Jewish, the other not--when they suddenly find themselves without families or homes in Vienna on the eve of World War II.

Yesterday, everything was normal. Today, they've taken your parents. Even your school isn't safe. Who can you trust? By the time you find out, it'll be too late.

The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank 12+

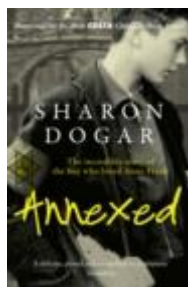
Now widely regarded as one of the most important pieces of historical literature of all time, Anne Frank's diary has lost none of its power since its publication.



In July 1942, 13 year old Anne Frank and her family, fleeing the occupation, went into hiding in an Amsterdam warehouse. Over the next two years Anne vividly describes in her diary the frustrations of living in such close quarters, and her thoughts, feelings and longings as she grows up. Her diary ends abruptly when, on 4th August 1944, they were all betrayed by someone, arrested by the SS and sent to various concentration camps, both in Germany and Poland.

Annexed by Sharon Dogar 12+

This fictionalised account of Peter (a teenage Dutch Jew, hiding from the Nazis with his family and their friends, the Franks) is a meditation on the power of written testimony and the nature of evil.



Everyone knows about Anne Frank, and her life hidden in the secret annexe - or do they? Peter van Pels and his family are locked away in there with the Franks, and Peter sees it all differently. What is it like to be forced into hiding with Anne Frank, to hate her and then find yourself falling in love with her? To know you're being written about in her diary, day after day? What's it like to sit and wait and watch whilst others die, and you wish you were fighting? How can Anne and Peter try to make sense of one of the most devastating episodes in recent history - the holocaust? Anne's diary ends on August 4 1944, but Peter's story takes us on, beyond their betrayal and into the Nazi death camps.

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak 13+

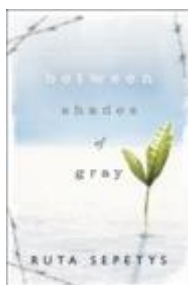
SOME IMPORTANT INFORMATION - THIS NOVEL IS NARRATED BY DEATH.



1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier. Liesel, an 11-year old girl, lives with a foster family on Himmel Street. Her parents have been taken away to a concentration camp and Liesel steals a gravedigger's handbook and gets hooked on reading. This is her story and the story of the inhabitants of her street when the bombs begin to fall.

ANOTHER THING YOU SHOULD KNOW - DEATH WILL VISIT THE BOOK THIEF THREE TIMES!

Between Shades of Gray by Ruta Sepetys 13+



Set in 1941, Between Shades of Gray is an extraordinary and haunting story based on first-hand family accounts and memories from survivors.

One night fifteen-year-old Lina, her mother and young brother are hauled from their home by Soviet guards, thrown into cattle cars and sent away. They are being deported to Siberia. An unimaginable and harrowing journey has begun. Lina doesn't know if she'll ever see her father or her friends again. But she refuses to give up hope. Lina hopes for her family. For her country. For her future. For love - first love, with the boy she barely knows but knows she does not want to lose ...Will hope keep Lina alive?

The Earth is Singing by Vanessa Curtis 13+

Based on true events, this first-person narrative tells the story of the Jews of Riga during World War II.



By the middle of 1941, fifteen-year-old Hanna Michelson's life has changed beyond recognition. First the Russians came and took away her beloved father, her language and the beautiful house she had grown up in. And then the Nazis arrived and took away everything else. Because Hanna is a Jew, her family, her possessions, her home, her dignity and ultimately her life must be forfeit to the Nazi ideology that has invaded her country. But Hanna promised her Papa she would survive to tell their story. Based on true events, this first-person narrative tells the story of the Jews of Riga during World War II. Engaging, harrowing and thought-provoking, this is a story that should not be forgotten.

When The World Was Ours by Liz Kessler 14+

Based on the true story of how Liz Kessler's father escaped from Nazi-occupied Europe thanks to a British couple his family had met once.



Vienna, 1936. Elsa, Leo and Max have always been best friends, a special team of three. Then the Nazis come. As a growing darkness descends around them, Leo and Elsa run for their lives, taking two very different paths across Europe. And Max, once their closest friend, now becomes the enemy as he is drawn into the Hitler Youth. Will the friends ever find their way back to each other? Will they want to?

Saving Midnight by Suzy Zail 14+

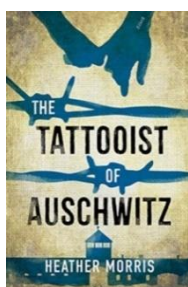
A gripping read about one boy's fight for survival during WWII.



Fourteen-year-old Alexander Altmann doesn't need to look at the number tattooed on his arm. A10567: he knows it by heart. He also knows that to survive Auschwitz, he has to toughen up. When he is given the job of breaking in the commander's new horse, their survival becomes intertwined. Alexander knows that the animal is scared and damaged, but he must win its trust. If he fails, they will both be killed.

The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris 14+ (Young Adult Edition)

The real story behind one of the most potent symbols of the Holocaust - the blue numbers tattooed on prisoners' arms

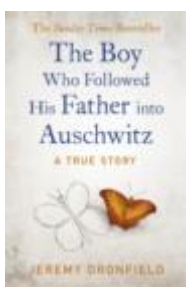


The Tattooist of Auschwitz is based on the true story of Lale and Gita Sokolov, two Slovakian Jews who survived Auschwitz.

When Lale, is given the job of tattooing the prisoners and he saw Gita waiting in line, it was love at first sight. In that moment he was determined to keep them both alive. This is a story of hope and of courage.

The Boy Who Followed His Father into Auschwitz by Jeremy Dronfield 16+

An inspiring true story of a father and son's fight to stay together and survive the Holocaust.



Vienna, 1939. Nazi police seize Gustav Kleinmann, a Jewish upholsterer and his son, Fritz, and send the pair to Buchenwald in Germany. There began an unimaginable ordeal that saw the pair beaten, starved and forced to build the very concentration camp they were held in. When Gustav was set to be transferred to Auschwitz, a certain death sentence, his son refused to leave his side. Throughout the horrors they witnessed and the suffering they endured, there was one constant that kept them alive: the love between father and son. Based on Gustav's secret diary and meticulous archive research, this book tells their incredible story for the first time - a story of courage and survival unparalleled in the history of the Holocaust.

The Zoo Keeper's Wife by Diane Ackerman 16+

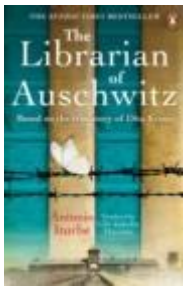
Based on a remarkable true story of bravery and sanctuary during World War II.



When Germany invades Poland, Luftwaffe bombers devastate Warsaw and the city's zoo along with it. With most of their animals killed, or stolen away to Berlin, zookeepers Jan and Antonina Zabinski begin smuggling Jews into the empty cages. As the war escalates Jan becomes increasingly involved in the anti-Nazi resistance. Ammunition is buried in the elephant enclosure and explosives stored in the animal hospital. Plans are prepared for what will become the Warsaw uprising. Through the ever-present fear of discovery, Antonina must keep her unusual household afloat, caring for both its human and animal inhabitants - otters, a badger, hyena pups, lynxes - as Europe crumbles around them.

The Librarian of Auschwitz by Antonio Iturbe 16+

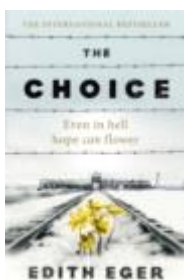
Based on the incredible and moving true story of Dita Kraus, holocaust survivor and secret librarian for the children's block in Auschwitz.



Fourteen-year-old Dita is one of the many imprisoned by the Nazis at Auschwitz. Taken, along with her mother and father, from the Terezin ghetto in Prague, Dita is adjusting to the constant terror that is life in the camp. When Jewish leader Freddy Hirsch asks Dita to take charge of the eight precious books the prisoners have managed to smuggle past the guards, she agrees. And so Dita becomes the secret librarian of Auschwitz, responsible for the safekeeping of the small collection of titles, as well as the 'living books' - prisoners of Auschwitz who know certain books so well, they too can be 'borrowed' to educate the children in the camp. But books are extremely dangerous. They make people think. And nowhere are they more dangerous than in Block 31 of Auschwitz, the children's block, where the slightest transgression can result in execution, no matter how young the transgressor.

The Choice by Edith Eger 16+

The Choice is an unforgettable story. It shows that hope can flower in the most unlikely places.



In 1944, sixteen-year-old ballerina Edith Eger was sent to Auschwitz.

Separated from her parents on arrival, she endures unimaginable experiences, including being made to dance for the infamous Josef Mengele.

When the camp is finally liberated, she is pulled from a pile of bodies, barely alive. The horrors of the Holocaust didn't break Edith. In fact, they helped her learn to live again with a life-affirming strength and a truly remarkable resilience.

Schindler's Ark by Thomas Keneally 16+

In the shadow of Auschwitz, a flamboyant German industrialist grew into a living legend to the Jews of Cracow.



This is the extraordinary story of Oskar Schindler, who risked his life to protect Jews in Nazi-occupied Poland and who was transformed by the war into a man with a mission, a compassionate angel of mercy.