

Recommended Resources

Teaching about the Holocaust in Primary Schools

There are a number of resources that can be borrowed from the Diocesan Resource Centre in St Albans, including videos, books, posters and an Anne Frank class box for use in primary schools

Tel: 01727 818158/01727 818178

Email: readviser@stalbans.anglican.org

Resources and Reviews

1 The Butterfly - Patricia Polacco
ISBN 0 399 23170 6

A beautifully illustrated story about children in France during the Second World War. The 'ghost' at the bottom of Monique's bed turns out to be a young Jewish girl named Sevrine, who has been hiding in the basement. Playing secretly, the two girls become friends, until they are discovered.

Suitable for primary ages and above, a passionate and true tale of friendship from the French Resistance.

2 Passage to Freedom, The Sugihara Story - Ken Mochizuki
ISBN 1 880000 49 0

In 1940, five year old Hiroki Sugihara, the eldest son of the Consul to Lithuania, saw hundreds of Jewish refugees from Poland standing outside the Consulate window. They had come to ask Hiroki's father if he could write visas for them to escape the Nazi threat.

Based on Hiroki's own words, this is the story of one man's remarkable courage and the respect that was built between father and son because the welfare of others was placed so highly.

Suitable for Key Stage 2 and above

3 The Lily Cupboard - Shulamith Levey Oppenheim
ISBN 0 06 443393 5

Set in The Netherlands, Miriam is sent away from the city to live with non-Jews in the country. She hides in the lily cupboard ...

A lovely story, suitable for ages 6 to 8

4 Ten Thousand Children - Anne L Fox and Eva Abraham-Podietz
ISBN 0 874 4168 5

True stories told by children who were in Germany and escaped the Holocaust on the kindertransport.

An excellent teacher resource with background information and updates on what happened to each of the children after the war.

5 Flowers on the Wall - Miriam Nerlove
ISBN 0 689 50614 7

Rachel dreams of becoming an artist in Paris but being Jewish and living in Warsaw, Poland, during the Second World War, she finds the only painting she can do is inside, on the apartment walls. Rachel's dreams vanish when she and her family are sent to Treblinka, a Nazi concentration camp.

This is a moving story, inspired by a photograph taken in 1939 of a child in a flower-painted basement in Warsaw.

6 Rose Blanche - C Gallaz and Roberto Innocenti
ISBN 0 15 200917 5

A beautifully illustrated story for all ages about a girl in Germany who finds a concentration camp in the woods. Unforgettable and full of realism.

7 I am a Holocaust Torah - Rabbi Alex J Goldman
ISBN 965229236 2

The story of the saving of 1,564 Torah scrolls stolen by the Nazis.
An excellent teacher resource, to be used in assemblies and lessons.

8 I wanted to fly like a Butterfly - Naomi Morgenstern

Please contact Jane Chipperton for ways to obtain a copy of this book
readviser@stalbans.anglican.org or order direct from Israel
helen.rahamim@yadvashem.org.il

This is the story of Channa Gofrit who was a little girl living in Biala Rawska in Poland when Nazi Germany occupied it and implemented their plan to murder all Jews in Poland and in Europe. Each chapter focuses on an event in her childhood and reflects the fear, the difficulties and the courage that her family members demonstrated alongside help handed to them by Polish people. Among other subjects the story deals with Channa's childhood before the war, what was Channa's reaction when forced to wear the yellow star, what happened when Channa wanted to go to school and how was she saved. Channa's address is given at the end of the book so children could write to her.

Other resources available from bookshops and museums:

9 The Last Goodbye (Kindertransport)

An education 'pack' on the escape of 10,000 unaccompanied children of the Kindertransport in 1938 and 1939 was launched at Parliament Hill Secondary School, London, in the presence of members of the education press, teachers, pupils of the school who were using the pack, and representatives of the Kinder.

Sponsored by the AJR, the new publication, *The Last Goodbye - the Rescue of Children from Nazi Europe*, which is illustrated with the paintings of Holocaust artist Hans Jackson, was developed and is published by the Jewish Museum London. The pack was funded by KT-AJR and the AJR Charitable Trust. Bertha Leverton pledged her 80th birthday presents to the project, actively supported by the then KT-AJR's chairman, the late David Jedwab.

Ruth Anne Lenga, head of education at the Jewish Museum, outlined the scope and objectives of the publication, and the school's head of history, Jo Davey, said that her pupils had been eager to learn the Kindertransport story and to discuss its wider implications. KT-AJR Chairman Hermann Hirschberger and Kindertransport reunion founder Bertha Leverton recalled their emotions on being uprooted from their homes in Germany when they were children and their early experiences in Britain.

The publication contains information and details of activities to help young people learn more about the Kindertransport. It is designed to help teachers meet national curriculum requirements and raises opportunities to discuss responsibilities to people in need or seeking shelter. The pack also encourages discussion of the role refugees have played in developing and contributing to British society, and the children's attitudes to collective and personal identity.

Teachers and schools can purchase copies of the publication at £7.50 from:
The Jewish Museum, 129-131 Albert Street, Camden Town, London NW1 7NB

10 I have not seen a butterfly around here?
ISBN 8085608189

A selection of children's poems and drawings reflecting their surroundings in Terezâin Concentration Camp in Czechoslovakia from 1942 to 1944.

11 Parallel Journeys - E Ayer
ISBN 0 689 83236 2

See also: www2.scholastic.com

In *Parallel Journeys*, Eleanor Ayer tells the true story of two very different people who lived through World War II. Helen Waterford was already a young woman, married with a child, when she went into hiding in Amsterdam because she was Jewish. Alfons Heck was just a boy when the war began. By the war's end, he was a high-ranking officer in the Hitler Youth. Although Helen was able to find a safe home for her daughter during the war, Nazis discovered Helen and her husband in their hiding place. They were separated at a concentration camp, and she never saw him again.

Because Alfons was just a young boy, he was easily brainwashed by the power and the flash of Hitler and his promise for a new Germany. He eagerly participated in youth rallies, and was chosen to lead groups of young boys into war. As Germany's forces were depleted, Hitler depended more and more on the Hitler Youth. When he was just 15, Alfons became a top-ranked glider pilot. At sixteen, he became a Bannfuhrer, equivalent to the rank of a major general in the US, with 6,000 troops under his command. By the end of the war Alfons had lost many friends and found his hometown reduced to rubble. He could only hope that the occupying forces of the United States and France would not deal with him too harshly.

At the same time that Alfons was rising through the ranks, Helen was suffering through the miserable conditions of concentration camps. During her two months at Auschwitz, where two million people perished throughout the war, the smoke from the crematoria was always in view. Helen was then shipped to Kratzau, a work camp where the women were given little to eat and lived in freezing barracks filled with lice. She was extremely weak and ill by the time Russian troops finally reached Kratzau to free her and the other survivors.

After a difficult journey, Helen eventually managed to return to Amsterdam, where she was reunited with her daughter. Later, she moved to the United States to be with her parents. For Alfons, the post-war years were filled with work rebuilding his grandparents' farm, and with the struggle to come to terms with the horrors of the Holocaust. Alfons actually went to the Nuremberg Trials to see the men he had idolized explain what happened. Later, Alfons also moved to the United States, after living in Canada.

12 Twenty and Ten - C H Bishop
ISBN 0 14 031076 2

During the German occupation of France, twenty French children were brought to a refuge in the mountains. One day a young man came to their school with a request. Could they take in and hide ten Jewish refugee children? Of course the children understood, but how would they hide them if the Nazis came? Based on a true story...one of many such incidents during the war.

13 Terrible Things - Eve Bunting
ISBN 0 8276 0325 8

In this allegory, the author's reaction to the Holocaust, the animals of the forest are carried away, one type after another, by the Terrible Things, not realizing that if perhaps they would all stick together and not look the other way, such terrible things might not happen.

14 If the stars could only speak - Batsheva Dagan Holocaust Centre
ISBN 978-0-9543001-8-0

A moving and sensitively written children's book by Holocaust survivor and educationalist Batsheva Dagan. *If The Stars Could Only Speak* tells the story of

a Jewish mother and her children torn apart - but eventually reunited - by the events of the Holocaust. Specially written for use in schools with children aged ten upwards and an excellent introduction to the difficult issues of the Holocaust.

"The children were enthralled by the story and great discussions followed around the characters - prisoners and perpetrators... Each child could access and understand the pain and challenges of the victims..."

I shall definitely use this book each time when Year 6 try to make sense of the atrocity which was the Holocaust."

Jackie Lunan, Year 6 teacher, St. John the Evangelist Catholic Primary School, Bradford

**15 When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit - Judith Kerr Collins
ISBN 000713763X**

Anna is nine and is far too busy with schoolwork, tobogganing and making important decisions about whether wood yo-yos, are better than tin, to do more than notice the posters of the man who has a moustache like Charlie Chaplin. It isn't until one morning she finds her papa has disappeared that she starts to listen to the grownups talk of Hitler, elections and Anna's Jewish background. And then one afternoon she comes home from school to discover her missing father is uneasy over their safety and they must go to Zurich that very week to meet him that she realises how serious the threat of Hitler is.

It is the story of a lost childhood and the dissent from fame and wealth to poverty and having a price on your head. It is the story of four lives destroyed by the Nazis. And it is a true story.

It is one of the best books written about World War Two it shows the funny sad side of a childhood destroyed by hate. And the difficulties of French and English to a nine year old girl from Berlin whose mother who can't cook. This is a Brilliant book as are the sequels *The Other Way Round* and *A Small Person Far Away*. Lovers of 'Anne Franks Diary' and all the Michael Magorian's books will revel in this book of courage, pain and growing up.

16 A Small Person Far Away - Judith Kerr (HarperCollins)
ISBN 0001848526 (hardback) paperback also available

Partly autobiographical, this is the third title in Judith Kerr's internationally acclaimed trilogy of books following the life of Anna through war-torn Germany, to London during the Blitz and her return to Berlin to discover the past! Berlin is where Anna lived before Hitler, when she was still a German child; before she spoke a word of English, before her family had all become refugees. Long before her happy new existence in London. But Mama is there, dangerously ill. Anna is forced to go back, to deal with questions of life and death, to face old fears, and to discover the past which she has so long shut away.

17 One Small Suitcase - Barry Turner (Puffin)
ISBN-10: 0141314699

For ten months before the Second World War, thousands of children were bundled on to trains and waved goodbye to their parents as they set off across Germany and Holland to the ferries that would take them to England. The book is based on extensive interviews with those who helped to organise the transports, the families who took the children in and above all the young refugees as they began new lives in a strange country. Many were faced with a continuous stream of foster parents and children's homes; many were evacuated and even deported - and almost all never saw their parents again.

18 Hitler's Canary - Sandi Toksvig (Corgi Yearling Books)
ISBN-10: 0440866626

Bamse is used to drama: his mother is a famous actress, and his best friend Anton is one of the most daring boys in Denmark. When the German troops invade, Bamse doesn't know how to act: should he stay out of trouble - or follow his brother into the resistance and take the most demanding role of his life?

19 A Candle in the Dark - Adele Geras (A & C Black)
ISBN-10: 0713650761; ISBN-13: 978-0713650761

First published in hardback in 1995, a story about a Jewish brother and sister who flee from Nazi Germany and embark on a new life in England. With 25 black and white drawings by Elsie Lennox. In the FLASHBACKS series. Suitable for National Curriculum Key Stage 2.

20 The Mozart Question - Michael Morpurgo (Walker Books)
ISBN-10: 1406306487; ISBN-13: 978-1406306484

When Lesley is sent to Venice to interview world-renowned violinist Paulo Levi on his fiftieth birthday, she cannot believe her luck. She is told that she can ask him anything at all - except the Mozart question. But it is Paulo himself who decides that it is time for the truth to be told. And so follows the story of his parents as Jewish prisoners of war, forced to play Mozart violin concertos for the enemy; how they watched fellow Jews being led off to their deaths and knew that they were playing for their lives. As the story unfolds, the journalist begins to understand the full horror of war, and how one group of musicians survived using the only weapon they had - music.

21 Waiting for Anya - Michael Morpurgo (Egmont)
ISBN-10: 1405229276; ISBN-13: 978-1405229272

This is a gripping historical adventure by a much-loved and award winning author. It is World War II and Jo stumbles on a dangerous secret: Jewish children are being smuggled away from the Nazis, close to his mountain village in Spain. Now, German soldiers have been stationed at the border. Jo must get word to his friends that the children are trapped. The slightest mistake could cost them their lives.

22 Hana's Suitcase - Karen Levine (Evans)
ISBN: 0237526301

Hana's suitcase tells the story of Hana Brady and the suitcase with her name painted on it. One small piece of her life that she took with her on her final journey to the Gas Chambers of Auschwitz. Her story would remain untold if not for a Japanese Curator of a small Holocaust museum in Tokyo who after being sent the case to put on display, was compelled by her child students to try and find out what happened to the little girl who had owned the case originally.

Told in flashbacks, we learn about Hana Brady, her loving hard working parents and her older brother George, a middle class family living in Czechoslovakia who just happened to be Jewish. And because they were Jewish they were targeted by the Nazis, first the father was arrested, then the mother and finally the children were taken, and Hana who was then just 13 years old was killed upon her arrival at Auschwitz.

However her older brother George somehow survived the Holocaust and the determined museum curator tracked him down and George Brady, now a Canadian, was finally able to lay the memory of his little sister to rest.

In 2002 he went to Tokyo and met the curator and the many school children who saw in that simple piece of luggage the very essence of who his sister had been, Hana Brady, schoolgirl, artist, daughter, game player, sister, dreamer granddaughter and finally a victim of the Holocaust.

A moving book for all ages, short and simple, well worth a read.

23 The Holocaust - Susanna Davidson (Usborne)

ISBN-10: 0746088736; ISBN-13: 978-0746088739

This is a new title in "Young Reading Series Three", which is aimed at children whose reading ability and confidence allows them to tackle longer and more complex stories. The book tells the story of the Holocaust from the ancient roots of anti-Semitism through persecution in Post-World War One Europe and the horrors of the 'Final Solution'. Told in a sensitive and informative narrative, this book combines first hand testimony from Holocaust survivors with historical fact. It is illustrated with documentary photography where appropriate. It is developed in consultation with Alison Kelly, who is a senior lecturer in education and an early reading specialist from Roehampton University.

24 Erika's Story - Ruth van der Zee

ISBN-10: 0224070150; ISBN-13: 978-0224070157

In a cattle car, on their way to death, Erika's family threw her to life. She was thrown from the train and taken to a woman who risked her life to care for this baby. She gave her a name, birthdate, a home, food, cloths and life. This is Erika's story of survival and courage during World War II.

I am a teacher and I bought this book after seeing it being used on a documentary. I have used it lots of times - the text is excellent and the images are very appropriate. I have spent a whole half term using this as a main teaching focus. I would definitely recommend this book to anyone who is interested in or looking into the holocaust in more detail.

25 The Number on my Grandfather's Arm - David A Adler (URJ Press)
ISBN-10: 0807403288; ISBN-13: 978-0807403280

The moving story of a young girl who learns her grandfather's experience in Auschwitz and then helps him overcome his sensitivity about the number on his arm, this award-winning picture book gives young children just enough information about the Holocaust without overwhelming them.

26 One Candle - Eve Bunting (Joanna Cotler Books)
ISBN-10: 0060085606; ISBN-13: 978-0060085605

For one family the traditional Hanukkah celebration has a deeper meaning. Amidst the food and the festivities, Grandma and Great-Aunt Rose begin their story -- the one they tell each year. They pass on to each generation a tale of perseverance during the darkest hours of the Holocaust, and the strength it took to continue to honor Hanukkah in the only way they could. Their story reaffirms the values of tradition and family, but also shows us that by continuing to honor the tragedies and the triumphs of the past there will always be hope for the future.

27 Little Boy Star - An Allegory of the Holocaust
ISBN-10: 1596871725; ISBN-13: 978-1596871724

A young Jewish boy is given a star to wear. At first he is proud of the decoration, but soon finds the star overshadowing him — no one sees the boy, only the star. Lonely, frightened, and helpless, he watches as other star-wearers are led away into the night. This affecting allegory, rich with symbolism, educates children about the events of the Holocaust in a way that young minds can easily grasp. Told in simple, poetic language, the book offers a tender message of tolerance and inner strength.

Useful websites

www.hmd.org.uk (Holocaust Memorial Day)
<http://education.hmd.org.uk/age-range/primary>
www1.yadvashem.org/education/lesson_plan.html
www.het.org.uk (Holocaust Educational Trust)
www.AnneFrank.com
www.bethshalom.com
www.jewishmuseum.org.uk