

THE TEEN COLLECTION

Fiction & Non-Fiction Specifically Selected for 8th-12th Graders (but adults can read them too!)
In the Maxwell Abbell Library at North Suburban Synagogue Beth El
Highland Park, Illinois

YA FICTION

NEW! Astaire, Libi. *The Disappearing Dowry*. Brooklyn: Zahav Press, 2009.

A mystery with Jewish practices and values imbedded: the narrator, a Jewish girl in 1810 London, tells the "megillah" of her wealthy, observant family's plans for her sister Hannah's wedding, which are suddenly interrupted by the loss of the family fortune through bank failures and theft. The next Ezra Melamed mystery will be *The Ruby Spy Ring*.

Baldini, Michelle and Lynn Biederman. *Unraveling*. New York: Delacorte Press, 2008.

When fifteen-year-old Amanda faces major life changes, her controlling mother is the last person she turns to, but she gains some sympathy as she begins to understand her mother's relationship with her best friend. While the Jewish content is incidental, Amanda's family is clearly identified as Jewish: a significant scene takes place at Amanda's sister's Bat Mitzvah and Chanukah is mentioned along with a family trip to Israel.

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. *The Boy Who Dared*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2008.

In October 1942, seventeen-year-old Helmuth Hubener, imprisoned for distributing anti-Nazi leaflets, recalls his past life and how he came to dedicate himself to bring the truth about Hitler and the war to the German people. See also: *Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow*.

Bat-Ami, Miriam. *Two Suns in the Sky*. Penguin, 2001.

After being moved from Yugoslavia to a refugee camp in New York during World War II, one Jewish boy is befriended by a local girl, but when their special friendship turns to romance, their parents demand they end the relationship.

Bennett, Cherie and and Jeff Gottesfeld. *Anne Frank and Me*. New York: Putnam's, 2001.

After suffering a concussion while on a class trip to a Holocaust exhibit, Nicole finds herself living the life of a Jewish teenager in Paris during the Nazi occupation.

Blundell, Judy. *What I Saw and How I Lied*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2008.

In 1947, with her jovial stepfather Joe back from the war and family life returning to normal, teenaged Evie, smitten by the handsome young ex-GI who seems to have a secret hold on Joe, finds herself caught in a complicated web of lies whose devastating outcome changes her life and that of her family forever.

Boyne, John. *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*. New York: David Fickling Books, 2006.

Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called "Out-With" in 1942, Bruno, the son of a Nazi officer, befriends a boy in striped pajamas who lives behind a wire fence. Also available on DVD.

Chotjewitz, David. *Daniel, Half Human and the Good Nazi*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2004.

In 1933, best friends Daniel and Armin admire Hitler, but as anti-Semitism buoys Hitler to power, Daniel learns he is half Jewish, threatening the friendship even as life in their beloved Hamburg, Germany, is becoming nightmarish. Sydney Taylor Honor Award.

Cohn, Rachel and David Levithan. *Nick & Norahs Infinite Playlist*. New York: Random House, 2006.

High school student Nick O'Leary, member of a rock band, meets college-bound Norah Silverberg and asks her to be his girlfriend for five minutes in order to avoid his ex-sweetheart. *Marginal Jewish content*

NEW! Davies, Jacqueline. *Lost*. New York: Marshall Cavendish, 2009.

In 1911 New York, sixteen-year-old Essie Rosenfeld must stop taking care of her irrepressible six-year-old sister when she goes to work at the Triangle Waist Company, where she befriends a missing heiress who is in hiding from her family and who seems to understand the feelings of heartache and grief that Essie is trying desperately to escape. Sydney Taylor Honor Award.

NEW! Ehrenberg, Pamela. *Tillmon County Fire*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2009.

An act of arson committed as an anti-gay hate crime affects the lives of several teenagers from a small town. *Marginal Jewish content*

Ehrenhaft, Daniel. *Tell It to Naomi*. New York: Delacorte Press, 2004.

In an attempt to win the affection of a gorgeous senior girl, and to help his older sister launch her career in journalism, fifteen-year-old David Rosen, a socially awkward loner, pretends to be a female advice columnist for his school newspaper. While Dave's Jewish identity does not play an important role in the story, there are numerous references to Judaism and the passing of time is marked by the Jewish holidays.

NEW! Elkeles, Simone. *How to Ruin a Summer Vacation*. Woodbury, MN: Flux, 2006.

--- ***How to Ruin My Teenage Life*. Woodbury, MN: Flux, 2007.**

--- ***How to Ruin Your Boyfriends Reputation*. Woodbury, MN: Flux, 2009.**

When sixteen-year-old Amy, a spoiled American, goes to Israel for a three-month summer vacation with a father she barely knows, she is not prepared for his Jewish family and the changes they bring about in her life.

NEW! Engle, Margarita. *Tropical Secrets*. New York: Henry Holt, 2009.

Escaping from Nazi Germany to Cuba in 1939, a young Jewish refugee dreams of finding his parents again, befriends a local girl with painful secrets of her own, and discovers that the Nazi darkness is never far away. Sydney Taylor Book Award.

Friedman, Robin. *Nothing*. Woodbury, MN: Flux, 2008.

Despite his outward image of popular, attractive high-achiever bound for the Ivy League college of his father's dreams, high school senior Parker sees himself as a fat, unattractive failure and finds relief for his overwhelming anxieties in ever-increasing bouts of bingeing and purging.

Green, John. *Paper Towns*. New York: Dutton Books, 2008.

Having been in love with Margo forever, Quentin is happy to help her with her strange plots and campaigns for revenge, but when she vanishes one evening without a trace, Quentin finds himself delving into clues in order to resolve many unanswered questions. It is presumed that the main characters are Jewish: Margo uses her Bat Mitzvah money to fund her wild night of revenge, Quentin's dad refers to a dream he had in Hebrew, and Quentin mentions saying Kaddish and names his mini-van "The Dreidel" after a near-fatal spin-out.

Hoffman, Alice. *Incantation*. New York: Little, Brown, 2006.

During the Spanish Inquisition, sixteen-year-old Estrella, brought up a Catholic, discovers her family's true Jewish identity, and when their secret is betrayed by Estrella's best friend, the consequences are tragic. Sydney Taylor Honor Award.

Kass, Pnina. *Real Time*. New York: Clarion Books, 2004.

Hour by hour, we follow a diverse cast of characters up to and beyond the moment of a bus bombing in Israel. The inner lives of kibbutzniks, tourists, soldiers, and even the Palestinian teen who carries the bomb are absorbingly related, revealing how political situations are really composed of many overlapping personal situations. Compellingly written, this stunning portrait of life in modern Israel offers no easy answers, but raises fascinating questions and helps readers connect to the human side of what they see on the news. Sydney Taylor Book Award.

Levine, Anna. *Freefall*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 2008.

As war between Israel and Lebanon breaks out in 2006 and her compulsory service in the Israeli army draws near, teenaged Aggie considers joining an elite female combat unit. Sydney Taylor Honor Award.

Levitin, Sonia. *Escape from Egypt*. Little, Brown, 1994.

The Exodus story forms the backdrop for this carefully researched novel in which Jesse, a Hebrew slave, is torn between his family's wishes and his passion for the half-Egyptian, half-Syrian Jennat.

Levitin, Sonia. *Room in the Heart*. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 2003.

After German forces occupy Denmark during World War II, fifteen-year-old Julie Weinstein and fifteen-year-old Niels Nelson and their friends and families try to cope with their daily lives, finding various ways to resist the Nazis and, ultimately, to survive.

Levitin, Sonia. *The Singing Mountain*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1998.

While traveling in Israel for the summer, seventeen-year-old Mitch decides to stay and pursue a life of Jewish orthodoxy, forcing him to make some important decisions about the family and life he is leaving in southern California.

Levitin, Sonia. *Strange Relations*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2007.

Thinking her summer with her Aunt Carole and her family in Hawaii is going to be filled with sun, fun, and surf, Marne quickly discovers otherwise after her aunt tells her of her life-changing marriage to a Chassidic rabbi and introduces her to her traditions and culture through inspiring, thought-provoking lessons. Sydney Taylor Book Award.

Levithan, David. *Wide Awake*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006.

Levithan paints a picture of the not so distant future when America has experienced the Jesus Revolution, the All Equal Movement, the Greater Depression, the Reign of Fear, the War to End All Wars, and the Prada Riots, and a gay, Jewish man is about to become President of the United States with a Latino woman as his Vice-President. Duncan, a Jewish high school student, and his diverse group of friends become involved and immersed in the election results which have been called into question. At the same time, they are also dealing with their own relationships – both gay and straight – and finding their own place in the new world.

Lieberman, Leanne. *Gravity*. Custer, WA: Orca Book Publishers, 2008.

Afraid that there is no way to be both gay and Jewish, Ellie Gold, an orthodox Jewish teenager feels forced to either alter her sexuality or leave her Jewish community until her mother and sister offer alternative concepts of God that help Ellie find a place for herself.

Little, Melanie. *The Apprentice's Masterpiece*. New York: Annick Press, 2008.

Tells the story of two teenage boys, one a converso and the other a Muslim, living in Spain during the Inquisition as their lives take very different paths when one is enslaved and the other is brought into the service of the Inquisitors.

NEW! Littman, Sarah. *Life, After*. New York: Scholastic, 2010.

When poverty forces her family to leave their home in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Dani has a hard time adjusting to life in New York City, where everything is different except her father's anger, but an unlikely bond she forms with a wealthy, spoiled girl at school helps heal both of their families.

Mack, Tracy. *Birdland*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2003.

Jazz, poetry, and film making in Greenwich Village are vivid counterpoints to the moving story of thirteen year old Jed, his parents, and their grief over the death of Jed's older brother. Sydney Taylor Honor Award.

NEW! Malkin, Nina. *Swoon*. New York: Simon Pulse, 2009.

Taken away from her beloved New York City to live in the land of the posh in suburban Connecticut, Candice finds a new purpose and mission when a strange accident happens that causes Penelope to become possessed by a golem named Sinclair Youngblood Powers. *Marginal Jewish content*

Matas, Carol. *The Freak*. Toronto : Key Porter Books, 2007.

--- *Visions*. Toronto : Key Porter Books, 2007.

--- *Far*. Toronto : Key Porter Books, 2008.

When fifteen-year-old Jade wakes up after a near-fatal bout of meningitis, she discovers she has new psychic powers, allowing her to see the personal thoughts and feelings of her friends and family in their auras.

Meyer, Carolyn. *Drummers of Jericho*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace, 1995.

A fourteen-year-old Jewish girl goes to live with her father and stepmother in a small town and soon finds herself the center of a civil rights battle when she objects to the high school band marching in the formation of a cross.

NEW! Meyerhoff, Jenny. *Queen of Secrets*. New York: Farrar Straus & Giroux, 2010.

Fifteen-year-old Essie Green, an orphan who has been raised by her secular Jewish grandparents in Michigan, experiences conflicting loyalties and confusing emotions when her aunt, uncle and cousin move back from New York, and her very religious cousin tries to fit in with the other football players at Essie's high school, one of whom is Essie's popular new boyfriend.

Miklowitz, Gloria D. *The Enemy has a Face*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2003.

Netta and her family have relocated temporarily from Israel to Los Angeles, and when her seventeen-year-old brother mysteriously disappears, she becomes convinced that he has been abducted by Palestinian terrorists.

Nolan, Han. *If I Should Die Before I Wake*. New York: Harcourt Brace, 1994.

Sixteen-year-old Hilary, a neo-Nazi initiate, lies comatose in a Jewish hospital when she is inexplicably bombarded with "memories" of Chana, a Polish-Jewish girl living fifty years earlier under Nazi oppression.

Ostow, Micol. *Emily Goldberg Learns to Salsa*. New York: Razorbill, 2006.

Emily Goldberg's summer plans are interrupted when her maternal grandmother dies. Even though her mother has been estranged from her family since running away to the States and marrying Emily's father (who is Jewish), the whole family travels to Puerto Rico to attend the funeral. And, what was suppose to be a short trip, turns into a summer-long visit as Emily stays with her mother to help her repair her relationship with her sisters.

NEW! Ostow, Micol. *So Punk Rock (and Other Ways to Disappoint Your Mother)*. Woodbury, MN: Flux, 2009.

Four suburban New Jersey students from the Leo R. Gittleman Jewish Day School form a rock band that becomes inexplicably popular, creating exhilaration, friction, confrontation, and soul-searching among its members.

Polak, Monique. *What World is Left*. Custer, WA: Orca Book Publishers, 2008.

When the Nazis invade Holland in 1942, Anneke's pampered life changes as she and her family are deported to Theresienstadt, a concentration camp in Czechoslovakia which the Nazis are touting as an idyllic place where European Jews are thriving under the Nazi regime.

Potok, Chaim. *My Name is Asher Lev*. New York: Knopf, 1972.

-- ***The Gift of Asher Lev*. New York: Random House, 1990.**

Records the anguish, dreams, and triumphs of Asher Lev, a talented young painter raised in a cloistered Hasidic community in Brooklyn, as he struggles to resolve his gift of art with his religious background only to emerge into the great world of art, rejecting all else.

Potok, Chaim. *The Chosen*. New York: Random House, 1967.

-- ***The Promise*. New York: Random House, 1969.**

A baseball game between Jewish schools is the catalyst that starts a bitter rivalry between two boys and their fathers.

Pressler, Mirjam. *Let Sleeping Dogs Lie*. Asheville, NC: Front Street, 2007.

When Johanna discovers that her grandfather's company--and her family's wealth--was founded on injustice due to the anti-Semitic laws of the Third Reich during the Nazi regime, she must make a life-altering decision. Sydney Taylor Honor Award.

Pressler, Mirjam. *Shylock's Daughter*. New York: P. Fogelman Books, 2001.

Sixteen-year-old Jessica, who longs to be free of the restrictions of her father and life in the Jewish ghetto of sixteenth-century Venice, falls in love with a Christian aristocrat and must make choices which will affect her whole family. Inspired by Shakespeare's play *The Merchant of Venice*.

Rabb, M. E. *Cures for Heartbreak*. New York: Delacorte Press, 2007.

As she navigates adolescence, ninth-grader Mia must deal with her mother's recent death and her father's illness while she searches for friendship and love in the world around her.

Rabb, M. E. *Missing Persons: The Chocolate Lover*. New York: Speak/Penguin Putnam, 2004.

Teenaged Jewish sisters Sam and Sophie Shattenberg, change their identities as they flee from New York to a small town in Indiana and open a detective agency. *The Chocolate Lover* is full of Jewish flavor, but the focus is on the solving of mysteries. Don't miss the rest of the Missing Persons series: *The Rose Queen*, *The Venetian Policeman*, and *The Unsuspecting Gourmet*.

Reinhardt, Dana. *A Brief Chapter in My Impossible Life*. New York: Random House, 2006.

In this poignant story, Simone Turner meets Rivka, her biological mother, and learns about the circumstances of her adoption – how Rivka, a Hasidic Jew, became pregnant at sixteen and was shunned by her family, became a photographer and moved to Cape Cod, and now suffers from terminal cancer. Sydney Taylor Honor Award. See also: *Things a Brother Knows* (September 2010).

Sandell, Lisa Ann. *The Weight of the Sky*. New York: Viking, 2006.

Sixteen-year-old Sarah Green is one of a few Jewish students at her small Pennsylvania high school. When her parents offer to send her to Israel for the summer, she jumps at the chance to assert her independence, reinvent herself in a new place, and live and work within the Jewish community of a kibbutz. While her journey to find herself is not without hardship and challenges, and her idealistic view of Israel and kibbutz life is shattered, Sarah survives the summer transformed with a new sense of Jewish identity, a deeper connection to the land of Israel, increased self-confidence, and a more mature awareness of her own sexuality.

Schorr, Melissa. *Goy Crazy*. New York: Hyperion, 2006.

Sophomore Rachel Lowenstein, a self-described twice-a-year New York Jew, falls in love with Luke Christiansen, the busboy at her brother's Bar Mitzvah. Haunted by her grandmother's instructions to "find a nice Jewish boy to marry" and warning not to go with the goyim, Rachel hides the relationship from her parents, leading them to believe that she is dating her neighbor, Howard Goldstein.

NEW! Silverberg, Selma. *Naomi's Song*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 2009.

Following the biblical Book of Ruth, this is a fictional account of the life experiences of Naomi, taking her from girlhood when she is orphaned to when Ruth marries and gives birth to Naomi's grandson. Sydney Taylor Honor Award.

Sonnenblick, Jordan. *Notes from the Midnight Driver*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2006.

Alex Gregory gets drunk, takes his mother's car, and crashes into a lawn gnome. He must pay his debt to society by doing 100 hours of community service in a nursing home attending to Sol Lewis, a cantankerous resident who suffers from emphysema. *Marginal Jewish content*

Spinelli, Jerry. *Milkweed*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2003.

The hardship and cruelty of life in the ghettos of Warsaw during the Nazi occupation of World War II is captured through the eyes of a young Jewish orphan who must use all his wits and courage to survive unimaginable events and circumstances.

Stein, Tammar. *Light Years*. New York: Random House, 2005.

20-year-old Maya Laor is on her way to meet her boyfriend Dov to tell him that she has decided to leave Israel to study at the University of Virginia when he is killed by a suicide bomber. In alternating chapters between Virginia and Israel, Tammar Stein pieces together Maya and Dov's relationship, Maya's life in Israel, her army service, and her family.

NEW! Stork, Francisco X. *Marcelo in the Real World*. New York: Scholastic, 2009.

Marcelo Sandoval, a seventeen-year-old boy on the high-functioning end of the autistic spectrum, faces new challenges, including romance and injustice, when he goes to work for his father in the mailroom of a corporate law firm. Features a strong Jewish character - a female Reform rabbi - who plays a supporting role for the lead character.

Tal, Eve. *Double Crossing*. El Paso: Cinco Puntos Press, 2005.

NEW! --- *Cursing Columbus*. El Paso: Cinco Puntos Press, 2009.

In 1905, as life becomes increasingly difficult for Jews in Ukraine, eleven-year-old Raizel and her father flee to America in hopes of earning money to bring the rest of the family there, but her father's health and Orthodox faith become barriers.

Welsh, T.K. *The Unresolved*. New York: Dutton Books, 2006.

The spirit of Mallory Meer, a teenage girl who died on the General Slocum, haunts those involved with the 1904 disaster. While history records that a fire started and spread quickly, this work of fiction explores what might have happened when two love struck teenagers steal a moment together below deck and another vents his jealousy by causing the blaze and blaming his nemesis.

Werlin, Nancy. *Black Mirror*. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2001.

Convinced her brother's death was murder rather than suicide, sixteen-year-old Frances begins her own investigation into suspicious student activities at her boarding school. *Marginal Jewish content*

NEW! Whitney, Kim Ablon. *The Other Half of Life*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2009.

In 1939, fifteen-year-old Thomas sails on a German ship bound for Cuba with more than nine hundred German Jews expecting to be granted safe haven in Cuba.

Wiseman, Eva. *Puppet*. Toronto: Tundra Books, 2008.

A powerful fictionalized account of the last blood libel trial in Hungary in 1882 is told through the eyes of Julie, a friend of the murdered servant girl Esther, and a servant at the jail where fourteen-year-old Morris Scharf is imprisoned.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *If You Come Softly*. New York: Putnam, 1998.

--- ***Behind You*. New York: Putnam, 2004.**

After meeting at their private school in New York, fifteen-year-old Jeremiah, who is black, and Ellie, who is white and Jewish, fall in love and then try to cope with people's reactions.

Zenatti, Valerie. *A Bottle in the Gaza Sea*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2008.

Seventeen-year-old Tal Levine of Jerusalem, despondent over the ongoing Arab-Israeli conflict, puts her hopes for peace in a bottle and asks her brother, a military nurse in the Gaza Strip, to toss it into the sea, leading ultimately to friendship and understanding between her and an "enemy." Sydney Taylor Book Award.

Zusak, Markus. *The Book Thief*. New York: Random House, 2006.

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors. Sydney Taylor Book Award.

ADULT FICTION

That Appeals to Teen Readers

Anton, Maggie. *Rashi's Daughters -- Book I: Joheved*. Glendale, CA: Banot Press, 2005.

--- ***Rashi's Daughters-- Book II: Miriam*. New York: Plume, the Penguin Group, 2007.**

NEW! --- ***Rashi's Daughters-- Book III: Rachel*. New York: Plume, the Penguin Group, 2009.**

This historical trilogy tells the fictionalized story of the three daughters of Talmudic scholar Salomon ben Isaac in eleventh-century Troyes, France.

Chabon, Michael. *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*. New York: Picador USA, 2000.

In 1939 New York City, Joe Kavalier, a refugee from Hitler's Prague, joins forces with his Brooklyn-born cousin, Sammy Clay, to create comic-book superheroes inspired by their own fantasies, fears, and dreams.

Diamant, Anita. *The Red Tent*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1997.

In a story based on the Book of Genesis, Jacob's only daughter, Dinah, shares her unique perspective on the origins of many of our modern religious practices and sexual politics, eager to impart the lessons in endurance and humanity she has learned from her father's wives.

Foer, Jonathan Safran. *Everything is Illuminated*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2002.

Hilarious, energetic, and profoundly touching, a debut novel follows a young writer as he travels to the farmlands of eastern Europe, where he embarks on a quest to find Augustine, the woman who saved his grandfather from the Nazis, and, guided by his young Ukrainian translator, he discovers an unexpected past that will resonate far into the future. Available on DVD.

Foer, Jonathan Safran. *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close*. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, c2005.

Oskar Schell, the nine-year-old son of a man killed in the World Trade Center attacks, searches the five boroughs of New York City for a lock that fits a black key his father left behind.

Goldberg, Myla. *Bee Season*. New York: Doubleday, 2000.

An ordinary girl with an exceptional gift for spelling, young Eliza Naumann embarks on the rough-and-tumble "spelling bee" circuit, where her quirky family will collide with the harsh realities of life. Available on DVD.

Hamill, Pete. *Snow in August*. Boston: Little, Brown, 1997.

An unlikely friendship between an eleven-year-old Irish Catholic boy and a lonely rabbi from Prague in 1947 Brooklyn has the two opening new windows of understanding with each other but still fighting the prejudices of the day. Available on DVD.

Kluger, Steve. *Last Days of Summer*. New York: Harper, 2008.

Through letters, notes, report cards, matchbook covers, and telegrams, a novel set in the 1940s follows the sometimes underhanded efforts of a fatherless twelve-year-old to persuade New York Giants third baseman Charlie Banks to be his role model

Michener, James A. *The Source*. New York: Random House, 1965.

An archeological excavation of Tell Makor initiates a journey into the ancient history and culture of Israel that explores the life of the early Hebrews, the impact of Christianity, the Spanish inquisition, and the modern Middle East conflict.

Roth, Philip. *The Plot Against America*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 2004.

In a novel of alternative history, aviation hero Charles A. Lindbergh defeats Franklin Roosevelt in the 1940 presidential election, negotiating an accord with Adolf Hitler and accepting his conquest of Europe and anti-Semitic policies.

Steinberg, Milton. *As a Driven Leaf*. New York: Behrman House, 1939, 1996.

Relates the story of Elish ben Abuyah, a talmudic rabbi who turns to Greek philosophy in his search for a rational explanation for religious faith, is excommunicated by the Sanhedrin, and betrays his former associates in the rabbinate to the Romans.

Uris, Leon. *Exodus*. Garden City, N.Y: Doubleday, 1958.

An American nurse becomes involved in the dramatic events leading to the establishment of the state of Israel. Available on DVD.

Zakrzewski, Paul. *Lost Tribe: Jewish Fiction from the Edge*. New York: Perennial, 2003.

A collection of short fiction from twenty-five contemporary Jewish writers of the "post-Roth" generation offers provocative and compelling stories by Jonathan Safran Foer, Myla Goldberg, Nathan Englander, Tova Mirvis, Gary Shteyngart, and Ellen Miller, among others.

NON-FICTION

NEW! Aaron, Scott. *Jewish U: A Contemporary Guide for the Jewish College Student*. New York: UAHC Press, 2010.

This best-selling guide to living Jewishly on campus has just been revised and updated. Scott Aaron helps new college students navigate their first year on campus.

Adelman, Penina et al. *The J Girl's Guide: The Young Jewish Woman's Handbook for Coming of Age*. Woodstock, VT: Jewish Lights Publishing, 2005.

Provides advice and activities that focus on typical teen issues, and features quotes and lessons from the Hebrew Bible.

NEW! Alphin, Elaine Marie. *An Unspeakable Crime: The Prosecution and Persecution of Leo Frank*. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, 2010.

Discusses the 1913 murder of Mary Phagen, a 13-year-old employee at an Atlanta pencil factory, and the trial of Leo Frank, a Jewish factory manager, who was subsequently lynched by an angry mob that stormed the prison.

Aronson, Marc. *Unsettled: The Problem of Loving Israel*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2008.

Offers a comprehensive examination of this tumultuous country from its origins to the events of the modern day with answers to questions regarding its status as both a religious and democratic state, its moral obligations on a global stage, and the type of existence it is fighting to have in the future.

NEW! Dorff, Elliot N. *Jewish Choices, Jewish Voices: Body*. Philadelphia : The Jewish Publication Society, 2008.

-- ***Money*. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 2008.**

-- ***Power*. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 2009.**

-- ***Sex and Intimacy*. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 2010.**

-- ***Social Justice*. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 2010.**

-- ***War and National Security*. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 2010.**

A collection of brief essays written by a diverse group of people, from political figures and journalists to scholars and artists, explore modern-day, critical moral issues.

Feinstein, Edward. *Tough questions Jews Ask: A Young Adult's Guide to Building a Jewish Life*. Woodstock, VT: Jewish Lights, 2003.

Provides questions and answers for some major concerns facing Jewish youths, and includes explanations about such issues as God, prayer, good and evil, and the afterlife. Sydney Taylor Honor Award.

Greenfeld, Howard. *A Promise Fulfilled: Theodor Hertzl, Chaim Weitzmann, and David Ben-Gurion, and the Creation of the State of Israel*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 2005.

Presents an historical examination and review of the Zionist movement and the foundation of Israel in 1948, complete with sidebars, timeline, photographs, and index.

Kaplan, Arie. *From Krakow to Krypton: Jews and Comic Books*. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 2008.

Since their creation in the 1930's comic books have become a part of our nation's vocabulary, forever changing the way we think about stories, pictures, and what makes a hero. In *From Krakow to Krypton*, Arie Kaplan unmaskes the Jewish subtexts of these stories and showcases the unique contributions Jews have made to this American art form.

Kushner, Harold S. *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*. New York: Random House, 2004.

A new edition of the classic self-help guide by the respected rabbi explains how to find comfort and strength in the face of tragedy and the challenges of life and how to understand God's role in recovery.

Pearl, Judea and Ruth, et al. *I am Jewish: Personal Reflections Inspired by the Last Words of Daniel Pearl*. Woodstock, VT: Jewish Lights, 2004.

A collection of personal essays, reflections, theological statements, reminiscences, and stories expresses what being Jewish means to such contributors as Alan Dershowitz, Kirk Douglas, Theodore Bikel, Dianne Feinstein, Daniel Schorr, Larry King, Harold Kushner, Norman Lear, Joe Lieberman, and many others. See also: *Mighty Heart: The Brave Life and Death of My Husband, Danny Pearl* by Marianne Pearl.

Wiesenthal, Simon. *The Sunflower*. New York: Schocken Books, 1976.

An international group of philosophers, critics, writers, and thinkers weigh the moral issues involved in Wiesenthal's young Jewish protagonist's response to a dying Nazi's confession of mass murder and plea for absolution.

MEMOIR/BIOGRAPHY

Albom, Mitch. *Tuesdays With Morrie*. New York: Doubleday, 1997.

A sportswriter conveys the wisdom of his late mentor, professor Morrie Schwartz, recounting their weekly conversations as Schwartz lay dying.

Boas, Jacob. *We are Witnesses: Five Diaries of Teenagers Who Died in the Holocaust*. New York: Henry Holt, 1995.

Diary entries written by five Holocaust victims document the ordeals suffered in Nazi-occupied Lithuania, Hungary, Belgium, and Holland.

Frank, Anne. *The Diary of a Young Girl: The Definitive Edition*. New York: Doubleday, 1995.

An uncut edition of Anne Frank's diary includes entries originally omitted by her father and provides insight into Anne's relationship with her mother.

Grimberg, Tina. *Out of Line: Growing Up Soviet*. Toronto: Tundra Books, 2007.

A rabbi remembers her life as a child in Kiev, Ukraine, where her family lived under Soviet rule until they moved to the United States when she was fifteen.

Jackson, Livia Bitton. *I Have Lived a Thousand Years: Growing Up in the Holocaust*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1997.

-- ***My Bridges of Hope: Searching for Life and Love after Auschwitz*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1999.**

-- ***Hello, America*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2004.**

The author, who was imprisoned in Auschwitz as a teenager, describes her terrible experiences as one of the camp's few adolescent inmates and the miraculous twists of fates that enabled her to survive and immigrate to America.

Jacobs, A.J. *The Year of Living Biblically*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2007.

Documents the author's quest to live one year in literal compliance with biblical rules, from being fruitful and multiplying to growing a beard and avoiding mixed-fiber clothing.

Keneally, Thomas. *Schindler's List*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1982.

Recreates the remarkable activities and courage of Oskar Schindler, a Catholic German industrialist who gambled everything to save as many Jews as possible from the Nazi death camps. Available on DVD.

Laskier, Rutka. *Rutka's Notebook: A Voice from the Holocaust*. New York: Little Brown & Company, 2008.

More than sixty years after her 1943 death in Auschwitz, the words of fourteen-year-old Rutka Laskier, a young Jewish girl from Bedzin, Poland, offer a poignant study of the everyday lives of Polish Jews caught up in the Holocaust.

Lobel, Anita. *No Pretty Pictures: A Child of War*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 1998.

The author describes her horrifying experiences as a Polish Jew during World War II and for years in Sweden after the war through archival photographs and touching narrative.

NEW! Metselaar, Menno, et al. *Anne Frank: Her Life in Words and Pictures*. New York: Flash Point/Roaring Brook Press, 2009.

Photos of the famous diary, school pictures and the rooms in which she lived with her family while hiding from the Nazis for two years are compiled in this moving biography about the short life and enduring spirit of this young girl and talented writer. Sydney Taylor Honor Award.

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Presents a dramatic portrait of the woman who was forced to work for the German army due to her blond hair, blue eyes, and youth and who waged her own personal war with the Germans by assisting the Jews, from passing on information to smuggling Jews from the work camp into the forest.

Siegel, Aranka. *Upon the Head of the Goat: A Childhood in Hungary, 1939-1944*. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 1981.

-- ***Grace in the Wilderness: After the Liberation, 1945-1948*. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 1985.**

Nine-year-old Piri describes the bewilderment of being a Jewish child during the 1939-1944 German occupation of her hometown and relates the ordeal of trying to survive in the ghetto and her story of liberation. See also: *Memories of Babi: Stories*.

Wiesel, Elie. *The Night Trilogy: Night, Dawn, Day*. New York: Hill and Wang, 2008.

Dramatizes the struggles of a Jewish youth who experiences the ravages of war in the German camps and grows toward maturity living amid chaos.

Zenatti, Valerie. *When I Was a Soldier: A Memoir*. New York: Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2005.

The story of one girl's experience in the Israeli national army where strict routines, grueling marches, poor food, and lack of sleep are the norm, but service has its rewards as well.

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