

## The Sydney Taylor Book Award

The committee tells all.....

## Meet The Committee

- Barbara Bietz
- Diane Rauchwerger
- Debbie Feder
- Barbara Krasner
- Charna Gross
- Nancy Silverrod

## What's Our Criteria

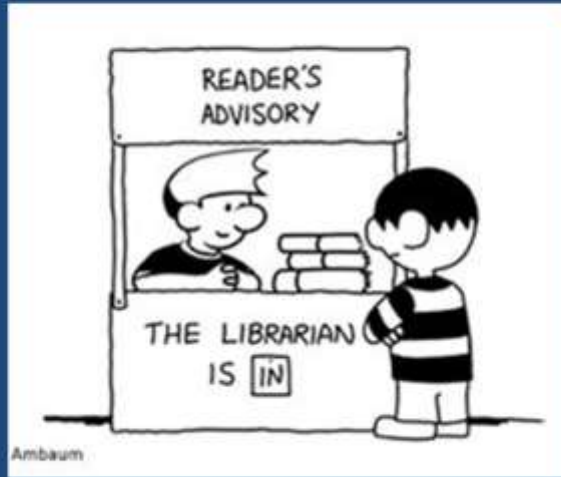
- Outstanding qualities of literature
- Positive Jewish values

## Excellence In Jewish Literature

- Accuracy
- Age Appropriateness
- Authenticity
- Positive Focus and Values
- Sensitivity
- Depth of Jewish Content

Each committee member is going to share some examples of winners, honors, and notables that exemplify these characteristics. We are also going to reveal some that did not meet our standard, but still might be a valuable addition to your library.

# Literary Merit

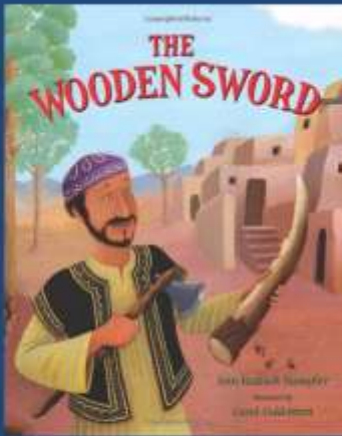


# Accuracy

“Accuracy is the twin brother of honesty; inaccuracy, dishonesty.”

Nathaniel Hawthorne

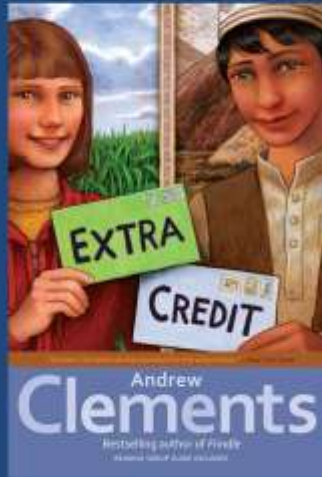
Accuracy, especially when dealing with nonfiction materials is essential in my work as the librarian at the Agnon School. I work diligently to ensure that all materials in my library reflect the highest levels of scholarship. It is important to me to make sure that I provide the best materials to my students and teachers, who need accurate materials to complete research projects and to satisfy their personal curiosity. It is important for children to see examples of high quality materials with back-matter that is extensive and correct. Author really took the time to do their homework.



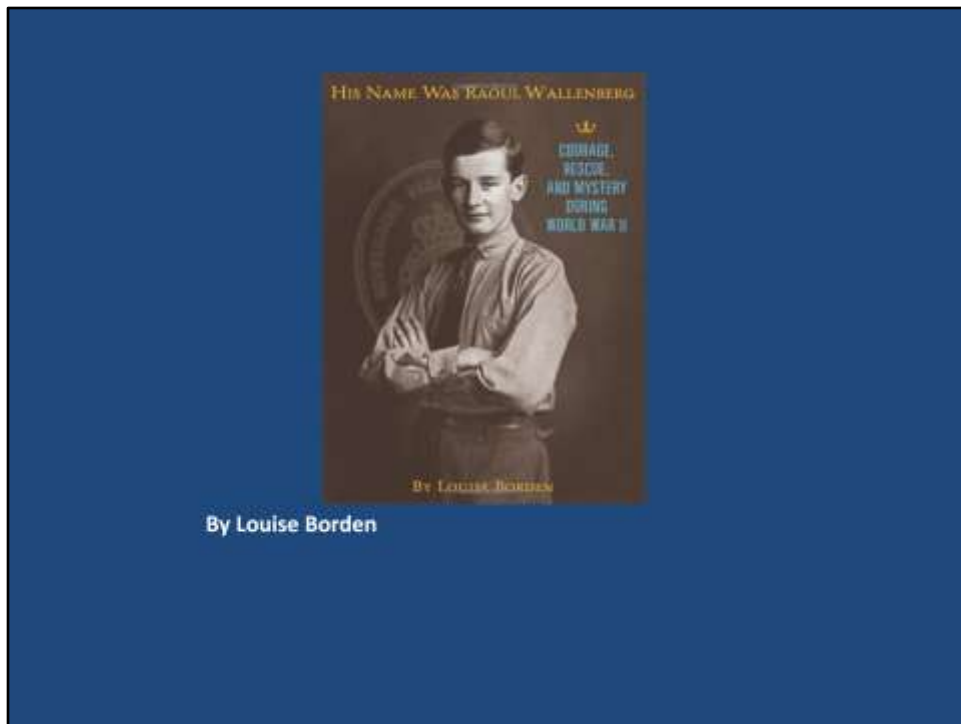
By Ann Redisch Stampler Illustrated by Carol Liddiment

I have a perhaps unnatural obsession with author's notes. Just ask my student, they'll tell you! I am thrilled when a book includes them and I always take the time to share them with children, even if it means keeping them in the library a few minutes longer. I tell my students that the author was kind enough to write them a note. Listening to what their inspiration was really humanizes authors to children and shows them how to look for inspiration in their own lives when writing for an assignment or for journaling. The best authors notes not only share what sparked an author's creativity to write the story, but also shares a little bit more about the time period or research he or she conducted. The author's note in Ann Redisch Stampler's, honoree for older readers does just that. She eloquently writes the history of the Afghani tale and even notes that she read a European version of this story as a child. She shares the adventure of working on a tale from outside her own culture. Stampler writes she was impelled to learn the customs of the Afghani people, the clothes they wore, the role of women, what Jewish might eat for their Sabbath meal and which prayers a Muslim shalw would say after dark. She worked with experts of Jewish Afghani life and academics to make sure all the details were historically and culturally accurate and even had the manuscript vetted by a professor of Islam at Loyola Marymount Univeristy in Los Angelas. The result is an accurate and entertaining story about the intermiglign og Jews and Muslims. This would be interesting to pair this book with Andrew Clements new novel, Extra Credit, about the coorespondence between an American girl in Illinois and a Muslim boy in Afghanistan. Paired with nonfiction county books and books about the war.

# Ideas







By Louise Borden

I'm not going to say too much because we are so lucky to have Louise Borden here to discuss the book and her research. There's a lot you can do with this book in your libraries and classrooms. The prose begs to be read aloud and it could be used on a unit on research skills because there are so many examples of primary sources.



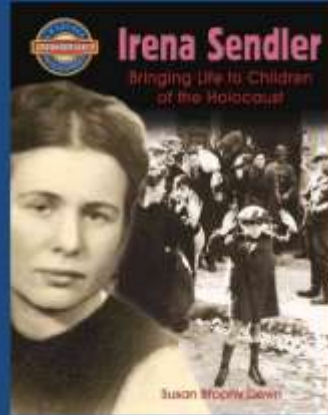
Rahchel Kamin's School Library Journal Article

# Study of Righteous Gentiles

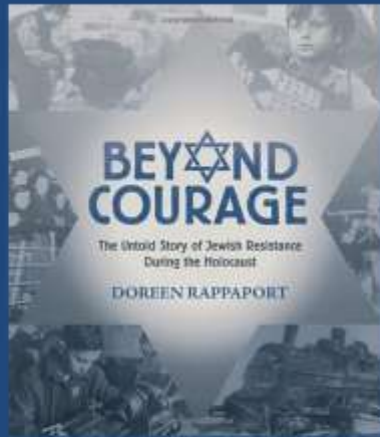
## Irena Sendler Illustrated Bios



## More substantial Bio



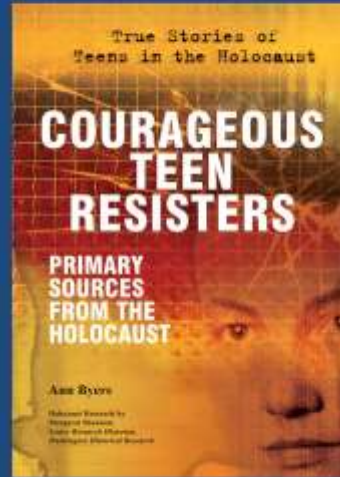
There were two outstanding illustrated biographies last year about Irena Sendler: Irena's jar of secrets by Marcia Vaughn and Irena Sendler and the Children of the Warsaw Ghetto by Susan Goldman Rubin. For something more substantial, crabtree press released a longer biography this year, Irena Sendler: Bringing Life to Children of the Holocaust. There are several DVD's about her life too.



**By Doreen Rappaport**

Doreen is here and will be doing a session this afternoon from 4:00-5:00. Doreen worked on the book for 6 years and her level of scholarship shows. This book should be incorporated in any unit Holocaust unit.

# Resistance

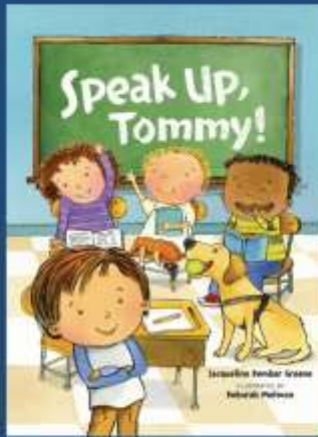


## Age Appropriateness

“I am not young enough to know everything.”

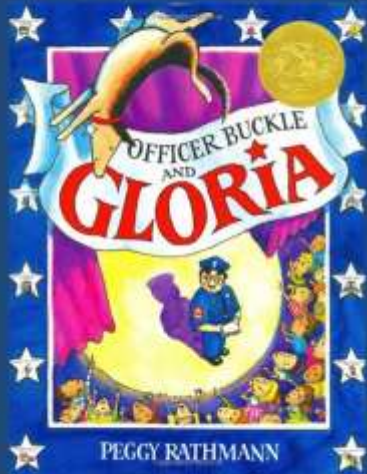
— [Oscar Wilde](#)

Find things that are



By Jacqueline Dembar Greene

Pair with...



## Aero and Officer Mike

### POLICE PARTNERS



by Joan Plummer Russell  
Photographs by Kris Turner Stansberg





By Jenny Meyerhoff

Perfectly age appropriate for children going to camp for the first summer or contemplating overnight camp soon. There is just enough dramatic tension to keep readers hooked, but the predictable ending and accurate depiction of camp life will reassure campers who might have the shpikes camp is an amazing experience. I read this aloud to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at the end of the school year when we had some extra time. Sami, the protagonist, is a song writer and the story is peppered with songs that contain a smattering of Yiddish she picked up in a class she took with her grandmother. My favorite is Farshtinkener, set to Yankee Doodle. You could challenge your students to their own song writing contest.



By Deborah Heiligman

Deborah's here so I will be brief, but I will say that I think this book is an exemplary example of YA literature at its finest. Rachel's voice is so real and authentic, that I expected her to pop into my library and ask to borrow a copy of *The Hunger Games*. At times, it can be raw but it captures many of the challenges contemporary teens struggle with. Sex and drugs are part of the story, so it is recommended for a high school audience. Something cool you might want to share with your students, is the playlist Deborah posted online.



You can find Deborah's playlist on her website.

<http://deborahheiligman.com/books/intentions/playlist/>



By Michael Rubens

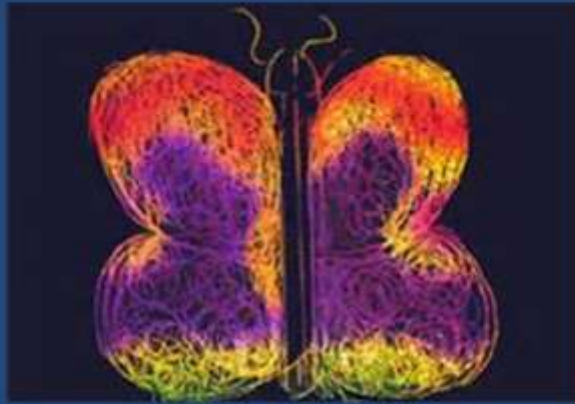
I had trouble with this book about the bizarre quest Isaac's older brother, Josh sends him to prepare for his bar mitzvah while his parents are out of town. On one hand, I adored it because from an adult perspective it is hilarious -- although I had to suspend disbelief that parents would abruptly leave town two weeks before their son's bar mitzvah for an extended visit to Italy. There is a terrific dynamic between the two brothers in the story. Unfortunately, it is a bit over the top and some of the language is crude and could be offensive to some readers. Children who are preparing for bnai mitzvah's may not be emotionally equipped or mature enough for some of the content. Isaac, the protagonist, sounded a bit too old and a bit too wise to be a 7<sup>th</sup> grader.

## Authenticity

“This above all; to thine own self be true,  
and it must follow, as the night the day,  
thou canst not then be false to any man.”  
William Shakespeare



By Linda Leopold Strauss Illustrated by Alexi Natchev



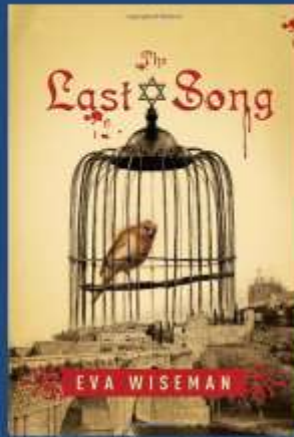


By Betsy R. Rosenthal



## Read alike...





By Eva Wiseman

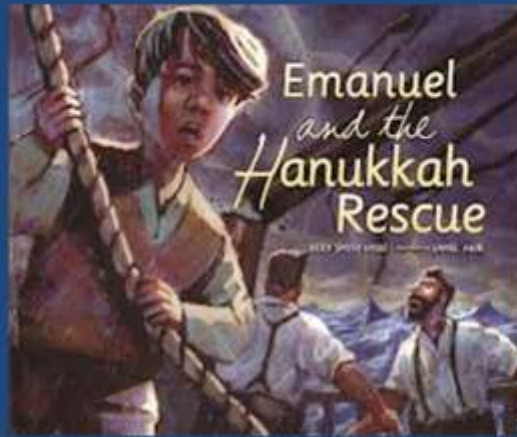
**"You are not who you think you are..."**

Other possible choices:

\*Double Helix by Nancy Werlin

\*Briar Rose by Jane Yolen

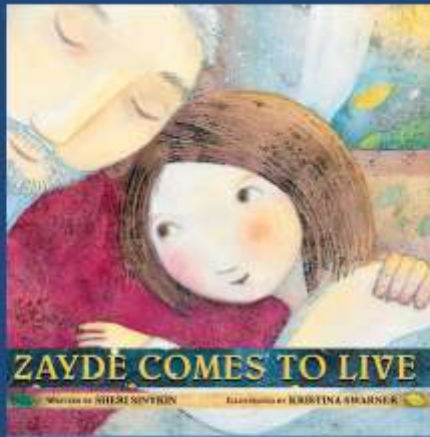




By Heidi Smith Hyde

## Positive Focus and Jewish Values

“Books with a positive focus and Jewish values can help teachers and librarians share these values with children in a fun and meaningful way” Diane Rauchwerger



By Sheri Sinykin Illustrated by Kristina Swarner



By Leslea Newman Illustrated by David Slonim



By Barry Deutsch



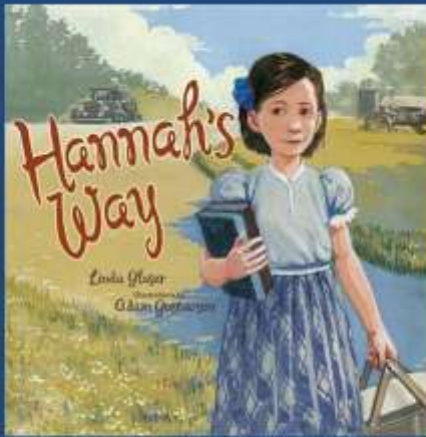


By Jesse Andrews

## Sensitivity

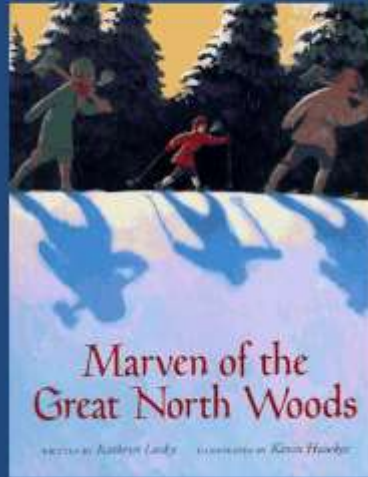
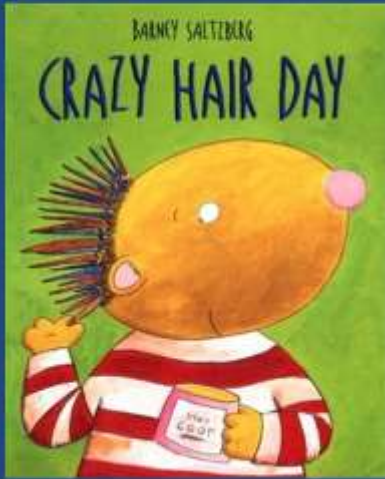
"What is hateful to yourself, do not do to your fellow man. This is the whole Torah: the rest is commentary."

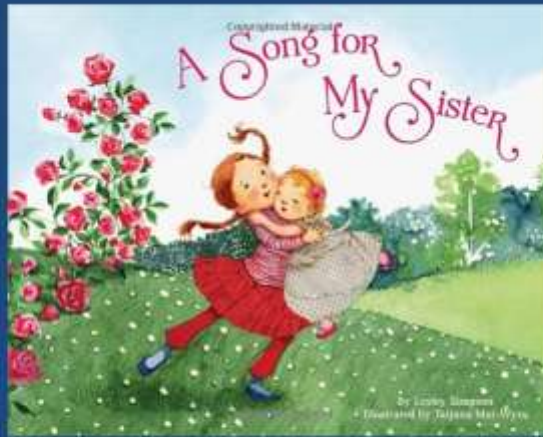
-Hillel



By Linda Glaser Illustrated by Adam Gustavson

## Picture Book Read Alikes





By Lesley Simpson    Illustrated by Tatjana Mai-Wyss



## Picture Book Companions



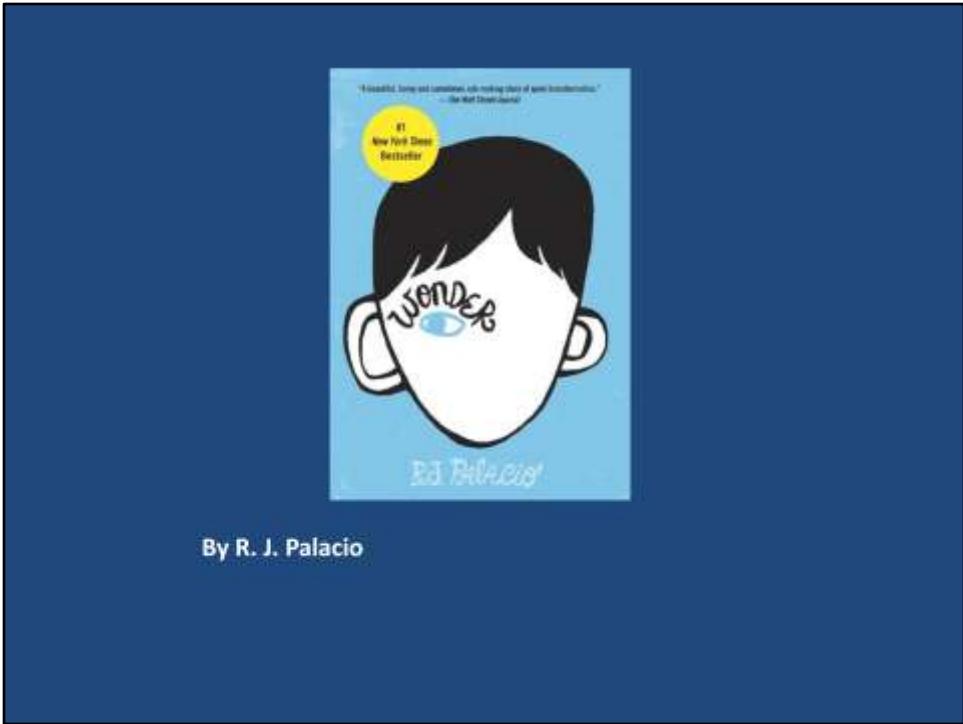


By Selina Alko



## Depth of Jewish Content

"I'll know it when I see it."



By R. J. Palacio

Aimee: Jewish Debbie F: Not Jewish



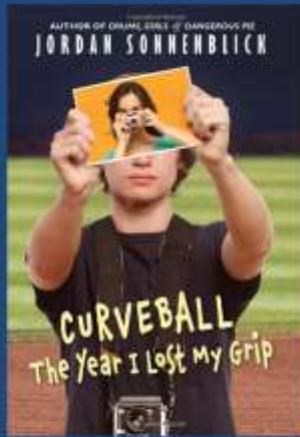
By Janusz Korczak

Aimee: Jewish We need some one for Not Jewish



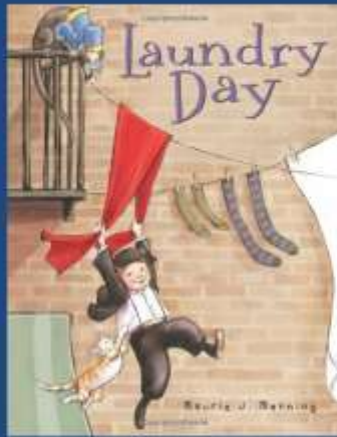
By Elizabeth Wein

Debbie F. Jewish Aimee: Not Jewish



By Jordan Sonnenblick

Diane: Jewish We Need someone for Not Jewish:



By Maurice J. Manning

Jewish: ?? Diane: Not Jewish