

What is *Daniel's Story*?

Remember the Children:

Daniel's Story is an exhibition designed for visitors ages 8 and older.

The exhibition teaches young people and adults the history of the Holocaust from the perspective of *Daniel*, a young boy growing up in Nazi Germany.

In this interactive exhibition, visitors enter several environments where they can touch, hear, and engage in *Daniel's* world as it changes during the Holocaust.

Visitors are guided through the exhibition by *Daniel's* diary entries, which tell his story. The diary entries are based on the writings of young people of the time and on the memories of some of those who survived.

This exhibition provides an opportunity to teach about the events of the Holocaust and the consequences of racism and indifference. It encourages children and adults to reflect critically on their own beliefs, behavior, and responsibilities toward each other.

FAMILY GUIDE TO THE EXHIBITION

remember the children *Daniel's Story*

THIS FAMILY GUIDE is designed especially for adults who visit *Remember the Children: Daniel's Story* with children and young people. Its purpose is to help them make their visit to the exhibition as meaningful as possible. The guide is divided into two sections. *Before Your Visit* offers background information about the exhibition and its central character, *Daniel*. It suggests important things to look for and provides a short description of the ways in which the exhibition makers ensured that *Daniel's Story* would be age appropriate, safe, and applicable to a variety of visitors. *After Your Visit* answers frequently asked questions about *Daniel*, the exhibition, and the Holocaust. This section provides suggestions and resources for families who wish to discuss what they saw in the exhibition or for those who want to learn more about the Holocaust.

Before Your Visit

Adults Should Know

The exhibition was created with the help of a team of experts and was reviewed by child psychiatrists, educators, and museum interpreters. *Remember the Children: Daniel's Story* was designed to be age appropriate and to appeal to a variety of learning styles.

There are no explicit images of violence or death in the exhibition. Children walk through many environments replicating parts of *Daniel's* experience; however, they are never asked to “role play” or to put themselves in the place of a victim of the Holocaust. Rather, children empathize with *Daniel* by learning about what happened to him and his family. Changes in *Daniel's* life are communicated in a variety of ways—through sounds, written text, lighting, and environments. In this way, children with different learning styles may find the best and most appropriate way to understand *Daniel's Story*.

Who is *Daniel*?

Daniel is an invented narrator who tells a story about real events that happened during the Holocaust. Museum educators have found that sometimes after visiting the exhibition children believe that *Daniel* is or was a real person.

Should children have questions after visiting the exhibition, it is important to remind them that *Daniel* is a narrator, not a living person. However, while *Daniel* and some of the details of his story were created, the historical events depicted in the exhibition are real.

Things to Look For

- **Interactive and hands-on elements:** Visitors are encouraged to gently touch everything inside the exhibition. They should use different senses—hearing, touch, and sight—to take in the details of the story. They should look for things to open, pull, and peek into to learn more about the story.
- **Films:** There are two films in the exhibition. The first is a three-minute introduction to *Daniel's Story*. The second film, located at the end of the exhibition, is about two-and-a-half-minutes long. It tells visitors what happened to *Daniel* and his family in the concentration camp and afterward.
- **Diary entries:** The story is told through *Daniel's* diary, which visitors may read as they walk through the exhibition.
- **Gallery guides (white signs):** These signs are located throughout the exhibition at major transition points in *Daniel's Story*. They give

an overview of what visitors are going to encounter and offer clues for important things to see and do.

- **Black and white historical photographs:** These photographs depict real individuals who experienced the Holocaust in Germany, the Lodz ghetto, and Auschwitz. They are the historical foundation for the exhibition.
- **Environment changes:** The environments and rooms in *Daniel's Story* reflect the changes in *Daniel's* life. Visitors will notice subtle shifts in lighting, color, flooring, furniture, and sounds that communicate important details about what is happening in the story.
- **Activity rooms:** There are two important rooms at the end of the exhibition. In the first room, called “Things to Remember,” visitors may review the main facts of the story by listening to audio guides. In the second room, called “Things to Do,” visitors may respond to what they have seen by writing a postcard or drawing a picture.

After Your Visit

Questions and Discussions

After visiting *Remember the Children: Daniel's Story*, you and your children may have questions about the Holocaust, and the exhibition and its themes and messages. This section of the Family Guide is designed especially for parents or adult companions of young visitors to help answer some of the most frequently asked questions.

Is *Daniel* a real person?

No. He was created as a narrator to tell a story about what happened during the Holocaust. While *Daniel* and some of the details of his story were created, the historical events depicted in the exhibition are real.

Who are the people in the photographs?

They are people whose lives were affected by the Holocaust. Some of these photographs were taken in Germany before the war, others were taken in the Lodz ghetto in Poland in the early 1940s, and still others were taken in the concen-

tration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau. Some of these photographs came from museums and archives throughout America and Europe. Others came from people who survived the Holocaust and who gave or loaned their pictures to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Are the objects in the exhibition (such as *Daniel's* bedroom, the ghetto room) real?

These exhibition elements are not artifacts from the Holocaust. Rather, they were created or purchased based on research about what things looked like during that time in history. For example, while *Daniel's* bedroom is not an actual bedroom from the 1930s in Germany, it is typical of the period.

Are there any survivors who had experiences similar to *Daniel's*?

Yes. Jewish families living in the southern part of Germany would have been deported to the Lodz ghetto beginning in October 1941. Most of those families were forced

to leave the ghetto between January and September 1942. They were sent to a camp called Chelmno, where they were murdered. Some German Jewish families were able to stay in the ghetto because the father in the family had fought on the side of Germany in World War I. Those families who survived until August 1944 were deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau together with all the other ghetto inhabitants. Some of them survived and share a similar wartime history as the character *Daniel* in *Daniel's Story*.

Why didn't *Daniel* and his family fight back against the Nazis?

For victims of Nazi oppression in ghettos and concentration camps, fighting back was extremely difficult. People were starving, exhausted, and afraid. They rarely had access to weapons to use against their oppressors. While some individuals or small groups of people did find ways to mount an armed attack, most people could not.

This exhibition provides an opportunity to teach about the events of the Holocaust and the consequences of racism and indifference.

After Your Visit

Who wrote the diary entries?

The exhibition creators wrote the diary entries. They read many diaries written by children who lived during the Holocaust (including the *Diary of Anne Frank*) as part of their research. Using what they learned from these real diary entries, they wrote *Daniel's* diary. The Source Book at the end of the exhibition shows some of the real diary entries that were the basis for the writing of *Daniel's* diary.

What was the Holocaust?

Literally, the word “holocaust” means a massive devastation or destruction, especially by fire—a burnt sacrifice. The word “Holocaust” in this context refers to the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jews and other victims by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945. Jews were the primary victims—approximately six million men, women, and children were murdered. Roma (Gypsies), the handicapped, and Slavic peoples also were targeted for destruction because of racial, ethnic, or national reasons. Millions more, including homosexuals, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war, and political dissidents, also suffered grievous oppression and death under Nazi tyranny.

To Learn More About the Holocaust

Visiting *Remember the Children: Daniel's Story* is a good first step in learning about the Holocaust. Talking together as a family about what you saw, how you felt, and what you learned is one way to help children understand the information they gathered. We encourage you and your family to continue learning about this history and to think about its relevance for life in the world today. For example, you may wish to choose a Holocaust-related book to read or film to watch together as a family.

The Resource Area at the end of *Remember the Children: Daniel's Story* has books and other materials on display that may be of interest to you and your family. You may also wish to contact the Education Division at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, in Washington, D.C., to learn more about educational programs and materials for children, families, educators, and school groups. For more information call (202) 488-2661 or visit the Museum’s website at www.ushmm.org.

Remember the Children: Daniel's Story is based on an exhibition conceived by Mrs. Addie Yates and originally produced by the Capital Children’s Museum, Washington, D.C.

Special funding for educational materials for *Remember the Children: Daniel's Story* is provided by Ronald McDonald House Charities.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW
Washington, D.C. 20024-2126
(202) 488-0400
www.ushmm.org