Bibliography and Videography
Applicable for Secondary Education
With all the books, films, and website content about the Holocaust, choosing the right resource for classroom use can be difficult. This bibliography provides examples for the secondary school level that meet the USHMM rubric criteria. Suggested grade levels are provided, and Lexile Scores are noted when available. It is not intended to be comprehensive.

This rubric guides educators in selecting age-appropriate and historically accurate books. Educators are encouraged to evaluate the options in the bibliography with the rubric to assess how the source fits their classroom needs.

This text describes the experiences of Mary and her family from October 1939 until March 1944, including their time in the Warsaw ghetto. Her mother’s American citizenship allows the family to flee to France, then eventually to the United States. Originally published in 1945. (Grades 7–12)


Anne Frank documents her experience in Nazi-occupied Amsterdam. The diary details her family's daily life, the years they spent in hiding, and her own personal experiences. (Lexile 1020—Grades 6–12)


Fourteen-year-old Rywka details her experiences in the Lodz ghetto from October 1943 until April 1944. A Soviet doctor eventually discovered the diary at Auschwitz-Birkenau. Includes additional background information on the city and ghetto of Lodz, a description of the diary’s journey to the United States, and photos. (Grades 7–12)


Dawid Sierakowiak was 15 years old when he began writing his diary in the Lodz Ghetto in German-occupied Poland in 1939. This collection of notebooks provides a daily
account of the Lodz ghetto, from Dawid’s perspective, until 1943. Includes black-and-white photos. (Lexile 950—Grades 7–12)


Stored in a bank vault for decades, Renia’s diary documents her experiences in Przemyśl, Poland, from January 1939 until July 1942 under both Nazi and Soviet occupation. She writes about her fears, hopes, and the ongoing war. Renia also writes about her romantic interest in Zygmunt Schwarzer, a key individual in the survival of the diary. (Grades 7–12)


A collection of diaries written by young people ages 12 to 22. The diaries cover a range of experiences and geographic locations. Each diary includes a detailed introduction providing background and context to the diary. The ebook edition includes maps and video clips with surviving diarists. (Grades 8-12)
MEMOIRS


The stories of Helen Waterford and Alfons Heck, both born in Germany, are told in alternating chapters. Helen, a young Jewish girl, is forced to hide in Amsterdam. She is eventually arrested and sent to the Auschwitz concentration camp. Alfons, who lives just a few miles away, joins the Hitler Youth and is eventually sent as a soldier to the frontlines to fight. (Lexile 1050—Grades 5–8)

Bitton-Jackson, Livia. *I Have Lived a Thousand Years: Growing Up in the Holocaust*. New York:


The author describes her experiences when, at age 13, she is arrested with her family and sent to the Nagymagyar ghetto. From there she is sent to Auschwitz and other camps before being liberated. (Lexile 720—Grades 8–12)


Arrested and sent to the Lwow ghetto, Krystyna Chiger and her family are forced to hide in the sewer to avoid being deported and killed. They are aided by Leopold Socha, a Polish Catholic, who provides food and supplies. (Lexile 1010—Grades 7–12)


Frankl documents his experiences in Auschwitz and how he survived by finding a meaning for his life. This historical account has been newly adapted for younger readers.
to provide an accessible overview of Frankl’s writing on psychology. Includes a glossary and a timeline of the Holocaust and Frankl’s life. (Grades 7–12)


Gerda Weissmann Klein’s detailed account describes her experiences during the Holocaust, from her life in Bielsko, Poland, through ghettos, camps, and a death march to her eventual liberation by Kurt Klein, who would later become her husband. (Lexile 780—Grades 8–12)


In her memoir, Eva Kor details the murder of her family at Auschwitz and the experiments to which she and her sister, Miriam, were subjected by Dr. Josef Mengele. Kor also writes about her personal journey to educate others about the Holocaust and her eventual decision to forgive the Nazis. (Lexile 830—Grades 6–9)


Primo Levi, an Italian Jew, describes his time in Auschwitz-Monowitz (Buna). Levi documents his daily horrific experiences, including the physical and psychological torment he endures. (Grades 9–12)

Leon Leyson documents his experience as one of the youngest people rescued by Oskar Schindler. Following the invasion of Poland, Leon and his family are sent to the Krakow ghetto. Leon describes their daily lives, working for Schindler, and his survival.

(Lexile 1000—Grades 6–9)


In her memoir, Vladka recounts her experiences during the Holocaust, including the loss of her family at Treblinka and her ability to slip in and out of the Warsaw ghetto to transport supplies and munitions to the resistance. She also writes about her further efforts after the ghetto uprising to aid those in hiding and about meeting her husband, Ben Meeed. (Grades 9–12)


When the war began, Irene Gut was 17 years old. She was a student nurse, a Polish patriot, and a good Catholic girl. Forced to work in a German officers' dining hall, she learns how to fight back. She was named by the Israeli Holocaust Commission as one of the Righteous Among the Nations. (Lexile 890L—Grades 6–12)


Marion Blumenthal details her experiences when her family fled Germany for Holland. Detained at the Westerbork transit camp, they had visas for travel to the United States; then the Nazis invaded Holland. Initially, they were to be part of an exchange to go to Palestine. Instead, they are sent to Bergen Belsen before they are finally liberated.

In his autobiography, Elie Wiesel recounts his experiences as a young man in Sighet. Deported to Auschwitz with his family, he is separated from his sister and mother upon arrival. Elie stays with his father through Auschwitz-Birkenau, Buna, and then Buchenwald, where his father dies. Eventually, the US Army liberates Wiesel.
SECONDARY SOURCES


Using survivor testimony, photographs, and brief historical narratives to provide context, David Adler provides an overview of the Holocaust. Covers Jewish life, Hitler's rise to power, and the ghettos and camps. Includes a detailed chronology, a glossary that includes names of places and people, suggested reading, a list of sources, and an index.

(Lexile 830—Grades 6–10)


This book details the resistance efforts of Hans and Sophie Scholl, Christoph Probst, Willi Graf, Alexander Schmorell, and others. Provides an overview of their lives and their initial involvement in the Hitler Youth to their printing of anti-Nazi leaflets, subsequent arrest, and trials. Includes black-and-white photos, a bibliography, and an index.

(Lexile 640—Grades 6–10)


Beginning with the invasion of Denmark, this book tells the story of the Danish people, their acts of resistance, and how they managed to rescue many of the Jews in Denmark. Based on survivor interviews and research, the book also includes black-and-white photographs, biographies of the people interviewed, and a chronology of events.

(Lexile 950—Grades 6–10)

Maraniss tells the story of basketball, from its invention by James Naismith in Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1891, to the sport's Olympic debut in Berlin and the eclectic mix of people, events, and propaganda on both sides of the Atlantic that made it all possible. Includes photos, Who's Who of the 1936 Olympics, bibliography, and index. (Grades 7–10)


Rappaport details 20 stories of Jewish individuals who committed acts of resistance during the Holocaust. The author includes stories of armed resistance as well as of those individuals who resisted through other means. Includes photographs, maps, pronunciation guide, bibliography, source notes, and index. (Lexile 1030—Grades 6–12)


Through personal interviews and research, the authors tell the story of the French village Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, a small Protestant community that rescued thousands of Jewish children. The book opens with a brief overview of World War II, followed by first-person accounts and interviews of individuals who were rescued. Includes photographs, timelines, maps, bibliographies, and source notes. (Lexile 830—Grades 7–12)

This concise book provides an overview of the persecution of gay men during the Holocaust. The author examines life before the Nazi rise to power and the experiences of individuals who were targeted. Includes photos, timeline, and bibliography of additional titles. (Lexile 1110L—Grades 8–12)


This book provides a brief overview of the Terezín (Theresienstadt) ghetto and camp in Czechoslovakia. Using quotes from memoirs, diaries, and artwork, the author recounts what individuals experienced living in Terezin. Includes photographs, timeline, glossary, list of source materials, and index. (Lexile 980—Grades 5–9)


This book is a collection of children’s artwork and poetry from the ghetto of Terezin (Theresienstadt). A brief epilogue details the history of the camp. The book concludes with a brief synopsis on the known artists. Includes 60 color illustrations. (Grades 6–12)

A fictionalized account of the story of Helmuth Hübener, the youngest person sentenced to death by the Nazi government, according to Bartoletti’s research. First a supporter of the Nazi party, Helmuth begins listening to banned radio broadcasts and eventually prints pamphlets critical of the government. Eventually, he is arrested and tried for his actions. (Lexile 760—Grades 6–12)


This book, which won a Newbery Honor, is about 10-year-old Ada, born with a physical disability, who escapes from Germany to join her brother in wartime Great Britain. (Grades 4–7)


This sequel to *The War That Saved My Life* finds Ada still in wartime Great Britain, where she befriends a newly arrived German Jewish girl. (Lexile HL520L—Grades 4–7)


Chapman tells the story of Edith, a 12-year-old German girl whose parents send her to live in America. The story follows Edith as she travels across the ocean, arrives in Chicago, and struggles in her new life. Inspired by her mother's experience as an unaccompanied child refugee. (Lexile 810—Grades 6–9)

This novel takes place during the Rosenstrasse protest in 1943 and tells the story of six teenagers in Germany. The story features characters who are not usually the center of Holocaust literature: the Roma, the disabled, intermarried Jews, homosexuals, and political enemies of the regime. (Grades 8–12)


In this free-verse novel, Daniel is a 13-year-old who flees Nazi Germany and finds refuge in Cuba. There, Daniel meets other Jews who are seeking safety and experiences the issues of living in another country during World War II. (Lexile 1170—Grades 6–10)


Hanneke, a teenager in Nazi-occupied Amsterdam, is a smuggler who seeks to save herself and her family. She finds and delivers items sought by her paying clients. When she is asked to find a missing Jewish girl, she becomes more aware of the Nazi horrors and is drawn further into the resistance. (Lexile 720—Grades 9–12)


Forced to leave Germany in 1933 after her father, a journalist, flees to avoid arrest, Anna, who is nine years old, deals with living as a Jewish refugee in Switzerland, France, and England. Based on the experience of the author. (Lexile 940—Grades 5–9)


In 1939, Paula Becker lives in a small German village. Deaf from a young age, Paula manages to communicate with her family and neighbors. When the Nazis institute a program targeting the disabled, Paula fears for her life and flees to find safety. Note:
Tiergartenstrasse 4 (T4) is the street address in Berlin of the Nazi program targeting persons with disabilities. (Grades 5–9)


Annemarie Johansen is a 10-year-old in Copenhagen, Denmark. The Nazis have occupied Denmark, and now her best friend, Ellen Rosen, is in danger. Annemarie and her family assist Ellen by hiding her and pretending she is part of their family. As pressure mounts, the resistance stages a daring rescue. At night, hundreds of fishing boats transport thousands of Jews from Denmark to Sweden under the cover of darkness. (Lexile 670—Grades 5–9)


Gustav, a young French Jew, is sent from Paris into the countryside to escape deportation. As he learns that his friends and family are in danger, he must decide whether to sneak into Nazi-occupied areas to work with the French Resistance to save them. (Lexile 790—Grades 3–7)


Alex, an 11-year-old Jewish boy, is forced to hide in the Warsaw ghetto after the disappearance of his mother and the arrest of his father. He observes what goes on from his hiding place and awaits the return of his father. Based on the experiences of the author who is a Holocaust survivor. (Lexile 690—Grades 7–12)


This novel tells the story of two families living in the same building in Germany. Friedrich and his family are Jewish. As the years pass, the narrator recounting the story
witnesses the gradual persecution that Friedrich experiences. The narrator provides a glimpse into one Jewish family and their suffering, including the murder of Friedrich’s mother and the arrest of his father. (Lexile 65—Grades 7–12)


Syvia Perlmutter, who is four and a half years old, is forced with her family to live in the Lodz ghetto in Poland. Syvia recounts her experiences growing up in the ghetto until she is liberated at age 10. The author based the novel on the experiences of her aunt Sylvia (formerly Syvia), one of the few children to survive the Lodz ghetto. Told in verse from the first person. (Lexile 740—Grades 5–9)


In 1941, 15-year-old Lina, her mother, and her brother are taken from their Lithuanian home by Soviet guards and sent to Siberia. Lina’s father has been sentenced to death in a prison camp. Forced to work in Siberia, Lina fights for her life, vowing to honor her family and the thousands like hers by documenting their story through her artwork. Based on the author's family experiences, the book includes a historical note. (Lexile 490—Grades 7-12)


As World War II draws to a close, refugees from Lithuania, Poland, and East Prussia try to escape the war's final dangers, only to find themselves aboard a ship with a target on its hull. (Lexile HL560—Grades 6–12)

Karl Stern is 14 years old, an aspiring cartoonist, and Jewish. Although he never identified as Jewish, with the rise of the Nazi party, he is targeted, bullied, and eventually expelled from school. In exchange for a portrait from Karl’s father’s gallery, Max Schmelling, a world heavyweight boxer, agrees to train Karl as a boxer. As the Nazis gain more power, Karl flees to America. (Lexile 880—Grades 9–12)


Death is the narrator who tells the story of Liesel Meminger, an orphan who lives with a foster family hiding a Jewish man in their basement. Liesel steals books and writes stories to help make sense of the horror and confusion that surround her. (Lexile 730—Grades 7–12)

Dounia recounts her experiences during the Holocaust to her granddaughter. She details her story as a young girl in Paris who changes her identity and is later hidden by friends after her parents are arrested and taken away to Drancy. (Lexile 530—Grades 5–8)


This graphic novel version of *The Diary of Anne Frank* pairs text adapted from excerpts in Anne Frank’s diary with compelling illustrations to provide a concise, contextualized, and highly accessible rendering of the story of Anne Frank and the inhabitants of the Secret Annex. The graphic adaptation also includes extensive quotation directly from the definitive edition. It was authorized by the Anne Frank Foundation and remains faithful to the original. (Lexile 800—Grades 6–12)


While going through his grandmother’s attic, Jeroen finds an old photo album. His grandmother, Helena, recounts her experiences in the Netherlands during the Nazi occupation and the loss of her best friend, Esther. Helena believes her father may have been responsible for Esther’s arrest and disappearance, but Jeroen makes a profound discovery in the end. (Lexile 400—Grades 5–8)

After his father’s arrest and the persecution of his friend Henri by German troops, Paul Tessier enlists in the resistance. With the help of his sister, Marie, they hide Henri and work to reunite him with his family. The series includes two additional volumes: *Defiance* and *Victory*. (Lexile 520—Grades 6–9)

**Joffo, Joseph; Kris; and Vincent Bailly. *A Bag of Marbles.*** Minneapolis, MN: Graphic Universe, 2013.

Based on Joseph Joffo’s memoir of the same name, this graphic novel tells the story of Joffo and his brothers and their experience in France. When the Nazis invade France, the brothers are forced to flee and navigate through France to avoid arrest. Eventually, the brothers are all reunited. (Lexile 390—Grades 7–12)


In this black-and-white graphic novel, Joe Kubert explores what may have happened if his family had not fled Poland. When his family is deported to Auschwitz from the Warsaw ghetto, Yossel manages to survive by drawing for the Nazi guards. He joins the resistance movement with a young man named Mordechai, who is based on the real-life resistance fighter Mordechai Anielewicz. (Grades 9–12)


Max Eisenhardt lives with his family in Poland in 1935. When the Nazis invade, he and his family are deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where he witnesses thousands of people
murdered. Max wants to fight back but follows his father's advice to wait for the right moment. Includes a brief story about the artist, Dina Babbitt, and historical endnotes.

(Grades 8–12)


Art Spiegelman’s Pulitzer Prize-winning graphic novel uses animals to represent people (Jews as mice, Germans as cats, and Poles as pigs). He recounts his parents’ experience in Auschwitz during the Holocaust; his troubled relationship with his father, Vladek; and his mother’s suicide. Two volumes. (Grades 8–12)
FILM


This Academy Award-winning documentary about the life of Anne Frank uses historical interview footage of her father, Otto Frank. Also features interviews with surviving family members, friends, and Miep Gies, the woman who aided in hiding Anne and her family. (Grades 8–12)


This documentary uses primary source documentation and reenactment to follow the resistance efforts of the Oneg Shabbat, which was a group of journalists, scholars, and others who banded together to document daily life in the Warsaw ghetto. The materials they collected provide a historical record of the suffering and humanity of the victims. (Grades 8–12)


This film details the life of Frank “Misa” Grunwald and his experiences in Terezin, Auschwitz, Mauthausen, Melk, and Gunskirchen. This is Frank’s story of the loss of his mother and brother and his separation from his father. Eventually, he is liberated and manages to find his father. (Grades 8–12)

This Oscar-winning feature-length documentary includes archival footage and eyewitness testimony to tell the story of the British operation that rescued 10,000 Jewish children from the German Reich during the pivotal years of 1938–1940. (Grades 9-12)


Based on the book *History on Trial: My Day in Court with a Holocaust Denier* by Deborah Lipstadt, this film dramatizes the court case in which Lipstadt, a Holocaust scholar, is sued for libel by David Irving, a Holocaust denier. (Grades 9–12).


This Oscar-winning documentary details the horrors experienced by Gerda Weissmann during the Holocaust. Through interviews and historical footage, she narrates the loss of her parents, her experiences in the labor camps and on a death march, and her liberation by her future husband, Kurt Klein. (Grades 8–12)


Using archival footage and eyewitness testimony from the vast collection of the USC Shoah Visual History Foundation, this Oscar-winning documentary presents the history of the Holocaust through the perspectives of five Hungarian Jewish Holocaust survivors. (Grades 8-12)


This documentary film details the attempts Otto Frank made to find safe haven for his family before they went into hiding. Through interviews with surviving family members
and historical images, the story unfolds about how the Frank family sought assistance through friends, refugee boards, and the US State Department. (Grades 8–12)


[https://www.hbo.com/documentaries/the-number-on-great-grandpas-arm](https://www.hbo.com/documentaries/the-number-on-great-grandpas-arm)

This 19-minute documentary describes Srulek “Jack” Feldman's life in Poland. In a very conversational manner, Jack tells his great-grandson, Eliot, about his family, his life before Nazi occupation, and his experiences in Auschwitz. Includes animated sequences and photographs. (Grades 6–12)


This concise documentary provides historical context and background information about the Holocaust. Using historical images and film clips, the film tells the story of the Nazi rise to power and the systematic destruction of the Jewish people and other groups. (Grades 7–12)


Based on the survivor memoir of the same name, _The Pianist_ tells the story of Wladyslaw Szpilman, a Polish-Jewish pianist and composer. Told through Szpilman’s eyes, the Oscar-winning film portrays life in the Warsaw ghetto, the Jewish uprising and destruction of the ghetto, and finally the Polish Warsaw revolt of 1944. (Grades 8–12)

This German historical drama tells the story of the anti-Nazi nonviolent student resistance group, the White Rose, which was part of the German Resistance movement. It focuses on 21-year-old Sophie Scholl. She was found guilty of high treason by the National Socialist People’s Court and executed on February 22, 1943. (Grades 8–12)


Based on the novel *Schindler’s Ark*, by Thomas Keneally, this Oscar-winning feature film tells the story of the Sudeten German businessman, Oskar Schindler. An opportunist and member of the Nazi party, Schindler at first exploits Jewish forced labor in occupied Poland. He ultimately saves the lives of more than 1,000 Jews during the Holocaust. The film explores the complex relationship among Schindler; his Jewish accountant, Itzhak Stern; and the sadistic camp commandant, Amon Goeth. (Grades 8-12)


Based on the work *Salvaged Pages*, this documentary uses historical images, film footage, and text to tell the stories of young diarists during the Holocaust. (Grades 8–12)


This feature film is based on Nechama Tec’s 1993 nonfiction book, *Defiance: The Bielski Partisans*. It tells the story of the Bielski partisans, a group led by Polish Jewish brothers who saved more than 1,000 Jews in the forests of German-occupied Belarus. (Grades 8-12)