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, although it is not intended to be comprehensive. Suggested grade levels are provided, and Lexile Scores are noted when available.

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.
DIARIES


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)


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)

Inge Auerbacher’s childhood is as happy and peaceful as that of any other German child—until 1942. By then, the Nazis are in power. Because Inge’s family is Jewish, she and her parents are sent to a concentration camp in Czechoslovakia. The Auerbachers defy death for three years and are finally freed in 1945. (Grades 6–12)


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)


Young Leo Bretholz survives the Holocaust by escaping from the Nazis not once, but seven times during his almost seven-year ordeal crisscrossing war-torn Europe. He leaps from trains, outruns police, and hides in attics, cellars, and anywhere that offers a few more seconds of safety.


Thomas Buergenthal, who later became a judge in the International Court of Justice in The Hague, tells his astonishing experiences as a young boy. He arrived at Auschwitz at age 10 after surviving two ghettos and a labor camp. (Lexile 1150)

Chiger, Krystyna, and Daniel Paisner. *The Girl in the Green Sweater: A Life in Holocaust's*

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)


Jankele Kuperblum is just nine years old when he returns home and finds his family gone. The night before, Germans had come to his town in rural Poland and taken away all the Jews. Jack wanders through Nazi-occupied Poland for four years, with no place to hide and no one to trust. (Grades 7-12)

Books, 1996.

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)


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)


Chil Rajchman provides the only survivor’s record of Treblinka. Originally written in Yiddish in 1945, without hope or agenda other than to bear witness, Rajchman's tale shows that sometimes the bravest and most painful act of all is to remember. (Grades 7-12)

Zuzana Ruzicková is growing up in 1930s Czechoslovakia dreaming of two things: Johann Sebastian Bach and the piano. Uprooted from her home, she is transported from Auschwitz to Hamburg to Bergen-Belsen. Bereaved, starved, and afflicted with crippling injuries to her musician's hands, the teenage Zuzana faces a series of devastating losses.

(Grades 9-12)


After Riva’s mother is taken away by the Nazis, Riva and her younger brothers struggle to endure life in the Lodz ghetto. Then the family is rounded up and deported to Auschwitz, where they are separated. (Lexile 500—Grades 5-9)


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. (Lexile 590—Grades 9–12)
SECONDARY SOURCES


This harrowing true story relates what happened to young brothers Paul and Oscar Arato and their mother, Lenke, after the Nazis occupied their home country, Hungary. The final years of World War II force the family into situations of growing panic and fear. (Lexile 580)


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)


This book provides a brief overview of the Terezin (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)

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)


*HHhH*: "Himmlers Hirn heisst Heydrich" or "Himmler's brain is called Heydrich." The most lethal man in Hitler's cabinet, Reinhard Heydrich seems indestructible—until two exiled operatives, a Slovak and a Czech, kill him and change the course of history. In Laurent Binet's writing, we follow Jozef Gabcík and Jan Kubiš from their dramatic escape from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia to their fatal attack on Heydrich and their own brutal deaths in the basement of a Prague church. (Grades 7-12)


Fritz, Gertrud, and Jean are classic outsiders: their clothes are different, their music is rebellious, and they aren’t afraid to fight. But they are also Germans living under Hitler, and any nonconformity could get them arrested or worse. Their actions are always dangerous, and the Gestapo pursues and arrests hundreds of Edelweiss Pirates, teenagers like them who resist the Nazis. (Grades 7-12)

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)


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)


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)

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 quotations directly from the definitive edition. It was authorized by the Anne Frank Foundation and remains faithful to the original. (Lexile 800—Grades 6–12) (Note: contains segments in which Anne explores her changing body and her sexuality.)


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)


This graphic novel covers the lives of Anne’s parents, Edith and Otto; Anne's first years in Frankfurt; the rise of Nazism; the Franks' immigration to Amsterdam; war and occupation; Anne's years in the Secret Annex; betrayal and arrest; her deportation and
tragic death in Bergen-Belsen; the survival of Anne's father; and his recovery and
publication of her diary. (grades 6-12)


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)

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 six-part series tells the history of Auschwitz-Birkenau, where 1.1 million people, most of whom were Jews, were killed during the Holocaust. Writer Laurence Rees and his team interviewed over 100 eyewitnesses, including former Nazi perpetrators who speak on the record for the first time. Their story is brought to life through the innovative use of archival footage, dramatic recreations of key moments, computer reconstructions of the camp, and first-person testimony. (Grades 7-12)


Directed in brisk, semi-documentary style, this film explores the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, the largest campaign of armed Jewish resistance to Nazi tyranny during World War II. (Grades 7-12)


This film tells the fascinating story of Ben Ferencz, who is the last surviving Nuremberg trial prosecutor. His experiences inspired his lifelong fight for law not war. (Grades 7-12)

An extraordinary testament to one man’s perseverance, this Sundance award-winning film examines the life and legacy of the Polish-Jewish lawyer and linguist who coined the term genocide. (Grades 6-12)


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)


Rare and never-before-seen amateur films offer a unique perspective on the rise of Nazi Germany by those who experienced it. (Grades 7-12)


Based on the survivor memoir of the same name, *The Pianist* tells the story of Wlasyslaw 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)