

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher:	Weaver/Holibaugh	School:	Hyatts Middle School
Book Title:	Surviving Hitler	Genre:	Biography
Author:	Andrea Warren	Pages:	137
Publisher:	HarperTrophy	Copyright:	2001

In a brief rationale, please provide the following information relative to the book you would like added to the school's book collection for classroom use. You may attach additional pages as needed.

Book Summary and summary citation: (suggested resources include book flap summaries, review summaries from publisher, book vendors, etc.)

A biography of Jack Mandelbaum, who survived Nazi concentration camps when he was a teenager.

Provide an instructional rationale for the use of this title, including specific reference to the OLSD curriculum map(s): (Curriculum maps may be referenced by grade/course and indicator number or curriculum maps with indicators highlighted may be attached to this form)

Reading Applications 8

8. Organize content from different sources on a single topic.

Reading Applications 8

7. Identify examples of author's rhetorical devices and valid and invalid inferences.

Include two professional reviews of this title: (a suggested list of resources for identifying professional reviews is shown below. Reviews may be "cut and pasted" (with citation) into the form or printed reviews may be attached to the form)

Review #1

Booklist (January 1, 2001 (Vol. 97, No. 9))

Gr. 5-10. Simply told, Warren's powerful story blends the personal testimony of Holocaust survivor Jack Mandelbaum with the history of his time, documented by stirring photos from the archives of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Mandelbaum was 12 when the Nazis came to Poland in 1939. At first the thought of war was "thrilling." Then he saw his prosperous, happy home torn apart, and he spent three years as a teenager in the death camps in Germany, where he survived by a combination of courage, friendship, and luck. Warren, who never knew any Jews when she was growing up in a small Nebraska town, brings both passion and the distance of the outsider to the story. True to Mandelbaum's youthful viewpoint, she lets the story unfold slowly so readers don't know until the end what happened to Jack's mother and brother after they were separated, or whether his friends survived. The combination of Mandelbaum's experience and Warren's reporting of the whole picture makes this an excellent introduction for readers who don't know much about the history. There's only one false note. Unlike Anita Lobel's *No Pretty Pictures* (1998) and many other personal accounts, there's a radiant innocence here: everything "before" was blissful ("It was a lovely life"), and, even in the camps, Jack never has an ugly thought. The design is open and inviting with clear type, many photos, and an excellent multimedia bibliography.

Review #2

Horn Book (March/April, 2001)

When warnings of war come to Gdynia, twelve-year-old Jack first responds with frank excitement: "Wow! Extra vacation, and a war coming. What could be better?" But Jack quickly sobers and gains a necessary maturity when his father is taken to a concentration camp and Jack, his mother, and his brother and sister escape, for a while, to the countryside. Based on interviews with Holocaust survivor Jack Mandelbaum, *Surviving Hitler* stays close to its focus, gaining its impact through attention to the particulars of one boy's experience as he survives labor and starvation in several camps until the end of the war, when he discovers that his parents and siblings have been killed. Warren acknowledges that the dialogue in the book is reconstructed from Jack's memories; more distracting are the photographs, which are sometimes haphazardly placed or tangential: the account of Jack's initial "selection" for labor by the German occupiers of his small Polish town, for instance, is accompanied by a photo of Hungarian Jews arriving at Auschwitz. But Jack's story itself stays within its self-defined boundaries and is all the more powerful for it. The account is notably honest about the role luck played for survivors. In the camp soup line, for example, Jack notices that the prisoner before him gets thin broth from the top of the pot, while Jack himself gets a bit of potato: "What was the secret of getting the potato?" Told with journalistic immediacy and less ponderous than many similar accounts published for children, this book is not only compelling testimony to the Holocaust but an involving survival story as well. A recommended reading list is appended.

What alternate text(s) could also fulfill the instructional requirements?

<u>Title:</u> Red Scarf Girl	<u>Author:</u> Ji-Li Jiang
<u>Title:</u> other biographies	<u>Author:</u>
<u>Title:</u> Devil's Arithmetic	<u>Author:</u> Jane Yolen
<u>Title:</u>	<u>Author:</u>
<u>Title:</u>	<u>Author:</u>
<u>Title:</u>	<u>Author:</u>

Document any potentially controversial content:

Concentration Camps

War

Holocaust

Keeping in mind the age, academic level, and maturity of the intended reader, what is the suggested classroom use: (check all that apply)

Gifted/Accelerated Regular At Risk

GRADE LEVEL(S): 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Reading level of this title (if applicable): 13+

Date Submitted to Department Chair: 12/10/07

Suggested Professional Literary Review Sources:

School Library Journal

Horn Book

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates)

Library Journal

Book Links

Publisher's Weekly

Booklist

Kirkus Review

Wilson Library Catalog

English Journal (and other resources of the National Council of Teachers of English)

The Reading Teacher (International Reading Association)

Literature for Today's Young Adults