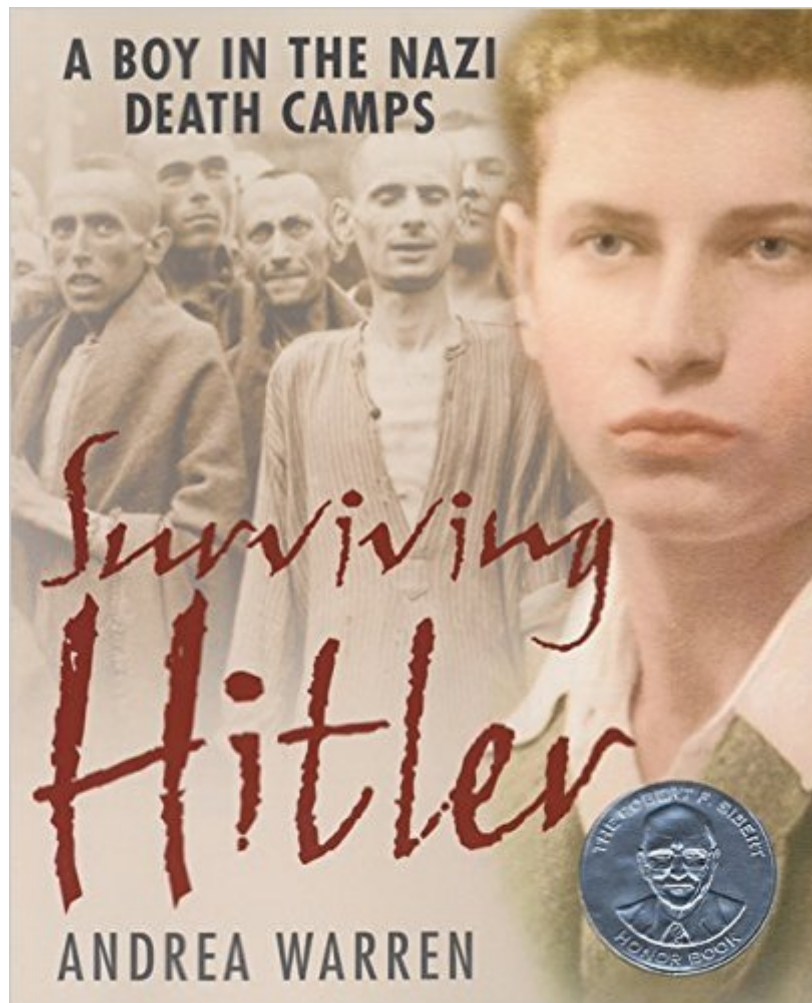


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# Surviving Hitler: A Boy In The Nazi Death Camps



## Synopsis

Award-winning author Andrea Warren presents a life-changing story of a young boy's struggle for survival in a Nazi-run concentration camp. In this Robert F. Silbert Honor Book, narrated in the voice of Holocaust survivor Jack Mandelbaum, readers will glimpse the dark reality of life during the Holocaust, and how one boy made it out alive. When twelve-year-old Jack Mandelbaum is separated from his family and shipped off to the Blechhammer concentration camp, his life becomes a never-ending nightmare. With minimal food to eat and harsh living conditions threatening his health, Jack manages to survive by thinking of his family. Supports the Common Core State Standards

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 820 (What's this?)

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; Reprint edition (September 17, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0060007672

ISBN-13: 978-0060007676

Product Dimensions: 7.2 x 0.4 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (118 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #25,736 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Holocaust](#) #21 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Military & Wars](#) #63 in [Books > History > World > Jewish > Holocaust](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Imagine urinating in the same cup you eat in. Imagine feeling fleas crawling all over you and sick people coughing on you. It doesn't exactly sound pleasant but that is the lifestyle the concentration camp prisoners had to go through. The book, *Surviving Hitler*, is a memorable and sad memoir that focuses on The Holocaust during World War 2. The book has a moving story, and a powerful message that has truly put a different perspective in my eyes on how crule people can be and how understanding people have to be. This book is about a boy named Jack, who is a very fortunate Jewish boy living in Europe. Jack and his family move in with his uncle who lives in a nearby town.

Jack's father stayed behind to get organized and then he would meet up with them after. He had to close up his shop, sell his place, and pack up the big furniture. Unfortunately, before he could meet his family he was put into a concentration camp. Three years later Jack is working and supporting his mom and little brother while his sister, Jadiza, goes to their Aunt and Uncles house to help them with aether new baby. Hitler's soldiers invade the town they are living in and later group all the Jewish families into the town square to send them to concentration camps. Jack gets separated from his family and starts a whole different life in the concentration camps. He learns to survive on his own and take what he can get. It is a very rough experience for him, and you have to read the book to see the outcome. I really enjoyed how the author put black and white photographs in this sad but true story because it really helps you imaging the living conditions back then. The structure of the book is not terribly long, making it an easy read. What I truly love about this book is that the author is always keeping you on your toes and never drags on about one topic. This book sends out a powerful message that I never truly understood until I finished he novel. It taught me to never take anything for granted and to enjoy every moment possible. Of course I forget this message a lot and I do take a lot for granted but when in doubt I always try to remember this book. Jack also gets a message out of his experience in the concentration camps. He learns to live life to its fullest and try to help as many people as he can but still be cautious of his own well being. "Three years as a teenager in the death camps he survived through courage, luck, help from others, and sheer will. Like all survivors, he has much to teach us about bravery and self reliance, and about history and the lessons of the Holocaust." Surviving Hitler is a very moving book that can really make people change some of their views of the world. In my opinion Surviving Hitler is one of the best books I've ever read. Not only has it intrigued me to know more about the Holocaust, it has actually interested me a little more in history in general. I would defiantly recommend this book and hope that the next person who reads it loves it as much as I have.

This book clearly describes the daily life in death camps. I will recommand this to readers who have just started learning about the holocaust.

I haven't read the book, but my 11 year old checked it out at school. He was hooked on the story from the beginning. However, I was surprised when he asked me "Mom, what is a homosexual?" He said that homosexuals were singled out to be victimized. He also was upset about how children, especially those with disabilities were tortured and murdered. I appreciate all the positive reviews here, but it really opened up a lot of issues for my son. Might be better suited to older children.

This book is written for anyone who wishes to learn more about concentration camps and conditions during World War II in general. I had been taught the factual information and read the famous Anne Frank novel, but this book was a real eye opener. I had no idea how well planned the concentration camps of World War II really were. The fact that the prisoners in most labor camps had triangles denoting their reason for being there whether they were criminals, practiced a religion Hitler opposed, or other social delinquents showed a more sophisticated system than I had fathomed. The concentration camps were a very lucrative business and it is easy to see why when the prisoners are worked all day, fed almost nothing, save the bread filled with sawdust, and rated on the worth of their labor. Jack Mandelbaum is a perfect main character. His hard work and winning personality traits make it easy to see why he managed to stay alive. He has such a positive attitude and strength unimaginable that I don't think God himself could allow him to perish in a camp. Jack's mother is a bit impractical during the war as she still wears high heels in a time when some went without shoes. However, she may have been instrumental in Jack getting his Nazi working papers that in the end saved him from being sent directly to the gas chambers. There is a bright spot in the book when Jack meets and becomes friends with another Jewish prisoner, Moniek. They help to sustain each other and are most likely drawn to each other because of their positive outlook in such a dire situation. This book would be a wonderful novel to be read aloud in a Social Studies or Language Arts class studying the war. So often the military and strategic parts of a war are examined without the personal accounts which makes it all the more difficult to imagine the horrible things that were done. There is a wonderful resource section in the back of the book that would be very valuable to educators. This section details additional recommended books for grades 6-9, books for older readers, films and documentaries for older students, software, and websites.

I wanted my kids (ages 8, 10, 13, 15) to learn a little about the holocaust, and we read this out loud as a family. It's pretty heavy material, but my kids were mesmerized by the tragic story of Jack. It's such an interesting narrative, and the author did a great job of keeping it real and personal. The message of the book is one of hope and perseverance, and it gave my family exactly what I was looking for - an example of how someone can conquer a terrible situation with an attitude of determination, even in the face of so much loss and hardship. The telling of the story is aimed at youth, and although there are hard truths in it, the book does not dwell on the negative or sensationalize any part of the story. It's told honestly and simply, and even my 8 year old was able to listen without being overwhelmed by the tragic aspect of the subject matter. The pictures in the

book really helped them visualize the different things he spoke of. They made the book a little more real, and none of the pictures were disturbing or graphic. Very well done. 5 stars.

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