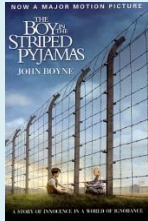


Hazelwick School Library

World War II Book List

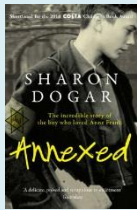
With the recent visit from a survivor of the Holocaust, I have been asked by students for teen and adult fiction titles that are set during the war or feature the Holocaust. Please note they may contain scenes that some students may find upsetting.



The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by John Boyne

This is the harrowing tale of a German boy who befriends a Jewish boy in a concentration camp, without realising the significance of the facility. Bruno's life is turned upside down when his father is promoted and the family have to move to a new home. Bruno explores the area surrounding his new home and he befriends Schmel who lives the other side of the fence. This is a moving fictionalized account of the Holocaust which has a tragic ending.

(Reading Age: 12 to 14, Interest Age: 12 to 15)



Annexed by Sharon Dogar

In this story the author re-imagines what it was like to be in hiding in the Annexe with Anne Frank. Told from Peter Van Pels' point of view, we learn that Peter sees and feels things very differently to Anne. Anne's diary ends on August 4th 1944, but Peter's story relates the events surrounding their betrayal and the Nazi death camps. The reality and tragedy of day to day survival in Auschwitz is told with compassion. Please note that this story contains occasional strong language and themes of sexual longing.

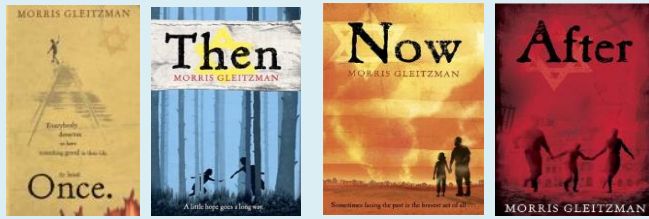
(Reading Age: 12 to 14, Interest Age: 12 to 16)



Two Brothers by Ben Elton

A deeply poignant novel set in Berlin between 1920 and 1945. Elton skilfully weaves historical detail into a story focused around the personal lives of two boys, raised as brothers, growing up through the rise of Hitler in Nazi Germany. The very different fates of the brothers are decided as a result of their obsessive love for the same girl, which has tragic consequence for one of them.

(Reading Age: 12 to 14, Interest Age: 14 to Adult)



Felix and Zelda Series by Morris Gleitzman

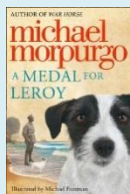
Morris Gleitzman is an English-born Australian writer and he has written four stories about Felix and Zelda. 'Once' is the first title in the series and follows Felix as he escapes from a convent orphanage in the mountains of Nazi occupied Poland in search of his parents. During his quest to find his parents, Felix rescues Zelda from a burning house. In 'Then', Felix and Zelda escape from the Nazis and assume Polish identities in a bid to prevent being captured. They witness various wartime atrocities including a mass grave of Polish children. The gripping and distressing ending of this book will have you in tears. In 'Now', book three of the series, the story switches to the present day. Felix has achieved much in his life and is widely admired in his local community. He has mostly buried the painful memories of his childhood, but they resurface when his granddaughter Zelda comes to stay with him. Will his granddaughter discover the secrets of her grandfather's childhood? 'After' is the concluding part in the series and we return to the 1940s where we discover that Felix has joined the Partisans to help fight against the Nazis as the war comes to a close. Felix faces perhaps his greatest challenge - to find hope when he has lost everything.



When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit by Judith Kerr

One of my favourite stories, this classic story was written in 1971 and is based on the true experiences of the author. Anna recounts her family's flight from Germany to escape Hitler's persecution of the Jews. Anna has not paid any attention to the conversations about Hitler that she has overheard until her family are rushed out of Germany. Anna discovers that her father is wanted by the Nazis - dead or alive. Anna and her family must leave their home and start on their huge adventure. Kerr's writing mixes both the fighting and funny experiences of the family so skilfully which I think is why this story has stood the test of time.

(Reading Age: 8 to 12, Interest Age: 10 to 12)



A Medal For Leroy by Michael Morpurgo

Inspired by the life of Walter Tull, this is an emotional tale of young mixed race boy who discovers the history of his father, an RAF pilot who was killed during World War II. Young Michael doesn't remember his father who was a RAF pilot shot down in the war. Michael's French mother doesn't like to talk about her husband. Michael's Auntie

Snowdrop gives him a medal and photograph, clues that he can use to discover the secrets of his family.

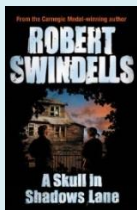
(Reading Age: 8 to 12, Interest Age: 10 to 12)



The Silver Sword by Ian Serrallier

Originally published in 1956, this is the first story I read as a child that made me sob! Having lost their parents in the chaos of war, Ruth, Edek and Bronia are left alone to fend for themselves during the Nazi occupation of Poland and hide from the Nazis. They meet a ragged orphan boy, Jan, who treasures a silver sword paperknife which was entrusted to him by an escaped prisoner of war. The three children realise that the escapee was their father, the silver sword a message that he is alive and searching for them. Together with Jan they begin a dangerous journey across the battlefields of Europe to find their parents.

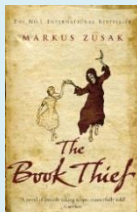
(Reading Age: 8 to 10, Interest Age: 9 to 13)



A Skull in Shadows Lane by Robert Swindells

Award-winning author Swindell's wartime adventure story is tense and chilling read. Josh and Jinty decide to visit the eerie, abandoned Shadows Lane to explore a deserted house. They are shocked to see a creepy, skeletal face at a dark window. Believing there's a skeleton haunting Shadows Lane, the children are shocked to learn the truth about "Boney"--he's an escaped prisoner of war. But someone else is also hiding in the village, someone much more dangerous.

(Reading Age: 8 to 12, Interest Age: 9 to 12)



The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Before you see the film of the book which is released in cinemas at the end of the month, please read the book first! This is a totally absorbing story which is narrated by Death and centres on a little girl called Liesel. Set in Nazi Germany in 1939, Liesel is taught to read by her foster father and so begins her love of words and books. Starting with the *Gravedigger's Handbook*, Liesel begins to steal books. When her foster family hides a Jewish young man in their basement, Liesel becomes aware of the dangerous times they are living in. This is a powerful and absorbing read which examines the power of words and books. Please note that although Liesel is aged nine, this book is aimed at older teens and adults.

(Reading Age: 14 to 16, Interest Level: 14 to Adult)

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World War II Book List



Mrs. Thornton
Feb 2014