

LORGNETTE

Quarterly Review of Children's and Young Adults' Books

Author

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Young readers ed

Illustrator

Reviewer

Goacher, Doris

Pages

373p

Price

\$17.99

ISBN

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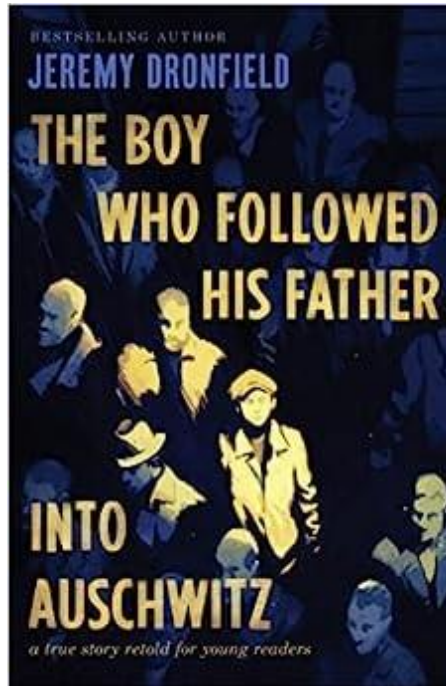
Quill Tree Books, 2023

Classification

Nonfiction (940.531 or
biography)

Grade level

5-7



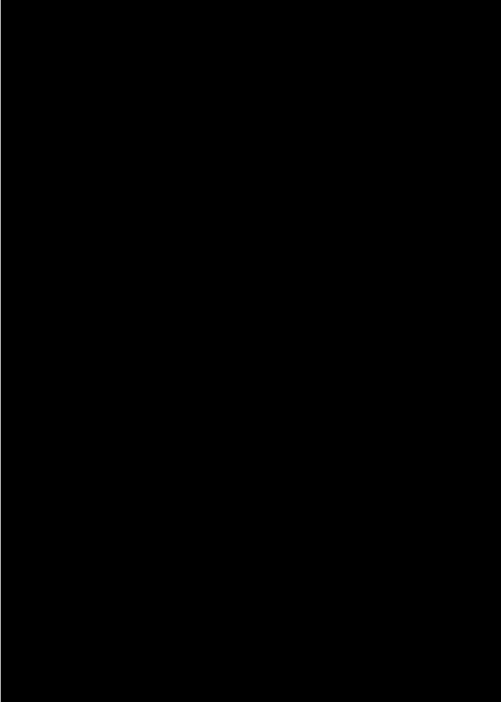
Book Review: BOY WHO FOLLOWED HIS FATHER INTO AUSCHWITZ: A TRUE STORY RETOLD FOR YOUNG READERS, THE

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This is the young readers' version of the adult bestseller by the same name. It is a powerful story of family bonds, strong courage to survive, and the worst of inhumanity. In the time since writing the adult version, the author uncovered new details about this story that did not appear in the earlier version.

This is the true story of the Kleinmann family. They are living in Vienna when the Nazis take over the city and tear their Austrian-Jewish family of six apart. The focus of the story is on the two boys and their father. Fritz, age 14, and his father, Gustav, are arrested by the Nazis and sent to Buchenwald concentration camp where they begin a life of hard labor and starvation. They are sent to several other concentration camps during the following six years of imprisonment. At the same time, the younger brother, Kurt, age eight, is able to leave the country and make the voyage to America all alone to begin a life with a family he does not know.





The author reveals the atrocities of the Holocaust, Nazi brutality, and antisemitism in a way that makes the horrors understandable to young readers without being overly graphic. The young boys make the story relatable for middle school students, and actual photographs of the family interspersed throughout the book emphasize that this is a true story.

The book includes a glossary of terms, a very complete bibliography, a time line of events, and the author's note to parents and teachers. Also, the author interviewed Kurt, who was in his 90s at the time, for updates on information about his family when the war was over.

This is an outstanding book and an important topic in understanding history. The other message of the book is that love and hope make it possible to survive!

