

WORLD WAR II in EUROPE

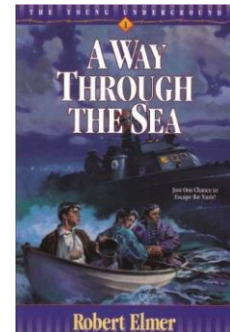
Fiction for students in Years 7—9

Arranged by countries

DENMARK

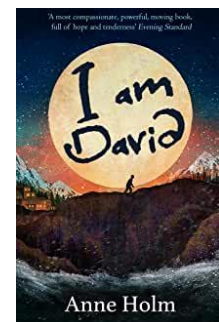
A Way Through the Sea (Young Underground #1 of 8) by Robert Elmer, 1994

In 1943, when the Germans plan to send all Danish Jews to prison camps, Peter and Elise, eleven-year-old twins, face danger trying to help their Jewish friend Henrik escape to Sweden. Other titles in the series also set in Denmark include **Beyond the River, Into the Flames, Far from the Storm, Chasing the Wind, A Light in the Castle, Follow the Star, and Touch the Sky.**



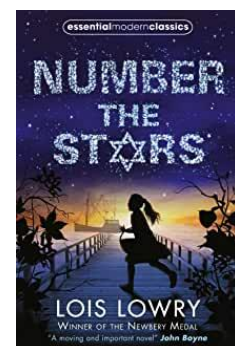
I Am David (Modern Classics) by Anne Holm, 2018 (Book and Film)

12-year-old David escapes from the Bulgarian forced labour camp where he has spent his entire life and flees across Europe to Denmark. He is utterly alone – who can he trust? What will await him? How can he be sure that they won't catch up with him ...An incredible story of survival against all odds. For readers of The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas and The Book Thief.



Number the Stars by Lois Lowry, 1989

10-year-old Annemarie Johansen and her best friend Ellen Rosen often think about life before the war. It's now 1943 and their life in Copenhagen is filled with school, food shortages, and the Nazi soldiers marching in their town. The Nazis won't stop. The Jews of Denmark are being "relocated", so Ellen moves in with the Johansens and pretends to be part of the family.



FRANCE

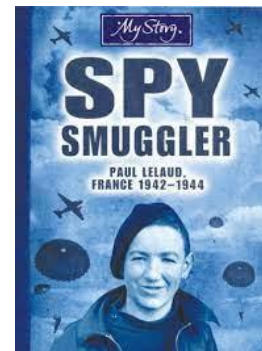
Sophie's Secret War (My Story Series) by Jill Atkins, 2009

In 1939, the start of the second World War, Sophie becomes a messenger for a resistance group in Northern France. As the German invaders overwhelm the British forces on the French coast, Sophie finds herself more deeply involved with the resistance in a dangerous plan to save a young Scottish soldier.



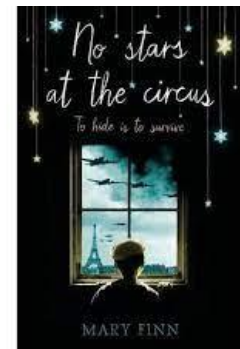
Spy Smuggler: Paul Lelaud, France 1942-1944 (My Story Series) by Jim Eldridge, 2004

July 1943. Paul lives in a French village which has been occupied by Nazis since 1940. One night Paul's best friend is taken away. Then Paul decides to join the Resistance against the German occupation of his country, helping to get Allied prisoners of war and agents out of the country.



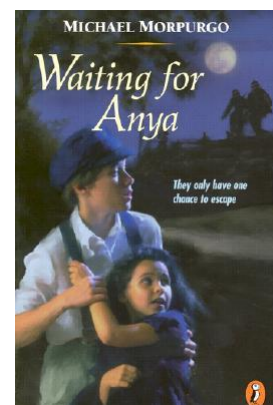
No Stars at the Circus by Mary Finn, 2014

During the round-up of Jews in Paris in July 1942, ten-year-old Jonas Alber is whisked away to the home of an elderly music professor to live in hiding. He reads about his favourite subjects - sharks, salmon, albatrosses - and writes about his family, and his friends at the circus. Increasingly he worries about his younger sister, and one day dares to step outside to find her. A cross between *The Boy in Striped Pyjamas* and *The Diary of Anne Frank*.



Waiting for Anya by Michael Morpurgo, 1990 (Book and Film)

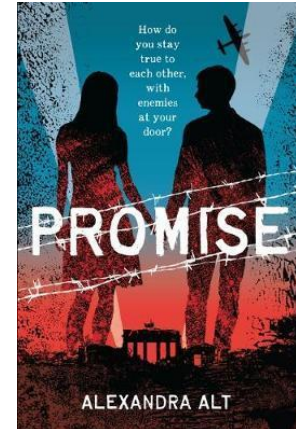
When they first met Jo was not to know that the stranger's life was in his hands. Friendship and trust are the keys to survival in this remote French village during the Second World War. By honouring his promise, Jo is drawn into the perilous network which helps Jews escape over the nearby border into Spain.



GERMANY

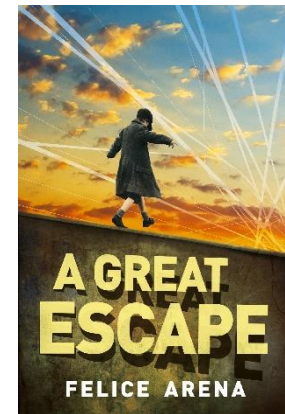
Promise by Alexandra Alt, 2019

At 15, Lene is questioning everything. She is sick of the compulsory League of German Girls meetings, and everyone being made to fight for a final victory that never seems to come. She is in love with Ludwig who lives upstairs and listens to enemy broadcasts. Like Lene, he rejects the war and the endless Nazi indoctrination. Unwittingly drawn into a dangerous game of cat and mouse, Lene has to watch every step, every word to protect those she loves. Can Lene and Ludwig hold on to their promise to one another and resurface from the darkness of the abyss in post-war Berlin?



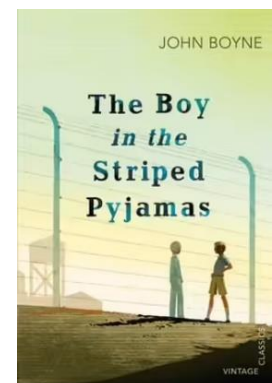
A Great Escape by Felice Arena, 2019

When the border between East and West suddenly slams shut, Peter finds himself trapped in East Germany with his Oma and Opa, while his mother, father and sister are in the West. Peter tries desperately to find a way across the border to rejoin his family, but the cruelty of the government grows as the wall is built. Despite the ever-present danger, Peter finds new friends and the possibility of escape becomes real, but there are hard choices to be made.



The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas: A Fable by John Boyne, 2012 (Book and Film)

Told from the perspective of nine-year-old Bruno who has been forced to leave his home in Berlin to live with his family in the strange and unwelcome environment of Auschwitz. The only friend he finds in his drab new home is a little boy, Shmuel, separated from him by the big fence that separates Bruno's world from the very peculiar place on the other side.



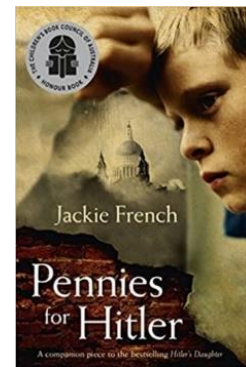
Chocolate Cake with Hitler by Emma Craigie, 2011

Tells the remarkable story of Helga Goebbels, twelve-year-old daughter of the Nazi Party's head of propaganda, who spent the last ten days of her life cooped up in a bunker in Berlin with Adolf Hitler. As defeat closes in on the Germans, life in the bunker becomes increasingly fraught with danger.



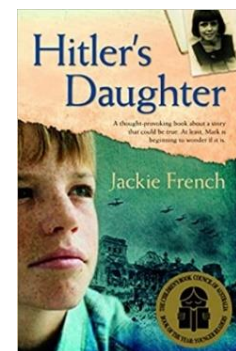
Pennies for Hitler by Jackie French, 2012

It's 1939, and for Georg life is full of cream cakes and loving parents. It is also a time when his teacher measures the pupils' heads to see which of them have the most 'Aryan' shaped heads. When a university graduation ceremony turns into a pro-Nazi demonstration, Georg is smuggled out of Germany to war-torn London and then across enemy seas to Australia. He must forget his past and who he is in order to survive.



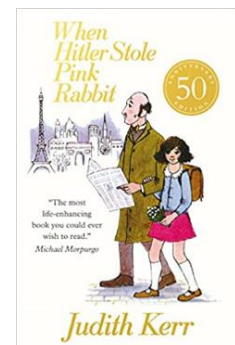
Hitler's Daughter by Jackie French, 1999

The bombs were falling, the smoke was rising from the concentration camps, but all Hitler's daughter knew was the world of lessons with Fraulein Gelber, and the hedgehogs she rescued from the cold. Was it just a story? Did Hitler's daughter really exist? If you were his daughter, would it all be your fault, too? Do things that happened a long time ago still matter?



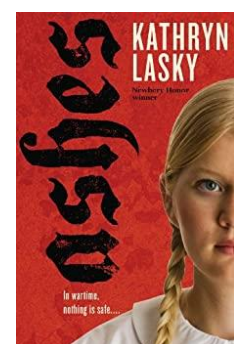
When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit by Judith Kerr, 2017

This semi-autobiographical classic tells the story of a Jewish family escaping Germany in the days before the Second World War. Suppose your country began to change. Suppose that without you noticing, it became dangerous for some people to live in it any longer, and you found, to your surprise, that your own father was one of those people. This is what happened to Anna.



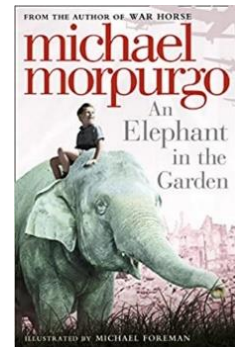
Ashes by Kathryn Lasky, 2010

Berlin, 1932. Gabriella is living a happy and privileged life. As Hitler rises to power, things quickly change. People who were once trustworthy are now Nazis. Many of her friends are fleeing the country or being taken away. To cope, Gaby turns to the comfort of her books, but suddenly those are in grave danger of disappearing as well.



An Elephant in the Garden by Michael Morpurgo, 2011

Dresden, 1945. Elizabeth, Karli and their mother are fleeing the city as the allied bombs fall. It's a torturous journey through a perilous, snow-covered landscape to reach the safety of the west. It would be difficult enough, even if they didn't have an elephant with them.



We Are Wolves by Katrina Nannestad, 2020

When the Russian Army marches into East Prussia at the end of the World War II, the Wolf family must flee. Liesl, Otto and their baby sister Mia find themselves lost and alone, in a blizzard, in the middle of a war zone. Liesl has promised Mama that she will keep her brother and sister safe. But sometimes, to survive, you must do bad things. Dangerous things. Wild things. Sometimes to survive, you must become a wolf.



My Brother's Secret by Dan Smith, 2014

Germany, 1941. 12-year-old Karl Engel is looking forward to joining the Hitler Youth, like all boys his age. But when his father is killed, his rebellious older brother Stefan shows him things that leave his faith in the Fuhrer shaken. What does it mean to be a good German? ...

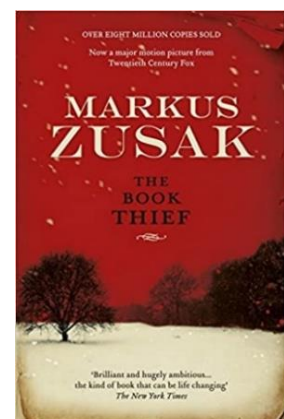


The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak, 2013 (Book and Film)

Nazi Germany, 1939. The country is holding its breath.

Death has never been busier and will become busier still.

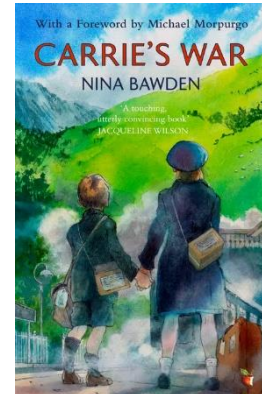
By her brother's graveside, Liesel's life is changed when she picks up a single object, partially hidden in the snow. It is The Gravedigger's Handbook, left there by accident, and it is her first act of book thievery. Soon she is stealing books from Nazi book-burnings, the mayor's wife's library, wherever there are books to be found. But these are dangerous times and when Liesel's foster family hides a Jewish fighter in their basement, Liesel's world is forever changed.



UNITED KINGDOM/BRITAIN

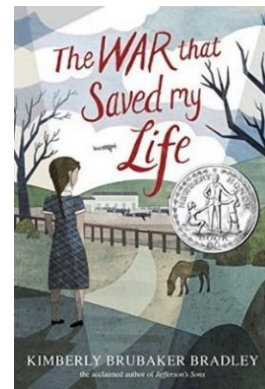
Carrie's War (Modern Classics) by Nina Bawden, 1973 (Book and Film)

It is wartime, bombs are falling on London and Carrie and her little brother Nick have been evacuated from their London home to the Welsh hills where they are billeted with the bullying old Mr Evans and his gentle, kind sister. In an unfamiliar place, among strangers, the children feel alone and find little comfort with the family they are billeted with.



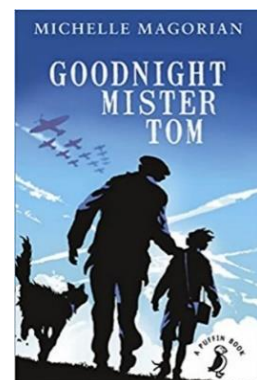
The War That Saved My Life (The War That Saved My Life #1) by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley, 2015

Ten-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. So, when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war in London, Ada doesn't waste a minute—she sneaks out to join him. So begins a new adventure for Ada, and for Susan Smith, the woman who is forced to take the two kids in. Sequel is **The War I Finally Won**



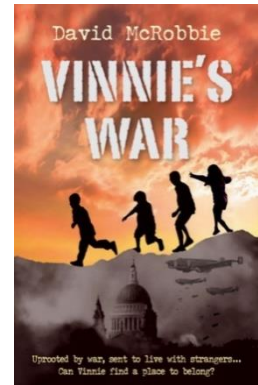
Goodnight Mister Tom (Modern Classics) by Michelle Magorian, 2021 (Book and Film)

The unforgettable story of young Willie Beech, evacuated to the country as Britain stands on the brink of the Second World War. A sad, deprived child, he slowly begins to flourish under the unlikely care of grumpy old Tom Oakley. But then his new-found happiness is shattered by a summons from his mother to return to London. As the weeks pass by Tom begins to worry when William doesn't answer his letters, so he goes to London to find him, and there makes a terrible discovery.



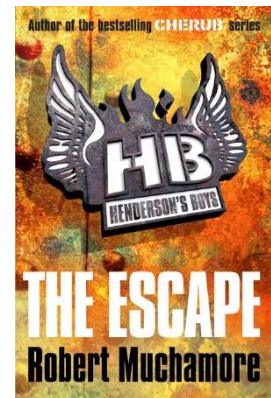
Vinnie's War by Davie McRobbie, 2012

The story of a homeless boy who starts by losing everything, and—through his experience as an evacuee in World War II—finds friendship, vocation, and a place of acceptance. Through music and companionship, can Vinnie make peace with the unwelcoming locals and finally find a place where he belongs?



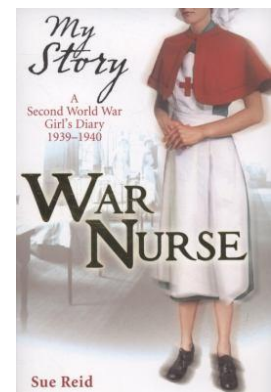
The Henderson Boys Series by Robert Muchamore, 2009-2013 *The Escape; Eagle Day, Secret Army, Grey Wolves, The Prisoner, One Shot Kill, Scorched Earth*

Summer, 1940. Hitler's army is advancing towards Paris, and millions of French civilians are on the run. The British Secret Service is about to discover that kids working undercover will help to win the war. For official purposes, these children do not exist. Follow the Henderson Boys exploits throughout Europe during World War II.



War Nurse: The Diary of Kitty Langley, 1939-1940 (*My Story Series*) by Sue Reid, 2012

The Second World War is raging abroad when 18-year-old Kitty decides it's time to do her bit. So, she joins the VAD (Voluntary Aid Detachment) as a nurse, going to work in the military hospitals of southern England. Helping the injured soldiers on the wards, Kitty sees the grisly effects of war at close hand - notably the casualties of Dunkirk. But the move from her comfortable, safe home environment to the harsh world of a wartime hospital will teach her a great deal about life and relationships...



THE NETHERLANDS/ HOLLAND

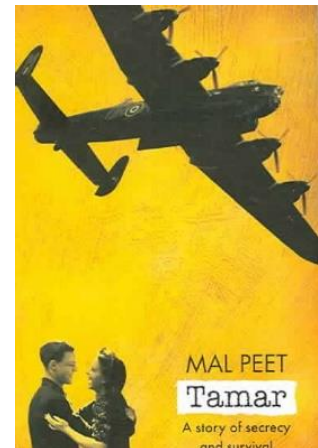
Winter in Wartime by Jan Terlouw, 2019

During the Second World War, the Netherlands is still under Nazi control and any acts of resistance are punishable by death. But when sixteen-year-old Michiel is asked to take care of a wounded British Spitfire pilot he doesn't think twice. He joins the secret struggle against the Nazis, working every day to end the occupation and protect those in danger from it, knowing all the time that spies are everywhere, and one loose word could cost him his life...A thrilling, powerful and inspiring adventure story, based on the author's own experiences as a child in Nazi-occupied Holland.



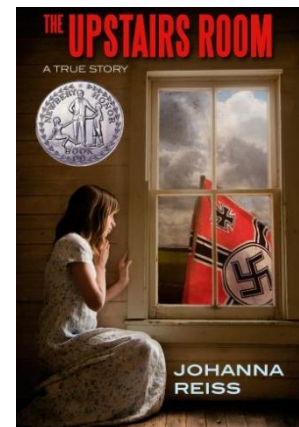
Tamar by Mal Peet, 2005

When her grandfather dies, Tamar inherits a box containing a series of clues and coded messages. Out of the past, another Tamar emerges, a man involved in the terrifying world of resistance fighters in Nazi-occupied Holland half a century earlier. His story is one of passionate love, jealousy and tragedy set against the daily fear and casual horror of the Second World War. Unravelling it will transform the younger Tamar's life.



The Upstairs Room by Johanna Reiss, 1972

A true story about wartime in occupied Holland, told through the eyes of young Annie, who for three cramped and frustrating years lived with her elder sister in the upstairs room of a remote farmhouse, hardly ever daring to leave it, and utterly dependent on the kindness and courage of its owners.



ITALY

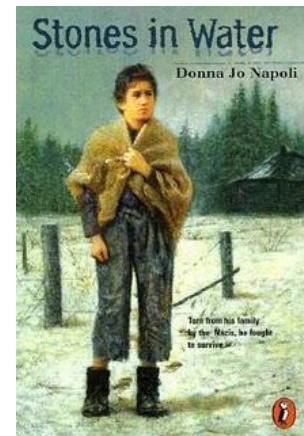
Hero on a Bicycle by Shirley Hughes, 2013

Italy, 1944: Florence is occupied by Nazi forces. The Italian resistance movement has not given up hope, though — and neither have thirteen-year-old Paolo and his sister, Costanza. As their mother is pressured into harbouring escaping POWs, Paolo and Costanza each find a part to play in opposing the German forces. Both are desperate to fight the occupation, but what can two siblings — with only a bicycle to help them — do against a whole army? In extraordinary circumstances, people are capable of extraordinary things.



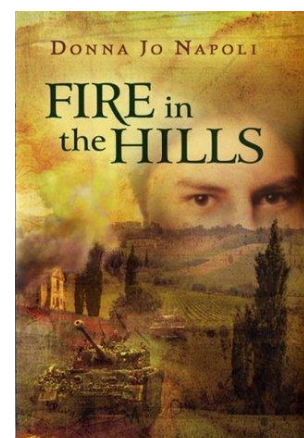
Stones in Water (**Stones in Water #1**) by Donna Jo Napoli, 1999

Set in Europe during World War II this novel focuses on Roberto, a young boy from a small village in Venice, Italy, who is captured by the Germans at a cinema in Mestre. One minute, Roberto, his older brother Sergio, and his friends Memo and Samuel are hoping to enjoy an American western, and the next minute, they're being carted by train to a work camp far away from home and fighting for their lives. Sequel is **Fire in the Hills**.



Fire in the Hills (**Stones in Water #2**) by Donna Jo Napoli, 2008

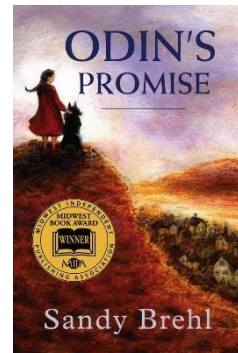
Roberto is back in Italy at last. His journey has been long and painful since he escaped from the Nazi labour camp in Eastern Europe. Now the Allies are forcing the Nazis north, and life has never been more dangerous for the Italians. Only the partigiani, small bands of resistance fighters, bring them hope. Roberto joins them, carrying secret messages and smuggling guns. But he'll be tortured and killed if he is caught. All he wants is to survive to see his family again.



NORWAY

Odin's Promise (A Novel of Norway - #1 WWII Trilogy) by Sandy Brehl 2014

When Hitler's troops invade Norway in April 1940, eleven-year-old Mari is forced to grow beyond her "little girl" nickname to deal with harsh new realities in her small village. Mari, her family, and her neighbours are soon drawn into the underground resistance movement, as young and old find ways to oppose the occupying forces and show their love for their native land. [Odin's Promise](#)



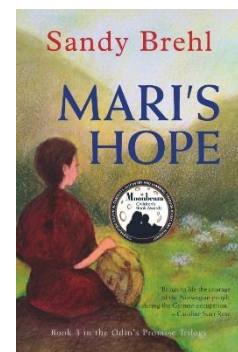
Bjorn's Gift (A Novel of Norway - #2 WWII Trilogy) by Sandy Brehl, 2016

Young teen Mari faces growing hardships and dangers in her small village during the second and third years of German occupation. German troops and local Nazi supporters move into her family's daily life, and her classmate Leif becomes active in the Norwegian Nazi youth party. Mari struggles to live up to her brother Bjorn's faith in her as she becomes more involved in risky resistance activities, trusting only her family and a few close friends. [Bjorn's Gift](#)



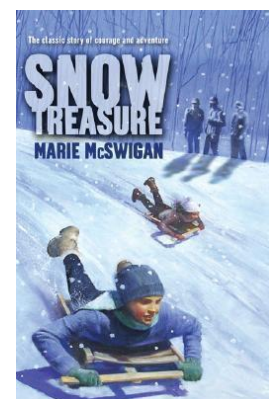
Mari's Hope (A Novel of Norway - #3 WWII Trilogy) by Sandy Brehl, 2017

Set in a small village in occupied western Norway in the final years of World War II, young Mari has become a valued helper to the village doctor. She also plays a role in her family's efforts in the local resistance, despite ever-present dangers, especially from the snooping soldier called Goatman and from Leif, her one-time school friend, turned German collaborator. [Mari's Hope](#)



Snow Treasure by Marie McSwigan, 1942

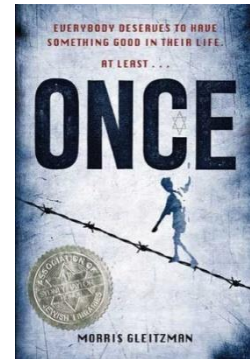
In the bleak winter of 1940, Nazi troops parachuted into Peter Lundstrom's tiny Norwegian village and held it captive. Nobody thought the Nazis could be defeated—until Uncle Victor told Peter how the children could fool the enemy. It was a dangerous plan. They had to slip past Nazi guards with nine million dollars in gold hidden on their sleds. It meant risking their country's treasure—and their lives. Published in 1942, it has been in print ever since.



POLAND

Once (The Felix and Zelda Series: #Book 1 of 7) by Morris Gleitzman, 2005

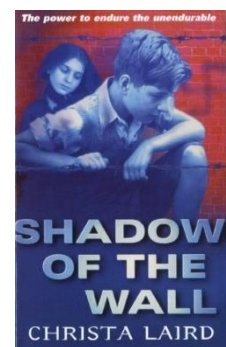
Felix is determined to escape the orphanage he lives in to save his Jewish parents from the Nazis in the occupied Poland of the Second World War. Everybody deserves to have something good in their life. At least Once. Once I escaped from an orphanage to find Mum and Dad. Once I saved a girl called Zelda from a burning house. Brilliant series which provides a very real perspective of WWII as seen through the eyes of an innocent but resilient child.



Sequels are **Then, Now, After, Soon, Maybe and Always.**

Shadow of the Wall by Christa Laird, 2011

It's 1942 and fourteen-year-old Misha is struggling to stay alive, imprisoned inside his own home - the Warsaw Ghetto. As the Nazi grip round the Jewish community tightens, Misha finds himself forced to risk his own life in order to save the lives of those he loves - his mother, sisters and friends. Sequel is **Beyond the Wall**



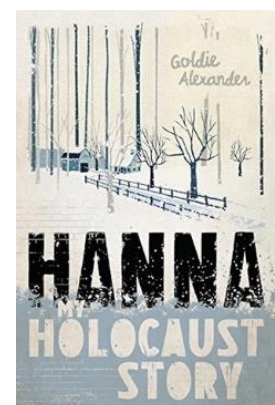
The Diary of Laura's Twin by Kathy Kacer, 2009

Three weeks before her Bat Mitzvah, Laura is given a mysterious diary, written more than sixty years ago in the Warsaw Ghetto during World War II. Soon she is swept up in Sara's story - the story of a girl just like herself, whose experience and courage can now help Laura to confront prejudice in her own time.



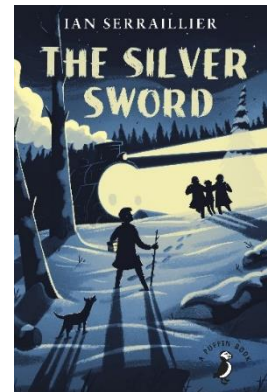
Hanna: My Holocaust Story by Goldie Alexander, 2015

Hanna Kaminsky loves gymnastics, her best friend Eva, Elza's chicken soup with dumplings and reading. But in September 1939 the happy life that Hanna has always known disappears. The Nazis have invaded Poland and Hanna and her family are sent to the Warsaw Ghetto where they must use whatever skills they have to survive.



The Silver Sword by Ian Serrallier, 1956-2015, (Book and Film)

Having lost their parents in the chaos of war, Ruth, Edek and Bronia are left alone to fend for themselves and hide from the Nazis amid the rubble and ruins of their city. They meet a ragged orphan boy, Jan, who treasures a paperknife - a silver sword - which was entrusted to him by an escaped prisoner of war. Although the silver sword was only a paper knife, it became the symbol of hope and courage to the four deserted and starving children through the years of occupation, and the search for their parents. Based on a true story.



Wojtek: War Hero Bear by Jenny Robertson, 2014

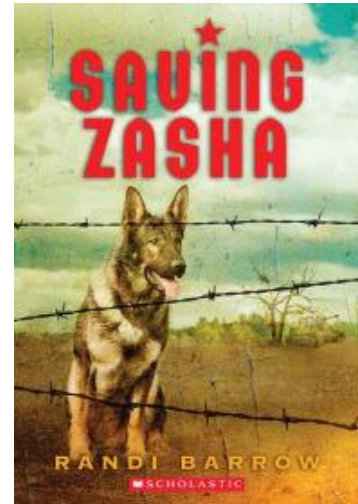
When a tiny, orphaned bear cub is adopted by Polish soldiers during World War II, little does anyone know that little Wojtek will become one of the bravest fighters of them all carrying supplies to thwart the Nazis.



RUSSIA

Saving Zasha by Randi Barrow, 2015

In post-WWII Russia, any and all associations with Germany are despised, including German Shepherds, who, if found, are killed immediately. So, when 13-year-old Mikhail finds a severely wounded German soldier and his canine companion, his decision to help the soldier and dog back to his home is a huge risk. When the man dies, what will they do with the dog they've all come to love? They decide to hide her, but soon realize that between snoopy neighbours and determined dog thieves, saving Zasha may be next to impossible.



Rabbit, Soldier, Angel, Thief by Katrina

Nannestadt, 2021

It's spring, 1942. The sky is blue, the air is warm and sweet with the scent of flowers. And then everything is gone. The flowers, the proud geese, the pretty wooden houses, the friendly neighbours. Only Sasha remains. But one small boy, alone in war-torn Russia, cannot survive. One small boy without a family cannot survive. One small boy without his home cannot survive. What that small boy needs is an army. The heartwarming story of a young boy who becomes a soldier at six, fighting in the only way he can -- with love. But is love ever enough when the world is at war?



Selected by Dajo Finlayson

Edited by Mia Macrossan

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Look out for the companion list **World War II: Remembering Anne Frank**



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