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Milkweed



Synopsis

He's a boy called Jew. Gypsy. Stopthief. Runt. Happy. Fast. Filthy son of Abraham. He's a boy who lives in the streets of Warsaw. He's a boy who steals food for himself and the other orphans. He's a boy who believes in bread and mothers and angels. He's a boy who wants to be a Nazi someday, with tall, shiny jackboots and a gleaming Eagle hat of his own. Until the day that suddenly makes him change his mind. And when the trains come to empty the Jews from the ghetto of the damned, he's a boy who realizes it's safest of all to be nobody. Newbery Medalist Jerry Spinelli takes us to one of the most devastating settings imaginable - Nazi-occupied Warsaw of World War II - and tells a tale of heartbreak, hope, and survival through the bright eyes of a young orphan.

Book Information

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Whispersync for Voice: Ready

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Best Sellers Rank: #37 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Holocaust #47 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Orphans & Foster Homes #82 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Prejudice & Racism

Customer Reviews

Interesting but pretty overwhelming and sad. It does keep you engaged as a reader but I had to put it down a few times because it was so depressing. It is an interesting perspective . The reader gets to grow and age with the author and.... (spoiler alert) at least he survives till the end of the book. It depicts a very grim portrait of an awful time In History of Poland and the world. Reminded me of the book all the light that we cannot see but not as descriptively prose.

This book takes place during the times of the Holocaust. Having read Jerry Spinelli novels in the past, it didn't surprise me that the main character was a young, somewhat innocent boy and that the novel is in first person. Overall I wish I would of read this book when I was younger. Spinelli serves

as a great young adult writer, and this book is best suited for someone in middle school when they are just learning about the holocaust. This novel highlights a unique perspective with a light theme of how the holocaust impacted everybody in Germany; without the gruesome details. Beyond that, this still can be a great quick pleasure read for all ages. However, out what i've read from Jerry Spinelli, I recommend Maniac Magee over Milkweed without a doubt. The character development and characteristics in this novel was on point. Each character remained consistent and the details of each person's identity gave life to the story. The main character, Misha has a unique perspective from being raised on the street with little to nothing to call his own. Once the Nazis (or Jackboots as Misha called them) gained power, Misha was able to use his skills to help others close to him and himself. Compared to other Holocaust novels, this novel has less action and a lot less war battles than the average story. However, Milkweed still remains captivating and another Young Adult hit from Jerry Spinelli.

I have a 6th grade son who hates reading but for some reason all books by Jerry Spinelli keeps his attention. So of course I will buy all the books I can.

My son's 6th grade class read this book in school and they were enthralled by it. After completing the book my son was emphatic that my husband and I read it too. We're so glad we did! The book was outstanding and kept us engaged from start to finish. Milkweed is a must read that set the stage for a very insightful dialog about the atrocities of the Holocaust. Sensational book! Don't pass it by!

This is a historical fiction set in [mainly] Warsaw Poland, that uses many facts and events of the time period. I highly recommend this book. With the assistance of a grown-up, younger readers can appreciate and learn from the subject matter and hopefully come to sympathize with anyone who is unjustly oppressed or mistreated. The main character is a young, destitute, orphan boy who has no certainty of his identity (name, ethnicity, etc) and his daily life of surviving in the city. The story begins just before the Nazi invasion/occupation of Warsaw, Poland. Shortly after, he witnesses the subjugation of the Jews of the city and their forced segregation to the ghettos, then their eventual removal by freight train (to send them to the concentration or death camps). The character's child innocence and lack of common knowledge (and current events) brings a third-person point of view to the story, as the reader is taken along with him as he gains knowledge and identity.

written in the point of view of a child during the time of the holocaust. So interesting to see another

point of view.

My son read this book for a summer reading project, he enjoyed it very much and felt that the characters were well developed and it had a good story line.

Milkweed is the best book I've ever read that deals with the Nazis, Hitler, the concentration camps, the fear and the reality of torture and death to the Jews during this reign of terror. It is written so any older child can understand it, and yet it captured my attention from beginning to end. I couldn't put it down. My 12 year old, who IS NOT a history buff and doesn't even like to read, never has trouble remembering the Jackboots, the children stealing food to keep from starving, and the trains pulling away while loved ones held their arms out to each other for the last time. MILKWEED is a totally accurate portrayal of the horrors the Jewish people lived and died in under Hitler's rule, yet it is presented in a fictional way that children can understand. Don't miss this one. Thanks for putting Milkweed out there for all to read.

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The Enlarged and Updated Second Edition of Milkweed Monarchs and More: A Field Guide to the Invertebrate Community in the Milkweed Patch Milkweed (Random House Reader's Circle)
Monarchs and Milkweed: A Migrating Butterfly, a Poisonous Plant, and Their Remarkable Story of Coevolution Monarch Butterfly, Monarch Butterfly Migration, Facts, Life Cycle, What Do They Eat, Habitat, Anatomy, Breeding, Milkweed, Predators Milkweed

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