



Jars of Hope

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Amid the horrors of World War II, Irena Sendler was an unlikely and unsung hero. While many people lived in fear of the Nazis, Irena defied them, even though it could have meant her life. She kept records of the children she helped smuggle away from the Nazis grasp, and when she feared her work might be discovered, she buried her lists in jars, hoping to someday recover them and reunite children with their parents. This gripping true story of a woman who took it upon herself to help save 2,500 children from the Warsaw Ghetto during the Holocaust is not only inspirational; it's unforgettable.

Jars of Hope Details

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Author : Jennifer Roy , Meg Owenson (Illustrator)

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Download and Read Free Online Jars of Hope Jennifer Roy , Meg Owenson (Illustrator)

From Reader Review Jars of Hope for online ebook

Emily says

This book was written on a child's level. It is appropriate for people of all ages. The story tells how Irena Sendler saved thousands of Jewish children during the holocaust. Along with many others, she found ways to smuggle children out of the ghetto. In addition to saving their lives, she created lists of who the children really were and who was sheltering them. This allowed parents who had survived the concentration camps to locate and reunite with their children. The only thing I wished while reading this book is that it was longer to allow the reader to learn more about Irena and the work that she accomplished.

Jennifer Strong says

This is a true account of Irena, who, as a child, was taught there were only two kinds of people- good and bad. "It doesn't matter if they are rich or poor, what religion or race. What matters is if they are good or bad." As a young adult she worked as a social worker to help poor families. In Poland she entered the Warsaw Ghetto to administer vaccines and saw the Jews there needed help. "The children are hurting the most...I have to give them a helping hand." She started by sneaking food and medicine into the ghetto.

- Two years later the Jews were being sent to concentration camps to die. With the help of others, Irena snuck babies out of the ghetto compound. In 1943 she was caught by the Gestapo and sent to prison for three months. Her life was spared and she went into hiding. She had kept records of all the children she saved and hid the lists in jars in a backyard. Later she was able to help the children learn of their true identities and parentage and a few were even able to be reunited with their parents.

- She died in the company of one of the children she saved, at the age of 98, in 2008.
- A fantastic and heart breaking story. I'm inspired by her selflessness and bravery.

Joanne Zienty says

This is an inspiring story that deserves to be more well-known, but there are better versions of it out there. This one is not well-written. It feels choppy and incomplete. Irena Sendler and the Children of the Warsaw Ghetto tells the story of this relatively unknown heroine of the Holocaust in a much more satisfying way. I did like the illustrations by Meg Owenson in this version, however.

Brittney Previe says

An easy to read story of a woman whose strength, courage and kindness overcame the evil of the times to save thousands of children who would have been sent to their death. A wonderful introduction for readers to learn about the Holocaust and the heroes that emerged from this point in history.

James says

Read the synopsis of this book online and requested it from the library. I didn't know it was a kids book. Read it anyway. Great story of a woman that helped over 2500 children flee the Nazis from Poland during WWII. Nice way to explain some of these complex issues to a child. Plus its a great story of courage and defiance in the face of evil.

Alex (not a dude) Baugh says

In her book, *Jars of Hope*, Jennifer Roy takes the reader back to the childhood of Irena Sendler to understand why she would be willing to risk her own life years later to help the Jewish children in the Warsaw Ghetto after the Nazis so many people into such a small, unsanitary living space.

As a child, in her hometown of Otwock, Poland, Irena saw how the Jewish people were avoided, but her father taught her that nothing else matters about people except whether they are good or bad.

Irena grew up to become a social worker/nurse and as she watched events unfold in Warsaw after the Nazis took over, she was compelled to do something - but what could one person do, she asked herself.

The answer was to try and bring food and medicine to the people in the ghetto, but more importantly, Irena began to sneak the children out and to find safe homes for them until the Holocaust ended and they could be reunited with their families. Irena began to organize friends and other trustworthy people in the Polish underground who could help her carry out her frequent trips to get babies and children. Babies were taken out in carpenter's boxes, trash or coffins after being given a few drops of medicine to make them sleep. Older children were smuggled out different ways, sometimes through sewer tunnels and other times right under the noses of the Nazi guards.

Teaching the children what they needed to know in order to pass as Catholics, Irena would write down each child's original name, new name and where each was sent. Then she would put the names into jars and bury the jars under a tree. Irena and her helpers would continue to make sure each rescued child was cared for, and the families or convents were given food and money in return for the risk they were taking.

In 1943, Irena was arrested, taken to prison and tortured, but never revealed the names of rescued children, where they were hidden or who had helped her. A few months later, her freedom was bought with a large bribe and Irena continued her work with Zegota, the secret organization formed to help Jews in Poland.

It can't be easy to write a book about the Holocaust for young readers, especially for some who are just beginning to learn about it. But Jennifer Roy has taken a real hero and used her to remind us that even in the darkest of times there are people who understand what the right thing to do is, who care and are willing to help others. Yet, Roy doesn't sugar-coat her story - when Irena tells parents the only guarantee she can give them about their children is that if they remain in the Warsaw Ghetto, they will die, or when people are forced to get into cattle cars, trains that are taking them to concentration camps and their death, young readers will easily grasp the magnitude and gravity of the Holocaust.

While Roy's words tell about those dark times, Meg Owenson's realistic dark, foreboding mixed media illustrations support and extend the text, expressing the wide variety of emotions that must have been felt by everyone at that time. Be sure to read the Afterword and Author's Note at the back of the book. In addition, there is a glossary, an Index and Source Notes for further exploration.

Jars of Hope is an inspiring picture book for older readers about one very brave woman and reminds us all that one person can make a big difference in the world.

This book is recommended for readers age 7+

This book was a ARC received from the publisher, Capstone Press at BEA2015

This reviewed was originally posted on Alex's Bookshelves

Alissa says

Yet another amazing story from the Holocaust. Irena Sendler managed to save 2500 Jewish children from the Warsaw ghetto. How is it that I've never heard of her until now?

Anna says

Everyone should read this book and hear this story. Bring it to the classrooms when students are learning about World War II because it is amazing story about an amazing person that history doesn't mention.

This was a beautiful and heartwarming story about a person I never heard of and more people should know about her. Irena Sendler, a wonderfully brave Polish woman, helped save more than 2,500 children from the Nazis during World War II. She was very organized and clever. She had lists of all the children's real names (they had to have a different name after being sneaked out so it would be harder for the Nazis to track them) and locations of where the children went and made sure the lists were kept secret so the Nazis wouldn't find it. Everyone that participated in hiding the children, helping them escape, were so brave. She helped children escape in the most clever ways. One child was sneaked out in a toolbox, another in a cart or the back of a truck with the help of a man who drove the truck. It was amazing and I'm so happy they succeeded. This book made me tear eyed and if I didn't read the book at work I would have most likely cried. This story was amazing and I am so happy Irena's story was told.

SPOILER ALERT:

Irena was captured and tortured, but she still kept her secret and was eventually released with the help of her friends bribe toward one of the guards. Her bravery astonishes me and I was so glad to read that some of the children were reunited with their families and those whose parents died, they at least found out their new real name and who their parents were. All of this was possible because of Irena and her brave friends who helped.

Courtney says

t's about Irena Sendler, a young woman from Warsaw. During the second world war, she worked as a social worker, and with a resistance party working against the Nazis. She and her group managed to smuggle hundreds* of Jewish children out of the Warsaw ghettos to safety, placing them with various orphanages, and adoptive families.

Not as impressed by this one - I like the story of Irena Sendler, but there's not really any new info in this one that I didn't learn in "Irena Sendler and the Children of the Warsaw Ghetto" by Susan Rubin a couple of years ago. The only new info is about the PBS production, which sounds interesting.

I also wasn't impressed by the artwork in this one. It's not bad, and I don't mind it *overall*, but... For the most part, aside from the main focus of a scene the 'paintings' are quite blurry-seeming. There were also a few scenes that threw me off, like the one used on the back cover of her leading the young boy past the soldiers... The proportions/posture used is just *odd*, and seems unnatural. There's a few of those in the book that seemed distracting to me.

Not a bad resource in itself, but out of the two I'd go with Rubin's book, I think.

Kayla says

This really would be a 4.5 review for me. There was concise description throughout the book without lessening the importance of certain facts. However, I worry it may be a bit of a vocabulary reach for the younger, picture-book aged audience. I like that there was clarification on a network of people involved in saving the children rather than a feat Irena completed on her own.

Mehsi says

Received this book from Netgalley in exchange of an honest review.

I have always been interested in WWII and what happened during that time, often it is truly heartbreak, but also often it is filled with a sense of hope. Even when everything around them collapses, even when stuff seem to end in death, people tend to keep hope, hope for various things. Like hope to survive, to know that your children are safe, to hope that everything will end.. You will also see that in this book.

Irena, I am not sure if I ever heard of her, I probably did considering I read quite a few WWII books, was a great person. Instead of running away, instead of shying away from all that happened in the ghetto, she stuck close, helping out kids and family. Smuggling and taking them out of the ghetto, bringing them to safety and making sure that their new foster families would get money and food to take care of that extra mouth (because it is still the war, and one extra mouth can make a big difference in how much food there is for everyone).

Irena was an amazing person, even when she was caught she stayed silent, no matter how gruesome the torture (though since this is a children's book it is mostly toned down, but I am guessing that the nazis won't just have whipped her and do not much else).

I also loved that she kept in contact with the kids that she rescued, or at least a few. Amazing!

The story brought some tears to my eyes. Maybe I shouldn't have read this book so soon after I read another heartbreakingly book, but I just couldn't wait to read this one.

The way the timeline jumps around was truly the only thing that I didn't like that much. I know this is a short book and they have to get the important stuff in it, but it just felt odd that we hopped around the years like that. At times it was confusing as things suddenly felt accelerated, I had to remind myself that a year did go past and so a lot of events will have happened that led to this one special event.

The illustrations are gorgeous and beautiful, mostly done in gloomy and dark colours to capture the war, the hopelessness that was happening in that time. It was great to see how Irena was drawn, at most times she seemed to be a beacon that lit up the place, the one to bring happiness and light around her. Showing people that there is still hope, that she will help.

All in all, this book is highly recommended. There is also a handy glossary near the end, so if there are words that kids don't know, they can just go to the end and check them out. I also loved that the author told us how things continued after the war (the story ends when Irena hides the lists). It gave a sense of closure and I am happy they did that. I would have rated the book lower if they had stopped at the hiding and didn't disclose any more information on how Irena was doing and what happened to the lists.

Review first posted at <http://twirlingbookprincess.com/>

Kris - My Novelesque Life says

JARS OF HOPE: HOW ONE WOMAN HELPED 2,500 CHILDREN DURING THE HOLOCAUST

Written by Jennifer Roy and Illustrated by Meg Owenson
2015; Capstone Young Readers (33 Pages)
Genre: picture book, middle school, history, war, holocaust

RATING: 4 STARS

In Jars of Hope We meet a real life hero, Irene Sendler. During World War II she risked her life and freedom to help anyone the Nazis were persecuting. One way to help the Jewish children survive was to smuggle them out of the Ghettos. To ensure that the Nazis never figured out where they went but also to help reunite the children to their parents later she put her lists in jars and buried them. This is a great book to read to young children about the Holocaust as it give you the sense of despair and heroism without being too much for kids to handle. The pictures in this book are amazing and add to the wonderful true story about a true hero and those that helped her.

I received an eARC from NETGALLEY

My Novelesque Blog

Julie James says

I had vaguely heard of Irene Sendler but I don't think her story is particularly well known. I really enjoyed this beautifully illustrated sophisticated picture book that simply tells the inspiring story of an amazing woman who helped save approx 2500 Jewish children during World War Two.

Arhely says

This is a picture book written by Jennifer Roy and illustrated by Meg Owenson.

Main Character: Irina Sendler

Irina is a polish woman who took a job as a social worker to help the families in Warsaw Ghetto during WWII. The Germans had many Polish Jews living in that part of the city. Irina thought "The children are hurting the most," so she decided to start sneaking medicine and food into the ghetto. In 1942, many Jews were taken to Treblinka to be put to death. Irina, with the help of many people, decided to save the children. Irina started smuggling out babies and children. She placed them with different families and with new names. She kept a list of their names and placement. One day, Irina was caught. The Gestapo came to her apartment.

The book has detailed digital illustrations. It has many dark colors to keep the sense of war and poor conditions.

This book is recommended for children ages 9-12 years old. The teachers can use it as a book project and to discuss how Jews were treated during WWII as well as read heroes.

Sources: BarnesandNoble.com and Children and Youth literature class.

Ines says

I received this book free from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

very interesting story, i have read it with my 10 years old daughter, and we found out to be very incredible, sweet and tender considering that was a true story....

i knew before about Irena Sendler..... so i could explain a little bit of the story to Laura before reading the book together.....

i hope to find this book soon in bookstore, maybe here in Italy ,too.
