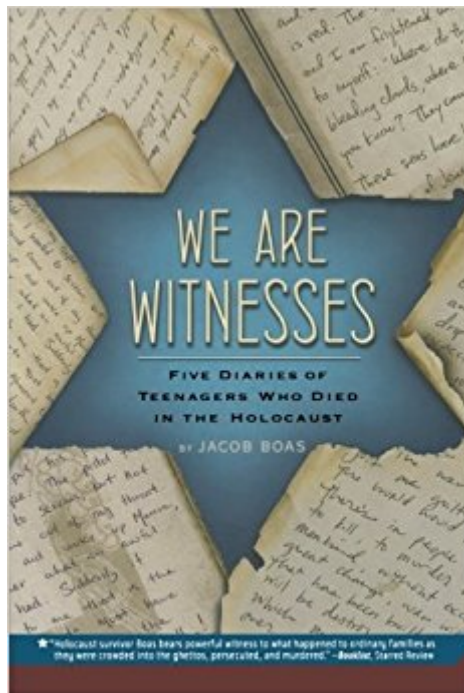


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# We Are Witnesses: Five Diaries Of Teenagers Who Died In The Holocaust



## Synopsis

The five diarists in this book did not survive the war. But their words did. Each diary reveals one voice, one teenager coping with the impossible. We see David Rubinowicz struggling against fear and terror. Yitzhak Rudashevski shows us how Jews clung to culture, to learning, and to hope, until there was no hope at all. Moshe Ze'ev Flinker is the voice of religion, constantly seeking answers from God for relentless tragedy. Eva Heyman demonstrates the unquenchable hunger for life that sustained her until the very last moment. And finally, Anne Frank reveals the largest truth they all left for us: Hitler could kill millions, but he could not destroy the human spirit. These stark accounts of how five young people faced the worst of human evil are a testament, and an inspiration, to the best of the human soul.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Born in 1943 in the Westerbork concentration camp in Holland, Boas here brilliantly unfolds the history of the Holocaust through poignant excerpts from five teenagers' wartime diaries, enhanced with skillful commentary. Predictably, Anne Frank turns up, in the final section, but, as Boas points out, "alongside the other four diaries, Anne's looks different than when you read it by itself as the sole voice of the Holocaust." By the time readers encounter Anne Frank, they will have met Jewish teenagers trapped in equally tragic but even more violent circumstances in various parts of Europe, from a small Polish village to the Vilna ghetto to Brussels and Hungary. The young writers relay their hopes and fears even as they chronicle the disintegration of their daily lives. One is religious, another politically active, others wrapped up in their families-Boas points out each writer's

sensitivities as he explains the terrible traps into which the individual teenagers fall. In exploring their fates, he impresses upon the reader their vitality, and, by extension, implies the enormity of the Holocaust's losses. Ages 12-up. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

• Holocaust survivor Boas bears powerful witness to what happened to ordinary families as they were crowded into the ghettos, persecuted, and murdered. • • Booklist, Starred Review • The cumulative effect of the five journals is overwhelming. • • The Horn Book Magazine • Boas brilliantly unfolds the history of the Holocaust through poignant excerpts from five teenagers' wartime diaries, enhanced with skillful commentary. • • Publishers Weekly • A riveting collection of texts that, rather than variations on a theme, remain stubbornly individualistic, adding up to a stereoscopic vision of the Holocaust. • • Kirkus Reviews • We are privy to the thoughts of five adolescents who wrote about, and then died because of, the Nazis' persecution of the Jews. • • The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, Starred Review • Boas ably guides the reader through these literary landscapes of hell, where none of the writers survived. . . . [These] young people make the accounts more universal, and permit us to see the common humanity of each of these different witnesses. • • Jewish Bulletin

An excellent introduction to the social ramifications of the Holocaust! Anne Frank's diary is well-known, these young diarists add to her observations of the Holocaust. I liked that there was a variety of social classes and educational levels, as well as the different ways each of these teenagers coped. This book should be required reading for Holocaust education classes. Seeing genocide from a young person's perspective will certainly help teens, and adults for that matter, to approach the genocide that has continued even until today.

A terribly sad and horrific account of such young Jewish people in history reaccounting their memories in a book such as this. The point of view from children who should have gotten to be 'children', having to think like adults and try so very hard to simply survive. I am still wordless. I am Jewish and I couldn't fathom what went through their young minds. While I worried about my hair or my waistline as a teenager, they worried about the next meal, their families, their lives. When was it their turn to walk into Lilith's Cave, would they see their parents and siblings alive the next day or ever again? How heart-breaking. An amazing read,

I chose this book because it dealt with the lives of young adults, and our school was having a Holocaust Memorial. I was hoping that this age group would respond and be able to identify with young people in another time period. The fact that the diaries are unfinished and that the teens desperately tried to stay alive, shows us how easy it is to take life for granted when we feel safe or are not challenged. I had students read parts of these other students diaries.

Thank you

very interesting

great

This book is hard to read but opens a window on what life was like for those caught in the Nazi net prior to WWII. These harrowing accounts from teenagers diaries is not to be missed. Putting myself in their shoes I can only imagine the grim horror as one's life turns into a living nightmare.

The powerful story of teenagers in the Holocaust--told in first person. This is a great way to get a new view of the Holocaust.

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