



In response to the tragedy at the synagogue in Pittsburgh and to rising anti-Semitism in the United States, the Association of Jewish Libraries offers this series of book lists for young readers. Books read in youth impact future outlooks, and it is our hope that meeting Jews on the page will inspire friendship when readers meet Jews in real life. This is the first in a series of book lists intended to provide children and their families with a greater understanding of the Jewish religion and its people.

This first list features stories of Jews and non-Jews standing up for each other, working out differences, and confronting prejudice. Look for these titles in libraries, bookstores, and online.

Book List #1: Standing Up For Each Other

PICTURE BOOKS

[**The Golden Rule**](#) by Ilene Cooper, ages 4-8

This book is a gentle reminder of a timeless rule for parent and child: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. A boy and his grandfather discuss the rule's universality and how to put it into practice.

[**Hannah's Way**](#) by Linda Glaser, ages 4-8

After Papa loses his job during the Depression, Hannah's family moves to rural Minnesota, where she is the only Jewish child in her class. When her teacher tries to arrange carpools for a Saturday class picnic, Hannah is upset. Her Jewish family is observant, and she knows she cannot ride on the Sabbath. What will she do? A lovely story of friendship and community.

[**Emma's Poem: The Voice of the Statue of Liberty**](#)

by Linda Glaser, ages 4-8

In 1883, Jewish Emma Lazarus, deeply moved by an influx of immigrants from eastern Europe, wrote a sonnet that gave a voice to the Statue of Liberty. The statue, thanks to Emma's poem, came to define us as a nation that welcomes immigrants. A true story.

[**Never Say a Mean Word Again: A Tale from Medieval Spain**](#) by Jacqueline Jules, ages 4-8

Inspired by a powerful legend of conflict resolution, *Never Say a Mean Word Again* is the compelling story of a boy who is given permission to punish an enemy. A surprising twist shows how an enemy can become a friend.

[**As Good As Anybody: Martin Luther King Jr. and Abraham Joshua Heschel's Amazing March Toward Freedom**](#) by Richard Michelson, ages 6-9

Here is the story of two icons for social justice, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and Abraham Joshua Heschel, how they formed a remarkable friendship and turned their personal experiences of discrimination into a message of love and equality for all.

[**The Whispering Town**](#) by Jennifer Elvgren, ages 7-11

The dramatic story of neighbors in a small Danish fishing village who, during the Holocaust, shelter a Jewish family waiting to be ferried to safety in Sweden. Worried about their safety, friends devise a clever and unusual plan for their safe passage to the harbor. Based on a true story.

CHAPTER BOOKS

Vive La Paris by Esme Raji Codell, ages 9-12

Paris has come for piano lessons, not chopped-liver sandwiches or French lessons or free advice. But when old Mrs. Rosen, who is Jewish, gives her a little bit more than she can handle, it might be just what Paris needs to understand the bully in her brother's life...and the bullies of the world.

Refugee by Alan Gratz, ages 9-13

A Jewish boy in 1930's Nazi Germany, a Cuban girl in 1994, a Syrian boy in 2015 - all three go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. This action-packed novel tackles topics both timely and timeless: courage, survival, and the quest for home.

The Inquisitor's Tale, Or, The Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog by Adam Gidwitz, ages 9-15

France, 1242. Three children: a Christian peasant girl, a Moorish boy raised as a monk, and a Jewish boy. On the run to escape prejudice and persecution and save precious and holy texts from being burned, their quest drives them forward to a final showdown.

The Hired Girl by Laura Amy Schlitz, ages 10-14

Readers should know that this compelling book has engendered controversy. The quality of storytelling was recognized with many awards, yet it has been criticized for reinforcing stereotypes of Native Americans. Please take advantage of this [teachable moment](#) when introducing the book to young readers.

Lauren Yanofsky Hates the Holocaust

by Leanne Lieberman, ages 13-18

Jewish teen Lauren is sick of Holocaust memorials. But when she sees some of her friends--including cute boy Jesse--playing Nazi war games, she is faced with a terrible choice: betray her friends or betray her heritage.

Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Refugees in Cuba

by Margarita Engle, ages 12 to adult

Daniel has escaped Nazi Germany with nothing but a desperate dream that he might one day find his parents again. But that golden land called New York has turned away the ship full of refugees, and Daniel finds himself in Cuba. The young refugee befriends a local girl with some painful secrets of her own. Yet even in Cuba, the Nazi darkness is never far away.



THE "LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR" SERIES

The Love Your Neighbor series of book lists was created by the Association of Jewish Libraries to grow readers' understanding of the Jewish religion and its people.

The Association of Jewish Libraries, established in 1966, promotes Jewish literacy through enhancement of libraries and library resources and through leadership for the profession and practitioners of Judaica librarianship. The Association fosters access to information, learning, teaching and research relating to Jews, Judaism, the Jewish experience and Israel.

AJL is an affiliate of the American Theological Library Association, the Association for Jewish Studies, and the American Library Association.

Learn more at www.jewishlibraries.org.

© 2018

