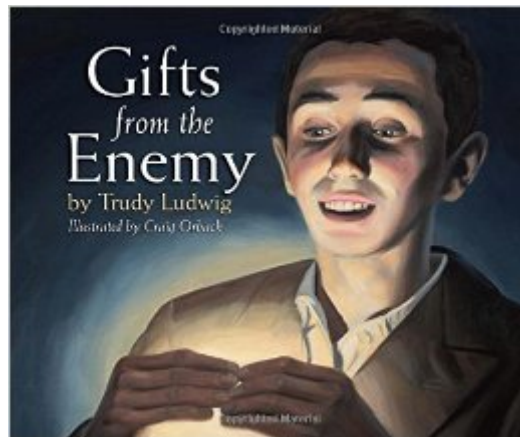


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Gifts From The Enemy (The HumanKIND Project)



Synopsis

Gifts from the Enemy is the powerful and moving story based on From a Name to a Number: A Holocaust Survivor's Autobiography by Alter Wiener, in which Alter recalls his loss of family at the hands of the Nazis and his internment in five prison camps during World War II. This picture book tells one moving episode during Alter's imprisonment, when an unexpected person demonstrates moral courage in repeated acts of kindness to young Alter during his imprisonment. Written by acclaimed children's writer Trudy Ludwig, author of Better Than You and Confessions of a Former Bully, and illustrated by award-winning children's book illustrator Craig Orback, Gifts from the Enemy teaches children in age-appropriate language about the dangers of hatred, prejudice, and stereotyping and that there are good and bad in every group of people. The accompanying questions and activities for readers provide teachers and parents with helpful direction in presenting this history and the valuable story. Gifts from the Enemy highlights how acts of social justice and kindness can change lives.

Book Information

Series: The humanKIND Project

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (57 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #391,426 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #69 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Holocaust #682 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Historical #896 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Values

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 2 - 7

Customer Reviews

In 2007, an American WWII veteran asked me to put my life story in print. "Do it for my children and my grand children," he said. I obliged with my autobiography "From a Name to a Number." For the

last thirteen years I have been sharing my life story with close to 900 audiences of adults and students. The feedback that I have been getting (in person, by mail, and on the Internet) is indicative that sharing my life story has benefited those who have listened to or have read my life story. They became more appreciative of their personal freedom and opportunities available to them in this blessed USA and in some other democratic countries. I have often been told, "You've changed my life," and, in some cases, "You've saved my life." The youngest students I have spoken to were 5th graders at an elementary school in Lake Oswego, Oregon. I asked the principal, "Are you sure that those young kids are able to absorb and digest my traumatic life experience and not be frightened by it?" The principal's response was: "I want my students to hear and listen to a Holocaust survivor as long as there is one alive. In fact, I believe that even younger children should be aware of the Holocaust legacy." Trudy Ludwig happened to be present, as a parent, in May 2011, at one of my presentations at her son's middle school. In my presentations I never forget to mention that while being a captive in a Nazi slave labor camp, a German woman was hiding sandwiches for me for 30 days. By doing so, she risked her own life for me. Ms. Ludwig, an acclaimed author of illustrated books for children, got the idea of taking that episode of compassion and kindness as an antidote to the troubling phenomenon of bullying and peer mistreatment that often occur today in many schools. I am profoundly appreciative and grateful to Trudy Ludwig for writing so beautifully and to Craig Orback for illustrating so artistically "Gifts from the Enemy."

This story of compassion touched my heart. As President of the Oregon Holocaust Resource Center, I know Alter Weiner's story very well. Trudy Ludwig has taken an important aspect of his life, being helped by a stranger, and showed how important it is to reach out to help those in need. A stranger risked her own life, to provide sustenance to Al when he was in a concentration camp. This book is well written and beautifully illustrated. Every classroom, grades 2-6 can benefit from discussing this story.

I would like to congratulate Ms. Ludwig for making an important series of events in Holocaust survivor Alter Wiener's life available a children's book. We need to educate our youth, from an early age, that prejudice and stereotyping are absurd. The reader can refer to Wiener's autobiography "From a Name to a Number" for further details about this survivor's life story. Again, congratulations to Ms. Ludwig. I highly recommend this book for all children, everywhere!

Such an inspirational book about life's gifts in the darkest of times. To me this book is a way to learn

and teach about what it means to be kind and compassionate. What would happen if every child could read or hear this true story? Bullying might be a thing of the past. This is a MUST for youth as well as adults. Thank you Trudy Ludwig for taking Alter Wiener's book "From A Name To A Number; A Holocaust Survivor's Autobiography" and gifting it to young people all over the world! The Questions for Discussion and Recommended Activities in the back of the book are wonderful. A quote from Trudy "May we all never underestimate how acts of kindness-no matter how big or small-can make a positive difference in the lives of those we touch."

In this powerful story of courage and kindness, Ludwig shares the story of Holocaust survivor, Alter Wiener. In addition to the historical aspects, this is a great avenue for discussion with children with the important lesson "How those you meet in life treat you is far more important than who they are." Includes questions for discussion and recommended activities for young readers.

Author Trudy Ludwig and Illustrator Craig Orback have created a truly unique, beautifully illustrated picture book that follows a real-life event in the life of Holocaust survivor Alter Wiener. Through the story, the reader learns about the Holocaust, and the impact it had on an adolescent, in a gentle but honest way. In the end, the story's main character is shown an act of kindness by "the enemy," a German woman working for the Nazi war effort. This act of kindness may have saved Alter's life. But just as importantly, it allowed Alter to judge people as individuals. Not every German during WWII was evil; some tried to help in their own small way. He was able to let go of his anger and has assured many descendants of Nazis that he has no reason to hate them; they are not to blame for their relative's actions. Just like the German woman, Alter learned to think for himself and not follow the crowd. The end of the book answers some questions students may have about the Holocaust and helps set the stage for a conversation. However, this story goes beyond teaching our next generation the story of the Holocaust. It teaches children the dangers of stereotyping and the deep impact a small act of kindness can have on a person.

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