

Monica Wood
Annotated Bibliography

Books

Fleischman, Paul. *Whirligig*. New York: Random House, 1998.

Although quite distant in many ways from the other Judaism/Holocaust related books I have already listed, this high-school level novel shows how one of the ideas from *The Devil's Arithmetic* appears in many other contexts and situations. Like Hannah, this book's protagonist Brent is unenthusiastic and cynical about his own identity until he, like Hannah, removes himself from all of his friends and family and strives to understand others to better understand himself.

Friedman, Laurie. *Angel Girl*. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, 2008.

Published only two months ago, this children's book also explores how kindness to one another flourished and lifted others even while in Nazi concentration camps. Although it was written for younger children (between five and eight), the beautiful message of this book is applicable to any age and meshes well with themes encountered in *The Devil's Arithmetic*.

Lowry, Lois. *Number the Stars*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1989.

This renowned late-elementary/middle school novel also deals with the way in which the Holocaust interrupted the normal life of a young girl, and how such an atrocity brought out the best and worst in human nature. It could prove very interesting to compare and contrast the two novels.

Rosen, Jonathan. *The Talmud and the Internet: A Journey Between Worlds*. New York: Picador, 2000.

This more advanced ethnography also explores the theme of Jews gaining a better understanding of their present by reflecting on and learning about their roots. Rosen deals with many issues addressed in *The Devil's Arithmetic*, such as a lack of enthusiasm for certain customs, and better understanding oneself by learning more about one's roots. Although the book itself is definitely on an adult reading-level, excerpts from this book could be used effectively in the classroom while discussing these themes.

Williams, Laura E. *Behind the Bedroom Wall*. Minneapolis: Milkweed Editions, 1996.

This later elementary/early middle school chapter book also deals with the themes of the importance that learning more about the Holocaust and Jewish culture can have in developing ideas and understanding on these topics. This would be an interesting novel to examine while studying *The Devil's Arithmetic*, as the themes are similar yet explored from a very different perspective: that of a German girl. This book could also help counter any tendency to want to villainize Germans in general after reading the book.

Websites

<http://www.savedarfur.org/content?splash=yes>

I believe that it would be irresponsible to study this book with the attitude that the horror described in it is all in the past and that we are so lucky that such atrocities are not being committed right now. Yes, we should be very grateful that we live so comfortably and safely, but must remember that hate and genocide continue to live on in many parts of the world, perhaps most notably in Sudan's Darfur region. This website provides wonderful resources to better educate us on the issue and what we can do about it.

<http://www.ushmm.org/>

This is the website for the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. It also provides many resources that promote respect, remembrance, and understanding - ideas that are also promoted in the novel. It can also be used to increase student's background knowledge on the subject.

<http://www.jhom.com/index.htm>

Also promoting increased understanding, this website promotes a more broad appreciation of Jewish heritage, which is also promoted in the book as Hannah comes to better respect Jewish holiday and custom as a result of her experience. This site can also provide background knowledge on Jewish custom.

http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/french_resistance.htm

This site provides some good information on the French Resistance. Like the strong Holocaust victims described in the novel, members of the French Resistance believed in the importance of not allowing the Nazi's to succeed in spreading fear and tyranny, thus fitting the novel both historically and thematically.

<http://www.friendship.com.au/quotes/>

Although I would definitely steer students away from the dangerous and semi-creepy-sounding "Find a Friend" part of this website, it could certainly be used to gather supplemental resources on the topic of friendship. The importance of friendship is a theme that is explored throughout the novel, and is one that is readily applicable to students and their personal lives.