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Jacob's Rescue

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Once Jacob Gutgeld lived with his family in a beautiful house in Warsaw, Poland. He went to school and played hide-and-seek in the woods with his friends. But everything changed the day the Nazi soldiers invaded in 1939. Suddenly it wasn't safe to be Jewish anymore.

**Synopsis**

As a fifth grade teacher I read Jacob's Rescue for the first time with my class after our reading teacher spoke so highly of it. She and I will continue to include it each year. It is a great book to spark an interest in fifth graders about the Holocaust. The fact that it is based on true events manages to hit home that this awful and tragic event ACTUALLY happened.

We are the most excellent and often noisy class of 5T from Holland Elementary School in Holland, MA. We read Jacob's Rescue for literature study in our unit on the Holocaust. The book we just read is about when a Polish family tries to keep alive three Jewish brothers during the Nazi occupation in World War II. The story is about a boy who was saved, along with his brother, from the Warsaw ghetto. They lived with a family, but they still felt scared of the Nazis. The book tells about the terrifying encounters with the Nazis. There are several reasons why we liked this book. It tells in
great detail what happened to regular people during the Nazi occupation. We liked the part about when the family fled Warsaw because we were glad that they were able to escape to safety. We liked Jacob’s Rescue because it was an emotional and realistic book. It made some of us cry when people died. It made some of us shout for joy when people got away from the Nazi invasion. Some of us had a few criticisms of the book. Because the book was so realistic there was a lot of violence and death. Some of us did not like that. People were blown up, people lay in puddles of blood, and a dead dog was dragged away to be someone’s dinner. Some of us also felt the pace of the book was too rapid; the book lacked detail because it moved too quickly. At one point they skipped two years in Jacob’s life. We got a little confused about characters’ ages at different points in the book.

Jacobâ€™s Rescue by Malka Drucker and Michael Halperin is a story that takes place in Poland during World War II. It is a heart-breaking story about a Jewish boy named Jacob who lives in the ghetto and is trying to survive after the invasion of Hitler. The family that helps Jacob and his siblings is Yurek, Meriska, Alex, and Mela. This Polish family was one of the only families to sacrifice their lives for Jews. They were determined and brave and escaped outside the city limits. This story is about Jacob who must escape the ghetto to go live with a family he has never met before. The family has to move many times to keep the Nazis away. Eventually, they are able to take in Jacobâ€™s brothers, Sholom and David. Sholom and Yurek catch scarlet fever and Yurek, being a non-Jew, is able to receive medicine from the hospital. He saves half of it for Sholom, but unfortunately, Sholom dies anyway. Jacob survives an infection from scarlet fever on his mastoid bone before the next move with David to Melaâ€™s brotherâ€™s house located in the outskirts of Poland. The Russians eventually come to save the Polish from Hitler. I liked this book because the author helped me feel the fear and the determination of Jacob. I felt excited for the Polish when the Russians finally came. I would recommend this book to my friends because of its detail and interesting history.

Jacobâ€™s Rescue is a heart-touching story based on actual events that took place in 1939 Poland when the Nazis invaded. The devastating, crumbling city of Warsaw was under the rule of Hitler, a man who wanted all Jews to die. Jacob, a Jewish boy with brown hair and brown eyes, had been living in a Warsaw ghetto for the past few months. In order to survive Jacob must live with a Polish family, the Roslanâ€™s, and take the name Genyek. Alex Roslan, the father with blonde hair and blue eyes, rescues Jacob and the family hides him from the Nazis. Jacob had to leave his family, friends, and past all behind him. Jacobâ€™s younger brother, Sholom, was sent to the Roslans to
live with them, but with scarlet fever he did not make it due to his weakness. Soon Jacob caught scarlet fever and needed medical attention right away. Alex sold their apartment in order to pay for the hospital and Jacob survived. Time passed and soon Jacob’s other younger brother, David, who had blonde hair and blue eyes, came to join them too. When a Russian counterattack occurred, Yurek, the son of Alex, is overjoyed and runs outside only to be shot by a German sniper. Sadly, Yurek dies. After the city of Warsaw became too dangerous the family moves to Mela’s, the mother’s, brother’s home where there are no Germans. The rest of the sad story will be revealed once you read it. Jacob’s Rescue shows the hardships many faced during the Holocaust and at times I was on the verge of crying. I recommend this book to people who enjoy reading about wars, adventures, and heart-touching stories. Jacob’s Rescue is an unforgettable story that will change your point of view on the world and how you treat others.

My son loves this book it basically gave him a view of the trouble that the Jews went thru during the reign of Adolf Hitler. It mostly focused on a little boy who went through this ordeal but later survived and got married and had his own children. The story did have a happy ending.

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