

Rutka's Notebook: A Voice from the Holocaust

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More than sixty years after her 1943 death in Auschwitz, the words of fourteen-year-old Rutka Laskier, a young Jewish girl from Bedzin, Poland, offer a poignant study of the everyday lives of Polish Jews caught up in the Holocaust.

Grade 7 Up-Rutka Laskier was a Jewish teenager in Poland during World War II. For a few short months, before being deported to a concentration camp, she kept a diary describing her experiences. It was kept safe by a non-Jewish friend for 60 years following the war, and was finally published in Poland and Israel. This is the first U.S. edition. The diary itself is a combination of wartime horrors, social gossip, and teen angst. Photos and editorial notes clarify the situations that Laskier describes. While her writing lacks the narrative and philosophical qualities of Anne Frank's, it reveals in its ordinariness the tragedy of normal life cut short. More interesting than the book itself is the story of its survival and meaning. Accompanying essays describe its hiding and rediscovery, the turbulent life of Rutka's father (the family's only survivor), a younger half sister's discovery of Rutka's existence, the context of the diary in the canon of teen Holocaust writing, and more. A must-have for Holocaust collections, and a solid purchase for general YA collections.-Heidi Estrin, Feldman Children's Library at Congregation B'nai Israel, Boca Raton, FL

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Other Books

Rutka, Dorothy, 1907-1985.

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