

Mapping the Bones

Jane Yolen

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“Mapping the Bones,” by Jane Yolen takes place in Poland during the Holocaust. Chaim and Gittel, along with their parents, were put into the Lodz Ghetto. While they were there, they met the Norenberg family, most notably, Bruno and Sophie. Throughout the course of their stay at Lodz, Chaim and Gittel’s father plots his family’s escape from the Ghetto, taking along the Norenberg children. They are able to run away and meet up with others that will help them escape Poland. However, they are met with people that work under the Nazi regime, that send them off to the concentration camps. There, Chaim, Gittel, Bruno, and Sophie have to learn to survive in the midst of a war and genocide.

I’ve always found interesting books based on the Holocaust and with this book, it’s no different. I enjoyed the contrast between Chaim and Gittel’s chapters. Gittel’s was always short and easy to follow, but it was able to convey how the Holocaust completely changed her from the sweet, innocent girl, into a strong, hard faced girl. Chaim always wrote beautiful poetry and was able to convey the places he was in with very vivid detail. Not only that, but it was able to show the horrors and destruction that the Nazis caused.

I would suggest this book be read by teens. The book has many scenes that contain some graphic scenes that some kids probably shouldn’t be reading. I would recommend that this book is bought because it’s very interesting and you’d want to go back and read it.

Other books to read:

“Number the Stars,” by Lois Lowry

“The Giver,” by Lois Lowry

“Night,” by Elie Wiesel