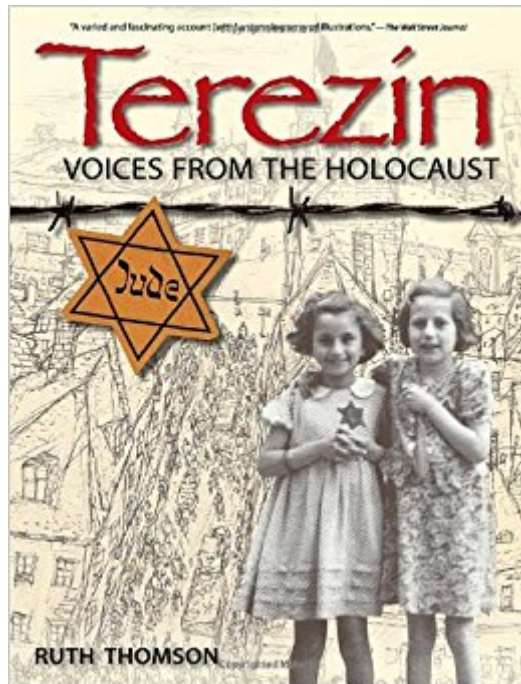




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# Terezin: Voices From The Holocaust



## Synopsis

Through inmates' own voices and artwork, *Terezín* explores the lives of Jewish people in one of the most infamous of the Nazi transit camps. Between 1941 and 1945, Nazi Germany turned the small town of Terezín, Czechoslovakia, into a ghetto, and then into a transit camp for thousands of Jewish people. It was a "show" camp, where inmates were forced to use their artistic talents to fool the world about the truth of gas chambers and horrific living conditions for imprisoned Jews. Here is their story, told through the firsthand accounts of those who were there. In this accessible, meticulously researched book, Ruth Thomson allows the inmates to speak for themselves through secret diary entries, artwork, and excerpts from memoirs and recordings narrated after the war. *Terezín: Voices from the Holocaust* is a moving portrait that shows the strength of the human will to endure, to create, and to survive.

## Book Information

Paperback: 64 pages

Publisher: Candlewick (August 6, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763664669

ISBN-13: 978-0763664664

Product Dimensions: 8.6 x 0.3 x 11.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #471,746 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 in Books > Teens > Social Issues > Physical & Emotional Abuse #49 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > Holocaust #50 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > Europe

## Customer Reviews

Even libraries with substantial Holocaust collections will want this generously sized, illustrated account that blends the searing history of the Terezín concentration camp with personal testimonies of those who were there, artwork of both established painters and children, and quotes from survivors' oral histories and secret diary entries, including a Czech schoolboy's memories of how life changed for the Jews when Hitler came. The statistics sum it up: 15,000 children passed through Terezín; fewer than 100 survived. Also part of the story are the astounding lies and cover-ups (including the transportations of orphans and the dying to Auschwitz to cut down on overcrowding) that tricked official observers into issuing a positive report. Contrast

those facts with the artists' secret images that show the reality of the hunched, hollow-eyed survivors. The open book design, with highly readable type on thick paper, will draw readers into each double-page spread. The excellent, accessible back matter includes a time line, glossary, sources, and museum websites for further research. Grades 6-10. --Hazel Rochman --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Two years after the Nazi invasion of Czechoslovakia, the small fortress village of Terezin was converted into a Jewish ghetto, and over the next four years, tens of thousands of Jews were transported there while in transit to death camps in the east. The history of Terezin is fascinating: the camp housed many noted artists who were forced to create Nazi propaganda and official documents by day and then covertly chronicled the horrific experience of living in Terezin in their own compositions at night. Much of the art created at Terezin survived the Holocaust, and a generous sampling is included in this volume. Thomson opts to tell the story of Terezin almost entirely in the voices of those who lived there; a magazine-style layout combines her occasional introductory commentary with abundant quotations and clearly captioned art and images of memorabilia. The book is organized both chronologically, beginning with a brief overview of Hitler and the Jews and ending with the liberation of Terezin, and topically, including chapters on such subjects as the role of children, the effect of transports on the community, and how arts and culture helped residents of Terezin to survive. Sidebars, captions, and statistics add further detail and drama to the story. This is an accessible, carefully researched work that effectively uses primary-source material to make the experience of the Jews of Terezin come alive for today's students. A timeline, glossary, list of source material, and index are included. --Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books (Starred Recommended, Gr. 5-8), February 2011 --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

When I had to write a 7-page report on Theresienstadt (Terezin), I thought I would be getting all of my information from 2-paragraph entries in Holocaust books. When I found this, I was delighted. Even though the book was short, it had a ton of useful information. There were great pictures to go along with the content, as well as interesting facts on the side. This book contains pretty much everything you would want to know about Terezin, including housing, feeding, working, and economic situations. I was extremely happy with this book, and it is factual as well as entertaining!

Purchased this to read prior to visit Prague. Easily read by family, adults and teens, kept their

interest. Glad to have background of Terezin before going.

I am a Holocaust scholar and teacher, and this is a welcome addition to my library

After visiting Terezin, this book was sobering.

Wonderful documentation of events, people and happenings at Terezin.

Very informative - easy enough for young readers to learn about the Holocaust.

Good shape

Very good read - educational and a lot of photos. Traumatic for young readers. My 12 year old did okay with it.

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