



Stone Angel

Jane Yolen

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The Nazis may have taken their home, but the family still has a guardian angel.

In this emotionally rich story, a little girl and her family live happily in Paris until Nazi soldiers arrive during World War II. She and her family must flee or risk being sent to a concentration camp, so they run into the woods, where they meet resistance fighters. But they're still not safe. They must cross tall mountains and sail in a rickety boat to England. Yet the whole time they're struggling to survive, the little girl thinks of the stone angel near their apartment in Paris and imagines it watching over her family.

Offering a never-before-told story of the Holocaust, Jane Yolen returns to the material she mined in the award-winning *THE DEVIL'S ARITHMETIC*. Filled with sorrow, hope, comfort, and triumph, this gorgeously illustrated book is sure to become a modern classic—offering adults a perfect vehicle with which to share a difficult subject.

Praise for STONE ANGEL:

* "This story provides a wonderful addition to materials about World War II and the Holocaust, and is appropriate for even the gentlest of readers."--*School Library Connection* *STARRED*

Stone Angel Details

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From Reader Review Stone Angel for online ebook

Taneka says

Yes, many freedom fighters in Europe - called partisans - took to the woods, where they hid out and fought a guerrilla war against the Nazi troops. They also spied, passing on information to Allies about the death camps and troop movements; rescued downed Allied fliers; and led people across the Pyrenees or the Alps mountains to safety.

This is the type of information that they don't teach you in school. I love learning about the resistance fighters during WWII. They gave their lives for freedom and deserve recognition. In this story that is beautifully told by Jane Yolen, we find a Jewish family living in Paris at the beginning of the Nazi occupation of France. The family flees to the woods to escape, but the daughter is not worried because she believes that angels will protect them. When the occupation is over, they return to Paris from England, where they have been living with their cousin Jacob, and their new apartment at 57 Rue de Turbigo has an angel present.

The artwork is wonderful. Characters are not stereotypical and do not offend. Much of it is gloomy, except for the time when they are in Paris before the occupation, when they are in England and when they return to Paris. Be sure to read *A Note From the Author*. Interesting information is provided including the admission that there is an actual stone angel at 57 Rue de Turbigo. (I found a photo of the angel online, but could not locate it on Google Maps)

Carol Ekster says

Wonderful sensory descriptions in this beautifully written Holocaust fictional story. Perfect introduction to this difficult time in history with its message of hope and resilience.

Linda Lipko says

A young girl and her brother Aron are happy in Paris. They follow the streets to their favorite bakery, and purchase their favorite treat each day.

Now, the brown shirts are in the city. The bad men mean to harm and make no mistake about it, they mean business when they insist that her family, and all Jews must wear the yellow star.

Losing his job, her father knows they must flee, hurry, hurry before it is too late. And, now, gathering their precious children, they run to the forest. When it feels uncomfortable, they run deeper in the woods. Finding others who are also fleeing, they build a community that shares food.

When Papa goes out of the forest with nine others, only three return. This, then is a sign to flee more and more. Now, it is winter and they must travel over the mountains, then more mountains as they head to Spain. Then from Spain, a boat takes them to England to live with a relative.

Finally, when it is over and the little girl and her family miraculously arrive back in Paris, alive, the little girl knows that the stone angel that stands on their building was with them throughout the entire time and

protected them.

Jane Yolen never disappoints. Once again, a very deep subject is framed in fear and then hope.

Four Stars.

Max Remaley says

As you may know, books that have real history backing up the story are some of my favorite books out there, and this book is no exception. This book is an amazing telling of the story of a little girl and her family as they attempt to flee France as it is being occupied by Nazi forces. I think that the image of the Stone Angel is one that shall stick with me for the rest of my life. When you leave your home, you tend to remember it somehow. For me it will be the landscape of the Palouse, the rolling hills of my home. For the little girl, it was the Stone Angel. And when she finally came home after years of being away, seeing the Stone Angel again, still intact made me tear up a little bit. I think that this book would be of good use in the classroom because even though this story is fiction, this book would be a good use of narrative to teach students about what it was like for some families during World War 2.

Hailey Mummert says

Stone Angel is a story of a young Jewish family who gets caught up in a Nazi raid in Paris, France where they were forcing Jewish families out of their homes. Instead of the family staying put to be taken by Nazi's, they escape into the forest to make their way to England where they would be safe. This book is about the innocence of child prior to war and then the change in them during and after the war where they had to grow up and consequently lose their childhood innocence. I liked the deep meaning behind this book and although it is a little mature to read to young elementary children due to their lack of understanding of World War II and the reason the family had to leave.

Edward Sullivan says

An interesting, unusual Holocaust story with an ending that resolves too neatly. I'm confused about the girl describing the soldiers marching down the street wearing brown shirts. It was the Nazi party storm troopers who were infamous as "brown shirts," not the Wehrmacht soldiers (gray uniforms) or the SS (black) who the girl would have seen in the streets of Paris. This seems to be a historical inaccuracy.

Simon Jongekryg says

This book was one of my favorite picture books I have read in quite a while. It is the story of a Jewish family that lived in Paris, France during World War 2 era. When the Nazi soldiers invaded Paris, the family was forced to leave their home and live in the forests, caves, or any other shelter they could find to stay safe. My favorite thing about this story is the illustrations. They are incredibly captivating and do a great job of adding

to the story. This story would be a perfect way to introduce World War 2 era to readers and give them an idea of what people had to go through to escape persecution. Overall, this was a very informative read that kept me engaged the entire time.

Amanda Vander hyde says

This book is about the Nazi takeover of Europe and the different things the Jewish community had to do to escape capture and persecution. This follows a family (with the protagonist a young girl that children can relate to) as they escape to camp out in the forest rather than be taken by the Nazi party. It was a moving journey with old-fashioned illustrations that perfectly depict the somber attitude of the story -- the use of muted colors and sketchy shading really draws on that historical aspect so that the historical fiction style of this story is presented in a way that is true to its form. This is good for a read-aloud or a close reading, because there are small details in the illustrations that really evoke the subtlety of the Nazi takeover.

Yolen, J. (2015, March 3). Stone Angel. New York, NY: Philomel Books.

Ms. Yingling says

Perfectly fine, a bit naive, but therefore a good introduction to the Holocaust. Nothing really new or fresh. Would purchase if I needed more WWII/Holocaust picture books.

Ann says

Beautifully written and illustrated story of a Parisian family who must flee the Nazis and undergo an arduous journey across the mountains to safety. In the process, they spend some time with French resistance fighters. An unusual Holocaust story with as happy an ending as possible (the family returns to Paris, where the young narrator is reunited with the stone angel that she felt had been their guardian during the entire experience).

Kimberly Sabatini says

<3

Lori says

Despite my questions about age appropriateness for the topic of the Holocaust, as I was reading this book I had an epiphany - that at least some of the stories are not so different from what some children who are refugees are experiencing today. This is a rather "Well duh" statement, but not every book about the Holocaust can so easily be tied to modern experience. Stone Angel is that book. This book is also beautifully illustrated by Katie May Green in soft textured mixed media artwork captures the story well. I love that it includes French words to help tell the story. There is certainly a reason to encourage multilingualism. I wish

that there was a pronunciation guide somewhere for people who do not speak French and want to learn how to do it properly (or a link to an audio file). Great to use as an introduction to topics of discrimination and hatred, writing techniques, and the melding of visual and print media to tell a story.

Linnea says

notes: WW2 story about a Jewish family in France.

opinion: superficially discusses the Nazi's in a way that allows the adult reader to delve more or less into the topic but by itself could be kind of vague and confusing.

Cathy Field says

Stone Angel, by Jane Yolen

Stone Angel, by Jane Yolen, is a K-3rd grade historical fiction picture book about a young Jewish Parisian girl and her family's escape to Spain and then the United States during World War II. The girl's family begins the story very happily living in an angel-and-gargoyle-filled Paris neighborhood. This is where the girl's faith in angels and their protective powers develop. It is this faith in the angels and the steadfast love of her family that get them to safety despite having to hide deeper and deeper into the woods for weeks.

I can make a text-to-self connection with this story. I immediately connected with the little girl's fascination and reverence for the angels she saw in Europe. I felt the same way during our military tour overseas. As I walked the ancient streets and marveled at the intricate architecture I became fascinated with the angels myself. I searched them out and could not believe how varied and beautiful the workmanship was and how protected they made me feel.

Stone Angel shows children many aspects of the French culture before and during the war. The pictures show the architecture and clothes, and the story tells of daily walks to the markets, the foods, and the fear, strength and resolve of the people of Paris. There is also a brief glimpse into British culture when the story setting moves to England. Nazi culture is portrayed only as "the bad men" and "the brown shirts". This is probably appropriate given the intended audience.

Here are scaffolded questions to use while reading this story to children:

Remembering: What is the little girl's name? (She is never named).

Understanding: What are the main events in the story from beginning to end?

Applying: Each member of the girl's family carried something special with them as they fled into the woods. What would you carry, and why would you pick that item?

Analyzing: How did the girl's faith in angels help her and others survive this terrible ordeal?

Evaluating: Walking over the snow-filled mountains to Spain was very dangerous and risky for the family. What other choices could

they have made instead of making the trip over the mountains in winter? Which choice would you have made?

Creating: How would the story be different if told by a different person in the story? Make a story web showing how the story may be if it were told from the point of view of another character in the story.

Juliana Lee says

A story of love and hate, fear and courage. A Jewish girl and her family have to run away into the French woods to hide from the Nazi soldiers. All the while, she is certain that their stars of David mean that angels are watching over them. As the soldiers get closer and closer, the family escapes to Spain over the mountains and sails to England where they live with her uncle. After the war, she with many others, sail home to France. There she finds a stone angel watching over their new apartment building.
