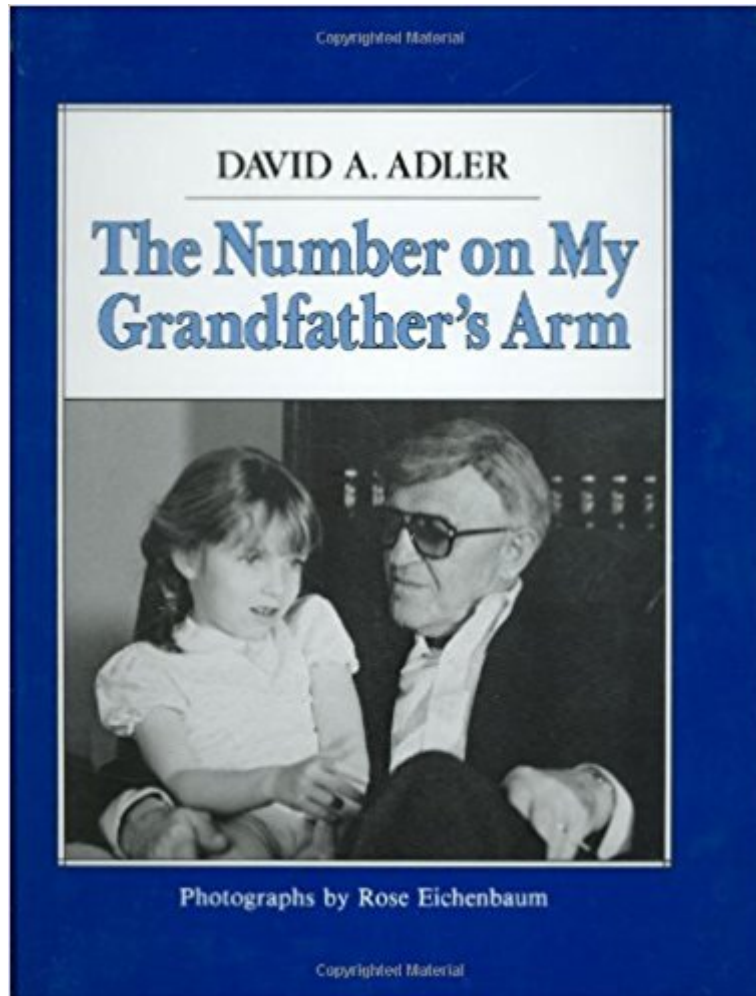




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# The Number On My Grandfather's Arm



## Synopsis

Formerly a URJ Press title. The moving story of a young girl who learns her grandfather's experience in Auschwitz and then helps him overcome his sensitivity about the number on his arm, this award-winning picture book gives young children just enough information about the Holocaust without overwhelming them.

## Book Information

Paperback: 28 pages

Publisher: URJ Press (October 1, 1987)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0807403288

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Product Dimensions: 8.4 x 7.8 x 0.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #653,676 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #97 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Holocaust

Age Range: 6 and up

Grade Level: 1 and up

## Customer Reviews

Grade 1-4 A loving relationship between a young girl and her grandfather is portrayed in text and black-and-white photographs. When the girl notices a number tattooed on her grandfather's arm, her grandfather tells her of the atrocities committed by the Nazis against the Jews, even describing Auschwitz, the camp he was in. "We were no longer people to them. We were numbers." Moved, the young girl comforts her grandfather. The deceptively simple vocabulary does not limit the dignity of the text. Because of the subject matter, this would work best when presented by an adult with preparatory and follow-up discussion, but it offers just enough information and emotion for primary grade children to handle. That this really happened to a beloved grandfather makes the horror more immediate and realistic, and offers a different approach than the more allegorical one taken in *Promise of a New Spring* (Rosell, 1981) by Gerda Klein. Adler has succeeded admirably in his attempt to explain the inexplicable. An important book for everyone concerned with human rights. Micki S. Nevett, Temple Beth Emeth Library, Albany, N.Y. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.

'The Number on My Grandfather's Arm' is the true life story of a Holocaust survivor, told through the narration of his 7 year old granddaughter. After being questioned by his granddaughter about the tattooed number on his forearm, the initially reluctant grandfather eventually sits down with her to discuss the Holocaust. Reducing the information to its most simple form, the book touches on Hitler and anti-Semitism, the Nazis, the subjugation and dehumanization of European Jews, the horrors of Auschwitz, and the extermination of 6 million Jewish people. Coupled with the narrative are photos of Hitler surrounded by thousands of supporters, images of Jews forcibly wearing 'Stars of David', and story board pictures of the grandfather and granddaughter. Originally published in 1987, at a time when a significant proportion of Jewish elders would have been spotted with similar numbers on their arms, this book was most likely an invaluable tool for Jewish parents and educators who were looking for a way to break through the reticence surrounding the subject. From an early 21st century perspective, the book feels a little bit dated (e.g., grandfather working as a tailor on an outmoded sewing machine; extended family interaction that is less common today; black and white photographic imagery, etc.) Regardless, 'The Number on My Grandfather's Arm' is still an important children's book insofar as it effectively boils down the subject of the Holocaust into rudimentary elements that are easily understood and processed by young minds. When my son is a little bit older, I intend to read and discuss this book with him.

Incredibly sensitive and heart warming and breaking. We showed this to our Christian daughter in law and Jewish son to be sure we could give it to our 9 year old granddaughter who is not being trained in any religion or culture. It is a fast read. She cried, and both endorsed. As do my husband and I.

Great book to use with Holocaust unit.

Great item!!

How do you "explain" something like the Holocaust? Something so hard to understand, evil too monstrous to imagine.... How do you explain that to a child? Yet "telling the story" is powerful and important. This book is a wonderful start to the conversation. It's very honest, very real, and it doesn't pretend to have more answers than it has. It's a tool to open the discussion, and it gives a "first hand" telling of the events to children. The child will identify with the granddaughter and can

share her experience of trying to process such wretched truth. Childlike truth does rise up as the little girl declares, "It's the Nazi's that should be ashamed." So true. Tell the tale; honor the deceased as you share truth, history, and compassion with another generation. This book is a wonderful aid for that important step.

This is a 27-page picture book. A grandfather explains to his granddaughter how he received the tattooed number on his arm during his internment at Auschwitz. True story of a Polish holocaust survivor. Brief but good description of the holocaust and treatment of the Jews. Photographs illustrate this book, some from WWII.

In "The Number on My Grandfather's Arm" a young girl tells the story of her grandfather. He's a quiet, thoughtful man, and obviously kind, but he has the strange habit of always wearing a long sleeved shirt, even during the heat of the summer. One night when her parents go out for the evening and grandpa is washing up the dishes, the girl notices a large set of numbers tattooed on his forearm. When she asks him what they are, he quickly covers the numbers up. "It's time you told her", the girl's mother says, coming into the kitchen. Grandpa leads her to the living room and carefully begins to tell her the story of where those numbers came from. He explains about Hitler: "he was a wild man. He waved his arms and shouted about the Jews. And, when he shouted, thousands of people shouted, too." He tells her how the Jews were beaten, sometimes killed, forced to wear yellow stars, and-- most monstrous of all-- how they were shipped off to concentration camps and labeled as "enemies of the state." With tears in his eyes, he tells her how the Jews were often tortured, beaten or killed. "'I was one of the lucky ones,' Grandpa said. 'I survived.'" In the end, the little girl tells her grandfather that it is the Nazis who should be ashamed of what happened, not him, and he re-rolls his sleeves up to go back and take care of those dinner dishes. "The Number on My Grandfather's Arm" is a powerful story, made all the more so because it is illustrated with B&W photographs not only of the girl and her grandfather, but of Hitler and of the persecuted Jews. One very powerful photo is of a disheveled, clearly hungry man with his fingers laced through a chain-link fence and a yellow star sewn to his jacket. For an adult, it is a haunting image and for a child I imagine it would provoke many questions. The book is short and sparsely illustrated, but will undoubtedly pose many questions for the young reader than it will answer, chief among them "how did this happen?" (a question a good many scholars and academics are STILL asking today). Mr. Adler does not answer this Big Question for us, presumably leaving it up to the parents/families of the reader to explain in their own way man's cruelty to other men and how an atrocity like the

Holocaust could happen in the first place. The history of the persecution of the Jews and WWII is very short and simplified in this short book, but this is to be expected considering that the book is written for very young children. If I have any criticism about the book it is with the illustrations. For a work of this magnitude-- that is, one that will inevitably ask more questions than it answers and is clearly about the Big Issues-- I would have expected more photographs and for them to be in color. The story, while well written, seems much more sparse and almost dated by the use of the B&W photos. Still, it's an important work and one that is highly recommended for sparking discussion about this terrible and pivotal period in world history.

A grandfather responds to a young girl's inquiry about the number that is tattooed on his forearm. Includes actual black and white photos from the Jewish Holocaust. Get your hands on an earlier edition, if possible !!! This new edition has been censored. The editors removed an extremely provocative photo that added impact to the story : A Nazi soldier pointing his rifle at an anguished young woman clutching her baby !!! We shelve this book in the Non-fiction with other Holocaust materials.

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