



## Yellow Star

*By Jennifer Roy*

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**Yellow Star** By Jennifer Roy

"In 1945 the war ended. The Germans surrendered, and the ghetto was liberated. Out of over a quarter of a million people, about 800 walked out of the ghetto. Of those who survived, only twelve were children. I was one of the twelve." For more than fifty years after the war, Sylvia, like many Holocaust survivors, did not talk about her experiences in the Lodz ghetto in Poland. She buried her past in order to move forward. But finally she decided it was time to share her story, and so she told it to her niece, who has re-told it here using free verse inspired by her aunt. This is the true story of Sylvia Perlmutter—a story of courage, heartbreak, and finally survival despite the terrible circumstances in which she grew up. A timeline, historical notes, and an author's note are included.

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## **Yellow Star By Jennifer Roy Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

*Starred Review.* Grade 5-9—In thoughtful, vividly descriptive, almost poetic prose, Roy retells the true story of her Aunt Sylvia's experiences in the Lodz Ghetto during the Nazi occupation of Poland. The slightly fictionalized story, re-created from her aunt's taped narrative, is related by Sylvia herself as a series of titled vignettes that cover the period from fall, 1939, when she is four years old, until January 1945—each one recounting a particular detail-filled memory in the child's life (a happy-colored yellow star sewn on her favorite orange coat; a hole in the cemetery where she hides overnight with her Papa). The book is divided into five chronological sections—each with a short factual introduction to the period covered. An appended author's note tells what happened to Sylvia's family after the war. A time line of World War II, beginning with the German invasion of Poland, is also included. This gripping and very readable narrative, filled with the astute observations of a young child, brings to life the Jewish ghetto experience in a unique and memorable way. This book is a standout in the genre of Holocaust literature.—*Susan Scheps, Shaker Heights Public Library, OH*

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From [Booklist](#)

*\*Starred Review\** Only 12 children survived the Lodz ghetto, and Roy's aunt Sylvia was one of them. But for more than 50 years, Sylvia kept her experience to herself: "It was something nobody talked about." Roy didn't know, and she admits that she didn't want to know. She always avoided Holocaust history. She was afraid of it; when she was growing up, there was no Holocaust curriculum, no discussion—just those images of atrocity, piles of bones, and skeletal survivors being liberated. Her father, too, was a survivor, but he seldom spoke of those years, and with his death, his story was lost. But a few years ago, Roy's aunt began to talk about Lodz, and based on taped phone interviews, Roy wrote her story, presenting it from the first-person viewpoint of a child, Sylvia, in simple, urgent free verse in the present tense. Each section begins with a brief historical introduction, and there is a detailed time line at the end of the book.

Sylvia is four years old in 1939, when the Germans invade Poland and start World War II. A few months later, her family is forced into the crowded Lodz ghetto, with more than a quarter of a million other Jews. At the end of the war, when Sylvia is 10, only about 800 Jews remain—only 12 of them are children. Sylvia remembers daily life: yellow stars, illness, starvation, freezing cold, and brutal abuse, with puddles of red blood everywhere, and the terrifying arbitrariness of events ("like the story of a boy / who went out for bread / and was shot by a guard / who didn't like the way the boy / looked at him"). When the soldiers first go from door to door, "ripping children from their parents' arms" and dragging them away, her father hides her in the cemetery. For years thereafter, she's not allowed to go outside. In 1944 the ghetto is emptied, except for a few Jews kept back to clean up, including Sylvia's father, who keeps his family with him through courage, cunning, and luck. As the Nazis face defeat, Sylvia discovers a few others hidden like her, "children of the cellar." When the Russians liberate the ghetto, she hears one soldier speak Yiddish, and the family hears of the genocide, the trains that went to death camps. At last they learn of the enormity of the tragedy: neighbors, friends, and cousins—all dead. There's much to think about and talk about as the words bring the history right into the present. *Hazel Rochman*

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About the Author

Jennifer Roy is the author of more than thirty books for children and young adults, including *Israel: Discovering Cultures*. A former teacher, she holds a BS in Psychology and an MA in Elementary Education.

*Yellow Star* is based on the childhood of Jennifer's aunt Sylvia, who provided extensive interviews as the author was writing this book. Jennifer lives in New York.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Doris McNeal:**

As people who live in typically the modest era should be up-date about what going on or details even knowledge to make them keep up with the era which can be always change and make progress. Some of you maybe will probably update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to you is you don't know which you should start with. This *Yellow Star* is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and want in this era.

#### **Doris Brown:**

Spent a free time to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Do you need to something different to fill your free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book is usually option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the guide untitled *Yellow Star* can be good book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

#### **George Conner:**

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or go to the outside with them household or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read any book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent the whole day to reading a guide. The book *Yellow Star* it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book features high quality.

#### **Donna Cauley:**

Reading a book to get new life style in this calendar year; every people loves to read a book. When you read a book you can get a lots of benefit. When you read publications, you can improve your knowledge, simply because book has a lot of information into it. The information that you will get depend on what sorts of book that you have read. In order to get information about your study, you can read education books, but if you act like you want to entertain yourself read a fiction books, these kinds of us novel, comics, as well as soon. The *Yellow Star* will give you a new experience in reading a book.

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