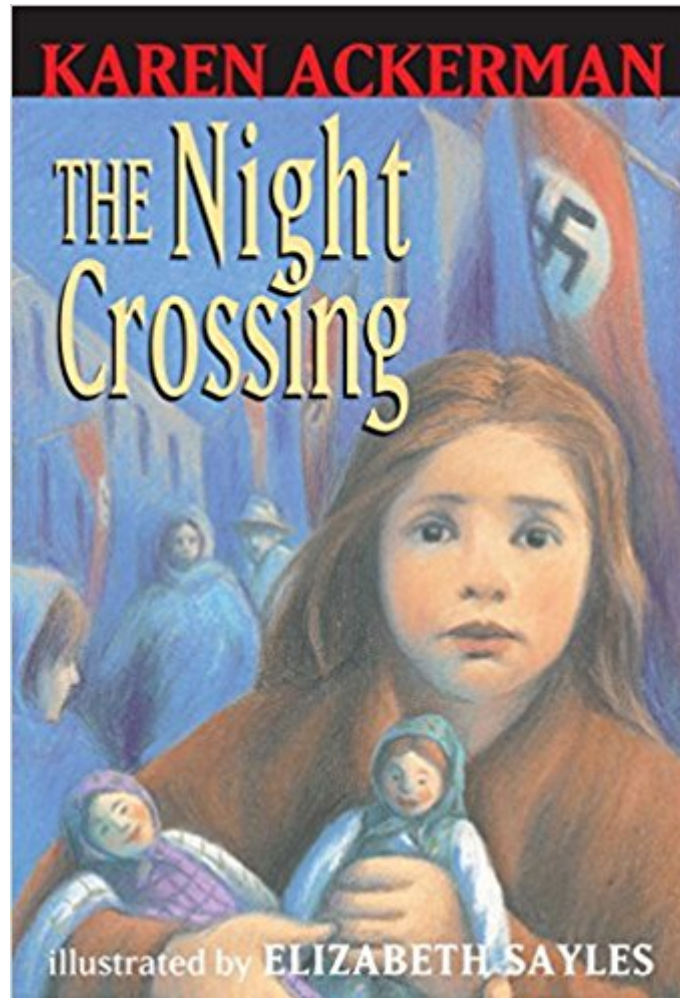




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# The Night Crossing (First Bullseye Book)



## Synopsis

For fans of *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* comes a heartstopping tale of resilience for one young girl during World War II. It's hard to leave your home and friends, but the Nazis have invaded Clara's native Austria, and her family is no longer safe. Clara and her family take only what they can carry and travel by night to the Swiss border, where they hope to escape to freedom, even while soldiers are everywhere. Can Clara's heroism carry her family across the border, with their lives and few precious possessions intact?

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 960L (What's this?)

Series: First Bullseye Book

Paperback: 64 pages

Publisher: Yearling; Reprint edition (April 25, 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0679870407

ISBN-13: 978-0679870401

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.2 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #718,422 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #117 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Holocaust](#) #981 in [Books > Children's Books >](#)

[Growing Up & Facts of Life > Fiction](#) #1480 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > New Experiences](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Set in Austria in 1938, this tale of a Jewish family's escape to Switzerland, said PW, "has plenty of heartstopping moments... [but] the historical details are treated lightly." Ages 7-11.- the historical details are treated lightly." Ages 7-11. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 3-4-Clara treasures the two antique dolls that came with her grandmother when the family fled from the pogroms in Russia to Austria. Now the family is planning to escape from Nazi-occupied Austria, and Clara intends to take them with her. When Mama sews her treasured silver

candlesticks into the petticoat of her oldest daughter, they make noise and Papa is afraid they will clank and alert the border guards. Clara then suggests hiding the candlesticks in the dolls' straw stuffing since this is their second "night crossing," and they are not afraid. This is a suspenseful escape story written for transitional readers. The danger is clear but not belabored. The stress is on the family's closeness and courage. The dolls and candlesticks are tangible representations of continuity and tradition, which comfort and sustain the family. An epilogue reveals the fate of the Jews who did not escape, including Clara's grandmother. Ackerman's writing is clear and direct; despite its simplicity, it is never banal. This is an excellent fictional introduction to the Holocaust that is slightly easier to read, but for the same audience as, Claire Bishop's *Twenty and Ten* (Peter Smith, 1984). It will also be a good choice for less proficient older readers wanting World War II novels. Louise L. Sherman, Anna C. Scott School, Leonia, NJ Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I used this book to discuss the holocaust and make text to world connections in my 6th grade social studies.

I read this book with my high 2nd grade readers. It was perfect for this group of kids. We actually spent just as much time learning about this time period, as we did reading the book. Since it was 8 year olds reading it, I figured that most of them would have no clue about World War 2 and all the horrible things that happened during it. Obviously, they didn't need to know about everything in detail, but I wanted them to understand that Hitler and the Nazi's were evil, and that they did horrible things to innocent people. This book gave just enough information about the fears of the Jewish people, without needing to explain much more. They understood the conditions the character's lived in, the hard choices they needed to make, the consequences of staying where they were and getting caught escaping. This book was simple and well written. I'm so glad that it gave an epilogue that I felt was true to what happened to so many Jewish families. It didn't give a perfect ending for everyone in their family. The people who decided to stay behind, did not fair as well. So, I would definitely recommend this book. For older students, or people who like reading books set in this time period, *The Devil's Arithmetic* by Jane Yolen is EXCELLENT!

This brief story follows Clara, a young Jewish schoolgirl of Innsbruck, Austria as the German National Socialists begin their persecution of Jewish communities after the German National Socialist annexation of Austria. As Papa and Mama prepare the family's escape to the neutral

country of Switzerland, the story focuses on the anxiety and fear as the family makes hard choices in order to survive. The epilogue eventually finds the family in England at the end of the war and alludes to the terrors of the Holocaust. However, it does not specifically name the atrocities, allowing parents to talk to their children about this historical reality. It especially struck me that the author's dedication is: "For Clara, with remembrance, for Mimi, with love, and for the one and a half million children who perished in the Holocaust." This is a difficult story that must be told to children of this generation and future generations.

This is an excellent book written for young people in a way that enables them to understand the horror of War and man's inhumanity to man. A wonderful lesson of courage, family loyalty and the ability of children to adapt to unpleasant circumstances when necessary. I will recommend this book for my grandchildren to add to their reading list.

The Crossing Night is a very sad book. What I mean by sad is that the poor family has to move because they are Jews. I choose this book because of the cover. I mean if you saw this cover you would like to read it it sound pretty good too. This book well is a worth to read if you ask me. Here is a reason you should read this book. The Crossing Night is about a Jewish family who can't live in Australia. Then they have to move, after what probaly 600 years. I mean if you ask me I find that kind rude. So they find the most valuble things in the house that they could sell, but they can't take everything with them. The wife takes her candles that had been passed down to her. Clara her older daughter took some books. The youngest daughter took her two dolls. Well, the husband took his wedding ring. So at night they head off to Germany. Will they get caught? or will they make it. Well, I gave you my reason so if you still want to read go to the library. Go ahead nobody is stopping you so go. Find out get this book from the library and find out. I recamend this book to a friend. It is not that bad, but it is a worth to read. so go to the nearest library and get this book. You won't regret it.

Not an ocean, but the mountains. How much must one sacrifice to keep the twin treasures of life and liberty in Nazi Europe? Not exactly The Sound of Music minus the score, but...a good, short read. A brave Jewish family, with two quick-witted daughters, determines to escape Austria in 1938, before they are relocated into a concentration camp. A brief introduction to elementary children about racial atrocities without the gore. Many historical details are quietly woven into this modest tale of familial determination. This book should stimulate questions and interest in the Holocaust.

Having to wear yellow stars and being chased home from school even by your best friend are hard things for a young person. Traveling only at night and hiding when anyone comes and during the day, having to sell all your valuable things and finally escaping where others were sent to "camps" never to return. Being a Jew in Europe during WWII wasn't how children usually see life. I liked the book.

I like *The Night Crossing* by Karen Ackerman. It showed how hard it was to escape for freedom. It was a short book, but people probably went through more than what happened to them in the story. Some families may not have had as many people and then they couldn't carry a lot of their things. Some people didn't have place to stop for safety. These people had their hard times and easy times that is what makes this book good. I hope you read and enjoy it because it is great!

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