

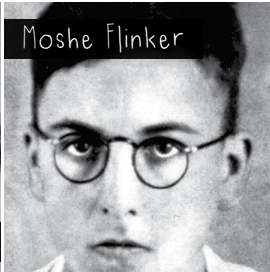


2025 Arts & Writing Contest

FOR WNY STUDENTS IN 8th GRADE



Anne Frank



Moshe Flinker



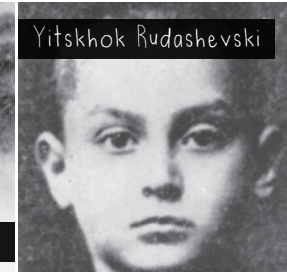
Petr Ginz



Eva Ginzova



Dawid Rubinowicz



Yitskhok Rudashevski

ANNE FRANK: BEYOND THE DIARY A Testament to Hope and Spiritual Resistance

After reading the diary of at least two of these teenagers of the Holocaust, please respond to the following prompt through art or writing:

Explore the theme of spiritual resistance. Which diarist resonated with you, where you could feel their voice striving to maintain a sense of humanity and dignity. How will you use your voice - through art or writing - to impart your message about the Holocaust. Please share examples.

*Entries due on Friday, April 25, 2025
Apply at bit.ly/2025ARTSANDWRITING
Award ceremony on June 9, 2025*



*Contest Generously Sponsored By
Eugene Finton Scholars Fund
Mary Deane and Robert Freeland Award Foundation*

Questions?

Contact Lauren Bloomberg
lauren@buffalojewishfederation.org

 **Holocaust Education
Resource Organization**
of the
Buffalo **Jewish Federation**



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CRITERIA

- 1 All entries should focus on the theme. Students may respond to the overall theme/question.
- 2 All entries must be based on an informed understanding of the Holocaust (1933-45).
- 3 Students should gather information on the theme and do research on the Holocaust. Resources are widely available, including the following:
 - Holocaust Education Resource Organization: buffalojewishfederation.org/HERObuffalo
 - US Holocaust Memorial Museum: ushmm.org
 - Echoes and Reflections: echoesandreflections.org
 - Facing History and Ourselves: facinghistory.org
 - British Imperial War Museum: iwm.org.uk
 - Yad Vashem: yadvashem.org
- 4 All work must be that of the student artist/writer. Adult assistance must be limited to preparatory teaching, providing resource material, suggesting revisions, and editing works for technical errors.

APPLY ONLINE AT
BIT.LY/2025ARTSANDWRITING

VISUAL ARTS COMPETITION

1. Entries can be painting, drawing, mixed media, sculpture, or photography.
2. Entries must be suitable for display - mounted, matted, and/or framed.
3. You must submit an artist statement (100 words maximum) in the space provided in the online application.
4. Student name, school and grade should be clearly written on the back of the submission.

WRITING COMPETITION

1. Entries can be fiction or non-fiction writing, such as poetry, journal entries, editorials, letters, or short stories.
2. Writing entries (maximum of 750 words) will be submitted in the space provided in the online application
3. All copyright-protected sources must be cited. This includes books, magazines, work of art and websites, among others.
A bibliography of sources must accompany all research entries, entered into the online application.

QUESTIONS?

CONTACT LAUREN BLOOMBERG
LAUREN@BUFFALOJEWISHFEDERATION.ORG

DEADLINE AND SUBMISSIONS

1. The online application must be completed for all entries.
bit.ly/2025ARTSANDWRITING
2. All material must be submitted no later than April 25, 2025.
3. All writing submissions - 750 WORDS MAX - must be entered into the online application.
4. Visual Arts entries should be mailed or dropped off at the Jewish Community Center - 2640 North Forest Road, Getzville, NY 14068.
Contact Lauren Bloomberg to arrange drop off.
5. All artist statements - 100 WORDS MAX - must be entered into the online application.

AWARDS

Eugene Finton Scholars Award:

Prizes in all categories will be awarded for art and writing submissions:
First prize - \$250 Second prize - \$100 Third prize - \$75

Mary Deane and Robert Freeland Award:

- Two Best of Show prizes of \$250 each - one in writing and one in art - will be given to the recipient's school to purchase Holocaust related materials.

Best of Show winners will have their work published in the July/August edition of The Jewish Journal.

Prizes will be awarded at a ceremony on June 9, 2025
at Congregation Shir Shalom, 4660 Sheridan Dr., Williamsville

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FOR WNY STUDENTS IN 8TH GRADE

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INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS

Resources are widely available, including the following:

- *Salvaged Pages: Young Writers Diaries of the Holocaust* by Alexandra Zapruder
- *We are Witnesses: Five Diaries of Teenagers Who Died in the Holocaust* by Jacob Boas
- *Anne Frank Beyond the Diary: A Photographic Remembrance* by Rudd van der Rol and Rian Verhoeven
- *Echoes and Reflections: Unit 8: Rescue and Righteous Among the Nations*
- annefrank.org
- ushmm.org Lesson: Exploring Anne Frank's Diary
- yadvashem.org Teaching the Holocaust through Children's Diaries
- facinghistory.org I'm Still Here: Real Diaries of Young People During the Holocaust
- education.mjhnyc.org Museum of Jewish Heritage Curriculum Guide: "Diary of Young Girl" by Anne Frank
- museum.yivo.org/experiences/prologue-yitskhok-rudashevski/ An Interactive Journey through Jewish History of Eastern Europe: Yitskhok Rudashevski: A Teenager's Account of Life and Death in the Vilna Ghetto
- youtu.be/xp2bnKNNayl: Video: Hidden Children, Holocaust Electronic Field trip, the National WWII Museum
- artbysimonjeruchim.com - Young Artist Simon Jeruchim, a Jewish boy living in hiding in Nazi-occupied France used water colors given to him by one of his teachers in 1943. Art provided respite from his loneliness being separated from his family.

"Where there's hope, there's life. It fills us with fresh courage and makes us strong again."
-Anne Frank

"I shall never stop hoping because the moment I stop hoping I shall cease to exist. All I have is hope; my entire being depends on it."
-Moshe Flinker

Anne Frank and Moshe Flinker did not survive the war, but their words did. These words acknowledge the transformative nature of hope and spiritual resistance during this incomprehensible period of history.

Dozens of children kept hidden diaries that tell us much about their lives during the Holocaust. Each diary reveals one voice, one teenager coping with the impossible.

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INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS CONT.

Diaries from the Holocaust are invaluable records that offer intimate insights into the daily lives, thoughts, and emotions of those who endured unimaginable suffering. These personal accounts serve as poignant reminders of the resilience and humanity of individuals during one of history's darkest periods. Through the eyes of the diarists, we gain a deeper understanding of the fear, hope, and despair that marked their experiences, beyond what is captured in historical records and statistics. These important writings teach us not only about the horrors of the Holocaust, but also about the importance of memory and the power of the human spirit to bear witness, even in the face of overwhelming oppression. The young diarists used their powerful words and emotions as an act of resistance or defiance, to maintain their sense of humanity. By preserving these voices, we ensure the lessons of the Holocaust remain vivid and relevant, encouraging us to confront hatred and injustice in our world today.

Anne Frank's diary is undoubtedly the most famous account of a young person's life during the Holocaust, offering her deeply personal glimpse into her experiences while in hiding with her family. However, her story is just one of many. There were countless other diaries written by teenagers across Europe, enduring life in hiding, ghettos, and concentration camps. These diaries are equally significant and provide diverse perspectives on the brutal realities faced by young people during the Holocaust each with its own story of struggle and survival.

EXPLORE THE POIGNANT WORKS OF THE FOLLOWING DIARISTS:

These diarists can be found in Salvaged Pages: Young Writers Diaries of the Holocaust by Alexandra Zapruder

Anne Frank - Amsterdam, Holland (born June 12, 1929)

Though born in Frankfurt, Anne's family sought refuge in Holland when the Nazis came to power. Germany invaded Holland in 1940, though life for the Frank family continued relatively normally until July, 1942, when Margot (Anne's sister) was placed on a deportation list. The family went into hiding and were joined by the Van Dan family (Anne fell in love with their son Peter), and later by Albert Dussel. Four people helped them, bringing food, news, and other needed supplies. On Aug. 4, 1944, the Gestapo arrested the eight Jews who were hiding in the "Secret Annex." Anne would be sent to Westerbork, Auschwitz and finally Bergen-Belsen, where she perished from typhus in March, 1945.

Moshe Flinker - Brussels, Belgium (born Oct. 9, 1926)

Moshe's family lived in The Hague in Holland. After receiving a deportation notice in July 1942, he and his family went into hiding in Brussels under false identity papers that said they were non-Jews. His diary reflects an intense belief in God and the religious teachings of his faith. In May 1944, he and his family were turned in by an informer. Moshe and his parents were sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau where they were murdered.

Petr Ginz - Terezin Ghetto, Czechoslovakia (born Feb. 1, 1928)

Petr Ginz and his sister Eva Ginzova were classified as *mischlinge* by the Nazis when they took control of Czechoslovakia in 1939. His family was separated during the war, with Petr being deported to the Terezin ghetto in October 1942. Petr's diary is not in the form of a narrative; instead, it is composed of two parts: "plans" and "reports" relating to his goals and the meeting of those goals, each month. Petr was the editor of the secret publication "Vedem." In September 1944, Petr and his cousin Pavel were placed on a transport to Birkenau. Petr was murdered in the gas chambers upon arrival.

Eva Ginzova - Terezin Ghetto, Czechoslovakia (born Feb. 21, 1930)

Eva Ginzova and her brother Petr Ginz were classified as *mischlinge* by the Nazis when they took control of Czechoslovakia in 1939. Eva's brother was deported to Terezin in October 1942; she was deported to the same ghetto in May 1944. Unlike her brother, Eva's diary was in narrative form and described life inside Terezin: living in a collective home, being moved around as new arrivals came and being placed on labor details. She also writes much about her feelings of separation from her family, especially about Petr after his deportation. Her father was sent to Terezin in February 1945. In April 1945, as prisoners from further east were sent west to Terezin, an awareness of the "Final Solution" began to be apparent in Eva's writings. She was in Terezin when it was liberated by the Soviet army in May 1945.

Dawid Rubinowicz - Krajno, Poland (born July 27, 1927)

Dawid's diary opens without any introduction, similar to other diaries. As the diary progresses, Dawid shows his growing responsibilities when he created the distribution list for rations or traveled between towns with news and information. His entries discuss what was happening around him. In June, his diary ends in the midst of a sentence; the remaining pages of his final notebook are missing. In September 1942, the Jewish residents of this area were marched to another town, placed in cattle cars and transported to the death camp of Treblinka. It is believed that Dawid and his family were among them.

Yitskhok Rudashevski - Vilna Ghetto, Lithuania (born Dec. 10, 1927)

Lithuania was annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940. In June 1941, the Germans invaded the Soviet Union and established a ghetto in Vilna three months later. Yitskhok's diary covers the intellectual and cultural life of the ghetto's youth, including efforts by the young people to record the ghetto's history and folklore. His diary reflects on the mass executions happening in Ponar (a nearby forest). When the Nazis moved to liquidate the ghetto, Yitskhok and his family went into hiding, but were discovered within two weeks. They were taken to Ponar, where they were shot and killed.

CONTEXTUAL TIMELINE OF THE HOLOCAUST

This timeline provides the context of the Holocaust (1933-1945) for use with the Arts and Writing prompts, as they relate to the six diarists. The highlighted lines specifically reference an event experienced by one of the diarists, as they relate to the events of the Holocaust. A more complete, visual timeline can be found at Echoes & Reflections: timelineoftheholocaust.org.

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| Jan. 30 | Adolf Hitler becomes chancellor of Germany. |
| Apr. 1 | The Nazis declare a boycott of all Jewish businesses in Germany. |
| May 10 | Public burnings of books authored by Jews, those of Jewish origin, and opponents of Nazism. |
| July 14 | Germany is proclaimed a one-party state. |
| Nov. 12 | The Nazi Party gets 92% of the vote in one-party elections. |

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| Spring | The Frank family reunites in Amsterdam, having sought refuge from Nazi Germany. |
| Aug. 2 | German President Hindenburg dies. After Hindenburg's death, Hitler merges the offices of chancellor to become the sole leader of Germany to be known as the Fuehrer. |

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| Sept. 15 | Nuremberg Laws, anti-Jewish racial laws, were enacted. Most notably, Jews were stripped of their German citizenship and could not marry a non-Jewish German. |
| Nov. 14 | Nuremberg Laws are expanded to include Roma and other groups. The Nuremberg Laws also outlined the very specific definition of who was Jewish. |

1936

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| Aug. 1 | The Summer Olympic Games begin in Berlin. |
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1937

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| July 19 | Buchenwald concentration camp is established in Germany. |
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| March 13 | The Anschluss – The annexation of Austria by Nazi Germany to incorporate it as part of the Third German Reich. Violence against Jews and desecration of Jewish property begins immediately. |
| Sept. 30 | The Munich Pact was signed, and the Sudetenland (formerly part of Czechoslovakia) was occupied by Germany in return for Hitler's pledge that he would make no more territorial demands in Europe. |
| Nov. 9-10 | Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass): anti-Jewish pogrom in Germany, Austria, and the Sudetenland). More than 1400 synagogues are torched; and approximately 30,000 Jewish men are arrested and sent to concentration camps. Jewish owned shops are plundered and destroyed. |

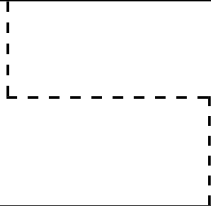
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| Jan. 30 | Hitler threatens in Reichstag speech that if war erupts, it will mean the Vernichtung (extermination) of European Jews. |
| March 15 | Nazi Germany broke the Munich Pact and occupied the Czech provinces of Bohemia and Moravia. Additionally, Hungary annexed the remainder of Czechoslovakia. |
| April | Petr Ginz and his sister Eva Ginzova were classified as mischlinge of the first degree - children of a mixed marriage where two grandparents were Jewish. Petr and Eva were forced to wear a yellow star of Davi marked with the word Jude. |
| June 6 | The MS St. Louis, a ship with 936 Jewish refugees, was turned away by Cuba, the United States, and other countries. |
| Sept. 1 | Beginning of World War II: Germany invades Poland. |

CONTEXTUAL TIMELINE OF THE HOLOCAUST

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| May 10 | Germany invades Belgium, Netherlands, and France. |
| April 30 | The Lodz ghetto is sealed. |
| June 14 | Deportation of Polish political prisoners to Auschwitz concentration camp begins. |
| Nov. 15 | The Warsaw ghetto is sealed. |



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| June 22 | Operation Barbarossa: Germany invades the Soviet Union. |
| June 23 | The Einsatzgruppen (special mobile killing units) carry out mass murder of Jews in areas of the Soviet Union. |
| July 1941 - Aug. 1944 | The Ponary massacre – mass murder of up to 100,000 people mostly Jews, Poles, and Russians by German and Lithuanian killing squads. |
| August | Establishment of the Vilna ghetto in Lithuania. |
| Sept. 6 | Yitskhok Rudashevski and family are forced by decree to move into the Vilna ghetto. |
| Sept. 19 | Jews in the Third Reich obligated to wear yellow Star of David as distinguishing mark. |
| November | Notices were put up in the town Dawid Rubinowicz and family were living in, Kielce, Poland, that anyone who goes in and out of the “Jewish Quarter” will receive the death penalty. |
| Nov. 24 | Theresienstadt ghetto, located in Czechoslovakia, was established as a “model ghetto,” all while many Jews were eventually being transported to Auschwitz. |
| December | Deportations from Prague to Theresienstadt ghetto began. The Ginz/Ginzova family was gradually broken up according to Nazi rules for dealing with Jews in mixed marriages and their offspring. |
| Dec. 7 | Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. |
| Dec. 8 | The United States enters World War II. |



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| Jan. 20 | Wannsee Conference: Heydrich reveals official, state-sponsored, systematic plans to murder all European Jews. |
| March 12 | Dawid Rubinowicz and his family were ordered to “evacuate” for “resettlement” to the Bodzentyn ghetto. |
| July | Moshe Flinker and his family move to Brussels, Belgium to hide under false identity papers that state they were not Jewish. |
| July 6 | Anne Frank and her family go into hiding at the “Secret Annex.” |
| Sept. | Yitskhok Rudashevski finds solace in the establishment of school and a club in the Vilna ghetto. This immersion into intellectual and cultural pursuits and collaboration are poignant examples of spiritual resistance. |
| Sept. 21 | Dawid Rubinowicz and his family were placed in box cars and transported to the death camp of Treblinka. It is believed that Dawid and his family were murdered there. |
| October | Petr Ginz is deported to the Terezin Ghetto. |

CONTEXTUAL TIMELINE OF THE HOLOCAUST

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| Apr. 19 | The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising begins as Nazis attempt to liquidate 70,000 ghetto inhabitants; Jewish underground fights Nazis until early June. |
| May | Moshe Flinker and his family are caught in Brussels and taken to the Belgian transit Camp, Malines. From there, he and his parents were sent to Auschwitz/Birkenau where they were immediately sent to the gas chambers. |
| April | Yitskhok Rudashevski and members of the "Pioneer Project" in the Vilna ghetto attempted to form a resistance movement, as more mass killings occurred. |
| Oct. 1-2 | Danish Jews are rescued by the Danish resistance, police, and government. |
| October | Yitskhok Rudashevski and his family were taken to Ponar (in Lithuania), where they were shot to death. |

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| March 10 | German troops occupy Hungary. |
| May 15 | Mass deportation of Hungarian Jews to Auschwitz/Birkenau begin. |
| May | Eva Ginzova deported to the Terezin Ghetto. |
| June 6 | Allied invasion of Normandy (D-Day). |
| Aug. 8 | Following information provided by an informer, Anne Frank and the other inhabitants of the "Secret Annex" are arrested and sent to Westerbork. |
| Sept. | Petr Ginz is deported to Auschwitz/Birkenau. His family would learn after the war that he was murdered upon arrival in the gas chambers. |

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| Jan. 17 | Evacuation of Auschwitz; beginning Death March for 66,000 camp inmates. |
| March | Anne Frank dies in Bergen Belsen camp. |
| April | Soviet Army enters Germany from East; Allies enter from the West. |
| April | Moshe Flinker's 6 siblings survive Auschwitz and returned to their hiding place in Belgium where they recovered the surviving notebook of Moshe's diary. |
| April 30 | Hitler dies by suicide. |
| May 8 | The Soviet army liberates Terezin. |
| May 8 | Germany surrenders to the Allies. This marks the official end of Nazi Germany's war with the Allies. |
| May 11 | Eva Ginzova and her father return home to Prague after being liberated from Terezin. |
| Nov. 20 | The Nuremberg Trials begin. |

| KEY | |
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| | Anne Frank Event |
| | Moshe Flinker Event |
| | Petr Ginz & Eva Ginzova Event |
| | Yitskhok Rudashevski Event |
| | Dawid Rubinowicz Event |

ART EXAMPLES

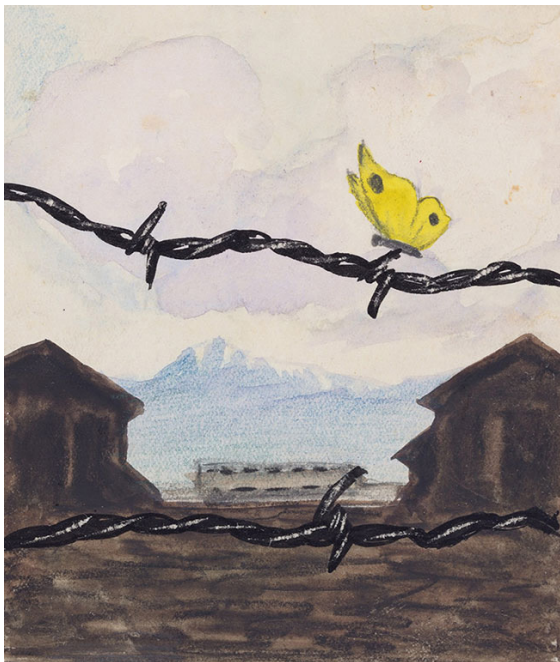
Though it will never be known how many Jewish children recorded their thoughts in writing, art or music; dozens of diaries, hundreds of drawings, and some poems and songs have been preserved to provide a tiny glimpse into their personal worlds, leaving a lasting legacy of both their oppression and resilience. Below are a few examples of works of art to be used as inspiration.



Blue painting - Edward Reich, 19



House with Garden - Marianna Langova, 12



One Spring - Karl Bodek, Kurt Conrad Low
(adult artists during the Holocaust)



Flowers in a Jar - Kitty Passerova, 12