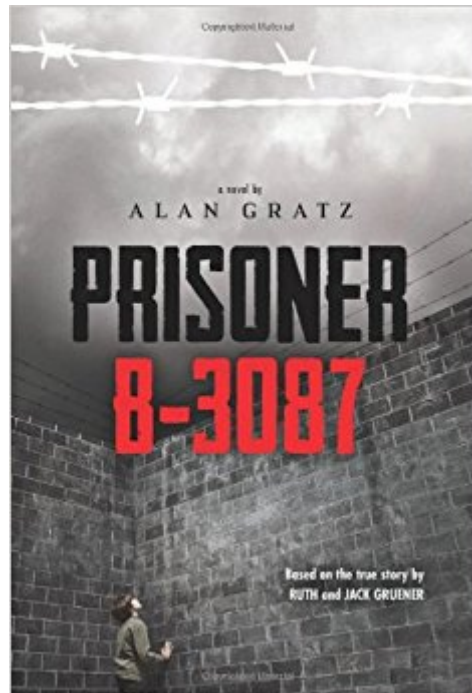




The book was found

Prisoner B-3087



Synopsis

10 concentration camps. 10 different places where you are starved, tortured, and worked mercilessly. It's something no one could imagine surviving. But it is what Yanek Gruener has to face. As a Jewish boy in 1930s Poland, Yanek is at the mercy of the Nazis who have taken over. Everything he has, and everyone he loves, have been snatched brutally from him. And then Yanek himself is taken prisoner -- his arm tattooed with the words PRISONER B-3087. He is forced from one nightmarish concentration camp to another, as World War II rages all around him. He encounters evil he could have never imagined, but also sees surprising glimpses of hope amid the horror. He just barely escapes death, only to confront it again seconds later. Can Yanek make it through the terror without losing his hope, his will -- and, most of all, his sense of who he really is inside? Based on an astonishing true story.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 6-10-"If I had known what the next six years of my life were going to be like, I would have eaten more. I wouldn't have complained about brushing my teeth, or taking a bath, or going to bed at eight o'clock every night." Yanek Gruener was 10 years old when the German army invaded Poland in 1939 and trapped his family inside the walls of the Jewish ghetto in Krakow. Over the course of World War II, he saw his parents deported by the Nazis and survived 10 different concentration camps. Through Gratz's spare, persistent prose, the story of the boy's early life unfolds with the urgency and directness necessary for survivor stories. While some liberties have been taken, with the permission of Gruener and his wife, Ruth, also a survivor, the experiences and images come

directly from the Grueners' collective memories of the war. An author's note provides further biographical information. A powerful story, well told.-Sara Saxton, Tuzzy Consortium Library, Barrow, AK
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When Hitler's army entered and occupied his native Kraków, 10-year-old Yanek knew his life might change, but he had no idea of the horror that lay ahead. His remarkable survival story begins with a dramatic, emotional punch and then chronicles such moments as his secretive bar mitzvah in a warehouse basement, the systematic round up of Jews, and his deportation to the Plaszow concentration camp, the first of 10 camps he would suffer but survive. He recalls encounters with such Nazi figures as the sadistic Amon Goeth and describes acts of wanton, vicious brutality. In an appended note, Gratz explains that the novel is based on actual events in survivor Jack Gruener's life but he has "taken liberties with some times and events" to provide a better overview. The account includes basic historical information including essential aspects of WWII. A map would have been helpful, but this essentially true story is a good starting point for students unfamiliar with the Holocaust. Pair it with Doreen Rappaport's *Beyond Courage* (2012) and Anne Frank's *The Diary of a Young Girl*. Grades 5-8. --Linda Perkins

My grandson read this book for a 8th grade class. I read it with him. It was very well written. Historically it was well documented. It held my grandson's interest and helped him understand more this terrible time in history.

Or shall we say as happy as possible under the circumstances. He survived, found family at the end and came to America to start anew. But all through the book, my feet were cold when he walked in the snow, I longed for food and clean water; and came to realize what a privilege it is to sleep in a soft warm bed by myself. He truly did become a "man" at the age of 13 and behaved better than many might have at three times that age or more. His will power to survive--remarkable for one so young and alone.

WOW!!! What a detailed story of concentration camps and what it was like for Jews during that time. A great read for adults and young adults/preteens.

It's great for young readers, my 10-year-old wanted me to read it so we could discuss it together. It made him appreciate everything he has now. I really enjoyed the book and highly recommend it.

Very interesting story. Heartbreaking and enjoyable. I recommend this to teachers in Jr and middle school. Very good read.

I would definitely recommend this book. It is so inspiring and full of hope. And it is so amazing to know that there are people in this world who did fight back and who are strong enough to get through an awful thing such a that. Thank you for showing me what true bravery is.

Bought for my son's summer reading. I decided to read it, couldn't wait to read after I started it.

This is a good book. I like the first person point of view of a child/teenager. Of course, it is realistic and will put you in a melancholy mood because it is about one of the saddest events in history: the holocaust.

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