



'Year of the Sister'

Well-Read Mom Family Supplement

Well-Read Mom's Guide to Bringing the Great Books into Your Home

April: Bravery in the Face of Evil

Discuss along with *The Hiding Place* by Corrie ten Boom

"Since it is so likely that children will meet cruel enemies, let them at least have heard of brave knights and heroic courage," C.S. Lewis writes. Though we long to protect our children from confrontation with evil, we protect them best by equipping them with the character to remain faithful to what is good. Let their imaginations be filled with the possibility that children, too, can confront evil with valor.

***Twenty and Ten* by Claire Hutchet Bishop**

Twenty French children at boarding school understand the urgency of hiding ten Jewish children from Nazi soldiers. Not only do the school children understand that they all have a common enemy, they understand that the Jewish children are their very own kindred in faith. Their teacher is kept from them and the soldiers interrogate them; yet, the French children guard the secret of the hidden Jewish children.

Discussion Questions:

1. What sort of a game are the children playing in the beginning of the story? How does this game help the children understand what to do for the Jewish children?
2. At first, the boarding school children are not happy about the Jewish children's arrival at the school. Why?
3. The boarding school children have to share their rations with the Jewish children. What role do you think this sharing/sacrificing plays in their ability to resist the interrogation later?
4. Both the Catholic and Jewish children are facing terrible hardships. Where is God in their lives?

More for older readers:

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry

Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis

Letters to Rifka by Karen Hesse

Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor

The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart



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For Younger Readers

***Stone Angel* by Jane Yolen**

A young Jewish girl and her family are forced to wear the yellow star. She knows that where there are stars there are angels. Even as they flee Paris to hide in the woods, she trusts that angels are watching over them. She continues to believe in angelic care as her family flees over the mountains to a boat in Spain that brings them to England. After the war, they return to Paris and are welcomed by a gigantic stone angel, adorning their new apartment.

Discussion Questions:

1. In the opening pages we see the beautiful life of the Parisian girl and her brother, Aron. Why do they become more and more excluded from life in their town? Do you think that their exclusion is fair?
2. After the family is asked to leave the house of friends, where they'd been staying, Maman says, "They are not bad people, just frightened people." Is she right? Or are the friends bad, not letting them stay? How brave would the friends have to be to let the Jewish family stay?
3. Papa says, "There are no angels here." Is he right? Or is the little girl right? What do we see, guarding their new house, when the family returns to Paris?

More for younger readers:

Dooley and the Snortsnoot by Jack Kent

Brave Irene by William Steig

Dr. DeSoto by William Steig

Finding Narnia: The Story of C. S. Lewis and His Brother by Caroline MacAlister

If I Never Forever Endeavor by Holly Meade

The Story of Ruby Bridges by Robert Coles