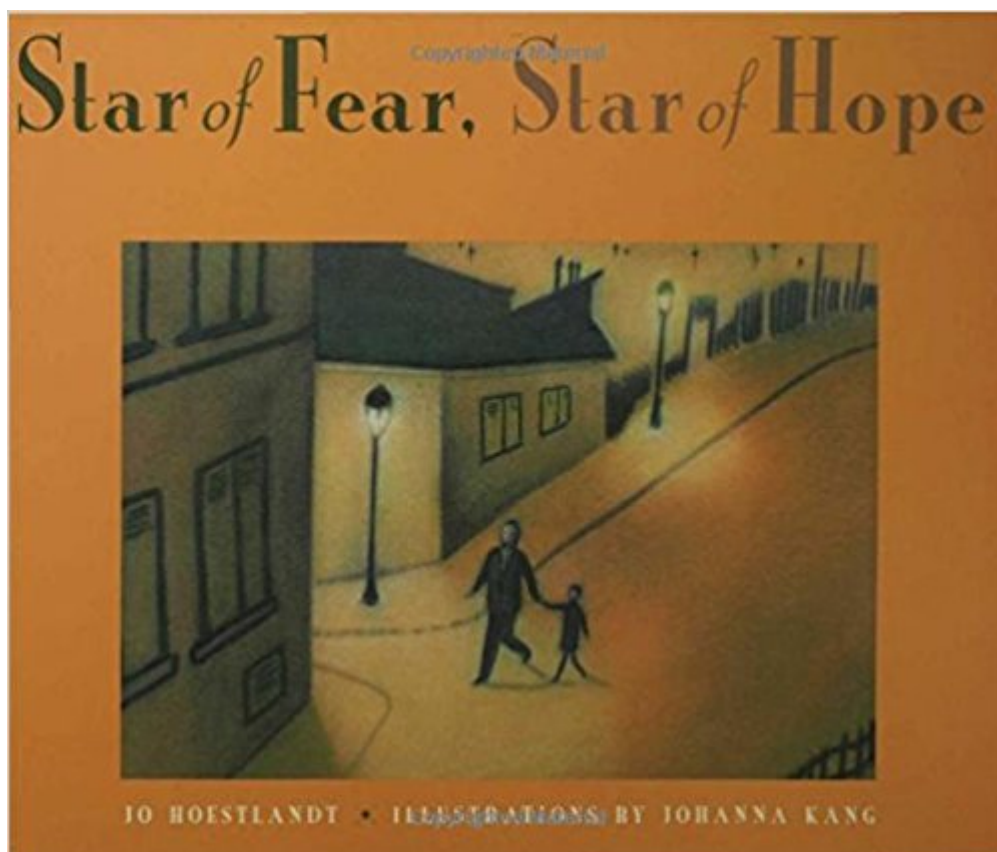


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# Star Of Fear, Star Of Hope



## Synopsis

Set in France, during the Nazi occupation of World War II, a gentile child named Helen recalls the mounting persecution of her Jewish friend. She wonders why does her best friend, Lydia, have to wear a yellow star? Why are people in hiding and using strange names? What is Lydia afraid of? Touching upon the Holocaust with sensitivity and poignancy, *Star of Fear, Star of Hope* will help readers understand this difficult event in history.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 490 (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Bloomsbury USA Childrens; Reprint edition (January 1, 1996)

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Product Dimensions: 9.1 x 3.2 x 284.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #345,358 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #67 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Holocaust](#) #93 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Jewish](#) #246 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Europe](#)

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

## Customer Reviews

Suffused with bittersweet regret, this sensitive picture book from France begins with the reminiscences of an old woman. The narrator, Helen, describes being eight years old-when it's 1942, in Nazi-occupied France. Her best friend, Lydia, has been forced to wear a Star of David on her jacket. The night of Helen's ninth birthday, Lydia sleeps over. While Helen's parents are at work, strangers tap on a neighbor's door, calling out strange passwords and looking for shelter. The Nazis are arresting Jews. Lydia asks to go home to her family, which infuriates Helen-it's her birthday, after all. Her last words to Lydia are "You're not my friend anymore!" She never sees Lydia again but, in all the intervening years, sustains hope ("with all my heart") that Lydia has survived. In a powerful marriage of art and text, the simple, spare lines and muted tones of Kang's illustrations

quietly support the poignant story. Fluidly written and centered in events a child can comprehend, the book is an ideal starting point for serious discussion about the Holocaust. Ages 7-10. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 2-4?This extraordinarily moving picture book, originally published in France and set in the north of France during World War II, has spare prose and appropriately stark illustrations. An elderly woman recalls an incident in her childhood that she would give anything to undo. Her Jewish friend Lydia is visiting, and, in the middle of the night, a frightened Jewish woman seeking refuge awakens them by pounding on the door of a "safe house" across the hall. Lydia then asks to be taken home. With deep sorrow and guilt, Helen remembers that she shouted at her friend for leaving on the eve of her birthday. Stars are the symbols around which the story turns. Lydia's mother, sewing the yellow star on her daughter's jacket, explains that a new law compels Jews to wear them but that "the place for stars is in the sky." The woman in the hall is trying to tear the star off her coat and when Helen, already contrite, opens the birthday present left for her by Lydia, she sees a paper doll with Lydia's face painted on, complete with a wardrobe including a jacket with a star. Helen never sees her friend again and, for a long time, she is angry at the stars. The illustrations appear to be of charcoal and crayon pastels in subdued colors with black outlines. The drawings are simple and barely rounded, almost as if the figures were paper dolls, as well. A mood of fear and impending doom prevails. Will it reach children? Absolutely. There is no book exactly like this one. Elisabeth Reuter's *Best Friends* (Yellow Brick Road, 1993) is somewhat similar, but *Star* is the superior title.?Marcia W. Posner, Holocaust Memorial and Educational Center of Nassau County, Glen Cove, NYCopyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book tells the story about a woman who regrets her last interaction with her best friend. She is mad that her friend wants to leave her on her birthday, but she ends up never seeing her friend again. Her friend was taken along with her family during a Nazi raid. I used this story as an accompaniment for a lesson in my classroom to teach students about struggle and the holocaust and it was an excellent tool.

Well written and illustrated, and such a deep, moving story. I truly enjoyed reading this with my daughter.

I teach an extensive lesson on kindness and respectfulness of others regardless of culture, race, etc. This is one of the books I use when I teach about the Holocaust. It tells a moving story that my students enjoyed.

An elderly lady retells events from her childhood. She describes her confusion and fear when her best friend has to wear a yellow star, her sadness when her friend mysteriously disappears one night and her enduring hope of finding her again. Great introduction for learning about the Jews under Nazi Germany. Reading level is third grade but good as a read aloud to younger children. Very moving.

This picture book provides an opening into a discussion of the holocaust for middle readers. I read it a second time before I understood it well. I think younger children won't appreciate the fact that the narrator is an old French woman with regrets who is telling a true story of a broken friendship in her life in 1942 when Germany invaded France. The text is sparse with some long sentences. The illustrations with lots of empty space around the characters add a subtle tension. I suggest the book would be most effective when read by parent and child, one old enough not to be upset by strange footsteps when children are left alone at night. -Hope Irvin Marston, author of EYE ON THE IDITAROD: AISLING'S QUEST.

I can't think of a time in my life when I \*didn't\* know about the Holocaust. There must have been such a time, nobody takes their three year old kid and one day decides to tell them of horrific things, but I can't recall it. My nieces are 5 and 2.5, and the older one is right about the time when she should be learning about serious subjects. This is, I think, a good introduction to what is a very serious subject indeed. The reality of the Holocaust isn't diluted, but it's told at a level that's appropriate for small children - losing a friend and lifelong regret, and you know she didn't survive, but that's not spelled out. Whenever you decide it's appropriate to start talking to your kids about this sort of subject, consider this book.

In 1942, in Nazi-occupied France, Helen invites her best friend, Lydia for a sleep over. During the night, strangers tap on the door, calling out strange passwords. Word reaches the family that Jews are being rounded-up and arrested. Lydia, fearing for her family, rushes home. Upset, Helen says "You're not my friend anymore!" Sadly, she never sees Lydia again. For the rest of her life, Helen

regrets the last words spoken between them, and hopes "with all my heart" that Lydia has survived. This is a powerfully written book. One that reminds us of the importance of friendship and partings. It also is a good starting point for discussions regarding the Holocaust, without providing the gory and horrific details. Overall, I highly recommend this book.

I first read this book when I was in the 6th grade, I just graduated college a week ago. This was one of the first books to introduce me to the Holocaust. It did so in a way that portrayed the fear and the uncertainty of what was happening in Europe at the time. I read it several times that school year and although I haven't read it since, I have not forgotten it. For some reason, it came to mind today and I decided to look it up. An excellent book for all children who will remember it for years to come.

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