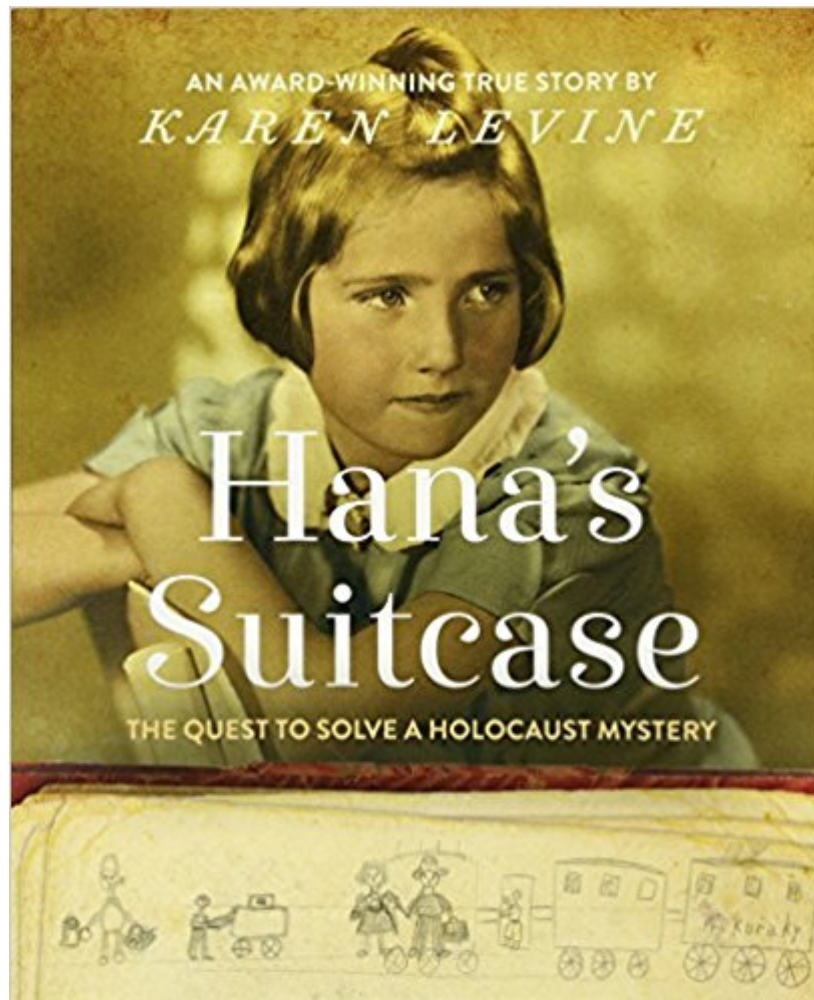




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# Hana's Suitcase: The Quest To Solve A Holocaust Mystery



## Synopsis

This award-winning true Holocaust story, newly updated, connects generations through one woman's quest to find the truth behind a mysterious suitcase. In March 2000, Fumiko Ishioka, the curator of a small Holocaust education center in Tokyo, received an empty suitcase from the museum at Auschwitz. On the outside, in white paint, were the words "Hana Brady, May 16, 1931, Orphan." Fumiko and the children at the center were determined to find out who Hana was and what happened to her all those years ago, leading them to a startling and emotional discovery. The dual narrative intertwines Fumiko's international journey to find the truth about Hana Brady's fate with Hana's own compelling story of her life in a quiet Czech town, which is shattered by the arrival of the Nazis, tearing apart the family she loves. This suspense-filled work of investigative nonfiction draws in young readers and makes them active participants in the search for Hana's identity. Praise for *Hana's Suitcase* "Hana wanted to become a teacher, and surely through this little book her dream is being realized." • Archbishop Desmond Tutu, from his new foreword to *Hana's Suitcase* "The account . . . is part history, part suspenseful mystery . . . with an incredible climactic revelation." • Booklist

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0730 (What's this?)

Paperback: 144 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 101 customer reviews

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 5-8 • The recipient of multiple honors, this moving title simultaneously shines a spotlight on the life of a young Holocaust victim and makes the process of exploring and unraveling history relevant and exciting. In 2000, after receiving an empty child's suitcase from a museum in Auschwitz labeled "Hana Brady, May 16, 1931, Orphan," Fumiko Ishioka, curator of a Holocaust museum in Tokyo, decided to track down Hana and discover what happened to her. Alternating between describing Hana's life in Czechoslovakia as the Nazis came to power and following Ishioka's process of learning about the girl's story, Levine creates tension and drama as readers slowly uncover Hana's fate. Bonus material includes notes from Levine, Ishioka, and Hana's brother, George Brady; photographs from Hana's childhood and from Ishioka's and Levine's travels and visits; and memories from those who knew Hana and her family. • Mahnaz Dar, School Library Journal

Gr. 5-8. Not another heartbreaker about a child in the Holocaust. Yes, but this one has a new contemporary connection. Alternating chapters tell not only of the Jewish Hana Brady's deportation with her older brother, George, from their happy home in Czechoslovakia, first to Terezin, and then to Auschwitz (where Hana died); but also of Fumiko Ishioka, now a director of a newly established Holocaust education center in Tokyo, who acquires Hana's suitcase, pursues Hana's story, and brings it to today's Japanese children. The account, based on a radio documentary Levine did in Canada (a CD of the broadcast is included), is part history, part suspenseful mystery, and always anguished family drama, with an incredible climactic revelation. The facts are inescapable, illustrated with glowing family photos, Nazi official documents that show Hana's fate, and pictures she drew in the secret art classes in Terezin. The one false note is Levine's showing everything before the Nazis as totally idyllic, and all the victims (even in the camps) as always wise and loving. Recommend this with Linda Sue Park's *When My Name Was Keoko* (2002), about a Korean child under Japanese occupation during World War II. Winner of the 2002 Sydney Taylor Award for Older Readers. Hazel Rochman Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is a children's book, but it is a well done children's book. In March of 2000, a suitcase arrived at a children's Holocaust education center in Tokyo, Japan. There was the name of a young girl painted on it, and from there the mystery progressed. The children in the center wanted answers about the suitcase. Where had it come from? Whose name was on it? This prompted the director of

the center, Fumiko Ishioka to set out on a search across Europe, a search for information that was almost 70 years old. I thought this was a great book, I never really thought about how to teach Japanese children about the Holocaust. Seeing as they are physically so far removed from Europe would present real challenges. A good book for children to learn about the horrors of the Holocaust, but, in an age appropriate way.

I'm always interested in reading about the Holocaust!

An intriguing true story. I loved the photos along with the narrative about Hana and her experiences. Fumiko is a special teacher who directed the Japanese children to find answers about Hana's suitcase. I would recommend this book for older children to learn about the lives of Jewish children in the 1930-1940 time period. Even as an older adult, I could not lay the book down until it was done.

This was a forced purchased for mandatory summer reading last summer. Both my 10 year old daughter and I enjoyed the book. Instead of reading it in order we read the chapters from the past first and then the chapters from present day...chronological order. That made it easier for her to understand. I would recommend this book to any 4-6 grade child. Tells a good story and teaches life lessons. No wonder it was a mandatory assignment.

I didn't dislike anything about this book. I would recommend this book to anyone who is interested in the Holocaust and my cousin. I choose the rating because it really touches my heart.

Wonderful for children 10-12

I want my children to learn about the Holocaust, but not in a way that would overwhelm them. I found Hana's Suitcase to be perfect for my elementary-age children. We discover Hana in a way that makes her real, especially since there are photographs of her throughout the story. This true story of a Japanese woman who tries to find out more about Hana was in itself a story; she showed great perseverance to achieve her goal of helping bring Hana's story to the children there as the Holocaust hasn't been a regularly-discussed subject in Japan. An easy read, but long enough to spend some quality time with the subject. I recommend this book.

Wonderful story. I enjoyed reading it (as an adult) very much. I did feel like it is more geared towards kids, but an amazing book still the same.

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