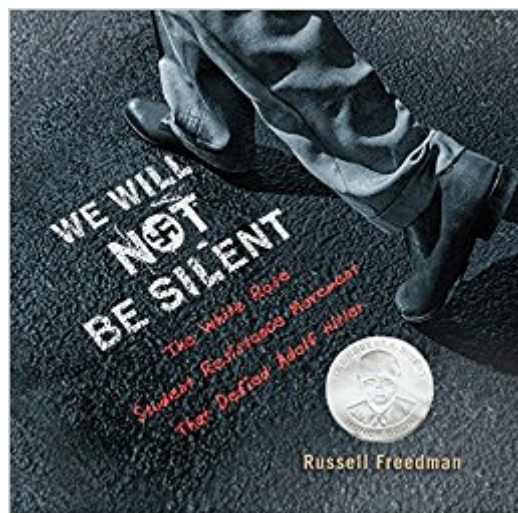




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We Will Not Be Silent: The White Rose Student Resistance Movement That Defied Adolf Hitler (Jane Addams Honor Book (Awards))



Synopsis

In his signature eloquent prose, backed up by thorough research, Russell Freedman tells the story of Austrian-born Hans Scholl and his sister Sophie. They belonged to Hitler Youth as young children, but began to doubt the Nazi regime. As older students, the Scholls and a few friends formed the White Rose, a campaign of active resistance to Hitler and the Nazis. Risking imprisonment or even execution, the White Rose members distributed leaflets urging Germans to defy the Nazi government. Their belief that freedom was worth dying for will inspire young readers to stand up for what they believe in.~ ~ Archival photographs and prints, source notes, bibliography, index.~ ~ ~ ~

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 630 (What's this?)

Series: Jane Addams Honor Book (Awards)

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #16,832 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 in~ ~ Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Holocaust #6 in~ ~ Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Military & Wars #7 in~ ~ Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Europe

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

Customer Reviews

Gr 6-8-Though the story of the White Rose student resistance in Nazi Germany has been told elsewhere, Freedman's focus on the youth of the participants will resonate with readers. Hans Scholl, a free-spirited teen who became disillusioned by the enforced conformity of his Hitler Youth group, joined a banned rival group that discussed forbidden books, and there were no uniforms or marching. Younger sister Sophie got in trouble for reading a book by a Jewish German poet and

questioning the pervasive anti-Semitism of her society. While attending school in Munich, the siblings became active in a group of anti-Hitler pamphleteers. The story has its share of dark turns, including arrests, lengthy detentions, and the eventual trial and execution by guillotine of Hans and Sophie. But Freedman treats these aspects gracefully, and the overarching message is one of defiant resistance in the face of overwhelming evil. "You will go down in history," their father, an outspoken pacifist, told them after their conviction. "There is such a thing as justice despite this. I am proud of both of you." Stock photos from the period are adeptly interspersed with personal snapshots and portraits to create a strong visual component. VERDICT A highly readable and well-documented overview of a fascinating aspect of World War II.-Bob Hassett, Luther Jackson Middle School, Falls Church, VA
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Robert F. Sibert Honor Award winner 2016 Kirkus Prize Finalist Chicago Public Library Best of 2016 Kirkus Best of 2016 Raleigh News & Observer Best of 2016 Nonfiction Detectives: Best of 2016 * "A highly readable and well-documented overview of a fascinating aspect of World War II."
-â •School Library Journal, STARRED review * "Among the wealth of good Holocaust literature available, Freedman's volume stands out for its focus and concision, effectively placing the White Rose in its historical context, telling the story of Nazi Germany without losing the focus on the White Rose, and doing so in just over 100 pages."
-â •Kirkus, STARRED review * "Thoroughly researched, with numerous archival photos, this well-told story of the White Rose opposition unfolds chronologically and with building suspense."
-â •Publishers Weekly, STARRED review "As always, Freedman not only writes with clarity and pace but augments his text with primary-source quotes and photographs that add power and immediacy."
-â •Horn Book Magazine

I have read quite a bit about World War II and have read a fair amount about the German and French resistance movements, but have never seen anything about this group or their activities. What they did is inspirational and should be known by school children as a message of courage and standing for what you believe in. The story revolves primarily around several members of one family. The father was never happy about Hitler, yet his children entered the Hitler Youth for boys and similar programs for girls. It was there that they became disillusioned with what they saw. As luck would have it, the oldest child entered university to study medicine and had to do military service while studying medicine. It was there that he saw the destruction and stupidity of the war and vowed

to fight it. The individuals involved secretly printed leaflets that were distributed anonymously throughout Germany by mail. They would print them, they send them to random people that they took from phone directories, with the hope that people would give them to friends. Their activities caused massive problems for the Gestapo and tied up resources while the government tried to find who they were. Eventually, their leaflets made it into the hands of the Allies, who mass produced them and dropped them all over Germany from planes during bombing missions. Eventually caught, none of them would give up the names of any of the others and they were sentenced to death in kangaroo courts. Nobody broke and they kept their secrets to their deaths. The Gestapo liked to use guillotines for civilian traitors, which was how they were executed. Eventually a number of members were caught, and enough were sentenced to die that it stirred up public opinion enough that the executions were stopped. The book is well written and relatively age appropriate. Parents may want to determine for themselves how well their child can handle a book about this subject as it does deal with death and execution. Although not graphic, it might upset readers who are sensitive in the younger age brackets. I would highly recommend this, even for adults, as we can only stop mistakes in the future by studying the mistakes of the past.

I love to read Freedman's works. He always does a fantastic job of telling important stories from history. And he tells them in such a readable fashion. The story of the White Rose movement is a particularly powerful story since it revolves around a group of young adults courageously standing up for what they believed in. Hans Scholl and his sister Sophie, along with their friends enjoyed being part of the Hitler Youth, at least at first, they enjoyed the hiking and camping and other physical activities. But after going to a large rally, Hans started to become uncomfortable with the unquestioning obedience and brainwashing that was such a big part of the Hitler Youth Program. As Hans and Sophie grew up, they struggled with the contradictions around them and the contrast between their own beliefs and what Hitler and his Nazi party stood for. After experiencing Gestapo tactics first hand, Hans became ever more doubtful of the Nazis. At college, Hans and Sophie and their friends started writing, producing, and mailing leaflets around Germany, sharing what they saw as being very wrong with Hitler's beliefs and methods. Even though they knew they were risking their lives, they could not bring themselves to be quiet about what was so very wrong in their country. Freedman does a great job telling this compelling story of integrity and courage and sacrifice. When Hans and Sophie and others among their group got caught, they faced death with dignity and a firm belief in what they were doing. And their example inspired others to carry the cause forward and produce more leaflets. To this day, the White Rose movement is remembered

and memorialized in several places in Germany. An inspiring story of courage and the power of belief in the face of almost unbeatable odds.

I did not realize this was a book aimed at younger readers. It tells the story of the student organization, the White Rose, that produced 6 leaflets protesting Hitler and the Nazi's. It a good book for the youth to read.

Intended for young readers, but good for mature readers as well. Tells an important part of the history of Nazified Germany. Not all could remained silent, but they had to be secret - free speech could and did result in death.

This is a small but powerful book. It beautifully tells the story of a group of college students who stood up to Hitler and ended up losing everything. The White Rose was brave and based on there internal integrity. I recommend it.

Good book.....

perfect for the times

I hope we have otherwise Hans, Sophie, Christopher and others died in vain. Today we are #The Resistance and will not be silent.

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