Read On

If students enjoyed the various types of dramas and topics in this collection, you might recommend the following books for independent reading and investigation.

Assessment Options

The following projects can help you evaluate and assess your students' outside work. Videotapes or audiotapes of completed projects may be included in students' portfolios.

Perform a Play

Have students work in small groups to select a scene from the collection *Famous Stories for Performance* to act out for the class. Suggest that they incorporate music, costuming, and props. Those not wanting to act can serve as a director or choreographer.

Write a Scene for a Play

Tell students to dramatize part of a Holocaust narrative by focusing on a single scene from *Tunes for Bears to Dance To*. Refer students to dramas in the collection for guidelines on writing in the correct format.

Create a Playbill

Invite students who read *King of Shadows* to write a playbill for a dramatization of the novel. If possible, provide students with a playbill or have them view one online. Students should include a cast list, song list, and a list of scenes for the show.

Read On

Fiction

Famous Stories for Performance



If you and your friends like to act and want to practice the craft, *Famous Stories for Performance* provides eleven classic scenes for you to choose from. From the lively "Robin Hood and Little John" to the creepy "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" to the zany "A Mad Tea Party," this collection offers a great introduction to the world of theater.

Tunes for Bears to Dance To



The Holocaust continues to affect people strongly. In Robert Cormier's novel *Tunes for Bears to Dance To,* a lonely boy named Henry meets and befriends Mr. Levine, a Holocaust survivor who is working to build a miniature re-creation of his old village. The two take comfort in one another. Then Mr. Hairston, Henry's racist employer, presents Henry with a difficult choice.

A Gathering of Days



In Joan W. Blos's *A Gathering of Days,* teenaged Catherine Hall receives a journal in which she chronicles an eventful time of her life. Beginning in 1830, Catherine learns about racial prejudice from a man fleeing slavery, loses a close friend, and assumes greater responsibility on her family's New Hampshire farm as she journeys toward adulthood.

King of Shadows



Nat Field is thrilled when he is picked to be in a production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream.* The drama troupe travels to London to perform at a re-creation of the famous Globe Theatre. In London, Nat falls ill, sleeps fitfully, and awakens to find himself transported back 400 years to Shakespeare's time! Not only that, but he still must act in the play, which is now directed by the famous bard himself.

Selection Readability

Estimated Word Counts and Lexile Scores of Read On Books

Fiction	Word Counts	Lexile	Readability
Famous Stories for Performance	PLAY	N/A	Challenging
Tunes for Bears to Dance To	20,000	840	Easily Accessible
A Gathering of Days	30,000	960	Accessible
King of Shadows	47,431	1010	Accessible

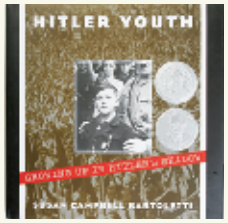
Nonfiction

I Am David



I Am David, by Anne Holm, is a fictional account of a boy's incredible journey. Imprisoned in a prison camp since infancy, David, now twelve, is given a chance to escape with the help of a prison guard. Once free from the camp, David follows the guard's instructions and travels through Greece, Italy, and Switzerland, finally ending up in Denmark, where he is reunited with the mother he has never really known.

Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow



Young people in Germany were heavily influenced by Hitler's racist ideas. In *Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow,* Susan Campbell Bartoletti presents several accounts by former members of the Hitler Youth. These people, teenagers during Hitler's reign, tell how Hitler recruited them and earned their loyalty and why they executed so many of his appalling orders.

Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Wartime Sarajevo



Zlata Filipović was just a young girl when the war in Bosnia started. Her diary chronicles this terrible ethnic conflict with a unique voice and poetic sensibility. An international bestseller when it was first released, *Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Wartime Sarajevo* has been compared to Anne Frank's diary in its poignancy and portrayal of a childhood lost to war.

The Upstairs Room and *The Journey Back*



In the Netherlands during World War II, Anne and Margot Frank went into hiding with their parents. At the same time, another pair of sisters escaped to the country to live with a Dutch family in the family's farmhouse during the war. *The Upstairs Room* and its sequel, *The Journey Back,* tell the true story of Johanna Reiss and her sister Sini.

Learn It Online
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Estimated Word Counts and Lexile Scores of Read On Books

Nonfiction	Word Counts	Lexile	Readability
I Am David	64,260	980	Accessible
Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow	31,743	1050	Accessible
Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Wartime Sarajevo	31,337	640	Accessible
The Upstairs Room and *The Journey Back*	44,759	380	Accessible

Assessment Options

Interview a Character

Have students who read *I Am David* create interview questions. Then, have them exchange questions with partners and write answers as if David is responding to the questions.

Learn about Geography

Have small groups of students reading *Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Wartime Sarajevo* work together to create a map of the Balkans. Tell students to make sure their maps include labels for landforms and countries such as the Black Sea, Bosnia, Croatia, Romania, and Serbia. Have student groups compare maps and discuss the importance of geography in the conflict in Bosnia.

Write a Journal Entry

For students who read *The Upstairs Room,* suggest that they write a final entry in a diary belonging to one of the sisters in the novel. For example, the final entry might describe the first time the girl saw daylight or another significant event following her liberation.

Learn It Online
The **NovelWise** mini-site includes instruction on choosing, reading, and analyzing novels; it also contains a catalogue of book summaries, study guides, teaching guides, and PowerPoint presentations.
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