



Six Million Paper Clips: The Making of a Children's Holocaust Memorial

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Describes the efforts of middle school students from the rural Tennessee town of Whitwell to create a Holocaust memorial based on a collection of millions of paper clips intended to represent all of the victims exterminated by the Nazis.

Six Million Paper Clips: The Making of a Children's Holocaust Memorial Details

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From Reader Review Six Million Paper Clips: The Making of a Children's Holocaust Memorial for online ebook

Jaime says

Beautiful.

Heather says

This is a review for my multicultural title.

Six Million Paper Clips is an excellent look into how students in Whitwell, Tennessee learn tolerance. Through their endeavors, students develop a project that gained world-wide interest. This non-fiction piece is a wonderful supplement to any classroom studying the Holocaust. It can be used in conjunction with other non-fiction titles such as Surviving Hitler or Hana's Suitcase. The authors Peter and Dagmar Schroeder produced a wonderful recapitulation of the events leading to the now existing Holocaust Memorial located in Whitwell.

This title can be used as early as fifth grade through adulthood. The vocabulary is can be a bit challenging, but wouldn't prevent the reader from understanding the message that is being taught. It is very clear that the themes of this book include tolerance, diversity, and understanding.

The photographs throughout Six Million Paper Clips really take you on the journey with the students of Whitwell. Overall, this would be an outstanding addition to any library or theme.

Lindsey Roath says

A super informative and quick read about the Tennessee children's project to collect one paperclip for each of the people killed during the Holocaust. Students at the middle school researched and brought this project to life in order to fully understand the impact of those 11 million deaths.

Judy says

A great book--but don't stop there. This is just a tiny glimpse of an inspiring story about how two middle school teachers started a project that took on international dimensions. Whitwell is a small town in Tennessee with no ethnic diversity. As the teachers began teaching about the Holocaust, students could grasp the idea of six million people being killed by Nazi Germany during WWII. So they began a project that last over several years to collect paper clips to represent those who lost their lives in the camps.

My husband were introduced to this story by the movie "Paper Clips," several years ago. It is the almost unbelievable story of what happened to the students and the entire town. It is a well-told and heartwarming

story. We were so taken with the story that we planed a trip to Whitwell where the Holocaust Memorial is still teaching young students about hate and yet how love can triumph. In the new school there is an entire room and library that is a testimony of how widely these students influenced others. Get the video and prepare to be impressed and moved.

Doug Heishman says

A book to stir your emotions and build empathy for others.

Kristen says

When I hear that 6 million Jews were killed during the Holocaust, I am horrified. But such a large number is hard to wrap my brain around. 6 million - so many people. When a small town in Tennessee sets out to teach their children tolerance, the students want to know what that horrible fact of the Holocaust really means.

They collect paper clips, one for each life lost. A paper clip is so small, seems so insignificant. But think: 6 million paper clips together weigh about 6 metric tons. The boxes fill a huge room. 6 million is enormous.

I love that this book shows students in small-town America teaching compassion and tolerance - a good role model for all our students.

Liz says

I read this book on a recommendation from Susan. She said that she was going to visit this memorial on her way to visiting family through TN. I haven't heard about this Holocaust memorial, and this one is located fairly nearby in Whitwell, Tennessee. This is a children's book so it doesn't go into extreme details about what happened to the Jewish community during WWII. But, the story was still touching enough to bring tears to my eyes. I know that I can't even come close to imagining the horrors...but this project also brought in the enormity of the numbers. 1 million is a pretty big number...but they dealt with 6 million Jews murdered plus another 5 million others killed during that time. In order to physically see, they collected paper clips to represent each victim.

I didn't know about the Norwegians protesting by wearing paper clips. I didn't know that Whitwell, TN has this memorial. I didn't know that the railcar to house this memorial was making its final leg of its journey to TN on September 11, 2001. This is a touching story and brought to light alot of information that I didn't know...plus added a reminder that I shouldn't ever forget.

The students of Whitwell, TN collected roughly 30 million paperclips. 22 million have been used into making the memorial - 11 million in the railcar to be viewed and another 11 million into another monument.

I am grateful that Susan shared this book with me and I am hoping to get to visit Whitwell, TN sometime soon to see this memorial.

Suzanne says

Such a moving story. Everyone should try to read this account if how a small middle school tried to understand how many people died at the hands of the Nazis. The roadblocks and challenges these students faced kept coming and coming, but they preserved because it was important.

Lisa Skripps says

Six Million Paper Clips: The Making of A Children's Holocaust Museum is the touching story of goal setting, human emotion, and determination. Peter and Dagmar Schroeder wrote this book after the children of Whitwell Middle School completed a project in which they collected over six million paper clips from around the world in order to represent all of the lost souls that perished in the horrific nightmare of the Holocaust. The project began when the teachers in this poor farm town began to teach their students about an event in history they had never heard of: the Holocaust. As the children learned about the atrocities that went on, they began to wonder what six million looked like; and thus the project was born. The Schroeders worked with the children for a long time, helping them to collect paper clips, and eventually even finding a train car that had transported people to the camps to house their museum.

Having seen the movie, and used it in my classroom, I was very excited when I found this book. I was equally more excited that I had an opportunity and reason to actually pick it up and read it. This is a great book that can be used as an accompaniment to the movie, or for children to read in class. I can see my students this year, being inspired to take action and do something after reading this book. I may even read the book before showing them the movie! I was impressed with the Schroeder's ability to invoke the same emotions in text and through pictures as I felt as I watched the documentary. What an inspiring group of children!

Alana B. says

For my non-fiction book, I read Six Million Paper Clips by Peter and Dagmar Schroeder. It is about a group of kids from Whitwell Middle School in Tennessee who are in an after-school class and started a world wide project to collect paper clips. They wanted to see what the number six million looked like because that was how many Jews died in the holocaust and they chose to collect paper clips because a paper clip was a symbol used by the Norwegians to show solidarity with their Jewish neighbors and friends during World War II. In each chapter, it is a different part of the process. How they got the paper clips to where they stored all them when they started to pile up. German journalists, Peter and Dagmar Schroeder caught everyone's attention when they became involved. They wrote nine articles in German Newspapers telling about this project. They later went to Germany to find a rail car used in World War II to store all the paper clips. They went through some trouble, but eventually the rail car got to Whitwell and made it a beautiful memorial. There are a few pictures of the rail car in the book. Some are of it is getting shipped from Germany 5,000 miles over the Atlantic and some of them putting all the paper clips inside it. The book is well organized with the order of what parts in the book come first and where all the pictures and quotes get placed. There was a lot of information, but it was all so detailed and intriguing, it was hard to put the book down. This book is great

and I recommend it to anyone in middle school, high school, and adults who would like to know more about the Holocaust and if they want to know more about the project they could read this book or also see the documentary film called "Paper Clips." Peter and Dagmar Schroeder did an amazing job writing this book and using quotes, pictures, and detailed information. The quotes used in this book were said by the students of Whitwell Middle School, Principle Linda M. Hooper, Peter and Dagmar, and many others. I enjoyed reading this book a lot and I hope who ever decides to read this book enjoys it as much as I did.

Mallory says

I was so moved by this story. It is a detailed account of how the students at Whitwell Middle School in Witwell, Tennessee decided to create a Holocaust Memorial. I found the sequence of events fascinating, as I have heard of the Paperclip Project, but did not know many of the details. Whitwell Middle began learning about the Holocaust after a faculty member decided that it was time that the students learned about differences and tolerance. This is topic that I believe many communities need to undertake. The Paperclip Project is a great information book that can hopefully inspire many other to get involved in a project that just may make the world a better place. I recommend this book for grades 4 and up.

Chris says

This book tells the inspiring and touching story of the teachers, students, and community of Whitwell Middle School in Tennessee, and their quest to understand and teach about the Holocaust. The authors, White House correspondents for a group of German newspapers, helped the school publicize the project to collect six million paper clips to show just how many people were murdered and obtained a German railcar to house them.

The book includes a lot of quotes and behind-the-scenes information. Footnotes help to define unfamiliar terms. The book is written in clear and concise language, with many color photographs, and an attractive layout. However, it's beginning to look a bit dated mostly due to the photos of the students which were taken in 2001. There is no real remedy for this. In addition, there is no list for further reading or any website listed to visit for more information.

Are Holocaust stories still needed today? Yes! Remarkably, very few young people know about the Holocaust since history has taken a back seat in school curriculums. It's been over 70 years since World War II ended, and there are very few survivors left to tell their stories. Artifacts too are scarce, and when the group managed to obtain a German railway car from the time period, that may have been used to carry prisoners to camps, I actually got goose bumps.

Whitehill, TN has 1,600 residents who are all alike - "white, Anglo-Saxon Protestants. Kudos to them for wanting to teach their community about diversity with this awesome project.
Best for grades 4 and up.

Skip says

Whitwell, Tennessee is a town of 1,600 located near Chattanooga. Most of the town's citizens are white, Anglo-Saxon and Protestant. Minorities can be counted on one hand. There are no foreigners there—and no Catholics, no Muslims, no Jews. There's a middle school, businesses, churches...and there is a German railroad car containing 11 million paper clips dedicated to the memory of Jews who died in the Holocaust, 1.5 million of whom were children under the age of 16.

How this memorial came to be is the subject of this book that is basically written for middle school students, but which is an easy and quick read for anyone older.

Learning about the Holocaust changed lives in the small town, leading students to determine that they wanted to build a memorial to the victims of Nazi tyranny so that the world could further learn the lessons of the Holocaust.

This is a companion book to the award-winning DVD documentary, "Paper Clips," about the making of a Holocaust memorial in a small mountain town in East Tennessee—an unlikely place for such a memorial, and a memorial created by children...a Holocaust-Mahnmal der Kinder.

Euna Lee says

Six Million Paper Clips: The Making of a Children's Holocaust Memorial is a motivating story about the students, teachers, and community of Whitwell Middle School in Tennessee. Together, they learn about the atrocity of the Holocaust and build a memorial, collecting six million paper clips from near and far, representing each Holocaust victim. What started as an after school tolerance class project became a lifelong lesson how diversity and acceptance can be learned. It was most compelling to read a nonfiction text that flowed so wonderfully and has visuals that drew the reader into the process of the project. It is evident that a nonfiction text like this, can attract any reader, especially in the classroom. Dialogue and continual conversations about hate and intolerance and how it can be changed as we come together and learn.

Joyce says

This nonfiction book tells the fascinating story of a middle school, with the help of their community, two German writers, and people from all over the world collected 11 million paper clips and built a Holocaust memorial in Tennessee.
