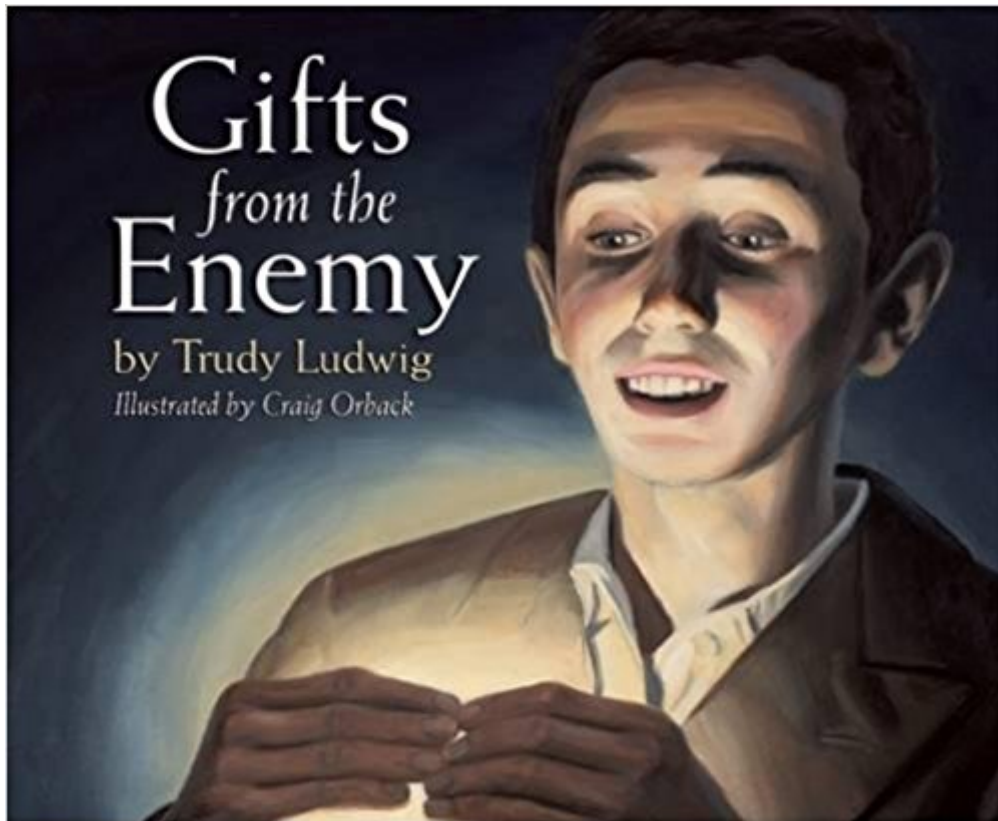




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# **Gifts From The Enemy (The HumanKIND Project)**



## Synopsis

Gifts from the Enemy is the powerful and moving story based on From a Name to a Number: A Holocaust Survivor's Autobiography by Alter Wiener, in which Alter recalls his loss of family at the hands of the Nazis and his internment in five prison camps during World War II. This picture book tells one moving episode during Alter's imprisonment, when an unexpected person demonstrates moral courage in repeated acts of kindness to young Alter during his imprisonment. Written by acclaimed children's writer Trudy Ludwig, author of Better Than You and Confessions of a Former Bully, and illustrated by award-winning children's book illustrator Craig Orback, Gifts from the Enemy teaches children in age-appropriate language about the dangers of hatred, prejudice, and stereotyping and that there are good and bad in every group of people. The accompanying questions and activities for readers provide teachers and parents with helpful direction in presenting this history and the valuable story. Gifts from the Enemy highlights how acts of social justice and kindness can change lives.

## Book Information

Series: The humanKIND Project

Hardcover: 32 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 9.2 x 11.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 58 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #215,629 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #42 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Holocaust](#) #377 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Historical](#) #616 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Values](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 2 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 4-6 • Ludwig bases this picture book on Alter Wiener's memoir, From a Name to a Number: A Holocaust Survivor's Autobiography (AuthorHouse, 2007). In a first-person narration,

Wiener explains that he was 13 when the German soldiers killed his father; he was 15 when the Nazis came for him. The descriptions of his experiences in the concentration camps are accompanied by Orback's Norman Rockwell-like illustrations that convey the horror of the time period. The brightly hued illustrations of the small town of Chrzanow are in stark contrast to the dark and agonizing depictions of the camps. Among the darkness and despair, however, came an unexpected gift from the enemy: a German factory worker left him a sandwich every day for the 30 days he worked in the building. The book concludes with an afterword by Wiener, a paragraph explaining the Holocaust, vocabulary, discussion questions, and recommended activities. Teachers will want to read this story as an introduction to the Holocaust or to spark discussion about the importance of kindness in all of our lives. Annette Herbert, F. E. Smith Elementary School, Cortland, NY

Ludwig's picture-book adaptation of Alter Wiener's 2007 memoir, *From a Name to a Number: A Holocaust Survivor's Autobiography*, recounts Wiener's experiences as a Jewish youth in Poland during WWII. She describes his family life before the war, the rise of Adolph Hitler, Wiener's father's death during the 1939 German invasion of Poland, and Wiener's own deportation to a prison labor camp two years later. While life in the camps is brutal, Wiener also remembers the courage and kindness of one German woman, a camp employee, who risks her own life to smuggle food to him. Ludwig's text lacks specificity with regard to Holocaust atrocities, a plus for the intended audience. Orback's luminous oil paintings are respectful of the subject matter and make effective use of light and shadowing. Concluded with an afterword, discussion questions, and suggested activities, this should spark debates about judging individuals based on the actions of larger groups. Pair with Leon Leyson, Marilyn J. Harran, and Elisabeth B. Leyson's *The Boy on the Wooden Box* (2013) for another survivor story. Grades 3-5. --Kay Weisman

In 2007, an American WWII veteran asked me to put my life story in print. "Do it for my children and my grand children," he said. I obliged with my autobiography "From a Name to a Number." For the last thirteen years I have been sharing my life story with close to 900 audiences of adults and students. The feedback that I have been getting (in person, by mail, and on the Internet) is indicative that sharing my life story has benefited those who have listened to or have read my life story. They became more appreciative of their personal freedom and opportunities available to them in this blessed USA and in some other democratic countries. I have often been told, "You've changed my

life," and, in some cases, "You've saved my life." The youngest students I have spoken to were 5th graders at an elementary school in Lake Oswego, Oregon. I asked the principal, "Are you sure that those young kids are able to absorb and digest my traumatic life experience and not be frightened by it?" The principal's response was: "I want my students to hear and listen to a Holocaust survivor as long as there is one alive. In fact, I believe that even younger children should be aware of the Holocaust legacy." Trudy Ludwig happened to be present, as a parent, in May 2011, at one of my presentations at her son's middle school. In my presentations I never forget to mention that while being a captive in a Nazi slave labor camp, a German woman was hiding sandwiches for me for 30 days. By doing so, she risked her own life for me. Ms. Ludwig, an acclaimed author of illustrated books for children, got the idea of taking that episode of compassion and kindness as an antidote to the troubling phenomenon of bullying and peer mistreatment that often occur today in many schools. I am profoundly appreciative and grateful to Trudy Ludwig for writing so beautifully and to Craig Orback for illustrating so artistically "Gifts from the Enemy."

Such an inspirational book about life's gifts in the darkest of times. To me this book is a way to learn and teach about what it means to be kind and compassionate. What would happen if every child could read or hear this true story? Bullying might be a thing of the past. This is a MUST for youth as well as adults. Thank you Trudy Ludwig for taking Alter Wiener's book "From A Name To A Number; A Holocaust Survivor's Autobiography" and gifting it to young people all over the world! The Questions for Discussion and Recommended Activities in the back of the book are wonderful. A quote from Trudy "May we all never underestimate how acts of kindness-no matter how big or small-can make a positive difference in the lives of those we touch."

In this powerful story of courage and kindness, Ludwig shares the story of Holocaust survivor, Alter Wiener. In addition to the historical aspects, this is a great avenue for discussion with children with the important lesson "How those you meet in life treat you is far more important than who they are." Includes questions for discussion and recommended activities for young readers.

Heartwarming and highly recommended! This children's book is a terrific read for adults also. It exemplifies the difference one person can make. The underlying message of kindness, this simple act of kindness from a stranger, saves a life and offers hope during one of the darkest moments of human history. The artwork is beautiful. The afterward, discussion questions and recommended activities are creative, thorough and make it really easy to lead discussions.

Bravo.

Trudy's book "Gifts from the Enemy" was truly amazing. It helps children understand the Nazi's and how bad they were without totally scaring a young child. At the same time it shows children that not all Germans were awful people. I bought a copy for myself and loved the story so much, I ended up buying two more copies for my grandsons. I also bought "Just kidding" by Trudy Ludwig for my older grandson in first grade and "The Invisible Boy" by Trudy Ludwig for my 4 year old grandson for Christmas. Trudy is an amazing children's writer. I highly recommend her books. Susan D. Boedeker RN, OCN

A great book about a great man--Alter Wiener. Mr. Wiener's message about the dangers of stereotyping and how he found acts of kindness during one of history's darkest hours is one that all children need to hear. It is simply a beautifully written and illustrated book. I bought a copy for my niece as well as for my own 6th grade classroom.

Perfectly written for its intended audience (pre-teen), which makes it a perfect read for all ages! Touching and true. Illustrations play an equal part to the written word, and are so deep and rich in detail. This book needs to be on school bookshelves and libraries everywhere. Parents need to be reading this book with their children and discussing it in great detail.

Absolutely beautiful! A compelling story told simply and movingly. I am purchasing multiple copies for nieces and nephews because the message is timeless. Thank you Alter Wiener for the countless lives you have changed with your story.

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