

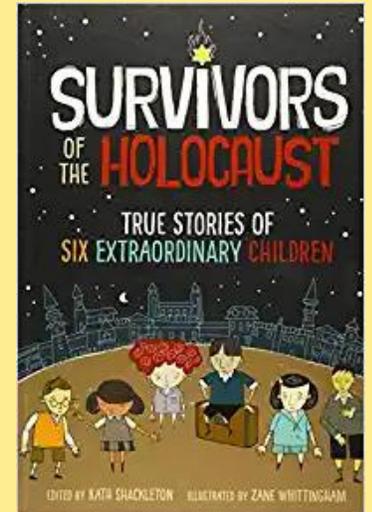


## *Survivors of The Holocaust Review*

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By Anna Block

Have you ever wanted to read about someone's experience during the holocaust in a short graphic novel? Well, *Survivors Of The Holocaust; True Stories Of Six Extraordinary Children* by Kath Shackleton is just the book for you! But, you might be wondering what the book is about and how it compares to other more serious books. Well yes, it is a good book and it follows a few kids and their experiences during the holocaust. Now that it has been introduced, wouldn't you like to know exactly what the book is about?



This book is about six children who survived the holocaust: Heinz, Trude, Ruth, Martin, Suzanne, and Arek. It begins with Heinz's story and tells us about how he survived Nazi-controlled Germany, Kristallnacht, and fled to England. It then switches to Trude's story and speaks of how she escaped Nazi-controlled Czechoslovakia on the kindertransport and how she was homesick in England and how she never saw her family again. Next, Ruth's story gets told and speaks of how she fled Germany for Czechoslovakia and how she then fled to England with her family and landed there. Martin's story then gets told and he speaks about how he and his family were forced out of Germany and back to Poland in Polenaktion, then fled Poland for England on the Kindertransport, and also how he and his sister survived the blitz. After, it switches to Suzanne's story and speaks about how she survived in Nazi-occupied France, what happened after her parents were taken away, and how she moved from place to place. Finally, Arek's story is told and it speaks about how he survived Auschwitz. Now that you know what happened in the story, wouldn't you like to know how it connects to other holocaust books?

This connects to other holocaust books as it tells about the experience of holocaust survivors and their families. For instance, in Arek's story, he talks about the gas chambers and the uniforms he was forced to wear. In the book "Maus," by Art Spiegelman, for example, these two things were also talked about. However, they were more extreme and told from an adult's point of view. This also connects to Anne Frank's diary because this book talks about the holocaust from a child's perspective, which Anne Frank's book does too. Some instances in this book also talk about hiding which books like "Maus," and Anne Frank's diary does as well.

## STARR Leaders Spotlight

So, what is my opinion of this book? I believe it is a great book and that it should be read. This is because this book talks about the holocaust from a child's point of view so you get to see how it was for a kid. The book is also not too graphic with the details, so it is appropriate for many. Plus while the book isn't super long, it has a good amount of information about things like Kristallnacht, Auschwitz, the German occupation of Poland, France, Czechoslovakia, and Polenaktion. It also includes themes of the blitz and an intermittent camp in Canada. So in conclusion, what do I believe?



Anna Block

In conclusion, I believe this is one of the best books on the holocaust. It has a good amount of information and tells many stories, all from a kid's viewpoint. Plus it is not too graphic in comparison to books like Anne Frank's diary or "Maus." What do you think? Would you read *Survivors Of The Holocaust; True Stories Of Six Extraordinary Children?*

## Learning Leadership

By Kyra Farkas

Leadership is a word with multiple meanings. Among these are: responsibility, help, guidance, influencing, and many more. Leadership can be observed and taught in your home. You can recognize leadership qualities in your parents or guardians or observe others practicing what you know to be leadership.

In my family, I have witnessed leadership practiced by my parents and my grandfather. My father works online with many companies. He serves as a leader for those companies. My mother is a teacher at Ditmas. I consider her a leader. As part of her roles at school and in the rest of her life, she helps so many people. She affects change and creates positive change.

As a child I have grown up watching all of these individuals and I have been influenced by what I saw them do. Like them, I like to help people. I act on my desire to help others. My family all prioritize other people over themselves. This is true leadership. I learn from their examples.



Kyra Farkas

## STARR Leaders Spotlight

# Beauty is NOT a Barbie Doll

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By Shariat Sultan

There are many issues frequently discussed in the world, but one which is not discussed frequently enough is the topic of our society's toxic beauty standards. Everywhere around the world, there are commercials promoting specific makeup, clothes, and more. You look at the person promoting these products and he or she looks like pure perfection. No flaws are to be seen on that individual. While many countries have different beauty standards, all of them share the quality of being unrealistic.



Every successful commercial has a few body tweaks here and there. Many times, the commercial has its featured star's face changed so much that it does not even look like the original person anymore. This promotes the idea that there is a preferred way to "look," which in reality is not the case. Such toxic beauty standards can lower one's self esteem. Indeed models' faces and bodies should not be altered to an unrealistic extreme. They should be presented as they are to keep the raw and real beauty of the models up front in the presentation.

The song "Your Best American Girl" by the artist Mitski, is a song in which a woman of color cannot make her relationship with a white boy work because of how she looked and how she was raised. She realizes she has grown up in "a different world from the one in which he was raised." Mitski's "Strawberry Blond" song also discusses how hard it is being a woman of color who wants the appearance of persons who are not of her background because of these toxic beauty standards.

As a young leader, I want these mistaken beauty standards gone. I would love to see everyone happy with his or her own appearance. I do not feel any individual should have a need to change his or her appearance to "fit in." In my way of thinking, the only way to meet a beauty standard is to look exactly like you look naturally. Your only requirement for beauty is the standard you set, not what society as a whole or others want you to be.

# STARR Leaders Spotlight



Kyra Farkas

## Reaction to “Why Group Work Feels So Unfair”

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By Kyra Farkas

I completely understand where Yun F. Zheng is coming from in this commentary on group projects. When doing group projects in a classroom, work can be unfair. It might not be evenly distributed. One person can wind up doing all of the work. Yun feels that students should do more independent work rather than do group work. I believe that there should be an evenly divided amount of group and independent work in class. I feel strongly about this division, because real life and careers require both independent and group work.

Group work does help with social skills. It gives students a chance to interact with others and to take responsibility for a team effort. Independent work helps one to do independent work in life and to do things as an individual.

But when group work is assigned and undertaken outside of a classroom, the benefits of it can play out very differently from what educators expect. I agree with Yun that group work outside of a class requires a great deal of time which many, if not most, students do not have. These students have full after school schedules including family responsibilities, tutoring, daily activities, sports and more. Beyond this challenge to external group work, the student might not be able to effectively communicate with a distanced group member because that member might not have a capable device. In the classroom, the teacher on site can go around and make certain everyone has a capable device. Teachers in the classroom can also go around and see if everyone in the group is really playing a role.

As a middle school student, I find this commentary by Yun, a college student, very interesting. How do you feel about group work in the classroom versus independent work?

## STARR Leaders Spotlight

# Jersey Day at Ditmas 62

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By Lillian Russo  
Ditmas Inside Reporter

On November 10, 2022, Ditmas staff and students took part in an engaging event. They showed their support for their favorite sports teams and players by wearing their jerseys. As a school insider, I came to the event expecting a greater number of teachers would be wearing jerseys than would students, but my expectations as a school insider proved incorrect. Students wearing jerseys easily outnumbered the teachers.



Lillian Russo

Among the staff proudly wearing their team jerseys was Mr. Downes, Ditmas Social Studies teacher. Mr. Downes is a proud and vocal Jets fan. He has actually been to their 1972 and 2006 Champion year games. But sadly, he has not personally witnessed a championship.

Letta, in class 880, wore a Jabrill Peppers jersey. This jersey represents the Giants football player who excels at strong safety. Letta watches the games every weekend. Naomi and Luis in 850 both wore Mexican Soccer jerseys. These jerseys are worn by them to celebrate their country. Mason in class 802 wore a Saquon Barkley jersey. Barkley is a running back for the Giants. Mason feels he is the best in his league.

Some students, like Ameer in 805, explained that the team jerseys they wore were not because they themselves followed the teams. Rather, they followed the teams because a family member was a fan. In Ameer's case, he follows his grandmother's team. Some students follow a sports team because of the team sportsmanship versus following teams which do not display good sportsmanship. Prince, in 802, is inspired by the Chelsea Football team because of their leadership and good sportsmanship.

Of course, skillful players are the most popular. Their jerseys are worn because of their skills and their popularity. Aloha in class 802 finds Aaron Donald, defensive tackle for the Los Angeles Rams, that type of star player. Aloha says that Aaron is the best defensive tackle.

Different people wear different jerseys for different reasons. For some the style of the jersey is the most important thing, but for others wearing the jersey carries a different and deeper meaning.

# STARR Leaders Spotlight

## Jersey Day at Ditmas 62!

