

# ***The Devil's Arithmetic* by Jane Yolen (Published by Puffin Books)**

Approved for use in Communication Arts, Grade 7

## **Summary**

Hannah is not thrilled about attending the Passover Seder with her family because she doesn't want to hear about the Holocaust again. While there, she is transported back in time to Poland in the 1940's. Shortly after she arrives, she is captured and taken to a concentration camp where she meets a girl named Rivka. Rivka and Hannah stick together as they learn the true horrors of the camps.

## **Connection to the Curriculum**

*The Devil's Arithmetic* is a great book of survival where students can explore the concepts of foreshadowing, theme, and characterization. Through this piece of historical fiction, students will gain an understanding of this tragic time in world history.

## **Standards**

### **Course Objectives (Benchmarks)**

**Reading:** 1.3- The students expand vocabulary. 1.4- The students comprehend a variety of texts.

**Literature:** 2.1- The students use literary concepts to interpret and respond to text.

### **Possible Skills Taught (Indicators)**

#### **Reading:**

1.3.5- The student determines the meaning of words or phrases using context clues from sentences or paragraphs.

1.4.10- The student identifies characteristics of narrative, expository, technical, and persuasive texts.

1.4.17- The student compares and contrasts varying aspects (e.g., characters' traits and motives, themes, problem-solution, cause-effect relationships, ideas and concepts, procedures, viewpoints) in one or more appropriate-level texts.

#### **Literature:**

2.1.1- The student describes different aspects of major and minor characters (e.g., their physical traits, personality traits, feelings, actions, motives) and explains how those aspects influence characters' interactions with other characters and elements of the plot, including resolution of the major conflict.

2.1.2- The student identifies and describes the setting (e.g., environment, time of day or year, historical period, situation, place) and analyzes connections between the setting and other story elements (e.g., character, plot).

2.1.3- The student identifies major and minor elements of the plot (e.g., conflict, crisis/turning moment, climax, resolution, rising action, falling action, subplots, parallel episodes) and explains how these elements relate to another.

2.1.4- The student understands aspects of theme (e.g. moral, lesson, meaning, message, author's ideas about the subject) and supports with implicit/explicit information from the text.

2.1.5- The student identifies the use of literary devices (e.g., foreshadowing, flashback, figurative language, irony, metaphor, tone/mood, symbolism).

## **A Note on the Text**

(The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

*This text, through a time-travel fantasy scenario, includes images of the harsh realities of concentration camps.*

## **Additional Unit Design Connections**

Coming soon:

To be completed during future curriculum development activities