



Elie Wiesel: Voice from the Holocaust (People to Know)

By Michael Schuman

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 5-8-An inclusive biography that clearly describes the varied and intricate details that shaped the life of this gentle, yet consciousness-raising man. Through the use of the subject's own comments and writings, Schuman traces Wiesel's life from his meager beginnings in Rumania to his teaching of the Holocaust at Boston University, making this a readable, eyeopening title. Black-and-white photographs complement the text; a timeline, index, and bibliography of Holocaust literature are included, making this a comprehensive choice for student researchers. For the many readers of *Anne Frank* (Doubleday, 1967), which ends on a note of despair, this would be an uplifting follow-up read. A beneficial work highlighting the life of a man of courage, about whom little has been written for this age group.

Debra S. Gold, Parma Heights Library, Parma, OH

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 6-9. Excerpts from the compelling writings of the Nobel laureate who survived a Nazi death camp as a teenager enhance this timely, informative, and accessible biography. The chronological narrative begins with Wiesel's secure childhood in a small Hungarian village before moving on to his experiences at Buchenwald, nightmare events that would inform his later work as a journalist, author, humanitarian, and educator.

Readers will find much to admire about the man (he has recently spoken out against ethnic cleansing in Bosnia), but comments by detractors who call Wiesel a professional survivor, as well as by revisionists who deny the Nazi genocide, are acknowledged. Based on a personal interview, periodical literature, and books, this biography includes endnotes as well as black-and-white photographs, a short bibliography, and a listing of videos that should interest teachers and librarians. *Julie Corsaro*

From Kirkus Reviews

In the People to Know series, an awkward account of the life of a thoughtful and eminent Holocaust survivor whose life has been dedicated to keeping memory of the Holocaust alive lest it be repeated. Though Schuman interviewed Wiesel and several of his associates, he relies most on secondary sources for a narrative of the main events of the author/professor's life--including some grim Holocaust detail, Wiesel's active stance in behalf of Cambodians and Bosnians as well as Jews, and a sampling of recent criticisms of his role. Unfortunately, the author summarizes Wiesel's books without conveying their flavor and evokes neither his compelling persona nor the drama of his life (which could easily have spoken for itself had details been more effectively selected), while his text is riddled with gaucheries (e.g., Wiesel's students at Boston University ``come not only to learn about the topic at hand, but to drink in Wiesel's sentiments, hoping some of his humanitarian views will rub off"). This eloquent Nobel Peace prize winner deserves far better; meanwhile, for some collections, this may fill a gap. B&w photos; chronology; notes; further reading plus nine videos; index. (Biography. 11-16) -- Copyright ©1994, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mary Lee:

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