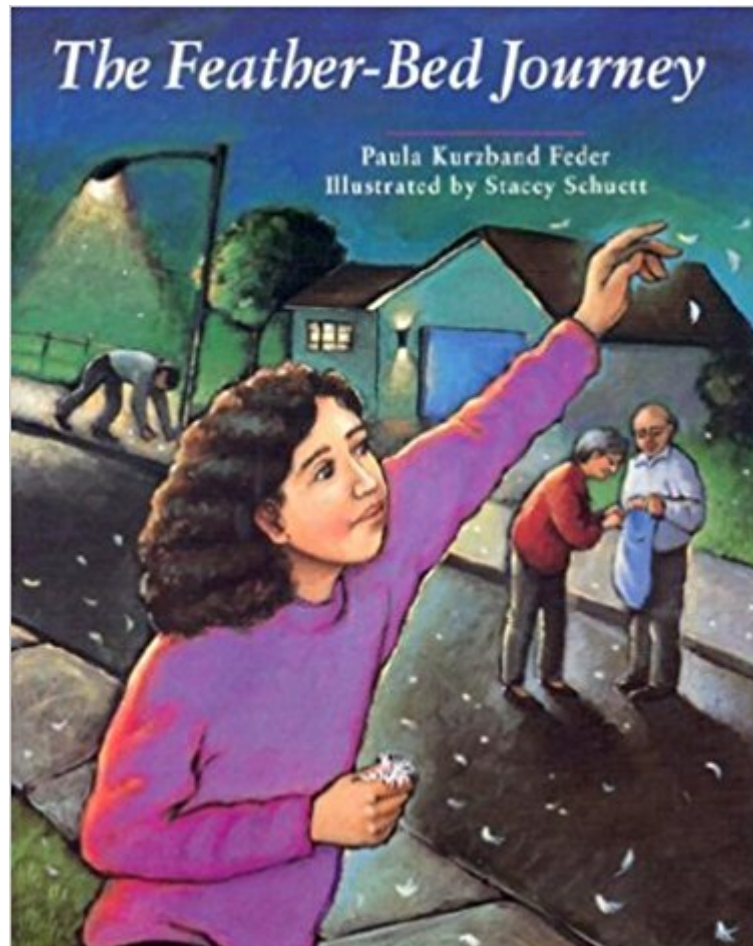




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The Feather-Bed Journey



Synopsis

As she tries to repair a torn feather pillow, Grandma tells about her childhood in Poland, about the Nazi persecution of Jews during World War II, and about the origin of this special pillow.

Book Information

Age Range: 4 and up

Hardcover

Publisher: Albert Whitman & Company; First Edition (US) First Printing edition (September 1995)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 10.3 x 8.4 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #917,508 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #132 in Books > Children's Books
> Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Holocaust

Customer Reviews

Grade 1-4-Rachel and Lewis play tug-of-war with grandma's old pillow one windy day and suddenly it comes apart. The children, grandma, and grandpa scramble after the feathers that fly up in the air, trying to retrieve them. When it grows dark and the search is abandoned, grandma tells the youngsters the history of the pillow-how it was once a featherbed and that now it is all she has left from her childhood in Poland. Acrylic and pastel paintings that combine realistic and impressionistic styles illustrate the text. Less disturbing than Jo Hoestlandt's excellent *Star of Fear, Star of Hope* (Walker, 1995), and less didactic than Jacqueline Jules's *The Grey Striped Shirt* (Alef, 1995), Feder's touching story is just right for introducing the Holocaust to young children. Marcia W. Posner, Holocaust Memorial and Educational Center of Nassau County, Glen Cove, NY Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Ages 5⁺-8. When Rachel and Lewis accidentally rip open Grandma's old feather pillow, they are puzzled by her great concern. She explains that the small pillow was once a large feather bed that belonged to her family in Poland. A child during World War II, Grandma and many other children kept warm with the feather bed in the crowded ghetto where they lived. The bed remained when Grandma left--first to hide with a Polish family, later to survive with others in the woods. At the end

of the war, she was reunited with her mother and emigrated to the U.S. Eventually the bed (now reduced to pillow-size, the result of a fire) made its way back to its original owners, and Grandma has treasured it ever since. Feder's simple text meshes nicely with Schuett's acrylic and pastel artwork, providing young children with an emotional and thoughtful glimpse at a tragic chapter of history. Useful for introducing the Holocaust to primary listeners, this may also spur children to discover their own family stories. Kay Weisman

The characters and emotions are well developed in this book. The story is of a Jewish family. The Grandma has a special pillow. Rachel and her brother begin to argue and tear their Grandma's special pillow, and the feathers fly everywhere. Grandma is upset as they try to get all the feathers as they blow through the air. The children wonder why the pillow is so special to her. Grandma then explains how this pillow contains memories of when she was younger and the war that she experienced.

This is a wondrous story about the Holocaust for all families to share and learn from. And it's also ABOUT family, and the power of love.

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