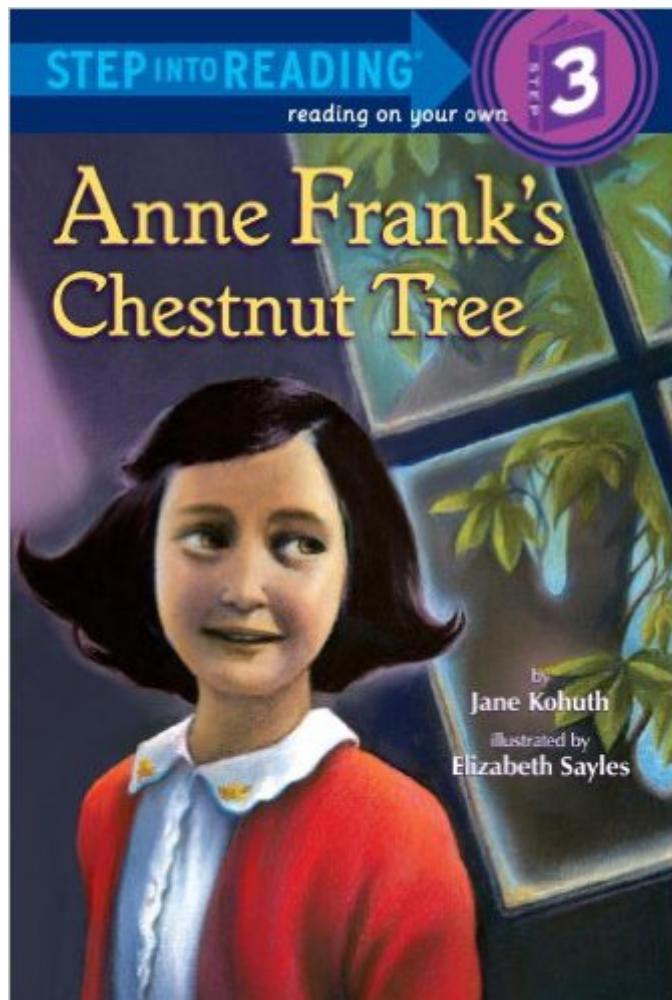


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Anne Frank's Chestnut Tree (Step Into Reading)



Synopsis

Hidden away in their Secret Annex in Amsterdam during World War II, Anne Frank and her family could not breathe fresh air or see the blue sky for years. But through an attic window Anne could see the branches of a tall chestnut tree. This small glimpse of nature gave Anne hope and courage. It inspired her writing, which, in turn, inspired the whole world. Jane Kohuth explores Anne Frank's strong belief in the healing power of nature in this Step 3 leveled reader biography for newly independent readers ages 5-8.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD540L (What's this?)

Series: Step into Reading

Paperback: 48 pages

Publisher: Random House Books for Young Readers (September 24, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0307975797

ISBN-13: 978-0307975799

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 0.2 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (12 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #362,487 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #54 in Books > Children's Books > Religions > Judaism #73 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Holocaust #559 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Multicultural

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

Customer Reviews

Jane Kohuth's book introduces young readers to Anne Frank's life and legacy with great skill and tact. With few words she tells the story of a young girl whose life ended tragically, while retaining the message of life and hope Anne wrote of in her own diary. Teacher Note: I teach kindergarten through 4th grade and am pleased to at long last have a book I can use to introduce Anne Frank. The details Jane has included in the book allows me to focus on different parts of Anne's life as would be appropriate for the different age-levels I teach, the younger students might discuss Anne's love of writing and the inspiration she drew from the chestnut tree, while with my older kids I would bring in more historical background. The language of this book makes it highly accessible to a great

range of my students, and the topic makes it a great book for older students who still struggle with reading.

Despite having to work within Step Into Reading's language requirements, Jane Kohuth retells Anne Frank's life story in a gorgeous, heartfelt way. I got reacquainted with Anne and wept yet again at her tragic, untimely demise. Know, though, that the heart of the story focuses on her time in the attic, growing as a writer and inspired by the great tree outside her window. It is a perfect way to introduce Anne and her legacy to young readers. I am buying the hardcover edition as a keepsake.

I cannot praise this book enough! Anne Frank's story is one the world knows, yet how many know about Anne's sacred relationship with the chestnut tree that grew just outside her Secret Annex? It's a remarkable this story has stayed relatively hidden until now. I am in awe of Kohuth's ability to take a very complicated and serious topic and make it accessible to young readers. Her beautiful prose are paired perfectly with the book's illustrations. This is a MUST read for both parents and families alike. Both you and your child will be inspired by Anne's courage to find hope in the darkest of times. Bravo to Kohuth for sharing this beautiful new story of Anne Frank with the world!

I have written a couple of Nerdy Book Club blogs about the controversial topic of introducing the Holocaust to primary aged children. See Memorable Holocaust Picture Books and Notable Holocaust Picture Books Illustrate People Making a Difference. Jane contacted me after reading one of my blogs. I was delighted to learn that she had recently authored a Step Into Reading Level 3 Book that focused on Anne Frank's life. She graciously sent me a copy for review. Thus, I did not purchase the book through . I was curious to see how she would present Anne's remarkable story to a young audience of early readers. Jane skillfully provided an overview that used a unique approach to this famous story. Jane used numerous references to the chestnut tree that stood outside Anne's window. Even though Anne Frank was unable to go outside, the tree and nature provided hope and joy. In recent years, the tree was destroyed by a storm. All was not lost because chestnuts were used to grow new saplings. Jane weaves this fact back into the story by reminding children that Anne's words remain alive long after her death. Jane created a positive spin to a very sad topic. Anyone willing to introduce a young reader to Anne Frank's life or the Holocaust should not hesitate to recommend this book to a child. I agree with Jane that more early readers should be written on the Holocaust to meet the needs of the kids who want to learn more.

What a simple book with a profound message for both children and adults. The contrasting illustrations highlight the story of Anne's life in the Secret Annex through the backdrop of WWII in Amsterdam. It is certainly inspirational how Anne saw the chestnut tree as hope, while life below was dark and turbulent. Even though Ann and her tree died, Ann's story lives on and so does her special tree through its saplings. They both have special messages for anyone who will listen.

Yes, the book can be read individually and a young age. But what about the development of accurate conclusions? Was Anne Frank the environmentalist this book seems to say or was she more of a creative dreamer trapped in a bad situation in time and space?

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