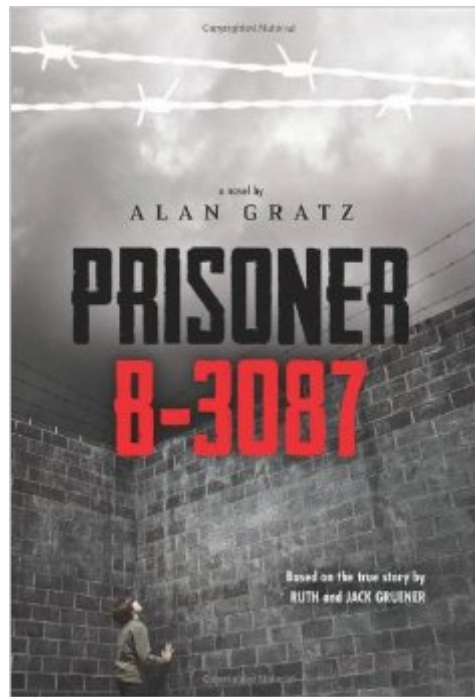


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# Prisoner B-3087



## Synopsis

Survive. At any cost. 10 concentration camps. 10 different places where you are starved, tortured, and worked mercilessly. It's something no one could imagine surviving. But it is what Yanek Gruener has to face. As a Jewish boy in 1930s Poland, Yanek is at the mercy of the Nazis who have taken over. Everything he has, and everyone he loves, have been snatched brutally from him. And then Yanek himself is taken prisoner -- his arm tattooed with the words PRISONER B-3087. He is forced from one nightmarish concentration camp to another, as World War II rages all around him. He encounters evil he could have never imagined, but also sees surprising glimpses of hope amid the horror. He just barely escapes death, only to confront it again seconds later. Can Yanek make it through the terror without losing his hope, his will -- and, most of all, his sense of who he really is inside? Based on an astonishing true story.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 760L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Press (March 1, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 054545901X

ISBN-13: 978-0545459013

Product Dimensions: 1 x 5.8 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars Â See all reviewsÂ (255 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #11,649 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Holocaust #21 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Military & Wars #788 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Action & Adventure

Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Grade Level: 5 - 9

## Customer Reviews

Prisoner B-3087 is one of countless Holocaust books that I've read and it definitely won't be the last one I'll read. The author, Alan Gratz has taken the true story of Ruth and Jack Gruener and changed a little bit of the story to make it a novel for kids. This story is merely a stepping stone about learning about WWII and the Holocaust, the author doesn't dismiss the horrors. Gratz

describes the atrocities of the Holocaust with few details making it a good place for younger readers to start learning about it. This book will help provide younger readers with a sense of what people went through that were kids just like them. Readers who are already familiar with the Holocaust may not want to read this one because of the targeted audience. I think that Yanek's story may not be new to knowledgeable readers but it's still a worthy read. It's remarkable how one person could survive TEN concentration camps and still live to see another day. To carry on with your life after all that is truly something spectacular and I applaud Ruth and Jack Gruener for never giving up. Readers of *Prisoner B-3087* may feel that the author is rushing with stories about each concentration camp and is holding back details. I'm pretty sure that this was done intentionally due to the audience but I would have liked to have read a more thorough account. *Prisoner B-387* is a gripping account of the Holocaust that is based on a true story. I quickly read through this book due to the fast-paced and it's relatively short length. I believe that the most fascinating part of this book was the Acknowledgements where Gratz informed the reader about Jack and Ruth Gruener. I said it before, but I can't get over how strong-willed and brave you had to be to survive 10 concentration camps.

The Nazi atrocities towards anyone they believed to be their inferiors is something that students must continue to learn and study if we hope to avoid something similar in the future. Yet, it is such a tricky subject to approach when children are younger. The need to protect a child's innocence wars with the need to inform. Often this can result in a story that only hints at what happened, forcing children to infer the truth, if possible, or leaving the tougher questions for their teachers and parents to answer. Alan Gratz's *Prisoner B-3087* is one of the few novels that fully informs but does so without scarring or scaring its young readers. Geared towards children through grade nine, *Prisoner B-3087* is written in such a way that readers of all ages can appreciate Yanek's story and learn varying lessons from it. For those older readers, including adults, the full horrors of Yanek's experiences are difficult to believe and to stomach. Yet, for younger readers, they will be able to gloss over the more morbid details and focus on Yanek's personal narrative about keeping his sense of identity and his will to survive. Each element of his story is important and vital for starting discussions, but it allows those discussions to be age-appropriate in a way few novels about the Holocaust are. This is not to say that Yanek's narrative is not without its sense of the macabre. No story about the Holocaust can be without discussions of the gas chambers, the chimneys, the starvation, the cattle cars, the humiliation, and the sense of isolation that the Nazis utilized so well. Yanek witnesses and experiences things no one person should ever have to see in his or her life

time, and he does not hide those experiences.

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