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Oskar And The Eight Blessings



Synopsis

Winner of the 2015 National Jewish Book Award for Children's Literature A refugee seeking sanctuary from the horrors of Kristallnacht, Oskar arrives by ship in New York City with only a photograph and an address for an aunt he has never met. It is both the seventh day of Hanukkah and Christmas Eve, 1938. As Oskar walks the length of Manhattan, from the Battery to his new home in the north of the city, he passes experiences the city's many holiday sights, and encounters it various residents. Each offers Oskar a small act of kindness, welcoming him to the city and helping him on his way to a new life in the new world. This is a heartwarming, timeless picture book.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD570L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Roaring Brook Press (September 8, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1596439491

ISBN-13: 978-1596439498

Product Dimensions: 10.9 x 0.4 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (21 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #169,808 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in [Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Jewish](#) #48 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Holocaust](#) #200 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > City Life](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

"Oskar and the Eight Blessings" is a wonderful children's Christmas and Hannukkah historical fiction hardback book measuring 9 by 11 inches. The book has a beautiful full color pictorial cover and matching dust jacket. The dust jacket will hook the attention of the reader as they stare at Oskar's big hazel doe eyes and the expression on his face. Readers will want to find out why Oskar has this expression and what he is doing in a city of giant skyscrapers. The colors used by the illustrator on the cover/dust jacket and the individual page illustrations are mostly grays, browns, and blacks. These colors help to convey the feeling of loneliness, coldness, and fear that a brand new refugee

to New York might experience. Each page is heavily illustrated with limited amounts of texts - from a sentence or two to a brief paragraph. As one reads the book, they sense the fear, despair and uneasiness in Oskar as he arrives in a strange and unknown New York City in the year 1938. It is the seventh day of Hannukkah and it was also Christmas Eve. As Oskar walks over a hundred blocks on Broadway to get to his aunt's house, he encounters various persons who show kindness to him. Oskar remembered his father's last words, "Oskar, even in bad times, people can be good. You have to look for the blessings." Oskar experiences the goodness of men's hearts and not only looks for blessings but receives various blessings on his way to his aunt's house. The book opens with some allusion to "The Night of Broken Glass" or "Kristallnacht" with no explanation. The non-Jewish reader encounters two other words with no explanation - "shamash" and "nigundi".

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