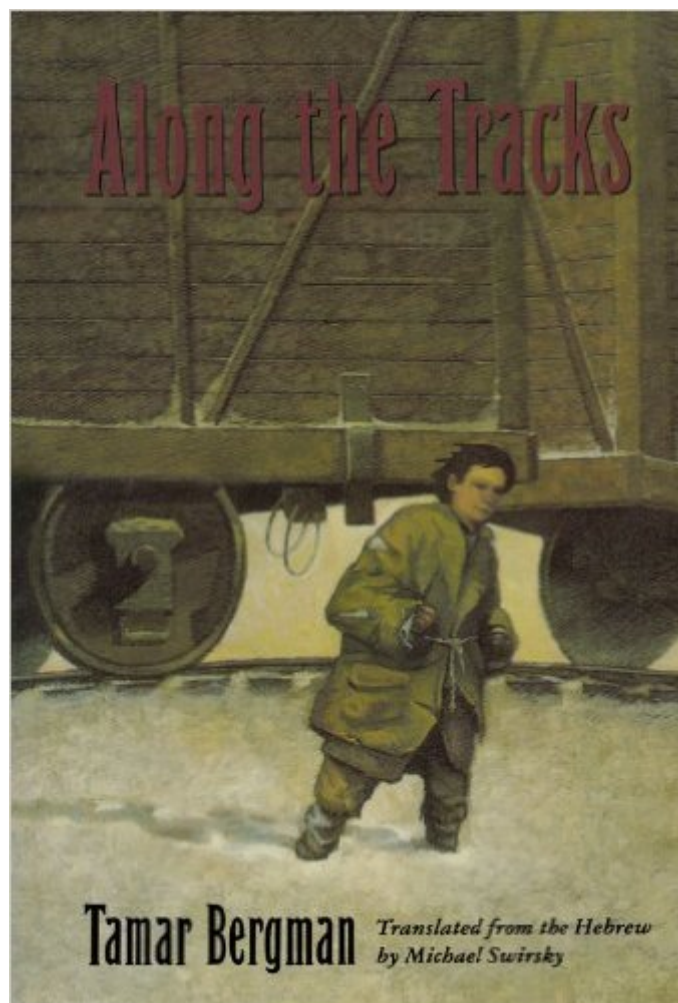


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# Along The Tracks (Sandpiper Paperbacks)



## Synopsis

Based on a true story, *Along the Tracks* tells the tale of Yankele, a Polish boy who is separated from his mother during the German invasion of Poland in World War II.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 650L (What's this?)

Series: Sandpiper paperbacks

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (September 25, 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0395745136

ISBN-13: 978-0395745137

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.6 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.3 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (7 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #790,289 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #73 in [Books > Teens >](#)

[Education & Reference > History > Holocaust](#) #125 in [Books > Children's Books > Education &](#)

[Reference > History > Holocaust](#) #126 in [Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Holocaust](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Some Jewish people saw the writing on the wall and were able to get out of Nazi-occupied Europe before World War II began, or at least before the Nazis occupied their particular part of Europe. Certainly they suffered, as all refugees do: they had to flee their homes, often on short notice, often with almost nothing but the clothes on their backs, and start all over again in a strange land, and most of them were never able to return home. Most times those people are still referred to as "Holocaust survivors" because they were definitely victims of Nazi aggression. But I prefer the term "Holocaust avoiders" or "Holocaust escapees." *Along the Tracks* is just such a story: a Polish-Jewish family who were able to escape the Nazi terror by fleeing deep into the Soviet Union. This novel, based on a true story, is about this family and in particular the oldest son, Yankele aka Yasha. It was a compelling story and definitely a page-turner, and showed a side of the Holocaust and World War II that children aren't often told about. Although they may have never had to deal with concentration camps or gas chambers, the family had to deal with illness, separation, forced labor, starvation,

homelessness, and other trials of war. I thought the second half of the story was much better than the first half. This was mainly because the second half was told from one point of view while the first half had like a zillion different narrators switching back and forth, sometimes three on the same page, which was really jarring and annoying for me. It might not bother some people as much, though. Once the story got into the second half, which had only Yankele/Yasha's perspective, it really galloped along for me. If you're interested in stories of European refugees who fled into the USSR during World War II, I recommend Anatole Konstantin's *A Red Boyhood: Growing Up Under Stalin*. He was also Jewish and his family fled to Kazakhstan for the duration of the war; his experience was quite similar to the novel.

In my opinion, *Along the Tracks* is a good book. You find yourself on the edge of your seat numerous times, not to mention not being able to put the book down. *Along the Tracks* also has a very happy ending, which I happen to like.

I really enjoyed reading this book. The story itself was very well written and it also included some very interesting history. I would suggest this book to anyone that has any interest in immigration and or World War 2.

*Along the Tracks*, has become part of the top-five requested books read independently in my 8th and 9th grade classes. This book crosses gender interests. It is one that I recommend to reluctant readers and so far, even they have agreed that it is a very interesting read.

I loved this book! It totally sucked me in from the moment I opened it. It's about a young boy's experiences being separated from his family during the Holocaust. His adventures are amazing! He has to overcome his friends dying, hunger, disease, poverty, separation, and even love. And I can't believe it all really happened to a real person!!!

*Along the Tracks* is a book about a boy named Yankele, and he also is called Yasha through the second half of the book. It starts out Yankele and his family living in Lodz, where the German army had invaded after conquering Poland. Yankele's family started moving on, trying to get to Russia. When they finally got to the border, the Nazis wouldn't let them in, so they had to stay outside for a while. Soon, all of the Jewish people there had flooded the Nazi guards, and Yankele's family got inside Russia. They lived there for a while, and Yankele's father joined the Red Army, and he fought

in the war against the Germans. Soon Russia was taken over and Yankele's family was forced to leave, taking a train to Warsaw. After they got there they had to take yet another train out, and Yankele and his mother and sister got separated when someone bombed the train. A man helped Yankele for a while, until the next train station, then they left each other. Yankele was on his own for a very long time, staying with a group of thieves and stealing to live. After a while, Yankele was helping an old lady who couldn't get certain things, like coal from coal piles at the train tracks. Soon, the old lady told him of a lady who lost a boy - one that would be thirteen, which Yankele was. Yankele was thirteen years old, and he looked like he was seven. That was his mom in the black market, and he stayed with her for a while. Eventually, he would get tired of staying in one place and would wander, then come back and stay with his mother. This was a very good book, I liked it a lot and it went by very fast. It was by Tamar Bergman, and translated from the Hebrew by Michael Swirsky. Nick, Madison OH.

This heartwarming story is about a Jewish boy who loses his family during an air raid on a train. His father is in the war, and he must learn to survive "along the tracks" by stealing and sleeping in coal piles (for warmth) until he finds his family. Setting: Poland

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