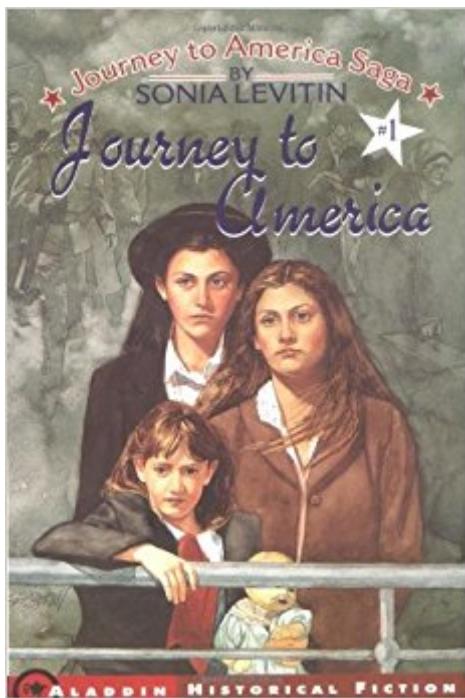


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# Journey To America



## **Synopsis**

A Jewish family fleeing Nazi Germany in 1938 endures innumerable separations before they are once again united.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 750L (What's this?)

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Aladdin; 1 edition (April 30, 1987)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0689711301

ISBN-13: 978-0689711305

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.5 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 26 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #408,607 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #75 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Holocaust #743 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > United States #1895 in Books > Reference > English as a Second Language

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

Good read

Great young people's book with some good historical insight. My 5th grade son read it for school and liked it. I liked that the "protagonist" was female.

Riveting

My son enjoyed this book as a summer read. He took it on vacation and could not carry it along everywhere we went until he read it completely. would recommend it.

Looks like a Perma bound old paperback. Nonetheless an enjoyable read.

Lisa Platt, our young protagonist, grew up in Berlin, Germany during the beginning of Hitler's rise to power. As her parents see the shift in security in Germany for Jews Lisa's father travels to America and plans to make a way for his wife and three daughters to follow. Shortly after his arrival in America he sends word to his wife to have his family move to Switzerland, where he deems it much safer for them to await permission for their travel. Over the course of 10 months in Switzerland Lisa, her sisters and mother experience struggle, kindness and uncertainty. This is a sweet story told from the point of view of a young girl as she tries to understand what has caused the change in her world. I definitely would recommend this book to others.

Reason for Reading: read aloud to the 10yo as part of our history curriculum. This is a gentle, quiet story that is suitable for younger children (as a read aloud) since it deals with the very early days of Hitler's Germany, making one aware of the need for escape in those early days and how fortunate were those who did manage to leave Germany before the atrocities began. The story is told from Lisa's point of view, the second oldest girl of three, perhaps 11 years old. Their father has decided that they will leave for America, so he goes first in order to get a job, a place to live and earn enough money for the tickets for boat passage for the others. Lisa, Ruth (the older sister), little Annie and mother must now fend for themselves until the time comes. The reader learns what it was like in Germany for the Jews in those early days as their rights were slowly being taken from them. Then father tells them they must go to Switzerland for safety immediately and here the majority of the book takes place as the three girls and the mother are separated from each other as they are looked after by different refugee helper families. They don't lose contact though and life goes on through this tough and emotional time for them until finally just after hearing devastating news from Berlin, Father sends the boat tickets for them to join him. An interesting story, full more of personal drama set against the background of a turbulent time rather than outside drama of the era since we are only at the very beginnings of Hitler's Germany here. A tale that tells the pressure of leaving one's home and becoming refugee status in another country, accepting help but really unable to do much for oneself, the waiting for the future to come and the worry for the loved ones left behind. A nice story, ds and I both enjoyed it well. The art on the other hand leaves something to be desired. I'll admit I've never been fond of Charles Robinson. His pictures are too hazy and blended together for my tastes; besides the main image, the other details are not meant to be focused on and it's just not my thing. This book is actually the first in a trilogy, which I did not know previously. I would be interested in following up with the other two books at some time.

Although it was written in 1970, this story holds up well if you look past the dated cover. Set in Berlin, in 1938, this is the story of Lisa Platt, her older sister Annie and their parents. The Platts are Jewish, and the older Platts sense that things are not going to be easy under Hitler's rule. Their housekeeper quits, the children can no longer attend school, and more openly Jewish relatives and friends are suffering more and more hardships under the new regime. Lisa's father leaves for America, planning to send for the family, but things take longer than expected, and in the meantime, Lisa and Annie and their mother take a "vacation" to Switzerland, where they hope they can safely stay until they can join their father. Money is short, the mother's health is not good, and author Levitin has created a well paced story with tension, that still isn't too frightening for a 11 or 12 year old reader. Roughly sketched black and white illustrations appear every 10 pages or so. There are many more recently written and excellent stories of this time period (YELLOW STAR, WHEN HITLER STOLE PINK RABBIT, THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PAJAMAS, ASHES, IS IT NIGHT OR DAY? Just to name a very few.) If you come across this one at the library, check it out and read it! This story ends when the family is reunited in America, and there is a sequel: SILVER DAYS, for readers who are interested. About me: I'm a middle school high school librarian. How I got this book: checked it out of the library.

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