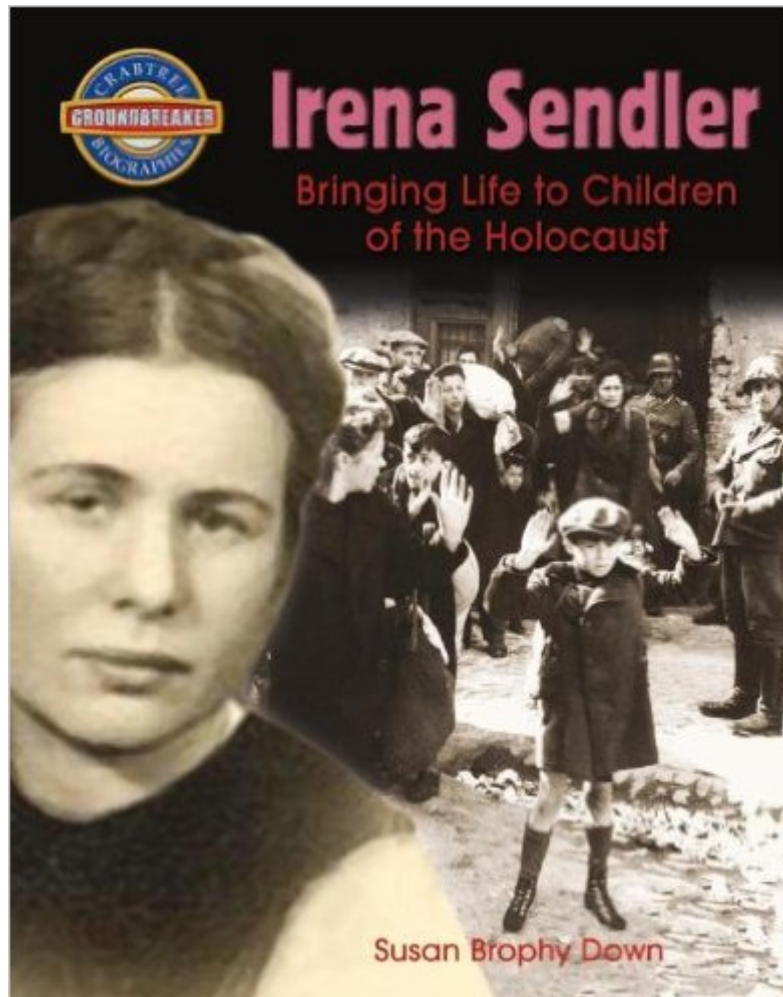


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# Irena Sendler: Bringing Life To Children Of The Holocaust (Crabtree Groundbreaker Biographies)



## Synopsis

Irena Sendler was born into a Catholic family in Poland in 1910. Throughout the German occupation in World War II, Irena worked tirelessly to help save Poland's Jews from the Nazi horror. Irena saved at least 2,500 Jewish children from certain death during the Holocaust. By the time of her death in 2008, Irena had been honored by the governments of Poland and Israel, Pope John Paul II, and many of those she had rescued.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1180 (What's this?)

Series: Crabtree Groundbreaker Biographies

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #571,997 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #95 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Holocaust](#) #387 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Women](#) #984 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Historical](#)

Age Range: 10 - 13 years

Grade Level: 5 - 8

## Customer Reviews

It took a group of high school students from Kansas to make Irena Sendler known beyond Poland and Israel, so it is fitting that middle- and high-school students have a biography of this remarkable woman written for them. After all, Irena Sendler is credited with having saved some 2,500 children. The book opens with a miracle on how Irena and her comrades were able to smuggle a six-month-old baby out of the Warsaw Ghetto in a toolbox, setting the stage for the heroic deeds of the members of Żegota, a secret underground army of Polish Gentiles who risked their lives to save the children of their Jewish brethren. Author Susan Brophy Down then takes the reader on a journey that starts with a background of the Holocaust in Nazi-occupied Europe and what it was like to grow up in pre-War and wartime Poland, the Nazi regime's rise to power, and the meaning of

anti-Semitism. The second half of the book takes the reader through the German invasion of Poland, the Warsaw Uprising, and the aftermath the Polish people faced. Ms. Down writes in a way that is very understandable to the young reader; some of the pictures are difficult to look at, but that is unavoidable in a book that treats the Holocaust with honesty. The plight of the victims, both Jews and Poles, is well illustrated, but the focus of this book is on the active participation of the resisters, both adults and children, the latter all the more remarkable as the Nazi invasion was primarily directed against children, essential to Himmler's Final Solution, to make Europe "Judenrein," cleansed of people of Jewish ethnicity.

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