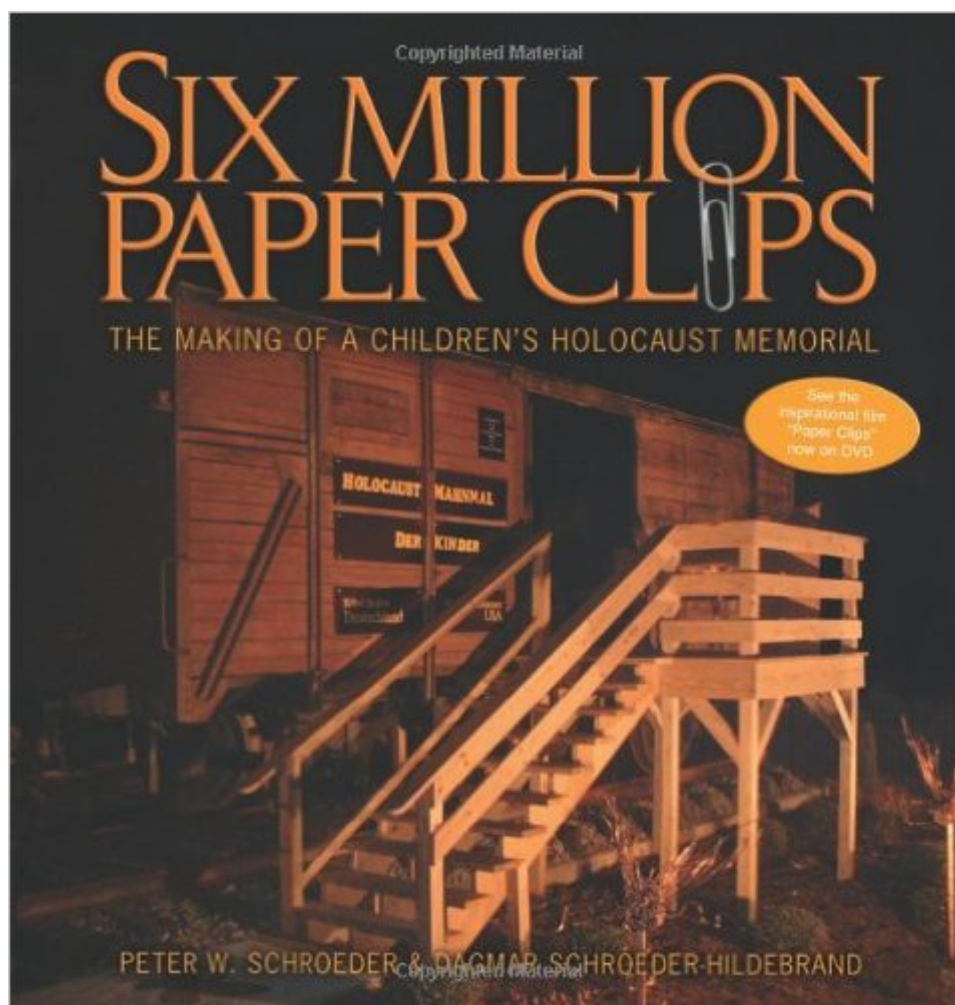


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# Six Million Paper Clips: The Making Of A Children's Holocaust Memorial



## Synopsis

Describes the efforts of middle school students from the rural Tennessee town of Whitwell to create a Holocaust memorial based on a collection of millions of paper clips intended to represent all of the victims exterminated by the Nazis.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 870L (What's this?)

Paperback: 64 pages

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Product Dimensions: 8.3 x 0.2 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (45 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #381,654 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #56 in [Books > Children's Books > Religions > Judaism](#) #71 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Holocaust](#) #336 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Prejudice & Racism](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

## Customer Reviews

I recently bought "Six Million Paper Clips" during a business trip to the US and wish I had taken more copies home to give away. Because it is a very powerful book on the Holocaust. But reading it you'll realize that it covers this monstrous atrocity only on the surface. In reality it shows that seemingly innocent behaviour ("I don't like this or that") is only the first stepping-stone to xenophobia, racism, anti-Semitism and what have you. Normally my children have trouble reading English (except for the lyrics of rap songs) but this book they didn't put away. They read it in a single session one evening until deep in the night. And the next day they read it again. Because this book has all the ingredients young readers look for: It tells (lovingly and never condescending) a compelling story, it has its cliff-hanger moments, even humour, and a happy ending that is asking for tears of joy. And guess what: The adults I gave the book to read loved it for the same reasons. And none of them were Jewish. This book is marketed as a children's book. But in reality it is much

more, a book for all ages and for everyone. And we all can learn - and change. My kids did. Reading the book it dawned on them that all their squabbles and sibling-infighting can go out of hand - as it did in Nazi-Germany and some other places and even right now. My kids ("I can't stand him and her") now want to sleep in the same room - to make up for times lost. I have only one complaint: I wish Six Million Paper Clips had been published when I was a kid. And this book deserves more than five stars. Peer Herrmannsson

My wife and I went to see the film. After we saw it, I ordered the book from . I have read and read it several times since. It is extremely well done and the photographs are excellent and used appropriately. This is a story that, had it not been released as a witnessed based documentary, would never have been believed. It is a wonderful story that restores faith in the good that humans have within them. I want to thank all those who took part in the project and look forward to the release of the DVD.

This is a companion book to the documentary about the Paper Clip project started at Whitwell Middle School outside of Chattanooga, Tennessee, in the late 1990s. What began as a class to teach diversity to a mostly white southern group of schoolchildren evolved into a project of collecting 6 million paper clips (the clips are historically tied to the Holocaust) to represent the Jews who perished during that dark period. This book is a wonderful story that shows what can be accomplished when children are determined and how a relatively small idea can grow into something significant that can affect millions of people. This one is highly recommended for children of all ages.

One night on a cruise ship in the Mediterranean, the director of a new documentary about a small town in Tennessee remembering the Holocaust would both show the film and answer questions. As a native Tennessean I both anticipated and dreaded this, assured that again we would be portrayed as NPR so often does - racist, poor, ignorant, fundamentalist or a combination of the above. Surprise, Surprise. I was blown away, absolutely stunned at the story and the depiction of a rural Southern town as it slowly encounters the outside world. What wonderful teachers are still around! The suggestion that these all-white, all-Protestant, rural students should undertake an endeavor to break out of their shell seemed to come out of the blue and appeared the most incongruous project possible. Yet, it succeeded and admirably so, The documentary traces the path, from baby to giant steps as the idea evolves into something none of the participants foresaw.

It is and always will be a reminder of Dark Days. I only wish the Soviet and Chinese social experiments that murdered over tens of millions were remembered and memorialized in this way! As the children and the town learn about Jewish life in Europe and the story of the Holocaust, we learn about them, their lives and their lifestyle that seems strangely satisfying in its simplicity and slowness. Others become involved - survivors, politicians, two Germans who manage to obtain an actual railroad car used for transporting Jews to concentration camps. Businesses pitch in, individuals donate and a living memorial is designed and stands today almost as a shrine. The paperclips (representing a victim) came from all over the world, from rich and famous, young and old, rich and poor. Alas, some never learn. At the end, the director was bombarded with questions and suggestions that townsfolk were "really" against the project or secretly racist or did not understand. He said he wanted to make something very clear: He had been in the town over two years and never heard a racist remark nor a single ill word against the project. The people were as nice and down to Earth as they appeared on screen. I felt deep vindication and overwhelming relief. The director, being from the North, was shocked at the casual hospitality of total strangers offering advice and friendship. In this age of increasing anti-Semitism in Europe once again, it is important to ponder the consequences that such speech for whatever reason may bring.

I happened upon a review and ordered the book. When it arrived, I read it with a lump in my throat and my eyes tearing up. My 72 year old mother and I were driving to another town when I started telling her about it. I couldn't get that damn lump out of my throat and pretty soon my voice started quivering and I started crying. She just reached over and held my hand as I got my composure back. I was done, though, I told her she had to read it. She did. Afterward, she took it to one of her clubs and shared it. It's just a 10 minute read, but it sure provides plenty of emotion. I am so glad I happened upon it. A glorious story. Thank you.

This is such a wonderful book! Even though it is basically a kids book, it can teach adults too. I had heard about this project, but I didn't realize that it was so involved and reached into other countries. It's also a such a coincidence that while the paper clip project was taking place the terrible events of 9/11/01 also happened. These events show that hate and terror are still being peddled by some people and must be fought at all cost. No matter what, even with all our differences people are really more alike than we are different. We need tolerance and understanding of each other more than ever.

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