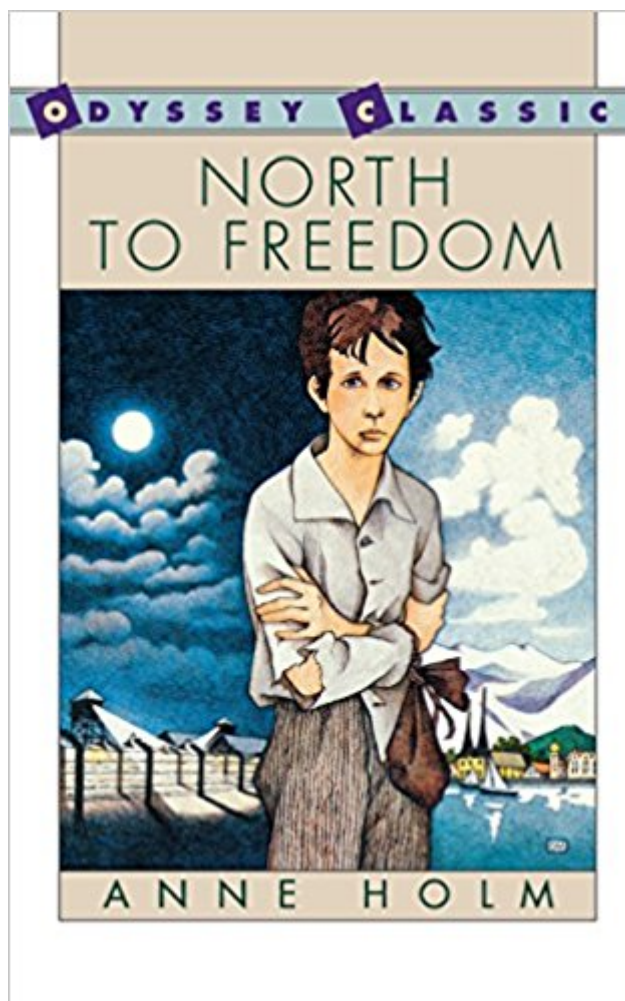


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# North To Freedom



## Synopsis

Having escaped from the eastern European concentration camp where he has spent most of his life, a twelve-year-old boy struggles to cope with an entirely strange world as he flees northward to freedom in Denmark. *North to Freedom* is, to my mind, the single finest novel ever written for children of about ages 9 to 13. *School Library Journal*

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 980L (What's this?)

Paperback: 239 pages

Publisher: Harcourt Brace & Company (March 15, 1990)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0152575537

ISBN-13: 978-0152575533

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.6 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 36 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #248,313 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #55 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Holocaust](#) #1007 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States](#) #1941 in [Books > Children's Books > Classics](#)

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

## Customer Reviews

Text: English, Danish (translation)

ANNE HOLM (1922-1998) was born in Denmark, and she began her writing career as a journalist. *Am David* was originally published under the title *David* in Denmark, where it became a million-copy bestseller and received numerous awards.

Thank you!

This book is one of my all time favorites. I introduced it to my son when he was in jr. high school, and now gave it to my 10 year old grandson.

## Love the book

I loved this book when I read it in high school. I had lost my copy over the years and I wanted to read it again. This is my only book from .com that got away. I bought it used from a used book seller and they got paid. They said they were having a problem with shipping it right then so would a short wait be OK? I never heard back from them. I was only reminded when I was asked to review the books I have bought from .com.

would not hesitate to order again! Seems well built and good quality This is a very good product, taking into account the price, I will buy a new one when I need it next time. Average quality. Love it! Can't get enough of it! It look so so So Gorgeous ! Amazing for the price, quality, and usability.

I must have been about 10 years old when I first read *North to Freedom*, and perhaps 12 years old the 20th time I read it. I am 41 now, and the profound impression this book has left on me has caused me to seek it once again, this time as a gift to my son. What is it about this book that has gripped my imagination for 30 years? There were many facets of this book which were intriguing to me. One of these was the ambiguity of who "they", the bad guys, were. Chalk it up to my young age, but I at times thought the book was an indictment of Nazi Germany, and later thought perhaps it was about life behind the Iron Curtain. The ambiguity told the lesson that evil was evil, regardless the political justification. The book also was attractive as a great adventure. Most preadolescent boys, perhaps, fantasize of having to make it on their own, facing enormous odds, relying on cunning and stealth and courage to protect oneself from the evil "grownups". There was also a romantic interlude in this book, and the prepubescent boy who isn't at least thinking about girls is rare indeed. The interlude climaxed in a brief kiss, which to preadolescent like myself was, at that time, sheer exhilaration. While we boys could not, of course, read a romance novel, an adventure novel such as this was quite acceptable. Then, there was the intensely happy ending, most of which was left to the reader's imagination because it was so abrupt. Young boys still need a happy ending, and this one was spectacularly anticlimactic. I hope my son shares the joy and ponders the triumph over evil so eloquently presented in this book.

Why oh why do U.S. publishers insist on retitling classic European books? As "*I Am David*" this book successfully explores far more profound questions than freedom. David's journey is a process

of self discovery and a self-imposed restructuring of a broken human spirit. Though told in the third person, the narrative invites us into David's young mind and allows us to see the wonder of objects and concepts that we all take for granted but which are new to the young escapee. Music, play, the taste of an orange, the feeling of being clean, language, colour! David's voyage of discovery is a bitter sweet mixture and we learn the awful truth about his past during his trek across Europe at the same pace as he does himself. I have read this book with classes of children from fourth to seventh grade, as well as with adults. It is a book for all seasons, and I can still turn the pages with pleasure and wonder. The wonder of realising what it is to say "I Am David" is what the book is all about! "North to Freedom" is a lousy title - meaningless in fact, David's first steps to freedom take him south! But this should not dissuade anyone from reading Anne Holm's book. The greatest children's story to come out of Denmark since Hans Christian Andersen.

North To Freedom is a wonderful book. It tells about a twelve year old boy, David, and his escape from a concentration camp where he has been since before he can remember. He is on a dangerous journey, and he can trust nobody. He meets many people, learns new words, discovers how to smile, and finds his mother. On the way he makes good friends with Maria, and young girl whom he saved from a fire, he calls her "the little girl who looks so like a flower". David also makes friends with the dog, King. David is not used to dogs because he only knew of the mean one's in the concentration camp, but King is different, kind and gentle, and wants to protect David. King is greatly involved in the end of the story, read the book to find out more. This book is also good for class literature. My class has used it in sixth grade, but I would suggest it in fourth grade because now it was really easy to read. This is a very touching story about a boy struggling for life, proving his strength, making friends, and proving his is smart and clever in ways unimaginable. I suggest it for anyone, even if it is a quick read!

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