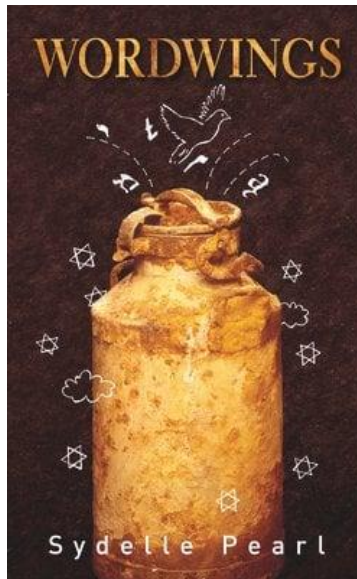




Dear Teachers and Students,

Thank you for your interest in my novel **Wordwings**!

Please see the ideas I have suggested in my **Activity Guide for Wordwings** to create a **Wordwings Museum** and present a **Wordwings Performing Arts Festival**. Please contact me through my website and put the words **Wordwings Museum** or **Wordwings Festival** in the subject line to let me know about your projects and any discoveries you made along the way! Perhaps information about your research and artistic process as well as photographs of your creations could appear on my website.

Thank you very much.

Keep reading and creating!

Sydelle Pearl

Activity Guide for WORDWINGS by Sydelle Pearl--Connections to Visual/Literary/Performing Arts

In **Wordwings**, my historical fiction novel, the characters become involved in various artistic, imaginative, and cultural pursuits such as reading, writing, embroidering, storytelling, puppeteering, acting, songwriting, singing, drawing, painting, violin playing, and praying. Rivke's diary, where she chronicles her stories, observations, and memories in a worn library book of Hans Christian Andersen's fairytales, ends up in the Ringelblum Underground Archive of the Warsaw Ghetto. Rivke meets people whose writings, photographs, drawings, paintings, and experiences came to be known due to their discovery in the Underground Archive.

I invite you to use this Guide as a springboard to create your own **Wordwings Museum**.

Considerations before Creating your Wordwings Museum:

Photographs:

Locate and print up photographs of people whom Rivke knew and prepare a brief biography. On a label or index card, note your source. These photographs and biographies can be placed on display in your **Wordwings Museum**. See the page numbers below from the Author's Note of **Wordwings** to see what happened to the people on the list.

Dr. Emanuel Ringelblum p. 188
Leib Schur p. 189 (no known photograph)
Batya Tempkin-Berman pp. 188-189
Gela Sekstajn pp. 189-190
Izrael Lichtensztajn pp. 190-191
Nachum Grzywacz pp. 190-192 (no known photograph)
Dr. Janusz Korczak pp. 191-192
Stefa Wilczynska p. 192
Chairman Adam Czerniakow pp. 192-193

Research the life of Frederic Chopin, Polish composer—mentioned on p. 7.

Research the life of Krystyna Krahelska, the poet who served as a model for the Warsaw Mermaid—mentioned on p. 193.

Materials: Please consider the following materials to help you create artifacts and exhibits: paper (plain, white, textured, construction); posterboard; cardboard; pencils, colored pencils, scissors, ribbons, yarns, felt, and fabric of different colors, sizes, and textures; glue; hot glue gun; paint; paintbrushes; newspaper, Scotch tape; rubber bands; masking tape; thread; needles of various sizes; old socks; and old mittens (can become puppets); popsicle sticks; clay; recyclables such as toilet and paper towel rolls; dish detergent and laundry detergent containers; boxes of various sizes and thicknesses, etc. The art teacher at your school may have

more ideas. Consider where the objects can be stored and then placed on display at your school. Consider how a **Wordwings Performing Arts Festival** could be presented in conjunction with your **Wordwings Museum**.

Books to Consider Exploring (please see the Selected Bibliography in Wordwings):

Ghetto Diary by Janusz Korczak

Hunger for the Printed Word: Books and Libraries in the Jewish Ghettos in Nazi-Occupied Europe by David Shavit

To Live with Honor! Selected Documents from the Warsaw Ghetto Underground Archives "O.S." edited by Joseph Kermish

The Complete Andersen: All of the 168 Stories by Hans Christian Andersen translated by Jean Hersholt

The King of Children: A Biography of Janusz Korczak by Betty Jean Lifton

The Warsaw Ghetto Oyneg Shabes-Ringelblum Archive: Catalog and Guide edited by Robert Moses Shapiro and Tadeusz Epsztein

Who Will Write Our History? Emanuel Ringelblum, the Warsaw Ghetto, and the Oyneg Shabes Archive by Samuel D. Kassow

Links to Consider Exploring:

[Who Will Write Our History | Facing History & Ourselves](#) (37 minute film based on the book of the same name by Samuel D. Kassow)

[Home | Polscy Sprawiedliwi](#) (POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews)

[Oneg Shabbat \ Żydowski Instytut Historyczny](#) (from the Jewish Historical Institute of Warsaw)

[The Oneg Shabbat Underground Archive in the Warsaw Ghetto](#) (from Yad Vashem: The World Holocaust Remembrance Center)

[The Oneg Shabbat Underground Archive in the Warsaw Ghetto](#) (from YIVO in New York)

[A-Z: Photos | Holocaust Encyclopedia](#) (from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum)

[Birds of the World: 12 Distinct Environments | AMNH](#)

[Ornithological Station MIZ PAS](#)

[The Hans Christian Andersen Storytelling Center New York](#)

[Museum of Jewish Heritage — A Living Memorial to the Holocaust](#)

[Research | YIVO Institute for Jewish Research](#)

Possible Project Ideas for your Wordwings Museum:

*Your own diary entries written during your journey of reading **Wordwings**—before, during, after.

*The book that Rivke and Gela create of Rivke’s story, “The Jewish Geese,” and Gela’s illustrations.

*Rivke’s diary that she keeps in between the lines of a Hans Christian Andersen collection of fairytales.

*Zayde’s pillows with embroidery of beautiful scenes such as the winding path of the Vistula River.

*Zayde’s pillows with embroidery of the Jewish Geese on them—this design is inspired by Rivke’s story she tells in the marketplace near Zayde’s cart of armbands and pillows.

*Words to one of Zayde’s prayers; words to one of Rivke’s prayers.

*Zayde’s armbands in different sizes: for Margarita, Sorele’s doll; Rivke and Tsipoyre; for adults.

*The doll, Margarita, that Zayde makes for Sorele.

*The gloves that Zayde makes for Sorele.

*The burlap sack with the Peddler of Wind’s puppets that relate to Rivke’s stories, “The Jewish Geese,” and “The Princess and the Paintings.”

*Gela’s portraits of children of the Warsaw Ghetto.

*Gela’s portrait of Rivke and props from various stories Rivke tells, such as a sword and a shield.

*Gela’s drawings she makes of Rivke telling her story, “The Jewish Geese”, and scenes from the story.

*Rivke’s drawing of the cat with the sword and shield that she makes in the night that is inspired by the Japanese story, “The Boy Who Drew Cats,” as well as her own story, “The Warsaw Mermaid.”

*Dr. Korczak's diary and some of the diaries or diary pages from the children in his orphanage.

*"Thumbelina" paintings by the children in Dr. Korczak's orphanage.

*"The Little Match Girl" paintings by the children in the soup kitchen that are inspired by Gela's visits.

*A milk can that was used to store part of the Underground Archive of the Warsaw Ghetto.

*A metal box that was used to store the Secret Archives.

*A page or two from one of the underground newspapers.

*One of the horses from the merry-go-round that Rivke sees through a hole in the Ghetto wall.

*Colorful hats and scarves that the kind old woman on the other side of the Ghetto wall gives to the Ghetto children before she disappears so quickly.

*The map or globe to mark the countries where Rivke's original and retold stories come from.

*The pocket of her coat where Rivke hides her diary.

*The beautiful cloth that hides the illegal library in the soup kitchen at Nowolipki 68 where Rivke goes with her sisters.

*The scenery that the children make with Gela's help for the musical "The Princess and the Paintings."

*The flashlight that Nachum uses to guide Gela and Rivke to the subcellar where the Archive is stored (before burial).

*The signs for the "Month of the Child" that Rivke sees covering the Peddler of Wind (puppeteer).

*Gittel and Ruchel's baptismal certificates.

*The bookcases that are used like doors to hide storage of the Underground Archive.

*The sack with "fairytale wind" that the puppeteer, "The Peddler of Wind," uses to pretend with the children.

*Gittel and Ruchel's combs.

*A drawing and/or sculpture of the Warsaw Mermaid.

*Pictures of birds that resonate for Rivke in the various stories as well as in real life.

*The cup Rivke and Tsipoyre use to collect coins for their singing and storytelling when Zayde is so ill.

Wordwings Performing Arts Festival-- Ideas for Performances in Front of an Audience:

Read and then Tell (without the book) the Original Stories that Rivke Tells:

"The Jewish Geese" pp. 43-50

"The Princess and the Paintings" pp. 113-128

"The Warsaw Mermaid" pp. 60-63

Read and then Tell (without the book) the Retold Stories that Rivke Tells:

I. L. Peretz's stories: "The Magician" p. 24; "The Case Against the Wind" pp. 139-141.

Hans Christian Andersen's stories: "The Wild Swans" p. 28 (section from the story); "Thumbelina"; "The Little Match Girl"; "The Nightingale".

Rivke tells or reads other stories: "Puss 'n Boots"; "The Crane Wife" pp. 67-69; "The Boy Who Drew Cats" pp. 145-147; "Jack and the Beanstalk"; "Sleeping Beauty"; "Pinocchio".

Rivke alludes to some Biblical stories: "Jonah and the Whale"; "Noah and the Dove"; "The Book of Esther".

Rivke mentions these Hans Christian Andersen stories: "The Little Mermaid"; "The Snow Queen"; "The Steadfast Tin Soldier"; "The Tinderbox"; "The Darning Needle"; "The Emperor's New Clothes"; "The Red Shoes"; "The Ugly Duckling"; "The Princess on the Pea".

Other Ideas:

Tell folktales that Rivke may have known such as "The Fisherman and His Wife"; "The Little Red Hen"; "The Gingerbread Man", etc. Create a puppet show or a play using one or more of these stories.

Rivke notes the words to some of Tsipoyre's songs in her diary. Create the tune or tunes.

Write a diary entry from the point of view of: Zayde, Tsipoyre; Gittel, Ruchel; the Peddler of Wind; Batya; Gela; Nachum; Dr. Emanuel Ringelblum; Sorole, (written down by Rivke); Shmuel; a German soldier who hears Rivke tell one of her stories; a Jewish convert to Catholicism who hears Rivke tell one of her stories.