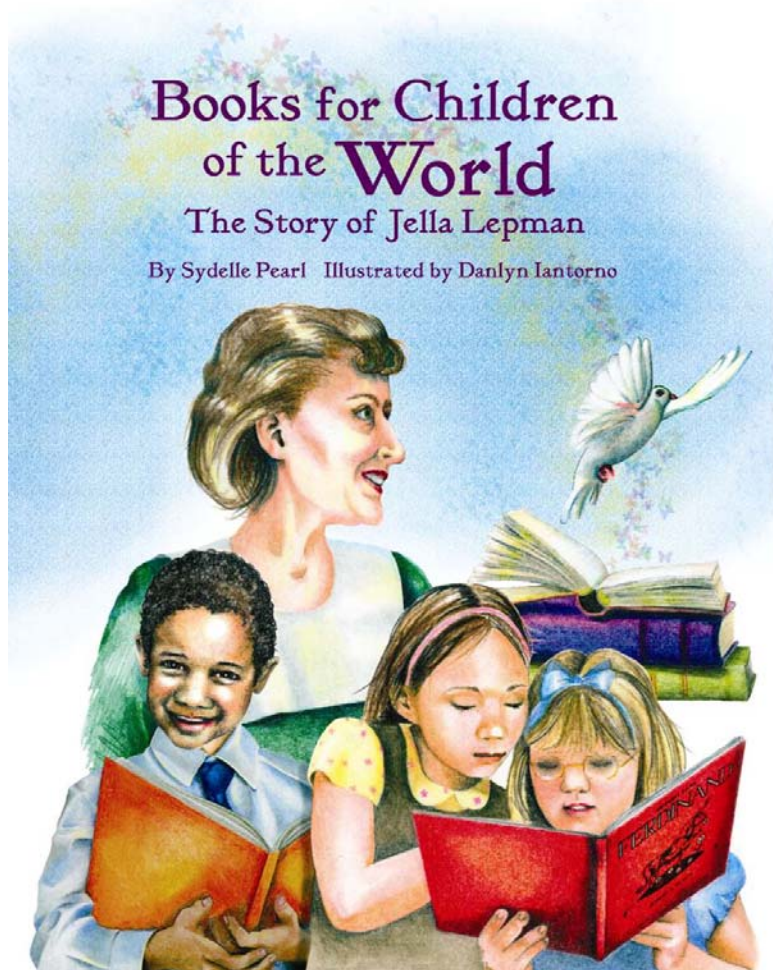


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## STUDY GUIDE for



**This book tells the true story of a Jewish woman who fled her native Germany during World War II but returned to establish the International Youth Library in Munich after the war because she believed that children's books in different languages could become ambassadors of peace. The International Youth Library continues Jella's mission to this very day.**

This Study Guide contains the following curriculum connections:

- \* Library Connections
- \*Literature Connections
- \*Art Connections
- \*Geography and Language Connections
- \*Bibliography of Bilingual, Multilingual and Multicultural Books
- \*Peace and Hope Connections
- \*Holocaust Bibliography

Created by  
Sydelle Pearl

Reproducible  
worksheets

## **LIBRARY CONNECTIONS**

The word “library” is *bibliothek* in German.

When Jella (pronounced “Yella”) traveled to New York City, she saw the marble lions guarding the main branch of the New York Public Library.

- ❖ What animal would you choose to guard a library? \_\_\_\_\_
- ❖ Draw a picture of it below (or on a separate sheet) as it would appear outside the library of your imagination.

**Andrew Carnegie** (1835-1919) was born in Dunfermline, Scotland. His family came to Pittsburgh, PA when Andrew was a boy. Andrew became a multimillionaire through his iron and steel business and gave much of his money to cities and towns across the United States and the world so that 2,811 free public libraries could be built. Carnegie libraries were founded in countries such as America, England, Ireland, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and Australia. (information from *Andrew Carnegie: Steel King and Friend to Libraries* by Zachary Kent, p. 104)

- ❖ Find out if your local public library was founded with funds donated by Andrew Carnegie.

**Bill Gates**, the multimillionaire founder of Microsoft Corporation, established the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation with his wife in the year 2000 in order to enable libraries to purchase computers, keep up with technological advances and further the cause of education around the world.

- ❖ Find out if your local library has received computers from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Jella’s International Youth Library offered language classes, art classes, books in different languages, story hours and other activities.

- ❖ Check out the website of the International Youth Library, [www.ijb.de](http://www.ijb.de), to get an idea of some activities currently offered.

- ❖ What other activities would you offer if you were the director of the International Youth Library?

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❖ What activities are offered at your local public library?

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❖ What other activities would you like to see at your local library?

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**Here are some books about books and libraries to search for in your library!**



- Andrew Carnegie: Steel King and Friend to Libraries by Zachary Kent
- Down Out Shin Creek: The Pack Horse Librarians of Kentucky by Kathi Appelt and Jeanne Cannella Schmitzer
- How a Book is Made by Alike
- The Inside Outside Book of Libraries by Julie Cummins
- A Library for Juana: The World of Sor Juana Ines by Pat Mora
- The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq by Jeanette Winter
- Library Lion by Michelle Knudsen
- My Librarian is a Camel: How Books Are Brought to Children Around the World by Margriet Ruurs
- The Printing Press by Ann Heinrichs
- Tomas and the Library Lady by Pat Mora



## LITERATURE CONNECTIONS



The word “literature” in German is *literatur*.

When the International Children’s Book Exhibition opened in July of 1946, Jella’s friend, the writer Erich Kastner, wrote the following description:

...there were a good number of famous animals: Puss in Boots, a little bull named Ferdinand, Winnie-the-Pooh, Reynard the Fox and Spiegel the Cat. Since space does not permit me to give the full names and birth places of all the princes, kings, fairies, charcoal burners, pirates, witches, captains, heroes and magicians who attended the opening, maybe this summary recalls a lot of them to mind. Whosoever wishes to pay them a visit may do so. Their address is Hans der Kunst, Munich, Germany. Open daily from 9 to 11 am and from 2 to 5 pm. Come as you are. Adults may tag along too.

(from Jella’s book *A Bridge of Children’s Books*, p. 53.)

- ❖ Which princes, kings, fairies, charcoal burners, pirates, witches, captains, heroes and magicians do you think Erich Kastner was referring to?

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- ❖ Can you find these stories in the library?
- ❖ Design a poster to announce the opening of the International Exhibition of Children’s Books.

Jella describes in her book *A Bridge of Children’s Books* how she gave away newspaper copies of her German translation of *The Story of Ferdinand* to the children who came to the Exhibition when it toured Berlin around Christmas time, 1946. Read *The Story of Ferdinand* by Munro Leaf, illustrated by Robert Dawson.

- ❖ Get some blank paper. Retell the story in your own words. Draw your own pictures. In a separate note, write about how Jella translated the story into German and gave away 30,000 copies at the Exhibition in Berlin.
- ❖ Send the retold story along with the illustrations and special note to the children’s section of a newspaper. See if the newspaper will print the story!

Here are some of the languages *The Story of Ferdinand* was translated into: **Danish, Dutch, French, German, Japanese, Norwegian, Polish, Slovenian, and Spanish.**

Even Jella's tombstone refers to books. It says, "Give us books! Give us wings!" This is a quote from Paul Hazard's book called *Books, Children and Men*:  
 " 'Give us books,' say the children; 'give us wings...Show us fairies strolling about in the moonlight. We are willing to learn everything that we are taught in school, but please let us keep our dreams.'"

❖ What is your favorite book? \_\_\_\_\_

❖ What is your dream?

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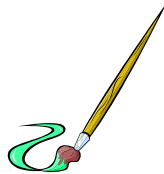
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### ART CONNECTIONS

The word "art" in German is *kunst*.



Jella compiled a book called *Ich Selbst—Myself—Moi Meme: Children's Self Portraits From All Over the World*. It was published by the International Youth Library.

- ❖ Draw a picture of yourself, a self-portrait.
- ❖ Write down your age, your name, where you are from and a wish for the future.
- ❖ Your class can do this activity and put up a gallery of self-portraits!

In ***BOOKS FOR CHILDREN OF THE WORLD***, it says that Jella asked for paintings by children from different countries along with books. Jella hung up the children's paintings in the exhibition hall in each city as the exhibition traveled through Germany.

- ❖ Paint a picture that tells something about your life and where you live so that children from another country can understand.

*The Peaceable Kingdom* by Edward Hicks is a famous painting on display in the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh, PA. Jella spent many happy hours gazing at a copy of this painting that hung in her family's home in Germany. The picture meant a great deal to her. See the book by Ernest Goldstein called *Edward Hicks: The Peaceable Kingdom*.

The animals in the painting relate to the words in the biblical passage chapter 11, verse 6 of Isaiah:

The wolf shall live with the leopard  
 The leopard shall lie down with the kid  
 The calf and the lion and the fatling together  
 And the little child shall lead them.

- ❖ What do you think the words mean?

- ❖ Paint your own version of this picture. Which animals will you decide to include?

Ferdinand Activities:

- ❖ What kind of flowers did Ferdinand smell? \_\_\_\_\_
- ❖ You can make paper flowers by folding different colored tissue paper on alternate sides like a fan and then you can bind the middle with a pipecleaner.
- ❖ Get a big piece of paper. Fold it in half. On one side, draw Ferdinand sitting quietly under a tree and smelling the flowers. Draw him on the other side jumping up after being stung by the bee.
- ❖ Draw Ferdinand as a little bull on another piece of paper and then as a grown-up bull on a different piece of paper. Can you find the page in the book that says “Ferdinando”? That means “Ferdinand” in Spanish. Can you find the word “toro”? That means “bull” in Spanish. Look carefully in the book. Can you find other Spanish words? Can you add a Spanish word to some of your pictures?

### GEOGRAPHY AND LANGUAGE CONNECTIONS



The word “geography” in German is *geographie*. The word “language” in German is *sprache*.

Jella describes how languages were taught at the International Youth Library using children’s books in various languages such as English, French, Dutch, Italian and Swedish.

- ❖ Go to the library and find a children’s book in a language you don’t know.
- ❖ Can you learn some words by looking at the pictures?

Get a copy of **BOOKS FOR CHILDREN OF THE WORLD** and find the boxes of books in the illustration with Jella hurrying to show General McClure the letter from France announcing that books would be sent. Books were sent by ship. Have a postal clerk visit your classroom to bring stamps and describe this process.

When Jella gave away the newsprint copies of Ferdinand, perhaps she wished the children “Merry Christmas.” In German, this would be “Frohe Weihnachten.” In Spanish, the phrase would be “Feliz Navidad.”

- ❖ Can you learn how to say “Merry Christmas” in a fourth language? How about sign language?
- ❖ Teach someone else.

Learn about other holidays that take place in December such as Hanukkah and Kwanzaa.

- ❖ What foods do people eat? What games do they play? What stories do they tell? What songs do they sing?

The word for “book” in German is *buch*. In Spanish, it is *libro*; in Hebrew, it is *sefer*. In sign language, it is showing the opening of a pretend book by holding your palms together and then opening them up.

❖ Learn how to say “book” in yet another language. Teach someone else!

In post-war Germany, the International Children’s Book Exhibition was a major international event. Today there are international bookfairs that are scheduled regularly throughout the world every year or every few years. For example, the Cairo Book Fair takes place in **Egypt**, the Jerusalem Book Fair takes place in **Israel**, the Bologna Bookfair takes place in **Italy**, BookExpo takes place in the **United States**, and the Frankfurt Bookfair takes place in **Germany**. The Frankfurt Bookfair is the largest in the world and also the oldest. It started in 1480 with a pause during the early 1900s. It restarted in the year 1949—the same year that Jella founded her special library.

❖ Find the countries listed above on a map.

These are some of the countries Jella traveled to and/or lived in during her lifetime: U.S.A., Turkey, Germany, England, Switzerland, Lebanon, Iran.

❖ Find them on a map.

### **SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BILINGUAL/MULTILINGUAL BOOKS** (also look for bilingual, multilingual music and story CDs in your library)



Alphabet Times Four: An International ABC by Ruth Brown

Can You Count Ten Toes: Count to 10 in 10 Different Languages by Lezlie Evans

Can You Greet the Whole Wide World? : 12 Common Phrases in 12 Different Languages by Lezlie Evans

In School: Learning In Four Languages by Esther Hautzig

Mung-Mung! By Linda Sue Park

The Park Bench by Fumiko Takeshita

Say Hola to Spanish by Susan Middleton

Say Hola to Spanish, Otra Vez by Susan Middleton

Sequoyah: The Cherokee Man Who Gave His People Writing by James Rumford

Teach Me Tapes, [www.teachmetapes.com](http://www.teachmetapes.com)

Who Says a Dog Goes Bow-Wow? by Hank De Zutter



## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MULTICULTURAL BOOKS:

(also look for multicultural music and story CDs in your library)



Children Just Like Me by Barnabus and Anabel Kindersley

Bread, Bread, Bread by Ann Morris

Families by Ann Morris

Houses and Homes by Ann Morris

If the World Were a Village: A Book About the World's People by David J. Smith

Material World: A Global Portrait by Peter Menzel

On the Same Day In March: A Tour of the World's Weather by Marilyn Singer

Skip Across the Ocean: Nursery Rhymes from Around the World by Benjamin Floella

Throw Your Tooth on the Roof: Tooth Traditions from Around the World by Selby B. Beder

Wake Up, World! A Day in the Life of Children Around the World by Beatrice Hollyer

## PEACE AND HOPE CONNECTIONS



The word "peace" in German is *friede*. The word "friend" is *freund*.

In Spanish, "peace" is *paz*. The "z" sounds like an "s."

In Hebrew, "peace" is *shalom*. In Arabic, "peace" is *salaam*.

- ❖ Learn how to say "peace" in a different language. Teach someone else.
- ❖ Design a bookmark with the word "peace" in different languages.

In her autobiography, *A Bridge of Children's Books*, Jella quotes a child as saying "Oh, now it is peace," when the child gazes at a picture of Santa and his reindeer hanging up on the wall of the International Exhibition of Children's Books in Berlin.

- ❖ What is "peace" to you?

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- ❖ Can you write about it, draw about it, sing about it, dance about it, or build it?



This is a quote that comes from the country of Senegal, in West Africa: “For in the end, we will save only what we love, we will love only what we understand, we will understand only what we are taught.”

❖ What do you think it means? \_\_\_\_\_

**Here are some books about peace and hope:**

All the Colors of the Earth by Sheila Hamanaka

Cat and Mouse by Tomek Bogacki

The Cello of Mr. O by Jane Cutler

The Christmas Menorahs: How a Town Fought Hate by Janice Cohn

Crocodile and Hen: A Bakongo Folktale by Joan M. Lexau

Frederick by Leo Lionni

The Giving Box by Fred Rogers

Hope by Isabell Monk

The Journey That Saved Curious George by Louise Borden

Potatoes, Potatoes by Anita Lobel

Sandako of Hiroshima by Manorama Jafa

Shin’s Tricycle by Tatsuharu Kodama

Six Crows by Leo Lionni

The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig by Eugene Trivizas

What a Wonderful World by George Weiss



Jella's friend, First Lady **Eleanor Roosevelt**, helped further the cause of peace. She narrated a record in 1959 called "Hello World!" made by RCA Victor. How many different languages can you learn for the word "hello"? Teach someone else!

Here are some other interesting facts about Eleanor Roosevelt:

- ❖ In 1939, Eleanor attended the Southern Conference on Human Welfare in Birmingham, Alabama. She saw that black people sat on one side and white people sat on the other side so she picked up her chair, put it in between both sides and sat down!!
- ❖ In 1946, Eleanor was elected head of the Human Rights Commission and she helped to pass the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Find out what this declaration says. Teach someone else!

**Here are some books to read about Eleanor Roosevelt:**

Our Eleanor: A Scrapbook Look at Eleanor Roosevelt's Remarkable Life by Candace Fleming

Stateswoman to the World: A Story About Eleanor Roosevelt by Maryann N. Weidt

Jella's friend **Mildred L. Batchelder** (1901-1998) was a children's librarian who believed that American children should be able to read books from other countries that had been translated into English. The Batchelder Award for Children's Books in Translation has been awarded to American publishers since 1968. See the website [www.ala.org/batch/htm](http://www.ala.org/batch/htm).

**Alfred Nobel** 1833-1896) was a Swedish chemist who invented dynamite. He made millions of dollars from this invention. In his will, he called for the establishment of five awards that would bear his name: the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, the Nobel Prize in Physics, the Nobel Prize in Medicine, the Nobel Prize in Literature and the Nobel Peace Prize.

- ❖ Learn about the life story of someone who won the Nobel Peace Prize. The first prize was awarded in 1901.

## SELECTED HOLOCAUST BIBLIOGRAPHY

The word “holocaust” refers to the horrible mass killings of Jewish people by the Nazis during World War II. Here is a list of books to help you try to understand that time.

The Butterfly by Patricia Polacco

The Cats in Krasinski Square by Karen Hesse

The Doll with the Yellow Star by Yona Zeldis McDonough

Elisabeth by Claire A. Nivola

Fireflies in the Dark: the Story of Friedl Dicker-Brandeis and the Children of Terezin by Susan Goldman Rubin

Remember Not to Forget: A Memory of the Holocaust by Norman H. Finkelstein

Rosa Blanche by Roberto Innocenti

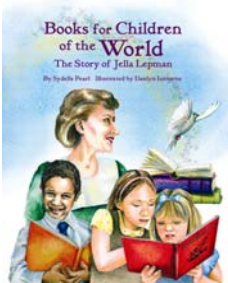
Star of Fear, Star of Hope by Jo Hoestlandt

The Yellow Star: The Legend of King Christian X of Denmark by Carmen Agra Deedy




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### AUTHOR PROGRAMS FOR GRADES K AND UP:



**BOOKS FOR CHILDREN OF THE WORLD: THE STORY OF JELLA LEPMAN** by Sydelle Pearl tells the true story of a Jewish woman who fled her native Germany during World War II but returned after the war to establish the International Youth Library in Munich because she believed that children’s books in different languages could become ambassadors of peace. The library continues her mission to this very day.

Sydelle is available to visit schools, libraries and other settings to share multicultural stories and to discuss her journey to publication. Sydelle has her MLS from Simmons College and has worked as a children’s librarian. She is a professional storyteller. Sydelle is also the author of **ELIJAH’S TEARS: STORIES FOR THE JEWISH HOLIDAYS**, published by Pelican in 2004. Contact Pelican Publishing Company at 1-800-843-1724, ext. 319 for more information. Please visit Sydelle’s website at [www.storypearls.com](http://www.storypearls.com).