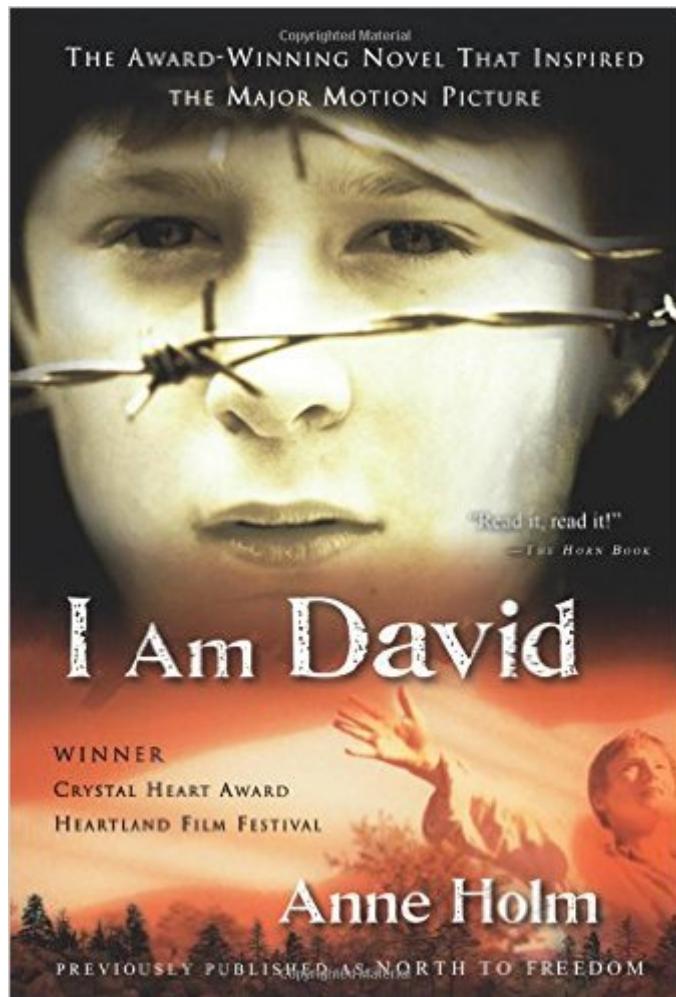


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# I Am David



## **Synopsis**

David's entire twelve-year life has been spent in a grisly prison camp in Eastern Europe. He knows nothing of the outside world. But when he is given the chance to escape, he seizes it. With his vengeful enemies hot on his heels, David struggles to cope in this strange new world, where his only resources are a compass, a few crusts of bread, his two aching feet, and some vague advice to seek refuge in Denmark. Is that enough to survive? David's extraordinary odyssey is dramatically chronicled in Anne Holm's classic about the meaning of freedom and the power of hope.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 910L (What's this?)

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (January 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0152051600

ISBN-13: 978-0152051600

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.7 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (121 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #35,861 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #40 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Europe #198 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States #577 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Classics

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

## **Customer Reviews**

I loved the book I am David. The book tells you to appreciate what you have. Even the little things that we take for granted such as a supply of food, a family, love, a bath or shower when you need it, warmth, and even school! All the things we take for granted David was without and desperately wanted and needed. David thought and lived so differently then us it was always interesting to see what David would think or do next. David is a twelve-year-old boy who starts out living in a horrible concentration camp. He is sent there when he is a baby. David had no family except a fellow prisoner by the name of Johannes who was to act as a father to David, teaching him things he doesn't know. When Johannes drops dead, leaving David all alone, David is depressed and doesn't talk to anyone. Until one day when the guard who had always been ill to him, gave David a chance

to escape. He tells David to go to Denmark where he would find freedom. On David's journey to Denmark he comes upon some interesting, but nice, people. One day he comes upon a Danish lady who shows David a picture of her friend. She said that the lady and her family were arrested and brought to a concentration camp. The man was killed, the lady spared, and the baby boy was taken away and neither the lady nor herself ever saw David again. David knew she was talking about him and his Mom and Dad, but the Danish women did not. So David had a mission, to find his mother. The woman had said she was in Denmark. David finds that he is David, not a concentration camp prisoner. He learns how to love, to smile, and to play. David learns that life is good and worth living, that death is not good. David Learns to live with out the hope of dieing.

This story has so many great literary elements: mystery, danger, adventure, moral themes (justice/human rights issues), emotional highs and lows, not to mention the educational value of understanding the effects of communism and the plight of refugees...but for me the most beautiful element was the process by which David learned to trust God. I saw the movie first, and was greatly moved, which led me to read the book. There is some difference between the two--part of the role of Jim Caviezel's character in the movie is accomplished in the book by another unlikely character towards the end. Also in the movie the identity of the person helping David escape is not revealed till the end, whereas in the book it's established from the beginning, but the mystery there (in the book) is "why" this person helped him. Besides the relatively few story changes from book to movie, the book places you "inside" David's head, whereas in the movie you are an outside observer of his circumstances. Being "inside" David's head allows you to share in more of his thoughts and feelings. The theme of understanding God's character and love for David was very powerfully accomplished in the book. When David loses his compass, he begins to feel hopeless and realizes his need for "outside" help, for which he turns to God. This is such an interesting and beautiful process because he has very limited knowledge of God. All he knows is a small bit of information given to him by Johannes, his late friend and mentor from the camp. Johannes had once told David that a long time ago there was another boy named David who wrote songs about his God and that his God led to green pastures and beside still waters.

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