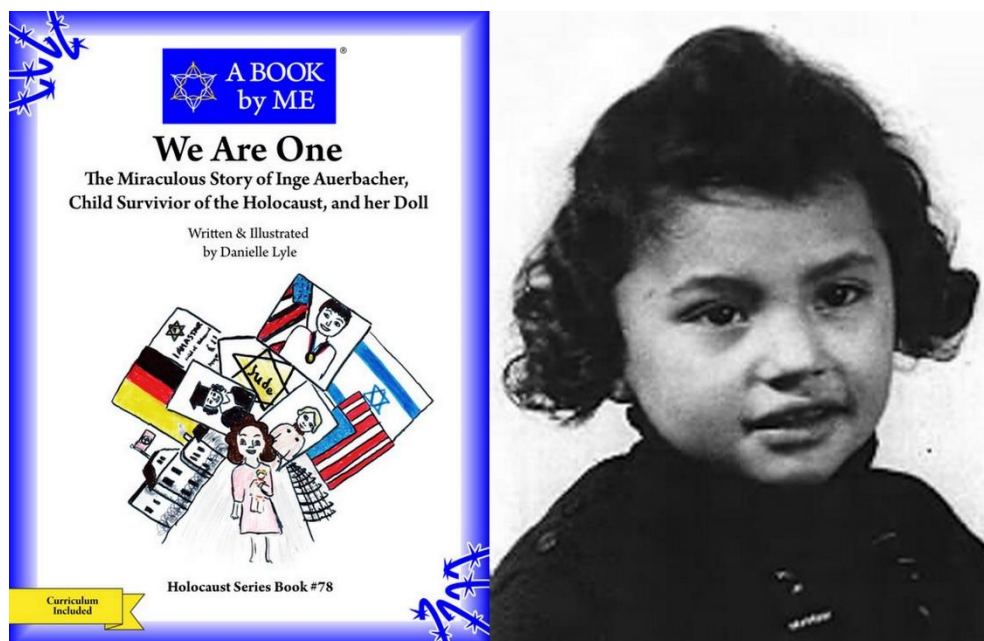




We Are One Readers Theater

Based on the book by Danielle Lyle

This book is included in the Social Justice Superstars book set of 10 different A BOOK by ME titles. It can be purchased individually or as part of the set on our website at understandingworks.org



#strength

Jewish Holocaust Survivor Inge Auerbacher survived three years in a concentration camp facing horrible conditions and illness. She was a young girl thankful to have her doll Marlene by her side. Today she speaks to schools and groups all around the world encouraging youth to overcome obstacles in their own lives.

Cast:

Inge Auerbacher age 3 (1938)

Inge Auerbacher age 7 (1942)

Inge Auerbacher age 12 (1947)

Inge Auerbacher age 23 (1958)

Inge Auerbacher age 57 (1992)

Inge Auerbacher age 85 (2020)

Narrator

Danielle Lyle

PROPS & COSTUMES: Inge will be **carrying her doll Marlene** at each age, and can pass the doll from person to person as each reader begins to read. Inge can be wearing something different and a little make-up to show her growing older. For example:

--3 years old, ruffled dress with ribbon in her hair, clutching Marlene

--7 years old, shabbier, dirty dress, doll in her arms

--12 years old, in a hospital gown, holding U.S. flag nearby and the doll

--23 years old, graduation cap on head, holding a diploma and the doll

--57 years old, short, dark hair, with suit, doll placed in a shoe box with cotton around it

--85 years old, gray hair with glasses, holding several books



Top:

Grandparents, Parents, Inge & Marlene Kippenheim, Germany
circa 1938



Left:

Inge Auerbacher & author Danielle Lyle

Right:

Marlene at USHMM in Washington, DC

Scene 1

Backyard Shed, Kippenheim, Germany (1938)

Inge age 3: I don't understand what's happening! I can hear shouts outside and lots of glass breaking. I'm really scared! Papa and Grandpa were taken away by some mean soldiers. They were just saying their morning prayers. What did they do wrong? Mama and Grandma are hiding here with me. We're in this shed in the back yard. They keep telling me to stay quiet, no matter what I hear outside. I have my doll Marlene with me. Grandma gave her to me on my birthday. That's when I turned 2. Grandma said I was her most special grandchild. That's funny, because I'm her only grandchild! I named my doll Marlene after a German movie star named Marlene Dietrich. My doll has blond hair and blue eyes. I take her everywhere with me. I feel safer when I hold her tight.

Scene 2

Terezin concentration camp, Czechoslovakia (1942)

Inge age 7: I feel like I'm in a nightmare! I have faced fear, hunger and even death from the time I boarded a train with hundreds of other Jews. I was deported here to Terezin concentration camp with my mother and father, and my doll Marlene. I didn't even get to complete first grade, and there is no school here for me. Life is hard for all of us. This place has high walls, and we live in a barracks made of bricks. There is barbed wire all around, so we can't escape. I miss my best friend, Ruth, too. She gave me some doll clothes for Marlene. She said I could give them back when she returns. I don't know what's happened to her. She and her family were sent here with us and then to another camp called Auschwitz. I've heard terrible things about that place. I keep Marlene near me and sleep with her every night. I had to leave her behind when I was sent to a so-called hospital. I had scarlet fever. I was finally allowed to re-join my parents, and Marlene, after four months. She sleeps by me in an old box. She helps me forget about the rats and the lice and the bed bugs, and the rumble in my stomach. She also keeps me hoping that there is something better ahead.

Scene 3

Children's Hospital, New York City (1947)

Inge age 12: Can you believe it! Marlene and I have made it to America! My parents and I survived that horrible concentration camp and we were able to immigrate just last year. Things haven't been easy since we've arrived. I found out that I have a disease called tuberculosis, so I've been sent to a children's hospital. It's nothing like the hospital in Terezin! The nurses and doctors here are very good to me and I get plenty of food. I must get plenty of rest, too, so I'm not allowed out of bed very often. I've been here a year already, and I'm told I will probably be here for another year. My doll Marlene is still with me and keeps me from being lonely. I practice my English by talking to her. When I can speak English better, I will be able to make friends with the other kids who are here. I can't wait to go home and finally go to school. I want so much to get an education!

Scene 4

Brooklyn, New York (1958)

Inge age 23: I'm quite proud of myself! I've just graduated from Queen's College with a BS in chemistry. Would you believe, I started high school when I was 15 years old and was able to graduate with honors after only three years! That was after I hadn't been in school since first grade! Of course, I am deeply grateful to my mother and father for keeping me learning, even when I was sick so much as a child, and when we faced so many difficult circumstances together. I thank my doll, Marlene, too! She has accompanied me through good times and bad. She is a constant reminder that I need not let fear hold me back. I can do anything I set my mind to! After some post-graduate work in Bio-chemistry, I want to conduct medical research and even work with prominent scientists from around the world. I aspire to a long career of helping children who suffer from the same diseases I had. I want to write, too. I have so many stories to tell, and I hope my stories will inspire others.

Scene 5

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C. (1992)

Inge age 57: I have decided to donate Marlene to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. This has not been an easy decision, since she has been one of the few constants through so many changes in my life. Yet, it's time to ensure that others know my story and discover how this small doll helped me move on with my life each step of the way. Just think, she was with me as a small child when life was sweet in Germany; through three terrible years in Terezin concentration camp in Czechoslovakia where death, fear and hunger haunted me and my family every day. Also, through my long recovery in a children's hospital, fighting a valiant battle to regain my strength after a bout with tuberculosis. Lastly, my efforts to become a chemist in medical research and clinical work.

Danielle Lyle: My name is Danielle and I was just a teenager when I met Inge. We met so I could write a children's book about her life. By this time, she had already donated Marlene to the museum. Remarkably, Inge told me she found out several years ago that Marlene is actually a famous doll, manufactured in honor of the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. The doll was given the name INGE when sold in stores. What an incredible coincidence! After our first meeting in my home, Inge took me to the Holocaust Museum to let me meet Marlene in person. She was glad to donate her so that others can feel as thankful as she was to have had her as a constant companion when she needed one the most. That meeting at the museum sparked interest from the Washington Post who did an article about my friendship with Inge.

Scene 6

Queens, New York (2020)

Narrator: When Inge was at an international gathering of Jewish Holocaust survivors in Jerusalem some years ago, a poem she had written was put to music and sung at that event. Inge decided to write more songs and poems after that. In 1987, she published her first book about her childhood memories, titled *I Am A Star*. She is now the author of six books.

Inge age 85: I speak in many countries to bring tolerance, human rights and my story of the Holocaust to the world. I am proud of my achievements, but most of all, my hope, my wish and prayer is for every child to grow up in peace without hunger and prejudice. No more anti-semitism!

I firmly believe that the antidote for fighting hatred is to get to know one another. I live in a neighborhood in New York City, which is the most diverse place in the whole country. I live in a row house between a Muslim family and a Hindu family. Next door to the Hindu family is a Christian family. Four of the major religions living next to each other and getting along. Having an idea in your head and a preconceived notion that these are bad people and basing it on false stereotypes is incorrect. You get to know these people of all backgrounds and religions and you realize that they are just like us. There is no room for hatred and scapegoating.

Danielle Lyle: Inge has taught me that children must be educated and get to know other cultures... and have a full and true appreciation of one another. * Inge hopes people can draw strength from her story and aspire to build a better world, especially after seeing her doll, in person or online, at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

*Inge's quote is from an interview with her by Joseph Scutts, July 29, 2020, published in the *Jerusalem Post*.