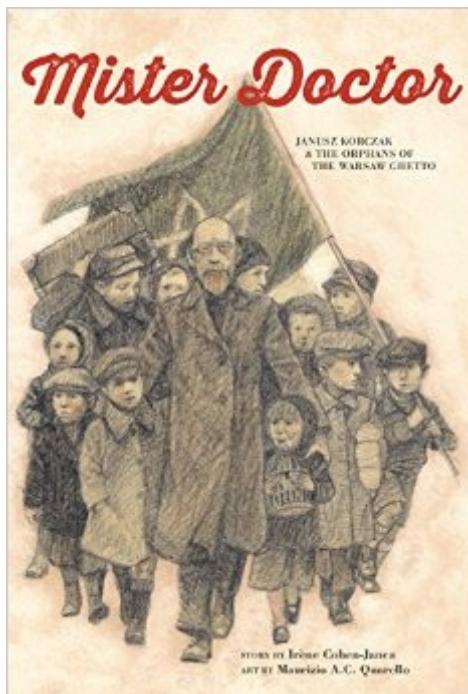


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# Mister Doctor: Janusz Korczak And The Orphans Of The Warsaw Ghetto



## Synopsis

Nothing—not even the chance to live—makes Dr. Korczak abandon the children of the Warsaw Ghetto. This profoundly moving illustrated book is based on the true story of the celebrated Polish educator, writer, and doctor Janusz Korczak. His works inspired the Universal Declaration of the Rights of the Child, which was adopted by the UN in 1959. With mood-setting artwork and lyrical text, *Mister Doctor* allows young readers to meet the remarkable man whose humanity and bravery still stand as a glimmer of light in one of history's darkest periods.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 68 pages

Publisher: Annick Press (March 2, 2015)

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Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #891,079 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #138 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Holocaust #212958 in Books > Reference

Age Range: 9 - 11 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Janusz Korczak was a pediatrician who gave up a potentially lucrative practice to found an orphanage for the children he loved. And the children loved him; the nickname they gave their mentor was "Mister Doctor." In this book by the same title, his story is told from the perspective of one of the orphans—who could be any of the orphans or all the orphans. The book opens with the last days in final period of the famous orphanage on Krochmalna Street; the Nazis invaded Warsaw on September 1, 1939, and shortly thereafter ordered the city's Jewish population into the Warsaw Ghetto. The journey is one fraught with darkness and fear, as shown by the somber illustrations showing barbed wire. They walk past the house of horrors they know as the Black Palace. (I believe the author was referring to the infamous Pawiak Prison; I doubt the children actually passed that landmark, as it was on the opposite side of the Ghetto. However, the episode adds literary value to the narrative.) The horrors of the trek are in

marked contrast to the soft, warm hands of Doctor Korczak and illustration of his favorite fairy tale character, Puss in Boots, bounding over a barbed blockade. Their new home was the best Korczak could find, but “the house of tears” at 33 Chlodna Street is clearly nothing like their beautiful old home; in one illustration, even the houseflies on the window sill are dead. Though flashbacks, the narrator recalls all the Old Doctor’s innovations: the children’s court, their newspaper, the bulletin board, postcards. In the Ghetto, everyone clings to hope by celebrating their Jewish heritage and identity. Some children learn Hebrew. A professor teaches the children a poem, “Brothers,” by the great local poet, I.

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