Mrs. Brown

10/23/17

1st Hour

Exit Ticket: The Devil’s Arithmetic, by Jane Yolen

1. The Devil’s Arithmetic is a book about a girl named Hannah who has to go to her family’s annual Passover Seder. Hannah does not want to go. She doesn’t understand why her family has to remember the reason for the Seder and talk about the Holocaust. While they are having dinner, she is asked to go open the door for the prophet, Elijah and suddenly finds herself back in time. She is no longer Hannah, but Chaya, and recognizes the people she is with as part of her family from the time of the Holocaust.

Along with the others in her community, Hannah/Chaya is taken to a concentration camp where her head is shaved, she has to wear prison clothes, and must work very hard every day for very little food. Along the way, she begins to understand why the Holocaust is so important to her family and how horrible it actually was. When she is sent to die as Chaya, she suddenly becomes Hannah again and is sent back to the modern world where her family is. She is now able to understand why they remember and talk about the past.

I really liked this book because Hannah learned an important lesson about her past and she learned to respect what her family and millions of others went through during that time.

1. I connected this book to several others that I read about the Holocaust, including Number the Stars, The Boy in the Striped Pajamas, and The Diary of Anne Frank.

5. I recommend this book to anyone who is interested in history, especially the history of the

Holocaust from the point of view of the prisoners. When reading this book, I appreciated how

brave the people in the camps were and it made me understand what a terrible time it was.