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# A Bag Of Marbles: The Graphic Novel



## Synopsis

In 1941 in occupied Paris, brothers Maurice and Joseph play a last game of marbles before running home to their father's barbershop. This is the day that will change their lives forever. With the German occupation threatening their family's safety, the boys' parents decide Maurice and Joseph must disguise themselves and flee to their older brothers in the free zone. Surviving the long journey will take every scrap of ingenuity and courage they can muster. And if they hope to elude the Nazis, they must never, under any circumstances, admit to being Jewish. The boys travel by train, by ferry, and on foot, facing threats from strangers and receiving help from unexpected quarters. Along the way they must adapt to the unfamiliar world beyond their city and find a way to be true to themselves even as they conceal their identities. Based on an autobiographical novel by Joseph Joffo and adapted with the author's input, this true story offers a harrowing but inspiring glimpse of a childhood cut short.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a beautiful book that tells the true story of two young Jewish boys on the run from the Gestapo in war-torn France. The author, Joseph Joffo is never nostalgic about the ordeal he and his brother went through in their bid to escape the Death Camps of Nazi Germany. He writes from the heart but he writes with purpose. His story is a warning to future generations never to take their lives for granted. A Bag of Marbles is a fantastic book that should be on the shelves of every school in the world, just to remind future generations that life is not always a bed of roses...

Kudos to the translator for keeping the author's words & spirit in tact in this heroic and moving testimonial about what it took to survive the Holocaust & what we all must do to keep other holocausts from happening again. In his own words, "be brave, know how to take care of yourself, don't rely on others, don't let your emotions get the better of you, take responsibility." Clearly, this title is a story that will encourage & remind young readers to always remember and to take responsibility.

I am reviewing as a Jewish mother that has not read the novel. My 10 year old son received this as a gift. He does not read comics or graphic novels but is an avid reader. He didn't put it down all evening, went to bed with the book (I can only assume he was re-reading by then) and keeps it by his bedside now. He LOVES the graphics and the story and has asked me to see if the author has written more.

from the first line of the book you feel like these two boys are your best friends. you read about their adventures, but most of all how this forms or changes their young personalities. i've also read one of his other books(Anna et son orchestre)and they both create a certain atmosphere when reading them. i consider both to be one of the best books i've ever read, and i will certainly read them again..and again.

This review is for a new graphic novel interpretation of the novel 'A Bag Of Marbles' by Joseph Joffo. It tells the story of how his Jewish family survived and escaped from occupied France during World War II. When Nazis threaten Maurice and Jo, their father has a plan. He's already migrated from Russia to Paris to escape other problems, so he is used to running. And he's sent Jo's 2 older brothers on ahead. The boys have to make their way south through the border of occupied France without papers and only their ingenuity to get them by. There are narrow escapes, clever plans, heart-warming reunions and tragedy. The art by Vincent Bailly is great, keeping the art light and then ominous then light as the story changes tones. It's a rough subject, but it's a good story and is accessible to middle grade children. The original novel has been translated into 18 languages, and after reading this, I can see why the story has endured.

A adaptation of the original memoir by Joseph Joffo by illustrator Vincent Bailly. Well drawn and beautifully colorized. this is the story of Joseph and his brother as they travelled across France trying to stay one step ahead of the Nazi soldiers. They travelled from Occupied France to to the

Free Zone in France alluding the Nazis. Once they are even saved by a priest on a train when they were asked to show their papers, which they did not have. Though they keep moving and living with different people throughout the war, at the end of the war the brothers and their mother are able to return to Paris. I would say this is a book for older teens, not young children.

Jose H. The book name I was reading is The Bag of Marbles and the author is Joseph Joffo. The two boys are the protagonist and their names were Jo and Maurice. What I like about the book when they had to go on a long journey to be safe from Germany and leave their parents and what I didn't like when someone died in the book and they had to leave him there to be safe from the bad guys.

Joseph Joffo's amazing real-life story is depicted in this graphic novel suitable for teens and younger readers (as well as adults). Joffo was born in Paris in 1931, and he and his brother faced a great deal of pain growing up Jewish. When their parents realize it's no longer safe for them in France, they decide to flee, and their journey causes the two brothers to act bravely in the face of a horrible looming threat. This is not a quick read. It's a densely packed comic that does not scrimp on story or details. It is intense (but not too intense for young readers), and it is thorough. It's also very educational, perfectly suited for young readers: a map depicts Joseph and his brother's travel through Europe, and a glossary at the end reveals the meaning of several French terms. There's also a segment about France under the occupation, which gives readers a simple overview. This powerful book is well worth exploring for readers of any age.-- John Hogan

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