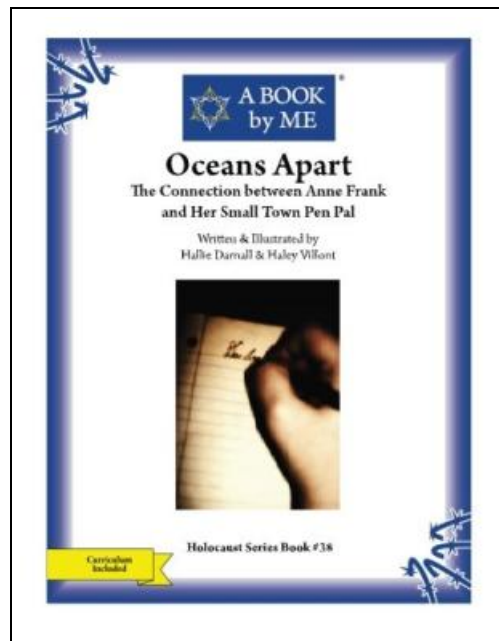


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Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 279 x 216 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.In spring of 1940 something special happened in the Danville Community School in Iowa. Teacher Birdie Mathews offered her students the chance to correspond with pen pals overseas. A student named Juanita Wagner drew the name of a ten-year-old girl in the Netherlands-Anne Frank. The brief connection between Anne Frank in Amsterdam and Iowa was the work of Birdie Mathews. Mathews was a veteran teacher who had taught for over two decades in country schools. She taught a wide range of curriculum and varying ages and levels of students. No doubt this had made her a seasoned teacher who had overcome the obstacles that plagued rural teachers. Miss Birdie acquired teaching resources through travel. She was even a bit of a local celebrity when she sent home lengthy letters to the local newspaper sharing stories of her 1914 trip to Europe. Her letters were front-page news, and her travel experiences became classroom lesson plans. Her students often spent afternoons gathering around Mathews to hear about her adventures. In order to open their eyes to the world beyond, she frequently sent postcards to her students from her travels overseas and across the country. On one of these trips she acquired the names of potential pen pals for her students. Having pen-pals in the classroom was rare at this time. Only creative teachers would have set up situations in which their students could learn first-hand about the world. Some Danville students wrote to other children in the United States, but many, including Juanita Wagner, chose to write to overseas pen pals. In her introductory letter in the spring of 1940, Juanita, age ten, wrote about Iowa, her...

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