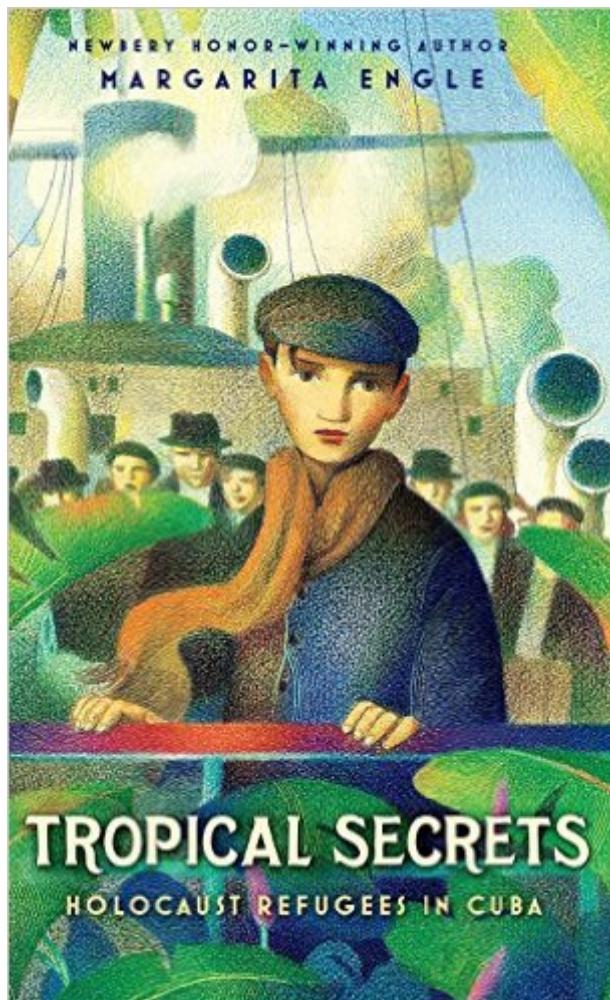


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# Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Refugees In Cuba



## **Synopsis**

Daniel has escaped Nazi Germany with nothing but a desperate dream that he might one day find his parents again. But that golden land called New York has turned away his ship full of refugees, and Daniel finds himself in Cuba. As the tropical island begins to work its magic on him, the young refugee befriends a local girl with some painful secrets of her own. Yet even in Cuba, the Nazi darkness is never far away . . .

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 1170L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 208 pages

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #519,020 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #51 inÂ  Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > Holocaust #69 inÂ  Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Poetry #85 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Holocaust

Age Range: 12 - 18 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

## **Customer Reviews**

If children's authors were given superpowers upon the occasion of their first publication, I know what Margarita Engle's would be. Stealth. She's the kind of author you never see coming. You can pick up a book of hers, be it "The Poet Slave of Cuba" or "The Surrender Tree" and you'll never see her wordplay coming. She plays fair, of course. From page one onward you see exactly what you're getting yourself into, sometimes as early as the first line. What you took to be the poor man's version of a novel (the verse novel sometimes fails to get the appropriate amount of respect it deserves) instead has taken a board with a nail in it and is now systematically whacking you in the heart with its text. In the case of Ms. Engle, Cuba serves as her muse, and not in the way you might expect (see: Castro). Through her books kids are learning about historical aspects of Cuba that you simply cannot find anywhere else in juvenile lit. She's already tackled slavery in "The Poet Slave of

Cuba" and the war of independence from Spain "The Surrender Tree". Now comes the most child-friendly of her novels. Don't mistake the term "child-friendly" with "simplistic", though. Perhaps the best plotted and conceived of her novels, Engle writes her most touching tribute to Cuba yet. As a place where all people with an inclination have found their own true home. He was meant to wind up in New York. That was the plan.

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