

# Skokie Public Library's Book Discussion Guide

## Fugitive Pieces by Anne Michaels

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- Throughout the book how does the significance of the title reveal itself?
- Being a poet, Anne Michaels fills this story of loss and redemption with vivid imagery.
- Which images stand out in your mind?
- Music is one of the themes throughout the story, how is it significant?( Bella(piano)141 Alex, Naomi(lullabies) Ben's father(piano teacher, conductor) Michaels herself is theater music composer and believes that music can take you to another place, it can be therapy.
- Both Jakob and Ben overcome the past in their own ways, how do they differ?
- J. goes from half wild casualty of Holocaust to an artist and loving man.
- Book is many layered exploration of way deepest wounds can be healed.Love can survive grief.
- What does the book say about being an immigrant? Does Jakob ever truly feel at home?
- Ben's parents?
- Ben's parents react to their holocaust experience in different ways, what makes them differ? 223
- The last line in the book spoken by Ben means what?
- Why is Jakob haunted by the memory of his sister Bella more than his parents?p.139 night after night... J. imagines what her death was like, what she felt. P59Athos searched for bella(lit res. Center5,6)
- Does the poetic style of writing make it any easier to read about the Holocaust????Does it lift the atmosphere of so dark a subject?
- History is moral, p. 138 History and memory
- Jacob's work combines geology and poetry, Ben's weather and biography.
- Science thread throughout.
- Significance of drowned city twice.
- Athos wanted to go on the expedition to Antartica, was married only 5 years, she died.
- Friends in Greece, Kostas and Daphne, in Toronto Maurice and Irena and their sons.
- Language destroys (german) p.79, 143. P.92 English lan



**Skokie Public Library**

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