Since 2003, Deb Bowen, Founder/Executive Director of A BOOK by ME, has been asking children to hear the WWII generation firsthand and write and illustrate their stories preserving them for future generations.

It started when school-age students wrote and illustrated the stories of three Jewish Holocaust survivors she befriended — each named Esther. Almost twenty years later, kids can choose to write for either the Holocaust, Human Rights or Hero series. The current focus for storytelling is the WWII and the Civil Rights eras.

- Serves on Holocaust Education Committee of the Quad Cities and Yom Hashoah Committee
- Member of Daughters of American Revolution (DAR)
- Recipient of Hope for Humanity Award, Augustana College in April 2015
- Speaker at Holocaust Museum LA in October 2015
- Speaker at Children of American Revolution (CAR) at Illinois State Convention in February of 2016
- Speaker at State Social Studies Institute in Des Moines Iowa in June of 2016
- Nominated for a Jefferson Award Spring 2019
- Virtual Presenter “A New Way to Make History Come Alive” at International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) December 2020

References:
Allan Ross, Director Jewish Federation of the Quad Cities 309-793-1300
Beth Kean, Director, Holocaust Museum LA 323-456-5086
Stefanie Wager, Vice-President National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) 515-988-8556
Michael Wolnerman, Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines 515-987-0899

“I have many times researched and studied the Holocaust, but these stories bring the experience to life.”

Mary Jean Eisenhower
Granddaughter of President Dwight D. Eisenhower