**The Berlin Boxing Club** by Robert Sharenow. (416 pgs.)

Would you try to change who you are for the people who hate you? What if your life was in their hands?

It’s the 1930s and Karl Stern is a teenager. He is also a nonobservant Jew in Germany. As the Nazi party rises to power, his Jewish identity goes from being a non-factor to being his central identifying feature. Strangers and those he once dubbed friends only see him as part of the group they now blame for the entirety of the world’s problems. When a friend of his family, heavyweight boxing champion Max Schmeling, offers to train Karl at the Berlin Boxing Club, Karl sees an opportunity. He can reinvent himself.

Will boxing mean his transformation....and his survival?

*(WWII historical fiction, boxing, Jews, Nazi Germany, 2012 Booklist Best Fiction for Young Adults, 2012 Sydney Taylor Book Award)*

IL: **MG+** - BL: **5.7** – AR Pts: **13.0**

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*~ Booktalk by Celise Reech-Harper*