

Literature Circles Questions

Use the questions and the activities that follow to get more out of the experience of reading *Hitler's Daughter* by Jackie French.

1. When and where does Anna tell her story about Heidi?
2. What about her appearance sets Heidi apart?
3. As he hears Anna's story about Heidi, Mark has many questions for his parents and his teacher about Hitler and the Holocaust. What information does he learn through these conversations?
4. Why does Heidi have to call Hitler "Duffi"?
5. Why do you think Fraulein Gelbert seems uncomfortable talking to Heidi about the Jews?
6. One night Mark dreams that he is listening to Hitler give a speech in his town as the raid causes a flood. In the dream, Hitler screams, "You are all Hitler's children!" What do you think this dream means? What does this dream show about Mark's response to Anna's story?
7. How do you think you would feel if you discovered that someone in your family had committed an awful crime? How would your relationship change? Would you ever be able to forgive that person?
8. Heidi lives a very isolated life without any contact with other children and very little knowledge of the world outside her home. How do you think this kind of upbringing would affect a person?
9. After Anna starts her story about Heidi, she acts hesitant to continue. Why do you think this is?
10. When Heidi leaves her first home with Fraulein Gelber, she is tempted to leave behind all the dolls that her father had given her – "the pretty perfect dolls." Why?
11. Why does everybody in Heidi's life seem to think she is a "lucky girl"?
12. How does Fraulein Gelber change as the story progresses? Were you surprised when she left Heidi alone in the bunker?

13. Near the end of the story, Heidi calls Hitler “Father” for the first time. Why did she do this? And why did Heidi’s father act as though he didn’t know her?
14. Do you think Anna’s story is true or “just pretend”? Explain.
15. Anna's story causes Mark to wonder whether a child of an evil person is likely to follow in his or her parent’s footsteps. Discuss reasons why this might happen. What are some factors that might prevent a child from going the way of his or her parent?

Note: These literature circle questions are keyed to Bloom’s Taxonomy as follows: Knowledge: 1-3; Comprehension: 4-6; Application: 7-8; Analysis: 9-11; Synthesis: 12-13; Evaluation: 14-15.

Activities

1. You’ve been selected to design a cover for the newest edition of *Hitler’s Daughter*. Draw a new cover to represent the book to students who haven’t yet read it, and include reviews from other “critics” in your class to create interest in the book.
2. As he learns about Hitler’s Germany and the Holocaust, Mark hears new terms such as “genocide” and “totalitarian country.” Use a dictionary to define these terms and explain how these definitions add to your understanding of what happened in Hitler’s Germany. How do these terms fit with what you already knew about Hitler and the Holocaust?
3. Imagine the conversation after Anna’s grandmother has finished telling the Heidi story to her granddaughter. What questions does Anna have for her grandmother, and how much is her grandmother willing to tell her? Does Anna really believe her grandmother’s story is true? Write the dialogue between Anna and her grandmother.

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