



BOOK CLUB KITS

THIS KIT CONTAINS

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE BY ANTHONY DOERR

- 1) Let's talk about the significance of the Sea of Flames jewel. Do you believe it did hold those "powers?" Or do you think it was supposed to represent something more about human nature? Did you believe that Marie-Laure and her father had the real jewel the entire time?
- 2) On page 133, when Werner is about to leave to join the Hitler Youth, his sister Jutta is horrified and says: "Is it right...to do something only because everyone else is doing it?" And that's when doubt slips into Werner's mind. How did this sentence impact Werner and his decision making later in the book?
- 3) When Werner goes back home with Frederick, Werner still believes he'll be able to be an engineer one day and Fredrick will also study birds. But on page 223, Frederick says to Werner, "Your problem, Werner is that you still believe you own your life." Let's talk about this statement and how it related to Werner.
- 4) After Marie-Laure's father's been missing, Madame Manec takes Marie-Laure out to the ocean. How did this help bring a little joy back to her life? Let's talk about how the ocean plays a larger role later in the novel.
- 5) On page 270 when Madame Manec tries to get Marie-Laure's great-Uncle Etienne to transmit codes, she says to him: "don't you want to be alive before you die?" Let's talk about what she meant by that and how it impacted Etienne after she passed.
- 6) Prior to France, Werner experiences the unimaginable in war. What did you think of those sections? When he gets to France, he's in charge of finding Etienne's radio broadcast but when he does, he realizes this is the person behind the French broadcast of his youth. So he says he doesn't hear anything. Why do you think he made that choice? What changed in him?
- 7) Before we get to the time timelines connecting, let's first talk about Major von Rumpel. So it seems he believes the jewel will heal his cancer and will stop at nothing to get it. Do you think he made for a good antagonist to Marie-Laure's protagonist?
- 8) When Werner is first at the Hitler Youth camp, he meets Volkheimer who is a big, hulk-like figure but has a fondness for music. When it gets to the climax of the story and the bombing of Saint-Malo, Marie-Laure, out of desperation begins to play a record of Etienne's music as loudly as possible in the hope that von Rumpel (who is in her house) will find her. Both Werner and Volkheimer are listening to the music. Why do you think the music drove Volkheimer to finally get them out of being trapped? How did the recording fill both Werner and Volkheimer with hope?
- 9) Before Werner and Marie-Laure part so she can go somewhere safe, he tells her she's brave. On page 469, she says, "When I lost my sight, Werner, people said I was brave. But it is not bravery; I have no choice. I wake up and live my life. Don't you do the same?" He responds, "Not in years. But today. Today maybe I did." Let's talk about this moving exchange.
- 10) Let's discuss part eleven and the ending of the book. What did you think about what happened to each character?