



A Whale in Paris

By Claire Polders & Daniel Presley

Club Tome It List Discussion Guide



Pre-Reading Questions

1. Do you know anyone who has ever been in the military and fought during a war? Who was this person? Were they or are they a relative? What kinds of stories have they shared with you about their time in the military?
2. Nightmares are a type of dream that make us feel scared or unsettled. Have you ever had a nightmare? Did you remember details when you woke up or did you just remember feeling scared or anxious? Can you still remember?
3. What is the largest animal you have ever been close to in person? Did you feel safe enough to interact with the animal?
4. Being separated from your family even for a short period of time can be difficult. How much harder would it be if you were unsure whether you would ever see them again?

Post-Reading Questions

1. Chantal and her Papa were questioned by the German Soldiers. Chantal was worried they might ask what she felt was the trickiest question of all. She did not want to have to answer where her mother was. Why would Chantal think this was a tricky question?
2. Chantal was afraid of falling asleep. She was afraid of having the white nightmare. What was the white nightmare and what made it different than any other nightmare?
3. Aunt Sophie was Chantal's mother's sister. Aunt Sophie had a problem. After Chantal's mother's accident, Aunt Sophie made a promise to Chantal. What was the promise? Why do you think Aunt Sophie would make such a big promise?
4. A lost whale in the Seine would be a remarkable event. What other events regarding the whale would seem remarkable or unlikely?
5. War is never an easy thing to experience whether you're involved directly as Chantal was or hearing about it from a distance. Do you think Chantal coped well? Was she right to try to protect the whale at the risk of her own life?
6. Family relationships are difficult. Papa and Aunt Sophie did not always get along, but he risked his life to save her. Why would he do that?

Post-Reading Activities

1. A Whale in Paris might make a great movie. Give the book some visual life by creating a book trailer and submit it to the Tome Book Trailer Video Competition.
2. Ocean creatures move through the water like poetry in motion. Use creative visual wording to write a poem about Franklin and Chantal's experience navigating the Seine back to the ocean. Submit it to the Tome List Poetry Competition.
3. *A Whale in Paris* by Daniel Presley & Claire Polders is Historical Fiction. It is set in the time period of World War II during the German occupation of France. The Invasion of Normandy celebrated its 75th anniversary this year, 2019. Find some facts about this historical event and write an Tome List Book Review Blog Post focusing on the facts supported in the book.

More about this book

- Author's website: <http://www.danielpresley.com/>
- Author's website: <http://www.clairepolders.com/news/a-whale-in-paris-in-paperback/>
- LitKidz review: http://litkidz.com/whale-in-paris_childrens_book
- Publisher Information: <https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/A-Whale-in-Paris/Daniel-Presley/9781534419162>
- Flipgrid Topic Link: <https://flipgrid.com/45617coe>