



Rescue

Jennifer Nielsen

Tome Society It List Discussion Guide

February 2023 Book of the Month



Pre-reading questions

1. Do you know any famous spies? Share what you know with your classmates.
2. What is an anagram? Try your luck with these European country anagrams
 - a. MEG RYAN visited this country.
 - b. You can ROW ANY place in this country.
 - c. You can take A SPIN on your bike in this country.
 - d. WE SEND letters to this country.
3. Rescue is set during WWII. Do you like reading books about this time period?

Post-reading questions

1. Why do people react with anger as well as thankfulness when Meggie and her family sell them food?
2. Meggie knows and meets many people on her journey who are hungry and scared. Some would do anything to keep their families fed safe, even helping the Germans. How does Meggie feel about these people?
3. Compare and contrast how Meggie's Mom (pg 86) and Jakob (pg. 110) define living in "the middle". Who do you think is right? Have you ever tried staying "in the middle" of a difficult situation?
4. What does Jakob teach Meggie about the German people? How does he do so? What about his personality and background prove to Meggie his statement "We are not all the same" is true? How did Meggie react to learning Jakob's story?
5. Discuss Albert's comment "All we ask is that you look at us for who we are now trying to be."
6. Who did you believe to be the traitor? Why were they helping the Nazi's? When did you figure it out? What clues and foreshadowing gave the traitor away?
7. Liesel is shocked to learn of the food shortages, why do you think she was unaware of what was happening in other countries occupied by Germany? Do you blame her for not knowing? Why would the Nazi's want to keep people like Liesel from knowing what they were doing to people?
8. What skills does each person, Meggie, Jakob, Albert, Liesel, bring to the group to aid in their escape? What skills and knowledge made Meggie a good leader of their escape?
9. Captain Stewart gives Meggie his bag of spy supplies, what were the items in his pack? How and when did Meggie use those items to help the group and complete the mission?
10. What was your first impression of Albert? What are his strengths and weaknesses? How does your opinion of him change by the end of the story? Why?

Post-reading activities

1. The author includes a 'Secret Codes' section at the end of the book. Working alone or with a classmate, attempt to solve the examples. You can even try creating a secret code yourself to exchange with a friend and see who can solve theirs fastest.

2. There are many exciting moments throughout the story. Using the author's depiction of events, recreate a scene of your choice in a drawing. Ask your advisor to submit your completed project to the It List Fan Art competition.
3. Did you enjoy the book? If so, create a promotional flyer to hang in your school's library. This flyer should tell others about why you liked Rescue and why they should give it a try too. Ask your advisor to submit your completed project to the It List Promotional Flyer competition.

More About This Book

Author's Website: <http://jennielsen.com/>

Publisher's Discussion Guide:

<https://www.scholastic.com/content/dam/scholastic/educators/discussion-guides/jennifer-nielsen-historical-fiction-discussion-guide.PDF>

Official Book Trailer: <https://youtu.be/yP-QPfsorCU>

Answers to anagrams: 1) Germany, 2) Norway, 3) Spain, 4) Sweden