

Book Club Discussion Questions

Orphan Monster Spy – Matt Killeen

1. Sarah agrees to work with the Captain even after realizing he was partly responsible for her mother's death. What was her strongest motivator for this decision?
2. What purpose does the character of the Mouse serve?
3. How trustworthy is the Captain?
4. You could describe Sarah as the ultimate underdog — does she transcend that by the end?
5. Did the story teach you anything you didn't know about the war?
6. What messages does the book hold for today's young readers about learning from the past?
7. Frau Klose is an interesting character. Discuss how her life has been affected by the Nazi regime, and how this impacts on her views of Sarah.
8. After the river run, the Ice Queen says "I was very wrong about you, Haller...and you go on surprising me. I mistook your size for weakness, your obstinacy for pride. But you are fearless." Who underestimates Sarah throughout the novel, and why do you think they make this mistake?
9. Discuss the relationship between Elsa and her father. How does he manipulate her to achieve his own means? Are there any similarities between Elsa's father and Sarah's mother?
10. At the end of the novel Sarah questions 'Who were the right people? The ones who had left a trail of corpses behind them and a teenager strapped to a hospital bed? The monsters who ran the country, or the monsters who battled them?' Are the actions of Sarah and the Captain justified across the novel? Can the means ever justify the end? Can killing ever be for the best?