

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Hidden Girl Reading Reflections

After you finish reading each chapter, answer the questions which correspond with that chapter. This is designed to enhance your reading experience and aid your understanding of the book.

### Chapter One

1. Think about how Lola describes the setting - the weather, the marketplace, her family. What is the author trying to accomplish with these descriptions?
2. Already, a symbol has been introduced. Think about a particular object that has been referred to several times. Predict what the symbol is and what it might symbolize.

### Chapter Two

1. What type of figurative language is used in the first sentence of this chapter? Explain the significance of this figurative language.
2. According to the author, why do the Germans follow Hitler?
3. Explain the steps of the process that Hitler used to rid Germany of its Jews.
4. "The Nazis say the broken glass looks so beautiful it shines like crystal." What words in this sentence are the most repulsive to you and why?

5. Why do some Jews stay in Germany and Austria?
6. Why do the Poles respond differently than the Jews to the Russian occupation of Czortkow?
7. Explain the allusion on page 17. Why is this significant?
8. Which population in Czortkow turns on the Jews? Why do you think that Lola's father is never the same when a gang of children beats him up?

### Chapter Three

1. Because we are seeing the Holocaust from a child's point of view, simple words begin to change and take on new meaning. We see how a child's perspective of the world is developed. Name one word that develops a new meaning to Lola based on her experience and explain the change in meaning.
2. Why does Lola's mother get shot? She did everything right. What is the motivation of her killer? What does this say about human nature? [Hint: Look for the possessive pronouns to gain insight.]
3. While we see the horrific side of human nature from Kurt Kollner, we see different aspects of human nature in other people. What does Babcia do after she loses her children? What does this say about human nature?

## Chapter Four

1. “You don’t know in advance who might help you. Some people who say terrible things about Jews take Jewish children into their homes, anyway. Others, who hate Hitler and everything he stands for, say no, because they are too afraid they will be caught and punished.” Weigh the decisions of the people who do not take Jews in their homes, even though they disagree with Hitler. Can you blame them? Or are they wrong for not taking action against injustice? What would you do if the lives of your family members were at risk?
2. What things are taken away from Lola that you take for granted every day? Do you think someone who endured the Holocaust views even the little things in life differently after it is over?
3. Describe the incident during which Lola “grows up.” Why do you think that stands out in her memory as the moment she grew up? What makes her different in that moment than in the previous pages of the book so far?

## Chapter Five

1. Find the simile at the top of page 46 and write it down. Explain its meaning.

2. Read the description of the dress on pages 46 and 47. What does the dress symbolize?

### Chapter Six

1. Write at least four sentences reflecting on this chapter. What statements had the greatest impact on you?

### Chapter Seven

1. Lola says at the top of page 64, "There are worse things than being hidden, I realize." What things does Lola mention as being worse than hiding?
2. "I see my uncle. I recognize him. I know him. It's an emotional moment, but I don't cry. I'm beyond tears. There are feelings beyond tears." What do you think Lola means by this? Why does she write the staccato (short) sentences? What effect does this have on the text and on the reader?

### Chapter Eight

1. On page 70, Lola says "D-day- the day Americans think of as the beginning of the end of the war." Why do you think she says Americans? Why was it not the end for the Jews? What was still happening?

2. What do you think Lola means on page 70 when she writes “This is where I start to come out of myself”?

3. What does Lola mean when she says, “It’s harder to be poor in a rich country than it was to be poor in a poor country”?

### Chapter Nine

1. Why can’t historians know for sure how many hidden children there were during the Holocaust period?

2. Why did one hidden children say that hidden children “were old people with children’s faces, without a trace of joy, happiness, or childhood innocence”?

3. What percentage of the non-Jewish population helped Jews during the Holocaust? Does this surprise you? Why?

### Chapter Ten

1. Why does the book end with the passage about the birdhouses? Explain the connection between the birdhouses and what has been discussed in the book.