



Resistance Discussion Guide



About the Book

Resistance is a graphic novel written by Carla Jablonski and illustrated by Leland Purvis. The book follows the story of three children living in a small village in France during World War II. When the German army comes to their town, they have to decide what to do: should they stay out of things or should they get involved with the French Resistance movement and act on their beliefs?

Questions for Discussion

Resistance is a graphic novel, a story told in words and pictures. How do you think this story would be told differently if it was a novel, with only words? How would it be different if it was a movie, with just pictures?

Paul and Marie spend a lot of the time in this book arguing with each other—as siblings tend to do. How would you describe their relationship? Why do you think they treat each other the way they do?

There are frequently pieces of Paul's art interspersed with the story. Why do you think the author and illustrator chose this storytelling device? What does the art say about Paul, and the way he interprets the world?

When their town is first invaded, Paul, Marie, and Henri all feel differently about it, but all three of them end up working to help the Resistance. To whom do you think you would feel similarly in this situation? Would you act similarly?

Henri and his parents are persecuted by the German soldiers because they are Jewish. Why do you think the German soldiers believed Jewish people should be victimized?

Paul and Marie originally think Jacques is an idle layabout, then suspect that he's helping the Germans. Learning he's a member of the French Resistance is a total reversal of their original opinion. Have you ever been similarly mistaken about someone? How did you feel when you realized your initial judgment was incorrect?

Resistance is set in France, and the beliefs, opinions, and experiences of Paul, Marie, and Henri are all very much shaped by the country they live in. Does their perspective on the war differ from what you know about World War II? How is their story different from what an American child would have experienced?

The members of the French Resistance defied the new laws of their country to commit sabotage against the German army. Do you think their decision to act against their new government was the right one? Are there situations in your life where you find rules or laws constraining or wrong and think you should act against them?

