

## HIDDEN – READING GROUP GUIDE



### *About the Book:*

Dounia, a grandmother, tells her granddaughter the story even her son has never heard: how, as a young Jewish girl in Paris, she was hidden away from the Nazis by a series of neighbors and friends who risked their lives to keep her alive when her parents had been taken to concentration camps. *Hidden* ends with Dounia and her mother rediscovering each other as World War II ends . . . and a young girl in present-day France becoming closer to her grandmother, who can finally, after all those years, tell her story.

### *For Discussion:*

*Hidden* is a graphic novel, told in words in pictures. What do you think would have been different about this book if it had been told exclusively in prose, as a novel? Or in pictures exclusively, as a movie?

Dounia first thinks that her Jewish star is a sheriff's badge. Have you ever been mistaken about the meaning of something like she was? How did you feel when you realized?

When Dounia begins to wear the Jewish star, her classmates and teachers are cruel to her, though they'd previously been nice. Why have they changed their behavior? What would you do in a similar situation?

After Dounia's parents are taken away, her neighbors defy the police and hide Dounia in their apartment. The police are employed by the government to enforce our laws, but are there times when it's okay to not do what they say?

Dounia calls Mrs. Péricard, who takes care of her after the Nazis take away her parents, 'Mama' instead of 'Mom' or 'Mommy,' which is what she calls her real mother. Why does this differentiation between Mrs. Péricard and her mother make a difference to her?

When the Péricards are escaping with Dounia to the country, their janitor calls the police on them. Why do you think she does this?

When Dounia goes to live in the country, she stops talking because she had 'lost the words.' Are there times where you have felt like this?

As an adult, the first person that Dounia ever tells her story to is her granddaughter. Do you know all about your grandparents' childhoods? What were their lives like when they were kids?