

***White Bird: A Wonder Story* DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Why do you think the book begins with a description of Sara's "fairy tale" life, rather than starting with the occupation of France during WWII? How does this influence how you see her and her family?
- How did the author use the images of the Nazi flag within the story? How did those images make you feel?
- Have you ever felt discriminated against or singled out like Sara or Julien do?
- Do you notice any important similarities or differences between Sara and Julien in Part I of the book?
- Why do you think that Sara's father asks her to keep wearing her winter boots to school on p. 39?
- Why doesn't Sara choose to join her classmates when they run into the woods? What does this tell you about her character? What would you have done in this situation?
- The school's staff is faced with hard choices when the Nazis arrive to take the Jewish children. What do you think of Pastor Luc and Mademoiselle Petitjean's actions? What other choices could they have made, and what would have resulted from those choices?
- What role does imagination and creativity play in helping Sara survive in isolation? How does Julien and his family help with this?
- How would you feel if you were isolated in a barn like Sara? What would be the hardest thing about it?
- Why do you think Vincent hates Julien so much? What do you think may have influenced Vincent, turning him into the person we see in the story?
- What was important about Sara's revelation about The Lafleurs on p. 165?
- What is important about the quotes that begin each new section? Why do you think the author decided to include these so prominently?
- What do you think the symbol of the "white bird" is meant to represent throughout the book?
- After reading, can you think of any modern examples that relate to Sara and Julien's experience? What are they?

Activity for *White Bird: A Wonder Story*

Interview an older relative or family friend. A grandparent or great-grandparent would be an ideal choice. **Pick just a few** of the questions below to ask them. You may be surprised by what you learn about your family.

1. Were you named after a family member or family friend?
2. Did you have a nickname growing up?
3. Where was your first house? Did you live anywhere else?
4. Can you tell me about your brothers and sisters?
5. Did you do household chores when you were a child? Which one did you dislike most?
6. Do you like to read? What kinds of books do you like?
7. Did you have a favorite movie or song?
8. Was there ever a time when you didn't have enough to eat or a safe place to stay?
9. Where did you go to school? Were you a good student?
10. What was your favorite subject at school?
11. Did you play sports? Which ones?
12. Did you go to college? Where? What did you study?
13. When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?
14. What was your first job?
15. Were you in the military? Were you in any wars?
16. Are you married? How did you meet? Where did you go on your first date?
17. What do you remember about your grandparents?
18. Did you ever meet any of your great-grandparents?
19. What do you consider the most important inventions in your lifetime?
20. Who has been the most influential person in your life?
21. What is the most difficult thing you have ever experienced?
22. Is there anyone famous in your family?
23. What world events had the most impact on you when you were a child? How did they affect your family?
24. Did you have any pets when you were a child?