

1. "God is infinitely more beautiful and loving and tender and kind than anything we can imagine of Him." Callie's view of God changed after reading these words in *The Story Girl*. Do you agree with this perspective? How has literature influenced or changed your view on God?
2. Many of the Austrian characters in *Hidden Among the Stars* are trapped in the same seemingly hopeless situation in 1938, but each of them handles the threat of evil differently. Have you ever been trapped in a situation that seemed hopeless? Did you respond like any of these characters?
3. The Nazis banned and even burned literature written by Jewish authors like Felix Salten because of its potential to expose the truth about Nazism. In the contemporary story, Callie discusses the good and bad influences in children's literature (healthy books to build a mind, brain candy, and poison). What do you think about the censorship of literature? How do you sift through different genres and messages in books for you and/or your family?
4. People often hide the wounds of their past and sometimes the emotional pain of their present as well. Why do we hide our pain? How can we help others heal from both past and present wounds?
5. Both Callie and Annika had to confront their fears near the end of the book, but the results of these confrontations were very different. What fears have you had to face in your life, and what happened when you confronted them?
6. Callie often invokes lines and stories from children's books to understand the world around her. How does this mind-set help and perhaps hurt her?
7. What is the significance of music in this story? What sustains you through difficult times?
8. Charlotte invited Callie and Brie to be part of her family after their parents died. Do you think family can extend beyond biology? What does family mean to you?
9. Annika sees the beauty and power of God in flowers and in birdsong. Where do you find God in your daily life?
10. Josh wrestled with the question of why God would allow harm to come to His children. Do you believe that God is in complete control of our world? Where do you think He is when people suffer?
11. In spite of her fears, Annika makes the ultimate sacrifice for Luzi and Max by offering herself instead of allowing the agents to take Luzi away. Do you think Annika made the right decision? How would you have responded?
12. The pastor in Hallstatt says, "Death is no longer a threat to those who believe in Him. The ultimate weapon of our enemy has been stolen away." What do you believe about the afterlife? How does this impact your life today?



