

Discussion questions for Traitors Among Us

- Chapter One begins in June 1945 in a refugee camp. When did World War II end? Why is this camp administered by the American military?
- Who do Krystia and Maria want to live with? Why?
- Think of three words to describe Sophie Huber. Do you think she's a nice person?
- Chapter Two: Why is Maria frustrated with her sister?
- Why do the sisters hide under the bunks?
- Page 10: Why are Soviet soldiers going into a barrack in the American zone?
- Chapter Three: why did Sophie lie about her own identity?
- Why were Finn and Elias arrested?
- Chapter Five: Why was Olga arrested? Where is her husband?
- Chapter Six: Why is there rubble all over the road?
- What are three words to describe Vlad and Misha?
- Why did Olga act the way she did? What were her alternatives? Do you think this was planned? Why?
- Chapter Seven: Why did Olga give Krystia her shoes? What do you think about this gesture?
- Chapter Eight: Describe what it was like to walk into the Soviet Zone.
- Why does Maria pick up a frayed piece of blue cloth?
- Page 55: Why does Misha call the captives "criminals"? Do you think they're criminals?
- Draw a picture of the house that's being used as a jail.
- Why does Sophie not get along with the other captives?
- Page 65: What do the Soviets and Nazis have in common? Anything else?
- On page 67, Krystia wonders, "How could I use their prejudice as my strength?" What does that mean? Can you think of a way that you could use someone else's prejudice against you as a strength? Explain.
- Why did the author call Chapter Ten "Soft Torture"?
- Do you think Sophie can become a better person? Why/why not?
- Page 80: What do Maria and Krystia need to hide about their past? Why?
- Chapter Twelve: Why do Finn and Maria sing?
- Chapter Thirteen: Why do Krystia, Sophie and Mychailo sing?
- Chapter Fifteen: What information is Galina trying to get from Krystia? What will she do with that information?
- List out some of the ways the Soviets are torturing their captives. Which ways are most effective?
- Chapter Sixteen: Maria's problem-solving device is to break big problems into a bunch of little ones. Have you tried that in your own life? Describe.
- Chapter Seventeen: Who is more terrified in this chapter, Maria or Krystia? Why? Which sister would you have preferred to be?
- Chapter Eighteen: What good thing happened to Maria? What challenges does she still have?
- Chapter Twenty: Why does Birgit help Maria? How does Maria transform herself?
- Chapter Twenty-One: Who is Mychailo?
- Chapter Twenty-Two: Why was Finn arrested? What do they want his father to do?
- Chapter Twenty-Three: What were Hitler's favorite cookies?
- Chapter Twenty-Four: Why does Maria need to find berries?
- Chapter Twenty-Five: Can Sophie be trusted with Krystia's plan?
- Chapter Twenty-Eight: Why does each Soviet only get four pyrohy?

- Chapter Twenty-Nine: Which guard poses the biggest danger to the prisoners in the basement? Why?
- Why is Chapter Thirty-Two entitled Vichnaya Pamyat?
- Why does the Nazi flag make Krystia giggle in Chapter Thirty-Three?
- On page 240, Maria and Krystia have a huge argument. What's it about? Do you think the accusations are fair? Do you have a sibling? What do you fight about? What have you said to your sibling that was unfair? How did you resolve that?
- Chapter Thirty-Five: What do you think is going to happen to Sophie? Has your opinion of Sophie changed since the beginning of the book?
- Page 250 and on: what are some of the emotions experienced by Krystia and Maria as they make their journey through the Forbidden Zone?
- Epilogue: Are the sisters safe now? Brainstorm what you think their future will be like.
- How do the details provided in the Author's Note add to your understanding of the novel? The author wants you to know that she LOVES getting maps in her books! Do you like maps in books?