

before we were yours book discussion questions

before we were yours book discussion questions offer a valuable framework for exploring the complex themes and emotional depth of Lisa Wingate's bestselling novel. This historical fiction work delves into the harrowing story of the Tennessee Children's Home Society and the lives of children who were tragically taken from their families. For book clubs, educators, and readers alike, having thoughtful discussion questions enhances understanding and prompts meaningful conversations about family, identity, resilience, and social justice. This article provides a comprehensive guide to before we were yours book discussion questions, including thematic explorations, character analysis, and historical context. Furthermore, it offers structured prompts designed to engage readers on multiple levels, encouraging reflection and connection. The following sections will break down the key areas for discussion, ensuring a well-rounded and insightful dialogue for any group studying this powerful novel.

- Themes and Motifs in Before We Were Yours
- Character Analysis and Development
- Historical Context and Its Impact
- Emotional and Ethical Discussion Questions
- Practical Tips for Facilitating a Book Discussion

Themes and Motifs in Before We Were Yours

Understanding the central themes and motifs in before we were ours book discussion questions is essential for a deep and meaningful conversation about the novel. Lisa Wingate weaves various

themes throughout the narrative, each contributing to the emotional and moral fabric of the story. Key themes include family bonds, loss and resilience, social injustice, and the search for identity. Discussing these topics allows readers to appreciate the complexity of the characters' experiences and the historical realities the novel portrays.

Family Bonds and Separation

The theme of family is at the heart of *Before We Were Ours* book discussion questions, particularly the profound connections between siblings and parents. The novel illustrates how family ties endure, even when forcibly broken, and how love persists despite separation. Discussion can focus on how the characters maintain hope and loyalty in the face of adversity.

Resilience in the Face of Adversity

Resilience emerges as a powerful motif, showcasing the strength of the children and adults who endure horrific circumstances. Exploring the characters' coping mechanisms and growth provides insight into human endurance and the will to survive. This theme encourages readers to reflect on personal and collective resilience.

Social Injustice and Exploitation

Before We Were Ours confronts the dark realities of child trafficking and institutional corruption. The theme of social injustice invites discussion on historical and contemporary abuses of power, raising awareness of systemic problems. This aspect of the book is crucial for understanding its broader social commentary.

Identity and Self-Discovery

The search for identity underpins many characters' journeys, especially as they grapple with their

pasts and uncertain futures. Discussion questions can probe how identity is shaped by family, history, and personal experiences, emphasizing the novel's psychological depth.

Character Analysis and Development

Exploring character development is a vital component of before we were ours book discussion questions. The novel's richly drawn characters provide numerous opportunities to analyze motivations, relationships, and transformations. Examining the main characters enhances engagement and encourages empathy.

Rill Foss: The Protagonist's Journey

Rill Foss's perspective anchors much of the narrative, offering a poignant view of childhood innocence shattered by trauma. Discussion can focus on her resilience, leadership among her siblings, and her emotional evolution throughout the story.

May Foss: Motherly Strength

May Foss is a symbol of maternal love and sacrifice. Analyzing her decisions and emotional state provides insight into the familial dynamics and the impact of external forces on family cohesion.

Georgia Tann: The Antagonist's Role

Georgia Tann, the head of the Tennessee Children's Home Society, represents the institutional corruption central to the novel's conflict. Discussion can explore her motivations, methods, and the systemic implications of her actions.

Supporting Characters and Their Influence

Secondary characters, such as the adoptive families and other children, contribute to the narrative's richness. Analyzing their roles offers a broader understanding of the social environment and varying responses to the central crisis.

Historical Context and Its Impact

Before we were ours book discussion questions must consider the historical background that shapes the novel's events. The Tennessee Children's Home Society scandal is a real and disturbing chapter in American history, and understanding this context is crucial for informed discussion.

The Tennessee Children's Home Society Scandal

This section provides an overview of the scandal involving illegal adoptions and child trafficking during the early-to-mid 20th century. Discussing the historical facts alongside the novel's fictionalized account helps readers separate reality from dramatization and appreciate the novel's educational value.

Social and Economic Factors

The Great Depression and other economic hardships form a backdrop to the story, influencing the characters' decisions and circumstances. Exploring these factors deepens understanding of the challenges faced by families and children during this era.

Child Welfare Practices of the Time

Examining the policies and social attitudes toward child welfare during the early 1900s highlights why abuses like those depicted in the novel were possible. This discussion can lead to broader conversations about the evolution of child protection laws and ethics.

Emotional and Ethical Discussion Questions

Effective before we were ours book discussion questions often probe emotional responses and ethical considerations. These questions encourage participants to engage thoughtfully with the novel's difficult subject matter and to consider broader societal implications.

Questions on Emotional Impact

1. How did the story's portrayal of family separation affect your understanding of the characters' experiences?
2. Which character's journey resonated most deeply with you, and why?
3. How do the children's resilience and hope inspire or challenge your perspective on adversity?

Ethical and Moral Questions

1. What responsibilities do individuals and society have to protect vulnerable children?
2. How does the novel raise awareness about institutional abuse, and what lessons can be drawn for today?
3. In what ways does the story challenge assumptions about adoption and family structures?

Reflective and Analytical Prompts

1. Discuss how secrets and silence affect the characters and their relationships.
2. What role does forgiveness play in the novel, and how is it portrayed?
3. How does the dual timeline structure influence the reader's understanding of the story?

Practical Tips for Facilitating a Book Discussion

Facilitating a discussion based on before we were ours book discussion questions requires sensitivity and preparation. The novel's heavy themes may evoke strong emotions, so creating a respectful and supportive environment is essential. This section offers practical advice for moderators seeking to guide productive and empathetic conversations.

Establishing Ground Rules

Begin by setting clear guidelines for respectful listening and speaking. Encourage participants to share personal reflections without judgment and to remain mindful of differing viewpoints.

Using Discussion Questions Effectively

Prepare a selection of questions from different categories—theme, character, historical context, emotion—to cover diverse angles. Allow flexibility in discussion flow, letting participants explore topics that resonate most with them.

Encouraging Participation

Use open-ended questions to invite multiple perspectives. Prompt quieter members gently and validate all contributions to foster inclusive dialogue.

Addressing Sensitive Topics

Be aware of the emotional weight of the subject matter. Offer breaks if needed and provide resources for further support or learning on topics such as child welfare and trauma.

Summarizing Key Points

At the end of the discussion, briefly summarize major insights and thank participants for their openness and engagement. This reinforces the value of the conversation and encourages continued reflection.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the main themes explored in 'Before We Were Yours'?

'Before We Were Yours' explores themes such as family, identity, resilience, and the impact of injustice on children and families.

How does the historical context of the Tennessee Children's Home Society scandal influence the story?

The historical context provides a real-life backdrop to the novel, highlighting the corrupt adoption practices and the suffering of children, which drives the plot and character motivations.

What role does family play in the characters' development throughout the book?

Family is central to the characters' identities and motivations; the longing for family connection and the bonds between siblings are pivotal to their resilience and growth.

How do the perspectives of Rill and Avery differ, and what does this add to the narrative?

Rill's perspective as a child in the 1930s and Avery's as an adult in the present day provide a dual timeline that enriches the story, showing past trauma and present discovery.

What emotions does the book evoke regarding the treatment of children in orphanages during the early 20th century?

The book evokes feelings of sadness, anger, and empathy by portraying the harsh realities and abuses suffered by children in orphanages during that era.

How does the author develop the characters' resilience in the face of adversity?

The author shows resilience through the characters' determination to survive, maintain hope, and seek justice despite the challenges and injustices they face.

What questions does 'Before We Were Yours' raise about adoption ethics and child welfare?

The book raises questions about the morality of adoption practices, the importance of transparency, and the protection of children's rights in the adoption system.

How can this novel be used to discuss the importance of historical awareness in understanding present-day issues?

'Before We Were Yours' demonstrates how historical injustices still affect families today, encouraging readers to understand history to better address current social and legal issues.

In what ways do the characters find hope and healing by the end of the novel?

Characters find hope through reconnecting with lost family members, uncovering the truth, and building supportive relationships that help them heal from past trauma.

What discussion questions would you ask to encourage readers to reflect on their own family histories after reading this book?

Questions might include: How does your family history shape your identity? What would you do if you discovered a family secret? How important is knowing your roots to understanding yourself?

Additional Resources

1. Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline

This novel intertwines the stories of a young foster girl in modern-day Maine and an elderly woman who was part of the orphan trains that transported children from crowded cities to rural families in the early 1900s. It explores themes of family, identity, and the impact of history on personal lives. Like **Before We Were Yours**, it delves into the complexities of adoption and the search for belonging.

2. The Light Between Oceans by M.L. Stedman

Set in post-World War I Australia, this story follows a lighthouse keeper and his wife who find a baby adrift in a boat and decide to raise her as their own. The novel explores moral dilemmas, the consequences of secrets, and the meaning of family. Its emotional depth and ethical questions make it

a compelling companion to discussions about **Before We Were Yours**.

3. *Room by Emma Donoghue*

Told from the perspective of a young boy held captive in a single room with his mother, this novel highlights themes of resilience, trauma, and the bonds between parent and child. It provides a poignant look at survival and the long-lasting effects of loss and confinement. The book's intense emotional narrative complements the themes of family and hardship in **Before We Were Yours**.

4. *The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls*

A memoir recounting the author's unconventional and often difficult childhood in a dysfunctional family. Walls' story of poverty, neglect, and ultimately perseverance offers a real-life perspective on familial bonds and the struggle for a better life. Readers of **Before We Were Yours** may find resonance in its raw portrayal of childhood adversity.

5. *Sarah's Key by Tatiana de Rosnay*

This historical novel alternates between the story of a young girl caught in the Vel' d'Hiv Roundup in 1942 Paris and a contemporary journalist uncovering the past. It examines themes of memory, trauma, and the impact of history on individuals and families. Its exploration of painful histories aligns well with the emotional depth found in **Before We Were Yours**.

6. *What the Moon Saw by Laura Resau*

A story about a girl who travels to Mexico to find her father and discovers unexpected family connections and secrets. This novel touches on themes of identity, family bonds, and cultural heritage. It pairs nicely with **Before We Were Yours** in its exploration of the search for self and the meaning of family.

7. *Big Little Lies by Liane Moriarty*

While more contemporary and centered on adult relationships, this novel delves into family dynamics, secrets, and the complexities of motherhood. It highlights how past experiences shape present lives and relationships. Readers interested in the family and emotional themes of **Before We Were Yours** may appreciate this layered narrative.

8. *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

Set in Nazi Germany, this novel tells the story of a young girl who finds solace in books while living with a foster family. It explores themes of loss, survival, and the power of storytelling. The historical backdrop and focus on family and resilience make it a thoughtful companion to **Before We Were Yours**.

9. *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys

This historical novel follows a young girl and her family deported to Siberian labor camps during Stalin's regime. It sheds light on a lesser-known historical tragedy and the endurance of hope and family under brutal circumstances. Its powerful portrayal of suffering and survival echoes many of the emotional themes in **Before We Were Yours**.

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before we were yours book discussion questions: Before We Were Yours Lisa Wingate, 2019-05-21 THE BLOCKBUSTER HIT—Over two million copies sold! A New York Times, USA Today, Wall Street Journal, and Publishers Weekly Bestseller “Poignant, engrossing.”—People • “Lisa Wingate takes an almost unthinkable chapter in our nation’s history and weaves a tale of enduring power.”—Paula McLain Memphis, 1939. Twelve-year-old Rill Foss and her four younger siblings live a magical life aboard their family’s Mississippi River shantyboat. But when their father must rush their mother to the hospital one stormy night, Rill is left in charge—until strangers arrive in force. Wrenched from all that is familiar and thrown into a Tennessee Children’s Home Society orphanage, the Foss children are assured that they will soon be returned to their parents—but they quickly realize the dark truth. At the mercy of the facility’s cruel director, Rill fights to keep her sisters and brother together in a world of danger and uncertainty. Aiken, South Carolina, present day. Born into wealth and privilege, Avery Stafford seems to have it all: a successful career as a federal prosecutor, a handsome fiancé, and a lavish wedding on the horizon. But when Avery returns home to help her father weather a health crisis, a chance encounter leaves her with uncomfortable questions and compels her to take a journey through her family’s long-hidden history, on a path that will ultimately lead either to devastation or to redemption. Based on one of America’s most notorious real-life scandals—in which Georgia Tann, director of a Memphis-based adoption organization, kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families all over the country—Lisa Wingate’s riveting, wrenching, and ultimately uplifting tale reminds us how, even though the paths we take can lead to many places, the heart never forgets where we belong. Publishers Weekly’s #3 Longest-Running

Bestseller of 2017 • Winner of the Southern Book Prize • If All Arkansas Read the Same Book Selection This edition includes a new essay by the author about shantyboat life.

before we were yours book discussion questions: *Before We Were Innocent: Reese's Book Club* Ella Berman, 2023-12-05 REESE'S BOOK CLUB PICK! A summer in Greece for three best friends ends in the unthinkable when only two return home. . . . Ten years ago, after a sun-soaked summer spent in Greece, best friends Bess and Joni were cleared of having any involvement in their friend Evangeline's death. But that didn't stop the media from ripping apart their teenage lives like vultures. While the girls were never convicted, Joni, ever the opportunist, capitalized on her newfound infamy to become a motivational speaker. Bess, on the other hand, resolved to make her life as small and controlled as possible so she wouldn't risk losing everything all over again. And it almost worked. . . . Except now Joni needs a favor, and when she turns up at her old friend's doorstep asking for an alibi, Bess has no choice but to say yes. She still owes her. But as the two friends try desperately to shake off their past, they have to face reality. Can you ever be an innocent woman when everyone wants you to be guilty?

before we were yours book discussion questions: *Before We Were Free* Julia Alvarez, 2007-12-18 Anita de la Torre never questioned her freedom living in the Dominican Republic. But by her 12th birthday in 1960, most of her relatives have emigrated to the United States, her Tío Toni has disappeared without a trace, and the government's secret police terrorize her remaining family because of their suspected opposition of el Trujillo's dictatorship. Using the strength and courage of her family, Anita must overcome her fears and fly to freedom, leaving all that she once knew behind. From renowned author Julia Alvarez comes an unforgettable story about adolescence, perseverance, and one girl's struggle to be free.

before we were yours book discussion questions: *The Library Friends, Foundations, and Trusts Handbook* Diane P. Tuccillo, 2024-04-24 The Library Friends and Foundations Handbook is a must-have resource for members of Friends groups, Foundations, library staff members, administrators, and others who wish to begin or enhance such support group partnerships. Its background details build a knowledge base of what such groups are all about and its helpful recommendations can be put into practice as it: Focuses upon the history of such groups and how their contributions matter to the vitality of library institutions of all kinds—public, school, state, college/university, and special. Describes the various kinds of Friends and Foundation groups (sometimes combined), how they are organized and run, and ways they partner with the libraries they support so that readers may consider how they too might design and form or augment their own groups. Carefully explains how groups can effectively market their membership options and purposes to their communities. Gives practical advice on recruiting volunteers of all ages and providing training for them to beneficially aid their libraries both financially and with hands-on assistance. Describes ways library support groups can advocate for their libraries. Presents a wide variety of fundraising and donation ideas, procedures, and examples that readers can emulate, reflecting current trends such as online book sales, grab bag book sales, gala events, and securing grants along with equitable methods of monetary distribution. Offers a selected bibliography, a webliography, and an appendix with sample documents. The book covers the history of such groups, how their contributions matter to the vitality of libraries and library institutions of all kinds—public, school, state, college/university, and special. It describes the various kinds of Friends and Foundation groups, how they are organized and run, ways they partner with the libraries they support, how they can effectively market their membership options and purposes to the community to which they are dedicated, and ways to advocate for their libraries. It explains how volunteers of all ages (yes, including teenagers) are recruited, trained, and used successfully to aid their libraries both financially and with hands-on assistance. A wide variety of fundraising and donation ideas, procedures, and examples are featured that reflect current trends in such activities as online and grab bag book sales, gala events, securing grants, and methods of monetary distribution.

before we were yours book discussion questions: *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate Daily Books, 2017 Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate Conversation Starters In Before

We Were Yours, author Lisa Wingate explores the lives of families generations apart that are connected by a heartbreaking thread of history and tragedy. In 1939, Rill Foss, only twelve years old, must fend for herself and her siblings after they are taken to an orphanage. At the mercy of a cruel director and the adults in her life, Rill attempts to keep her siblings together and safe. In the present day, privileged young woman, Avery Stafford, has a chance encounter that leaves her questioning her family's history and the reality of her birth. Before We Were Yours is based on the heartbreaking true scandal of Georgia Tann, a woman whose Memphis adoption center kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families. It became a multi-week USA Today bestseller. Authors praised the novel for its heart-racing and shocking tale of struggle, hope, and redemption. A Brief Look Inside: EVERY GOOD BOOK CONTAINS A WORLD FAR DEEPER than the surface of its pages. The characters and their world come alive, and the characters and its world still live on. Conversation Starters is peppered with questions designed to bring us beneath the surface of the page and invite us into the world that lives on. These questions can be used to... Create Hours of Conversation: Promote an atmosphere of discussion for groups Foster a deeper understanding of the book Assist in the study of the book, either individually or corporately Explore unseen realms of the book as never seen before Disclaimer: This book you are about to enjoy is an independent resource meant to supplement the original book. If you have not yet read the original book, we encourage doing before purchasing this unofficial Conversation Starters.

before we were yours book discussion questions: Before and After Judy Christie, Lisa Wingate, 2021-02-02 The compelling, poignant true stories of victims of a notorious adoption scandal—some of whom learned the truth from Lisa Wingate’s bestselling novel Before We Were Yours and were reunited with birth family members as a result of its wide reach From the 1920s to 1950, Georgia Tann ran a black-market baby business at the Tennessee Children’s Home Society in Memphis. She offered up more than 5,000 orphans tailored to the wish lists of eager parents—hiding the fact that many weren’t orphans at all, but stolen sons and daughters of poor families, desperate single mothers, and women told in maternity wards that their babies had died. The publication of Lisa Wingate’s novel Before We Were Yours brought new awareness of Tann’s lucrative career in child trafficking. Adoptees who knew little about their pasts gained insight into the startling facts behind their family histories. Encouraged by their contact with Wingate and award-winning journalist Judy Christie, who documented the stories of fifteen adoptees in this book, many determined Tann survivors set out to trace their roots and find their birth families. Before and After includes moving and sometimes shocking accounts of the ways in which adoptees were separated from their first families. Often raised as only children, many have joyfully reunited with siblings in the final decades of their lives. Christie and Wingate tell of first meetings that are all the sweeter and more intense for time missed and of families from very different social backgrounds reaching out to embrace better-late-than-never brothers, sisters, and cousins. In a poignant culmination of art meeting life, many of the long-silent victims of the tragically corrupt system return to Memphis with the authors to reclaim their stories at a Tennessee Children’s Home Society reunion . . . with extraordinary results. Advance praise for Before and After “In Before and After, authors Judy Christie and Lisa Wingate tackle the true stories behind Wingate’s blockbuster Before We Were Yours, of the orphans who survived the Tennessee Children’s Home Society. With a journalist’s keen eye and a novelist’s elegant prose, Christie and Wingate weave together the stories that inspired Before We Were Yours with the lives that were changed as a result of reading the novel. Readers will be educated, enlightened, and enraptured by this important and flawlessly executed book.”—Pam Jenoff, author of The Orphan’s Tale and The Lost Girls of Paris

before we were yours book discussion questions: Send Down the Rain Charles Martin, 2018-05-08 Can two people brought together by desperate circumstances help one another heal, and maybe even begin a new life? New York Times bestselling author Charles Martin’s Send Down the Rain answers the questions of what it means—and what level of sacrifice it takes—to truly love someone. Allie is still recovering from the loss of her family’s beloved waterfront restaurant on Florida’s Gulf Coast when she loses her second husband to a terrifying highway accident. Devastated

and losing hope, she shudders to contemplate the future—until a cherished person from her past returns. Joseph has been adrift for many years, wounded in both body and spirit and unable to come to terms with the trauma of his Vietnam War experiences. Just as he resolves to abandon his search for peace and live alone in a remote cabin in the Carolina mountains, he discovers a mother and her two small children lost in the forest. A man of character and strength, he instinctively steps in to help them get back to their home in Florida. There he will return to his own hometown—and witness the accident that launches a bittersweet reunion with his childhood sweetheart, Allie. When Joseph offers to help Allie rebuild her restaurant, it seems the flame may reignite—until a forty-five-year-old secret begins to emerge, threatening to destroy all hope for their second chance at love. *Send Down the Rain* will take you on a journey that spans the sweltering migrant worker routes of south Florida, muddy battlefields of Vietnam, thickets of northwest North Carolina, and the idyllic shores of America's most beautiful beach (Cape San Blas). At the story's center lies the question: What does it mean—and what level of sacrifice does it take—to truly love someone? Praise for *Send Down the Rain*: "Charles Martin understands the power of story and he uses it to alter the souls and lives of both his characters and his readers."—Patti Callahan Henry, New York Times bestselling author

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before we were yours book discussion questions: *Summary of Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate - Conversation Starters* BookHabits, 2017-09-05 Summary of *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate | Conversation Starters In *Before We Were Yours*, author Lisa Wingate explores the lives of families generations apart that are connected by a heartbreaking thread of history and tragedy. In 1939, Rill Foss, only twelve years old, must fend for herself and her siblings after they are taken to an orphanage. At the mercy of a cruel director and the adults in her life, Rill attempts to keep her siblings together and safe. In the present day, privileged young woman, Avery Stafford, has a chance encounter that leaves her questioning her family's history and the reality of her birth. *Before We Were Yours* is based on the heartbreaking true scandal of Georgia Tann, a woman whose Memphis adoption center kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families. It became a multi-week USA Today bestseller. Authors praised the novel for its heart-racing and shocking tale of struggle, hope, and redemption. A Brief Look Inside: EVERY GOOD BOOK CONTAINS A WORLD FAR DEEPER than the surface of its pages. The characters and their world come alive, and the characters and its world still live on. Conversation Starters is peppered with questions designed to bring us beneath the surface of the page and invite us into the world that lives on. These questions can be used to... Create Hours of Conversation: * Promote an atmosphere of discussion for groups * Foster a deeper understanding of the book * Assist in the study of the book, either individually or corporately * Explore unseen realms of the book as never seen before Disclaimer: This book you are about to enjoy is an independent resource meant to supplement the original book. If you have not yet read the original book, we encourage to do before purchasing this unofficial Conversation Starters.

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openly and freely about their relationship and future, *The Before-You-Marry Book of Questions* is a practical and essential guide for any couple building a life together.

before we were yours book discussion questions: *Before You Meet Your Future Husband* Robin Jones Gunn, Tricia Goyer, 2023-05-02 Bestselling author Robin Jones Gunn teams up with author and teen advocate Tricia Goyer on a devotional for young single women to help them establish God-honoring thinking and beliefs that will lay a firm foundation for their future marriage. Movies, television, and novels feature glamorous portrayals of dating and marriage, giving us unrealistic expectations of what true love looks like. A beautiful counterpoint to those dreamy fantasies, *Before You Meet Your Future Husband* focuses on three areas you, as a young woman, need to address in preparing for marriage: • your heart—nurturing a place where healthy love can grow • your head—realigning your thoughts with biblical truth • your hands—learning to make the most of your God-given potential This uplifting, interactive devotional helps you approach dating from a place of peace and strength, whether you're in a relationship now or simply hope to be married one day. With a focus on your own transformation, *Before You Meet Your Future Husband* offers biblical guidance, real-life stories, thought-provoking questions, and intentional prayers to help you prepare now for the future God has in store for you. Discover the freedom and contentment that come from preparing for a God-honoring, life-giving relationship.

before we were yours book discussion questions: *Be the Leader You Were Meant to Be* LeRoy Eims, 1975-01-19 A close-up of what the Bible has to say about leadership. Using the words of Jesus and stories of famous Bible leaders, the author reveals the responsibility of leadership.

before we were yours book discussion questions: *They Were Just People* Bill Tammeus, Jacques Cukierkorn, 2009-09-01 Hitler's attempt to murder all of Europe's Jews almost succeeded. One reason it fell short of its nefarious goal was the work of brave non-Jews who sheltered their fellow citizens. In most countries under German control, those who rescued Jews risked imprisonment and death. In Poland, home to more Jews than any other country at the start of World War II and location of six German-built death camps, the punishment was immediate execution. This book tells the stories of Polish Holocaust survivors and their rescuers. The authors traveled extensively in the United States and Poland to interview some of the few remaining participants before their generation is gone. Tammeus and Cukierkorn unfold many stories that have never before been made public: gripping narratives of Jews who survived against all odds and courageous non-Jews who risked their own lives to provide shelter. These are harrowing accounts of survival and bravery. Maria Devinki lived for more than two years under the floors of barns. Felix Zandman sought refuge from Anna Puchalska for a night, but she pledged to hide him for the whole war if necessary—and eventually hid several Jews for seventeen months in a pit dug beneath her house. And when teenage brothers Zygie and Sol Allweiss hid behind hay bales in the Dudzik family's barn one day when the Germans came, they were alarmed to learn the soldiers weren't there searching for Jews, but to seize hay. But Zofia Dudzik successfully distracted them, and she and her husband insisted the boys stay despite the danger to their own family. Through some twenty stories like these, Tammeus and Cukierkorn show that even in an atmosphere of unimaginable malevolence, individuals can decide to act in civilized ways. Some rescuers had antisemitic feelings but acted because they knew and liked individual Jews. In many cases, the rescuers were simply helping friends or business associates. The accounts include the perspectives of men and women, city and rural residents, clergy and laypersons—even children who witnessed their parents' efforts. These stories show that assistance from non-Jews was crucial, but also that Jews needed ingenuity, sometimes money, and most often what some survivors called simple good luck. Sixty years later, they invite each of us to ask what we might do today if we were at risk—or were asked to risk our lives to save others.

before we were yours book discussion questions: Summary of Before We Were Yours: A Novel: Trivia/Quiz for Fans Whizbooks, 2018-09-06 Summary of *Before We Were Yours: A Novel* by Lisa Wingate: Trivia/Quiz for Fans Rill Foss and her four siblings lived happily with their parents in their shantyboat named Arcadia by the Mississippi River. This was before they were taken to the

Tennessee Children's Home Society without their parents' knowledge. She watched helplessly as she saw her baby brother and youngest sister taken away for adoption. Meanwhile, in another world, the Senator's daughter Avery Stafford is mystified by an old woman named May who seems to know her grandmother Judy. She needs to know what binds these two women because, being a politician's daughter, she doesn't like secrets in the family. Features You'll Discover Inside: - A comprehensive guide to aid in discussion & discovery - 30 multiple choice questions on the book, plots, characters, and author - Insightful resource for teachers, groups, or individuals - Keep track of scores with results to determine fan status - Share with other book fans and readers for mutual enjoyment Disclaimer: This is an unofficial summary, analysis and trivia book to enhance a reader's experience to books they already love and appreciate. We encourage our readers to purchase the original book first before downloading this companion book for your enjoyment.

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