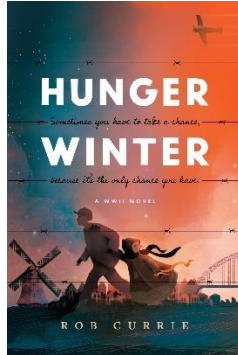


Hunger Winter: A World War II Novel

Study and Activity Guide



Student's Name _____

Teacher's Name _____

Note to Parents and Teachers: This guide is designed to be used for either History/Social Studies or English/Language Arts. Feel free to assign the segments most relevant to your course. The guide is organized by groups of eight chapters – one through eight, nine through sixteen, and so on. Each group provides a variety of questions and activities for the student to complete. Everything after page eighteen is the answer key so when you print a copy for your students, don't give them answer key unintentionally.

Chapters One through Eight

Activity for Chapters 1-8: Movie Review

After you have read the first eight chapters, imagine that they were a film, and you are writing a review of it. Write your review by filling in the blanks and read your review to someone. For fun, you could make an audio recording or a video recording. Consider adding a musical introduction as if it's a TV show or news report. Be creative and have fun. If you record your review, show it or send it electronically to family and friends.

Write your fill-in-the-blank movie review below.

Hello, welcome to *What's New at the Movies*. I'm your host, _____ (insert your name or a made-up name) and today we review the film, *Hunger Winter*. *Hunger Winter* is a(n) _____ (choose an adjective) film which starts when _____ gets warned by _____, that the Gestapo just ambushed his older sister, _____, and now there are only a few minutes before the Gestapo will come to get him. The boy grabs clothes, food, and takes his little sister, _____, out of bed to escape.

As he walks toward Tante Cora's house, he _____.
(Describe what he says, does or thinks). Later, we see the Gestapo try to get Els to talk by _____ (describe what they say or do). A bit later in the story, the Nazis capture Dirk and Anna and take them to a _____ (name or describe the place they took them.) The best part of this story is _____ and one thing that would make it better would be _____. All in all, I give this movie _____ stars (choose a number from one to five) because _____. (explain your rating).

Explain the Meaning of the Following Figures of Speech Chapters 1-8

Page 1. “His insides turned to ice.”

Page 3. “They are animals, and they can force anyone to talk.”

Page 11. Els “felt like a bruised piece of fruit.”

Page 43. “But thanks to wrestling lessons from Papa, Dirk knew what to do with this Nazi mountain. It was time to start a landslide.”

Read Between the Lines Chapters 1-8

1. At the top of page 6, Dirk grabbed a stone and put it in his pocket. Why did he make a point of taking that and of saving the orange ribbon in the doll’s hair?
2. On page 17, the third interrogator seemed to approach Els with kindness. Why did he use this strategy?
3. At the bottom of page 35, why did Dirk’s hand stop shaking?

Faith Questions Chapters 1-8

1. Using Biblegateway.com or other resources find a Bible verse about fear. Explain how this verse might encourage the characters in the story.
2. In the Old Testament, King Darius ordered everyone, including Daniel, to pray only to the king (Daniel 6). Compare Daniel’s response to how Dirk and his family responded to the Nazi’s orders.
3. Dirk and Els relied on Papa’s advice to get them through hard times. Whose advice has been helpful to you? Do you have a favorite Bible verse or Christian song that helps you persevere?

Vocabulary Chapters 1-8

Define the following words.

Page 4. Resistance

Page 36. Razzia

Page 40. Abdomen

Write a Fun Poem Chapters 1-8

Write two lines of rhyming poetry about the first eight chapters. Here are some examples to give you some ideas. This process will be much easier if you end your first line with a word that is easy to rhyme with.

Dirk left home late one night.
He hoped he'd find his dad all right.

The Gestapo asked Els questions in a nasty way.
They asked her where her Papa was, but she refused to say.

Now write your poem.

Chapters Nine Through Sixteen

Activity for Chapters 9-16: Reader Theater

Invite a friend, classmate, or family member to join you in this activity. Each of you will assume the role of a character in the passage below. Each of you should read your character's lines out loud. If the person speaking is afraid or angry, say the lines that way. Use gestures and facial expressions. Get into it and have fun with it. If you wish, a third person could be the narrator to read the lines in the story which aren't spoken by either character. Choose one of the following passages from Chapters 9-16.

Chapter Ten. Middle of page 74 to the end of page 77; Els realizes Roos is a spy.

Chapter Fifteen. Middle of page 114 to the end of page 115; Dirk asks Colonel Fleischer to take him and his sister to the Allied lines.

Explain the Meaning of the Following Figures of Speech Chapters 9-16

Page 71. "As November trudged toward December, her cell grew steadily colder."

Page 96. "The question hung in the air like a large dark cloud before a heavy rain."

Pages 107-108. "The Allies will discover that, and they'll smash the house with their bombers like a sledgehammer would crush a cup."

Read Between the Lines Chapters 9-16

1. Is Colonel Fleischer a mostly good person or a mostly a bad person? Explain your answer.

What questions would you ask him to help you determine his character?

2. What is Els' best personality trait? How does that personality trait show itself in the story?

3. Read the top half of page 121. Why did Dirk shiver?

Vocabulary Chapters 9-16

Define the following words.

Page 90. underdiver

Page 102. antagonist

Page 107. Wermacht

Faith Questions Chapters 9-16

1. Which character had the biggest reason to feel afraid? How does the Bible show that God cares about our fears?
2. Read Galatians 5:22-23. Which fruits of the Spirit would be most needed by the characters in *Hunger Winter*?
3. This book focuses a lot on hunger for food. Read Isaiah 55. Why does the Bible use hunger as a term to describe our need for God?

Chapters Seventeen Through Twenty-Four

Activity for Chapters 17-24: A Game

Instructions: Invite one or two friends to play. You'll need a pair of dice, a pencil, and a game pieces to move around the board. You could use coins, buttons, or anything small enough to fit on each game square. Take turns rolling the dice. Each time you throw the dice you move your game piece 0, 1, 2, or 3 spaces depending on your roll. After you roll, look at the chart on the next page to see how many spaces you get to move ahead. For example, rolling a four means you move forward two spaces. The first person to get to the Liberation Day square on the game board wins. The game board is on the next page along with the explanation of how many spaces you move forward as a result of each roll.

What You Roll

The Result

- 1 Move 0 spaces. May 10, 1940. German army attacks the Netherlands.
- 2 Move 0 spaces. May 14, 1940. The Luftwaffe bombs Rotterdam.
- 3 Move 0 spaces. May 15, 1940. The Netherlands surrenders to Germany.
- 4 Move 2 spaces. February 25-26, 1941. Dutch workers go on strike to protest deportation of Jews.
- 5 Move 1 space. July 6, 1942. Anne Frank hides in a secret apartment.
- 6 Move 3 spaces. June 6, 1944. The Allies invade German-held France on D-Day.
- 7 Move 1 space. September 5, 1944. Rumors fly that liberation is imminent.
- 8 Move 3 spaces. September 14, 1944. The Allies liberate the first Dutch cities.
- 9 Move 3 spaces. September 1944. Dutch train workers go on strike to hinder German troop movement.
- 10 Move 3 spaces. December 31, 1944. Due to a clerical error, Corrie ten Boom was released from a concentration camp.
- 11 Move 0 spaces. Fall 1944 – Spring 1945. Thousands of Dutch civilians freeze or starve to death due to the Hunger Winter.
- 12 Move 3 spaces. May 5, 1945. The Netherlands is liberated from Nazi occupation.

Game Board

7	8	21	22
6	9	20	23
5	10	19	24
4	11	18	25
3	12	17	26
2	13	16	27
1 Start here.	14	15	LIBERATION DAY! May 5, 1945

Explain the Meaning of the Following Figures of Speech Chapters 17-24

Page 152. “Anna took a deep breath and then took off again, like a refueled fighter plane.”

Page 167. “That big ape was looking around, and Dirk couldn’t let him find Anna.”

Page 169. “‘Unnhh!’” a low-pitched growl rose from his throat, like the rumble of a diesel engine revving for power.”

Vocabulary Chapters 17-24

Define the following words.

Page 137. ricocheted

Page 140. checkpoint

Page 155. Luftwaffe

Read Between the Lines Chapters 17-24

1. Near the bottom of page 171, the burly man who wanted to kidnap Dirk and Anna says he isn’t afraid of the soldier’s “toy gun.” Why does he refer to it as a toy gun?
2. Dirk and Els were both very brave. How was their bravery similar and how was it different?
3. In chapter twenty, when Anna tells the story of their adventures to Oma and Opa, how does her version differ from the way it was told earlier in the novel? Why is it different?

Faith Questions Chapters 17-24

1. Pick a character and explain what you feel that person’s greatest temptation was.
2. What is worth risking your life and safety for? Support your answer.
3. Read Exodus 4:1-11 where God told Moses to go speak to Pharaoh about giving the Israelites freedom from their taskmasters, the Egyptians. How do you compare Moses’ response to the response of Dirk, Els, and Papa when they were challenged to stand up against the Nazis?

Chapters Twenty-Five Through Thirty-Two

Activity for Chapters 25-32: Matching Game

Instructions: Ask one or two friends to play this game with you. The next two pages have sixteen statements, each of them typed twice. Each statement is in a rectangle-shaped box. After you cut out the rectangles and place them face down, move them around to mix up the order. As in a typical matching game, turn over two pieces of paper on each turn trying to match identical statements. If you turn over two identical statements, you have a match and you get another turn. If you turn over two cards and they don't match, put them face down again and the next person takes a turn. The person with the most matches wins. Because the rectangle-shaped pieces on pages eleven and thirteen are made to be cut out, the back sides of these two pages are blank.

Adolph Hitler was Germany's dictator from 1934-1945.	Adolph Hitler was Germany's dictator from 1934-1945.
Twenty thousand Dutch starved to death due to the Hunger Winter.	Twenty thousand Dutch starved to death due to the Hunger Winter.
The Netherlands surrendered to Germany after five days of fighting.	The Netherlands surrendered to Germany after five days of fighting.
Twenty thousand Dutch volunteered to fight in the German army.	Twenty thousand Dutch volunteered to fight in the German army.
Queen Wilhelmina was queen of the Netherlands during WW2.	Queen Wilhelmina was queen of the Netherlands during WW2.
Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1942.	Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1942.
May 5, 1945 was Liberation Day in the Netherlands.	May 5, 1945 was Liberation Day in the Netherlands.
More Jews were caught in the Netherlands than in other occupied countries.	More Jews were caught in the Netherlands than in other occupied countries.
Stroopwafel is a favorite Dutch treat and can be purchased online.	Stroopwafel is a favorite Dutch treat and can be purchased online.
The Luftwaffe used kindness to pry secrets from strangers.	The Luftwaffe used kindness to pry secrets from strangers.
In a razzia, the Nazis gathered the Dutch and made them to work in Germany.	In a razzia, the Nazis gathered the Dutch and made them to work in Germany.

This page is intentionally blank.

By the end of the war, Dutch citizens were down to 320 calories per day.	By the end of the war, Dutch citizens were down to 320 calories per day.
The Dutch LOVE to ride their bicycles perhaps more than any other nationality.	The Dutch LOVE to ride their bicycles perhaps more than any other nationality.
Orange is a very patriotic color for the Dutch.	Orange is a very patriotic color for the Dutch.
On May 9th, 1940, Hitler said he wouldn't invade. The next morning, he did.	On May 9th, 1940, Hitler said he wouldn't invade. The next morning, he did.
Anne Frank died on March 31, 1945, just five weeks before liberation.	Anne Frank died on March 31, 1945, just five weeks before liberation.

This next page is intentionally blank.

Explain the Meaning of the Following Figures of Speech

Page 186. “Two hands pummeled the front door like a drummer playing a rapid beat.”

Page 187. “He stepped briskly past her and strode down the hall with his thin legs, looking like a two-legged spider. *A spider hunting a fly.*”

Page 203. “Dirk chanced a quick peek over the top of the wood barrier, like an alligator whose eyes barely show above the waterline.”

Vocabulary for Chapters 25-32

Define the following words.

Page 193. quavered

Page 224. formidable

Page 232. sheaf of wheat

Read Between the Lines Chapters 25-32

1. Choose three words to describe Papa’s personality.
2. Page 186. Why was the woman telling herself to stay calm? What was she nervous about?
3. Page 187-189. Why did the woman cough?

Faith Questions Chapters 25-32

1. How did their faith help Els, Papa, and Anna during hard times?
2. What are some situations where it might be challenging to be a dedicated Christian and a member of the Resistance? Explain your answer.
3. The characters in the book had to be brave. What are some ways you could be brave for your family or for God?

Extra Fun

The activities below are optional and can be assigned at the teacher's or parent's discretion. They are based on the whole book rather than a specific section so they can be assigned at any point in the process of completing this study and activity guide. The following activities are designed to engage the student with the material in an enjoyable way to make learning fun.

Make a Bookmark

Make a bookmark by drawing a picture of your favorite scene from the book. Or write your favorite quote from the book. Keep in mind that your bookmark doesn't have to be the usual size and shape. For example, it could be a four-inch by four-inch square. It can be any size that will be good for what you draw but is still smaller than the size of the book. Be creative and have fun! You could make extra copies to give as gifts to family and friends.

Write a Haiku

This form of poetry does not rhyme but follows a strict format of how many syllables per line. The first line has five syllables. The second line has seven syllables, and the third line has five syllables. Here's an example to inspire you to write your haiku.

Dirk had to leave home.
In the middle of the night
He left with Anna.

Another example.

The Gestapo tried.
But Els wouldn't talk to them.
She revealed nothing.

Now it's your turn to write a haiku.

Write a Letter

Pick a character in the book and write him or her a brief letter. Ask questions, tell him or her what you thought of what he or she did.

Below are some sample letters to stimulate your imagination but your letter should be unique. Don't overthink it. Just think of a character that you had a strong response to, either positive or negative, and base your letter on that. Maybe you wanted to say something to the character while you were reading certain chapters. Go with that. Be creative and have fun. Or you could write a letter as if it were from one of the characters in the book.

Dear Anna,

My little sister is the same age as you. She likes to play tag. Have you ever played tag? Maybe you could teach her to play hide and go seek. When I was your age, I loved potato chips almost as much as you love eating chocolate.

Dear Dirk,

Was it scary to wrestle that guy who wanted to kill your Papa? I'm not into wrestling. I like to practice my piano and read lots of books. I like really scary books. What about you? I liked the part of the story when Mr. Joosse was nice to you in the work camp. Did that feel pretty good to have him encourage you?

Dear Colonel Fleischer,

Specifically, what made you decide to leave the German army? What happened to you after the war? Did you get in trouble for leaving the army? Why were you a bully to Dirk's Papa when you were young? Do you feel sorry for that now? I was mad at you when I read what you tried to do to him.

A sample letter from Anna:

Hi,

Dirk's a good brother but how come so much of the book *Hunger Winter* was about him? I did a lot of hard things, too. Yesterday, Oh! I have to go now 'cause I'm going to play hide and seek.

Bye,
Anna

P.S. Dirk won't be able to find me. He never can.

Make a Book Cover

Create a hand-drawn or digital book cover. You could use Google Slides, Canva, PowerPoint, Word, or any software package you have access to. To design a new cover for *Hunger Winter*, experiment with colors, fonts, and backgrounds. Create the book cover so that your design reflects something important about the book.

Draw a Map

Draw a map by hand or download a blank map of the Netherlands. Mark the locations of Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Arnhem, Nijmegen, and Oosterbeek.

Calorie Guessing Game

Because the Germans blocked food to the Netherlands, the average Dutch citizen was reduced to 1,000 calories per day by the end of November 1944. By February of 1945, citizens were down to 580 calories per day. To give you an idea of what that is like, rank the three following food items from the fewest calories to the most. Here they are in random order. After you guess, you can look up the answer online.

One twelve-ounce can of orange juice concentrate

One sixteen-ounce bottle of Olive Oil

One three-ounce box of Jell-O with sugar

Answer Key

Note to Parents and Teachers: Because many of the questions are open ended, the answers provided are only some of the reasonable responses a student could make. The suggested answers are underlined to make them obvious.

Hunger Winter Synopsis

Note to Teachers and Parents: Because teachers and parents can't always read everything their students read, this synopsis gives a quick overview to enable you to discuss the story.

Thirteen-year-old DIRK lives in occupied Netherlands in 1944. At 3 a.m., a neighbor warns Dirk that the Gestapo grabbed his older sister, ELS, and will come next for him, to get to his Resistance-hero Papa. Dirk flees with his six-year-old sister, ANNA. He stuffs his pockets with food and grabs a stone, a cherished keepsake from Papa. They go to their aunt's house.

When the Germans cut off food to the Netherlands, it triggers what the Dutch call "The Hunger Winter." Dirk and Anna battle starvation by eating tulip bulbs and traipsing to farms to barter for food. When enemy troops round up males to make them work in factories, Dirk fights back. When soldiers grab Anna, he surrenders. The Germans ship the siblings to a work camp, where the sergeant says he'll send Anna to Germany for adoption.

At the work camp, their hunger intensifies. The siblings grow weaker each day, and Dirk worries they may not have the strength to run away if given the chance. Just before Anna gets sent to Germany, she and Dirk escape during a bombing. They take refuge at a farm, but there he meets COLONEL FLEISCHER, a German officer, who says he has deserted.

When Dirk learns the farm is a target for an artillery barrage, he faces a choice. He could stay and die or ask Fleischer, whom he distrusts, to drive him and Anna to the Allied lines. This is one of several incidents where his right hand twitches when he's under pressure. Following Papa's advice that sometimes you have to take a chance because it's the only chance you've got, he asks Fleischer to drive them to the Allied lines. Dirk drives, so Fleischer can shoot. At a German checkpoint, Dirk stops the car to let the soldiers approach. But when Dirk floors it and turns on the headlights, the light and speed blind and befuddle the enemy.

After they arrive at an American army base, Fleischer surrenders. Soldiers take Dirk and Anna to their grandparents' house. He tells his grandmother he blames himself for Mama's death because he was the only one home the night she suddenly died. He had reached for her doorknob with his right hand, to check on her, but for some reason he didn't open the door. His grandmother holds his twitching right hand and persuades him it wasn't his fault.

Meanwhile, the Luftwaffe captures Els. Unlike the Gestapo, who uses torture, the Luftwaffe uses clever questions and kindness to pry a small secret out of her. Els escapes and hides in a safe house. The Gestapo watches the house and sends dogs to sniff her out, but before they arrive, a wagon breaks down in front of the house. The driver steps into the house to borrow tools and the driver who emerges from the house is Els, dressed like the real driver. She fixes the wagon and drives away, right under the enemy's nose.

While at his grandparents' home, Dirk outwits two adults who try to kidnap him and Anna. Then he finds Papa just before an assassin does. The fight pits father and son against the muscular assassin. Papa, a former high school wrestling champion, and Dirk, taught by Papa, use wrestling techniques and determination to counter their enemy's size, strength, and weapons. No longer blaming himself for Mama's death, Dirk fights valiantly and his right hand no longer twitches. Instead, it grasps his small stone, the sentimental gift from Papa. He throws it and it distracts the assassin at a key moment. Papa and Dirk subdue the man.

After the assassin fails, his brother plans to kill Papa at 2:45 a.m. When Papa answers the door at 2:45 a.m., a man grasps Papa's hand firmly. A second person jumps onto the porch and grabs Papa. But the first person is a friend, and the second person is Els, who found her way to Papa's house. The police had already snared the assassin's brother before he reached Papa. After a joyful reunion, Papa, Dirk, Anna, and Els go to Belgium where they are safe.

Chapters One through Eight

Activity for Chapters 1-8: Movie Review

After you have read the first eight chapters, imagine that they were a film, and you are writing a review of it. Write your review by filling in the blanks and read your review to someone. For fun, you could make an audio recording or a video recording. Consider adding a musical introduction as if it's a TV show or news report. Be creative and have fun. If you record your review, show it or send it electronically to family and friends.

Write your fill-in-the-blank movie review below.

Hello, welcome to *What's New at the Movies*. I'm your host, Miriam Smithers (insert your name or a made-up name) and today we review the film, *Hunger Winter*. *Hunger Winter* is an exciting (choose an adjective) film which starts when Dirk gets warned by his neighbor, Mr. Van Nort, that the Gestapo just ambushed his older sister, Els, and now there are only a few minutes before the Gestapo will come to get him. The boy grabs clothes, food, and takes his little sister, Anna, out of bed to escape.

As he walks toward Tante Cora's house, he constantly looks for soldiers, worries how he can protect Anna, and hides under an evergreen tree where they sleep (describe what he says, does or thinks). Later, we see the Gestapo try to get Els to talk by threatening and torturing her (describe what they say or do). A bit later in the story, the Nazis capture Dirk and Anna and take them to a work camp (name or describe the place they took them.) The best part of this story is there is a lot of action that kept me interested and one thing that would make it better would be if there could be a little more about Papa. All in all, I give this movie five stars (choose a number from one to five) because I always wanted to read more of it (explain your rating).

Explain the Meaning of the Following Figures of Speech Chapters 1-8

Page 1. “His insides turned to ice.” He was very afraid.

Page 3. “They are animals, and they can force anyone to talk.” They are not civilized and are very cruel.

Page 11. Els “felt like a bruised piece of fruit.” She was badly injured.

Page 43. “But thanks to wrestling lessons from Papa, Dirk knew what to do with this Nazi mountain. It was time to start a landslide.” The soldier was much larger than Dirk, but Dirk knew how to get him down.

Read Between the Lines Chapters 1-8

1. At the top of page 6, Dirk grabbed a stone and put it in his pocket. Why did he make a point of taking that and of saving the orange ribbon in the doll’s hair? Later in the book it makes it clear that these were special keepsakes from Papa. This starts to be revealed in chapter eight on page 58, but some students may not have picked up on it.

2. On page 17, the third interrogator seemed to approach Els with kindness. Why did he use this strategy? He wants to get her to relax so he can get her to reveal where Papa is.

3. At the bottom of page 35, why did Dirk’s hand stop shaking? Dirk’s hand shakes when he is nervous. But in this scene, he is very encouraged because the farmer gave him food even though he didn’t have enough money.

Faith Questions Chapters 1-8

1. Using Biblegateway.com or other resources find a Bible verse about fear. Explain how this verse might help or encourage the characters in the story. Psalm 56:11 says, “In God I have put

my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" (NKJV). This helps me be brave because God is stronger than people are."

2. In the Old Testament, King Darius ordered everyone, including Daniel, to pray only to the king (Daniel 6). Compare Daniel's response to how Dirk and his family responded to the Nazi's orders. Their responses were similar. Daniel kept praying to God despite the king's order. Dirk and his family kept opposing the Nazis even though all Dutch citizens were ordered to obey the Nazis.

3. Dirk and Els relied on Papa's advice to get them through hard times. Whose advice has been helpful to you? Do you have a favorite Bible verse or Christian song that helps you persevere? Galatians 6:9 says, "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart." (NKJV). This helps me realize that when times are hard it's important for me to not give up.

Vocabulary Chapters 1-8

Define the following words.

Page 4. Resistance These are the people who opposed the Nazis.

Page 36. Razzia A razzia was a raid when German soldiers rounded up citizens and forced them to go work in German factories or work camps.

Page 40. Abdomen The abdomen is the area of your body between your chest and your waist.

Write a Fun Poem Chapters 1-8

Write two lines of rhyming poetry about the first eight chapters. Here are some examples to give you some ideas. This process will be much easier if you end your first line with a word that is easy to rhyme with.

Dirk left home late one night.
He hoped he'd find his dad all right.

OR

The Gestapo asked Els questions in a nasty way.
They asked her where her Papa was, but she refused to say.

Now write your poem.

The answer key has nothing to add here because two samples of poetry are already given.

Chapters Nine Through Sixteen

Activity for Chapters 9-16: Reader Theater

Invite a friend, classmate, or family member to join you in this activity. Each of you will assume the role of a character in the passage below. Each of you should read your character's lines out loud. If the person speaking is afraid or angry, say the lines that way. Use gestures and facial expressions. Get into it and have fun with it. If you wish, a third person could be the narrator to read the lines in the story which aren't spoken by either character. Choose one of the following passages from Chapters 9-16.

Chapter Ten. Middle of page 74 to the end of page 77; Els realizes Roos is a spy.

Chapter Fifteen. Middle of page 114 to the end of page 115; Dirk asks Colonel Fleischer to take him and his sister to the Allied lines.

No answers are suggested here because the student just has to read these passages. You will know if they are being read correctly.

Explain the Meaning of the Following Figures of Speech Chapters 9-16

Page 71. "As November trudged toward December, her cell grew steadily colder."

The days dragged by for Els.

Page 96. "The question hung in the air like a large dark cloud before a heavy rain."

The question had a big emotional impact on Dirk.

Pages 107-108. "The Allies will discover that, and they'll smash the house with their bombers like a sledgehammer would crush a cup."

The Allies' bombers will destroy the house with their bombs.

Read Between the Lines Chapters 9-16

1. Is Colonel Fleischer a mostly good person or a mostly a bad person? Explain your answer.

What questions would you ask him to help you determine his character? Up to this point, the intent of the story is to make it difficult to determine Fleischer's true character and intent. As a result, students may see him positively or negatively. Encourage them to avoid simply saying that it's difficult to determine what the man is really like. On the positive side, Fleischer left the German army. That would take a lot of courage and resolve. On the negative side, he had served Hitler's purposes for many years. He had likely participated in some fashion, in the death of many Allied soldiers. A question we might ask would be why he left the German army.

2. What is Els' best personality trait? How does that personality trait show itself in the story?

There could be more than one way to give a good answer. Els' best personality trait is that she is very strong and doesn't give in to the Nazis demands to tell where Papa is. Her strength shows in that she never tells them what they want to know.

3. Read the top half of page 121. Why did Dirk shiver? He is worried about what Fleischer will do and if any of them will get shot when they reach a German checkpoint.

Vocabulary Chapters 9-16

Define the following words.

Page 90. Underdiver Underdivers were people who hid from the Nazis. Many underdivers were Jews. Others were men who didn't want to be forced to go to Germany to work.

Page 102. Antagonist An antagonist is an enemy.

Page 107. Wermacht This is the name for the German army.

Faith Questions Chapters 9-16

1. Which character had the biggest reason to feel afraid? How does the Bible show that God cares about our fears? Els had big reasons to be afraid because the Nazis had complete control over her situation.
2. Read Galatians 5:22-23. Which fruits of the Spirit would be most needed by the characters in *Hunger Winter*? Dirk needed peace in the midst of many stressful situation. Els needed to be longsuffering because she put up with a lot at the hands of the Nazis. Mr. Joosse showed kindness to Dirk in the work camp. Papa needed self-control because all the things that happened to him stirred up a lot of strong feelings.
3. This book focuses a lot on hunger for food. Read Isaiah 55. Why does the Bible use hunger as a term to describe our need for God? The Bible uses hunger to describe our need for God because hunger is a very basic and very strong need. Also, it is something we all understand and can relate to.

Chapters Seventeen Through Twenty-Four

Activity for Chapters 17-24: A Game

Instructions: Invite one or two friends to play. You'll need a pair of dice, a pencil, and a game pieces to move around the board. You could use coins, buttons, or anything small enough to fit on each game square. Take turns rolling the dice. Each time you throw the dice you move your game piece 0, 1, 2, or 3 spaces depending on your roll. After you roll, look at the chart below to see how many spaces you get to move ahead. For example, rolling a four means you move forward two spaces. The first person to get to the Liberation Day square on the game board wins. earn 25 spaces wins. The game board is on the next page along with the explanation of how many spaces you move forward as a result of each roll. The answer key has no additional comment here because the students just play the game.

What You Roll

The Result

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Move 0 spaces. May 10, 1940. German army attacks the Netherlands. |
| 2 | Move 0 spaces. May 14, 1940. The Luftwaffe bombs Rotterdam. |
| 3 | Move 0 spaces. May 15, 1940. The Netherlands surrenders to Germany. |
| 4 | Move 2 spaces. February 25-26, 1941. Dutch workers go on strike to protest deportation of Jews. |
| 5 | Move 1 space. July 6, 1942. Anne Frank hides in a secret apartment. |
| 6 | Move 3 spaces. June 6, 1944. The Allies invade German-held France on D-Day. |
| 7 | Move 1 space. September 5, 1944. Rumors fly that liberation is imminent. |
| 8 | Move 3 spaces. September 14, 1944. The Allies liberate the first Dutch cities. |
| 9 | Move 3 spaces. September 1944. Dutch train workers go on strike to hinder German troop movement. |
| 10 | Move 3 spaces. December 31, 1944. Due to a clerical error, Corrie ten Boom was released from a concentration camp. |
| 11 | Move 0 spaces. Fall 1944 – Spring 1945. Thousands of Dutch civilians freeze or starve to death due to the Hunger Winter. |
| 12 | Move 3 spaces. May 5, 1945. The Netherlands is liberated from Nazi occupation. |

Game Board

7	8	21	22
6	9	20	23
5	10	19	24
4	11	18	25
3	12	17	26
2	13	16	27
1 Start here.	14	15	LIBERATION DAY! May 5, 1945

Explain the Meaning of the Following Figures of Speech

Page 152. “Anna took a deep breath and then took off again, like a refueled fighter plane.”

Anna had a lot of energy and a lot of things to say.

Page 167. “That big ape was looking around, and Dirk couldn’t let him find Anna.”

The man who wanted to kidnap the kids was big and strong.

Page 169. “‘Unnhh!’” a low-pitched growl rose from his throat, like the rumble of a diesel engine revving for power.”

The sounds coming from Dirk showed he was trying as hard as he could to get the window open.

Vocabulary Chapters 17-24

Define the following words.

Page 137. Ricocheted It bounced off one thing and hit something else.

Page 140. Checkpoint A checkpoint is a guard station where soldiers talk to whoever wants to pass through and determine if they should be allowed to pass.

Page 155. Luftwaffe The Luftwaffe was the German branch of the military that oversaw their airplanes.

Read Between the Lines

1. Near the bottom of page 171, the burly man who wanted to kidnap Dirk and Anna says he isn’t afraid of the soldier’s “toy gun.” Why does he refer to it as a toy gun? The man was trying to act brave and intimidate the American soldier.

2. Dirk and Els were both very brave. How was their bravery similar and how was it different? Their bravery was similar in that they were strong emotionally. Dirk had to act like he felt brave and calm so Anna wouldn’t be afraid. Els had to really guard herself to make sure she wouldn’t let any secrets slip out.

3. In chapter twenty, when Anna tells the story of their adventures to Oma and Opa, how does her version differ from the way it was told earlier in the novel? Why is it different? Anna gives

herself a lot of credit for things turning out well. Her version is different because she is pretty young and doesn't understand all the things Dirk had to do. Anna's version is funnier.

Faith Questions

1. Pick a character and explain what you feel that person's greatest temptation was. Dirk's greatest temptation was to lose hope. Els' greatest temptation was self-control to keep her emotions and words under control so she wouldn't give away secrets. Papa's greatest temptation might be to get so angry at the Nazis that he does something he shouldn't.
2. What is worth risking your life and safety for? Support your answer. It would be worth risking my life to save another person's life. Jesus said the greatest love of all is to lay down your life for someone else.
3. Read Exodus 4:1-11 where God told Moses to go speak to Pharaoh about giving the Israelites freedom from their taskmasters, the Egyptians. How do you compare Moses' response to the response of Dirk, Els, and Papa when they were challenged to stand up against the Nazis? Moses did not feel ready to talk to Pharaoh and Dirk didn't feel ready to do some of the things he had to do. God often calls us to do things we don't feel ready to do.

Chapters Twenty-Five Through Thirty-Two

Activity for Chapters 25-32: Matching Game

Instructions: Ask one or two friends to play this game with you. The next two pages have sixteen statements, each of them typed twice. After you cut out the rectangles and place them face down, move them around to mix up the order. As in a typical matching game, turn over two cards on each turn trying to match identical cards. If you turn over two identical cards, you have a match and you get another turn. If you turn over two cards and they don't match, put them face down again and the next person takes a turn. The person with the most matches wins the game.

The answer key has nothing to add here because the students just play the game.

Note: Because this page and the next are made to be cut out, the back sides of each of these two pages are blank.

Adolph Hitler was Germany's dictator from 1934-1945.	Adolph Hitler was Germany's dictator from 1934-1945.
Twenty thousand Dutch starved to death due to the Hunger Winter.	Twenty thousand Dutch starved to death due to the Hunger Winter.
The Netherlands surrendered to Germany after five days of fighting.	The Netherlands surrendered to Germany after five days of fighting.
Twenty thousand Dutch volunteered to fight in the German army.	Twenty thousand Dutch volunteered to fight in the German army.
Queen Wilhelmina was queen of the Netherlands during WW2.	Queen Wilhelmina was queen of the Netherlands during WW2.
Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1942.	Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1942.
May 5, 1945 was Liberation Day in the Netherlands.	May 5, 1945 was Liberation Day in the Netherlands.
More Jews were caught in the Netherlands than in other occupied countries.	More Jews were caught in the Netherlands than in other occupied countries.
Stroopwafel is a favorite Dutch treat and can be purchased online.	Stroopwafel is a favorite Dutch treat and can be purchased online.
The Luftwaffe used kindness to pry secrets from strangers.	The Luftwaffe used kindness to pry secrets from strangers.

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In a razzia, the Nazis gathered the Dutch and made them to work in Germany.	In a razzia, the Nazis gathered the Dutch and made them to work in Germany.
By the end of the war, Dutch citizens were down to 320 calories per day.	By the end of the war, Dutch citizens were down to 320 calories per day.
The Dutch LOVE to ride their bicycles perhaps more than any other nationality.	The Dutch LOVE to ride their bicycles perhaps more than any other nationality.
Orange is a very patriotic color for the Dutch.	Orange is a very patriotic color for the Dutch.
On May 9th, 1940, Hitler said he wouldn't invade. The next morning, he did.	On May 9th, 1940, Hitler said he wouldn't invade. The next morning, he did.
Anne Frank died on March 31, 1945, just five weeks before liberation.	Anne Frank died on March 31, 1945, just five weeks before liberation.

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Explain the Meaning of the Following Figures of Speech

Page 186. “Two hands pummeled the front door like a drummer playing a rapid beat.” Someone was pounding on the door very rapidly.

Page 187. “He stepped briskly past her and strode down the hall with his thin legs, looking like a two-legged spider. *A spider hunting a fly.*” The man walked quickly, and he was hunting for the woman in hiding.

Page 203. “Dirk chanced a quick peek over the top of the wood barrier, like an alligator whose eyes barely show above the waterline.” His eyes were only a little higher than the barrier in front of him.

Vocabulary for Chapters 25-32

Define the following words.

Page 193. Quavered This word means the person shook or trembled.

Page 224. Formidable Formidable means something or someone with intimidating size or strength.

Page 232. sheaf of wheat A sheaf of wheat is a bundle of wheat tied together.

Read Between the Lines Chapters 25-32

1. Choose three words to describe Papa’s personality.

Smart, father, athletic

2. Page 186. Why was the woman telling herself to stay calm? What was she nervous about?

She was pretty sure the person knocking on the door wanted to look for the woman hiding in her home.

3. Page 187-189. Why did the woman cough?

She was making it harder for the man to hear any sounds with his stethoscope. Also, she made him think that the woman in hiding was on one side of the room when in fact she was on the other side of the room.

Faith Questions Chapters 25-32

1. How did their faith help Els, Papa, and Anna during hard times?

It gave them the confidence they needed to keep doing what is right.

2. What are some situations where it might be challenging to be a dedicated Christian and a member of the Resistance? Explain your answer.

It would be hard if telling the truth would put someone in danger. For example, if the Nazis asked if you were hiding Jews. If you said "yes," it would be the truth but then the Jews would die.

3. The characters in the book had to be brave. What are some ways you could be brave for your family or for God?

I could stick up for kids I know who get picked on or made fun of. I could tell people about Jesus and think about how great it will be when they accept Christ.

Extra Fun

The activities below are optional and can be assigned at the teacher's or parent's discretion. They are based on the book as a whole rather than a specific section so they can be assigned at any point in the process of completing this study and activity guide. The following activities are designed to engage the student with the material in an enjoyable way to make learning fun.

Make a Bookmark

Make a bookmark by drawing a picture of your favorite scene from the book. Or write your favorite quote from the book. Keep in mind that your bookmark doesn't have to be the usual size and shape. For example, it could be a four-inch by four-inch square. It can be any size that will be good for what you draw but is still smaller than the size of the book. Be creative and have fun! You could make extra copies to give as gifts to family and friends.

Write a Haiku

Instructions: This form of poetry does not rhyme but follows a strict format of how many syllables per line. The first line has five syllables. The second line has seven syllables, and the third line has five syllables. The answer key has nothing to add for this section or the next one because examples are already provided. Here's an example to inspire you to write your haiku.

Dirk had to leave home.
In the middle of the night
He left with Anna.

Another example.

The Gestapo tried.
But Els wouldn't talk to them.
She revealed nothing.

Now it's your turn.

Write a Letter

Pick a character in the book and write him or her a brief letter. Ask questions, tell him or her what you thought of what he or she did.

Below are some sample letters to stimulate your imagination but your letter should be unique. Don't overthink it. Just think of a character that you had a strong response to, either positive or negative, and base your brief letter on that. Maybe you wanted to say something to the character while you were reading certain chapters. Go with that. Be creative and have fun. Or you could write a letter as if it were from one of the characters in the book.

Dear Anna,

My little sister is the same age as you. She likes to play tag. Have you ever played tag? Maybe you could teach her to play hide and go seek. When I was your age, I loved potato chips almost as much as you love eating chocolate.

Dear Dirk,

Was it scary to wrestle that guy who wanted to kill your Papa? I'm not into wrestling. I like to practice my piano and read lots of books. I like really scary books. What about you? I liked the part of the story when Mr. Joosse was nice to you in the work camp. Did that feel pretty good to have him encourage you?

Dear Colonel Fleischer,

Specifically, what made you decide to leave the German army? What happened to you after the war? Did you get in trouble for leaving the army? Why were you a bully to Dirk's Papa when you were young? Do you feel sorry for that now? I was mad at you when I read what you tried to do to him.

A sample letter from Anna:

Hi,

Dirk's a good brother but how come so much of the book *Hunger Winter* was about him? I did a lot of hard things, too. Yesterday, Oh! I have to go now 'cause I'm going to play hide and seek.

Bye,
Anna

P.S. Dirk won't be able to find me. He never can.

Make a Book Cover

Create a hand-drawn or digital cover. You could use Google Slides, Canva, PowerPoint, Word, or any software package you have access to. To design a new cover for *Hunger Winter*, experiment with colors, fonts, and backgrounds. Create the book cover so that your design reflects something important about the book.

Draw a Map

Draw a map by hand or download a blank map of the Netherlands. Mark the locations of Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Arnhem, Nijmegen, and Oosterbeek.

Calorie Guessing Game

Because the Germans blocked food to the Netherlands, the average Dutch citizen was reduced to 1,000 calories per day by the end of November 1944. By February of 1945, citizens were down to 580 calories per day. To give you an idea of what that is like, rank the three following food items from the fewest calories to the most. Here they are in random order. After you guess, you can look up the answer online.

One twelve-ounce can of orange juice concentrate

One sixteen-ounce bottle of Olive Oil

One three-ounce box of Jello with sugar

The three are ranked in order below. The answers are given for the whole container, not for a serving size.

1. One three-ounce box of Jell-O with sugar 320 calories
2. One twelve-ounce can of orange juice concentrate 680 calories

Answers may vary to this one depending on which brand of orange juice is considered. Note that this is the full can of concentrate NOT 12 ounces of orange juice which has water added to the concentrate.

3. One sixteen-ounce bottle of Olive Oil 4000 calories.

This is not to say that olive oil is bad for you. It has health benefits. Most recipes call for small amounts.