

Discussion questions
Making Bombs for Hitler
By Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch

1. The novel opens with Lida being brutally separated from her younger sister, Larissa. Is this an effective opening? Why or why not?
2. Lida's mother used to say, "You can make beauty anywhere." How does Lida try to make beauty in the locked train car? Do you think she succeeds? Is there anything else you would have done in her situation? (Chapter 2)
3. Do you think Juli could have done more to help the children in the hospital? How? (Chapter 7)
4. If you were Lida, would you have taken the shirt or the sandwich? Why? (Chapter 10)
5. Do you think Lida preferred working in the laundry or in the factory? Would you have felt the same way? Why or why not? (Chapter 12)
6. Lida's attitude towards the Nazis changes from fearful to angry and rebellious. Why do you think that is?
7. How do you feel about Officer Schmidt? Why do you think he acted the way that he did?
8. If you were in Lida's situation, would you have gone with Luka? What were the risks involved in going with him versus staying behind? (Chapter 20)
9. Did your opinion of any of the characters change over the course of the novel? Who? Why?
10. Do you think Lida and Luka are happy when the story ends? Why or why not?
11. If you could add a dozen more pages to the epilogue, what would they be about?

More information:

On Ostarbeiters:

<http://www.ucrdc.org/HI-OSTARBEITERS.html>

<http://ukrainianweek.com/History/42987>