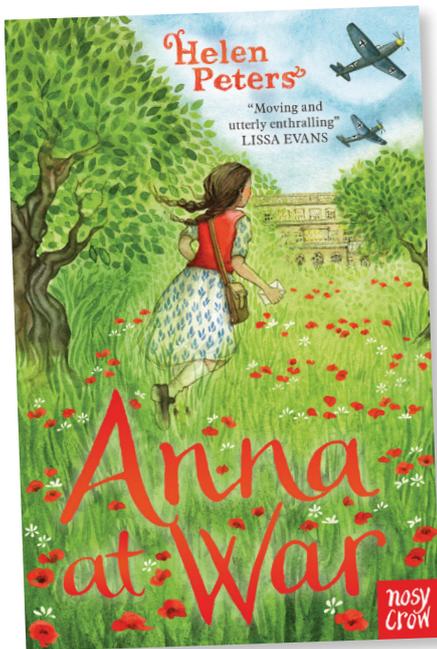


# Anna at War book group discussion notes



“Moving and  
utterly enthralling”  
**LISSA EVANS**

**A brilliant and moving wartime adventure from the author of *Evie's Ghost*.**

As life for German Jews becomes increasingly dangerous, Anna's parents put her on one of the last trains leaving for England. But the war follows her to Kent, and soon Anna finds herself caught up in web of betrayal and secrecy. How can she prove whose side she's on when she can't tell anyone the truth? But actions speak louder than words, and Anna has a dangerous plan...

## About the Author

Helen Peters grew up on an old-fashioned farm in Sussex, surrounded by family, animals and mud. She spent most of her childhood reading stories and putting on plays in a tumbledown shed that she and her friends turned into a theatre. After university, she became an English and Drama teacher. Helen lives with her husband and children in Brighton, and she can hardly believe that she now gets to call herself a writer.



More heartfelt adventures from Helen Peters



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# Anna at War



## Discussion Questions

- Begin by discussing how *Anna at War* made everyone feel. If you were recommending this book to a friend, how would you describe it?
- When Hitler and the Nazis came to power, people began to turn against the Jews. They were unable to do their jobs or even go to school. Discuss how this would have felt.
- In the first part of the book, how do Anna's parents show their fear of what is to come? Find some of the adjectives used to describe them and their actions.
- Anna is sent away from her home to somewhere completely different, without her family. Can you imagine how this would make you feel?
- Why do you think that the mother at the station was so desperate to make sure Ezra left on the train? What do you think was going through her mind on this day?
- Anna's foster family make her feel at home. Discuss how much Anna has been through so far and why families like the Deans were so important during the war.
- Molly begins to find it difficult having Anna around. Discuss how you think she feels and why she feels this way.
- The children at school are very distrustful of Anna. Why do you think they feel this way? How would you feel if everyone at school was whispering about you? Discuss the differences and similarities between Anna and the other children. In what ways are they alike?
- When Anna and her friends first find the man in the barn, he tells them he is there because he needs to see his Mother. What language in this section suggests that he is lying?
- How do you think Anna must feel, being in a country that is at war with the country she is from? Why do you think she takes on the responsibility of stopping the spy?
- Anna has to tell the colonel everything. What adjectives are used to describe how she felt about keeping such a big secret? How does she feel once everything is out in the open? Think of a time when you kept a secret. How did this make you feel?
- How does Anna's character change throughout the book? Why do you think she changes? Find examples of words used to describe her from the beginning of the book and the end.
- The scenes when Anna finds Peter Smith and follows him alone are very tense. How is the atmosphere built up in this section?
- Terrible things happened during the war and many people lost family and friends. How does this book deal with these issues?
- How do you feel about the addition of the epilogue? What is the effect of the birthday scene?