

Book Club Discussion Points for *Defiance*

Thank you for including *Defiance* as part of your book club's reading. I hope the story will spark worthwhile discussion. You might want to look at the questions *after* you've read the story.

I'm normally available to answer emailed questions or participate in a Facebook chat if your book club would like more author interaction.

1. During the early part of the novel, Lukas yearns to be accepted and treated as an adult. Can you recall similar feelings and behavior patterns in yourself or a family member?
2. Discuss the relationship between Lukas and Bastien and how it changes as the novel progresses.
3. Lukas is disappointed that he can't join the Air Corps or volunteer as a paratrooper. How does he deal with his disappointment? How have you dealt with disappointment in your life?
4. Multiple research sources mentioned soldiers in units with high turnover being reluctant to fully embrace new members. What other coping mechanisms have you observed as people try to avoid getting hurt? How do you think this pattern helped or hindered the overall war effort?
5. Several characters act as mentors and friends to Lukas through the novel. How do these relationships help Lukas through his struggles? Discuss Bastien, Higham, Winterton, and Samson.
6. Did you feel any empathy for the German civilians Luke comes into contact with? Why or why not? You may want to discuss Ilsa, Little Adolf, the mother with a young son, and the elderly couple.
7. In several instances, Lukas makes decisions that may or may not have been the best choice. Would you have done something different? Why or why not? You may want to discuss:
 1. His attempts to get medicine for a friend
 2. His decision not to intervene on behalf of a German civilian being mistreated by Soviet soldiers
 3. His decision to disobey Soviet orders regarding staying in camp
8. Toward the end of the book, Lukas struggles with moving on after his wartime experiences. What helps him find peace? How?
9. Which typical WWII soldiers' rations would you be most interested in sampling? Which would you be least interested in sampling?
10. Who was your favorite character in the book and why? Who was your least favorite character in the book and why?
11. *Defiance* has been used before as a title for books, movies, and TV shows. What alternative title would you suggest for this novel?
12. Did you learn anything new about WWII? What? Which aspects of history portrayed in this novel were most interesting to you?

If you enjoyed *Defiance*, I would greatly appreciate your honest review on websites like Amazon, Goodreads, and anywhere else books are sold or discussed.