

A Father's Promise

By Donna Lynn Hess

Name _____

STUDY GUIDE. Do all of this, or as much as is realistic and possible.
Write answers in complete sentences. Please **ENJOY** the book!!

Plot Study

Please draw your idea of the plot. Label the points.

Is it straight up and down like a mountain, or is it jagged up and down? \wedge or $\wedge\wedge\wedge$

Character Study.

Here is a list of the main characters. Choose one, and write a BRIEF character sketch

1. Rudi Kaplan
2. Rudi's father, Jakob Kaplan
3. Salek Serdusek
4. Salek's father, Eryk Serdusek
5. Salek's mother, Mrs. Serdusek (Sara)
6. the little girl that doesn't speak (Ingrid)
7. Mrs. Kaminsky
8. Franke (German soldier)
9. Mende (German soldier)
10. Oscar
11. Anna
12. Josef

For a character sketch, you name the character and three character qualities. Then you give 2-3 pieces of "evidence" to show that character quality. Try to make this a 5 paragraph essay.

What is a theme from this book?

What "proof" do you have from the book?

Vocabulary (please add words in when you find one you do not know)

Nonchalant-

Indefinitely-

Chapter Questions.

Question 1 comes from chapter 1, question 2 comes from chapter 2, etc.

1. Why did the authorities dismiss school indefinitely?
2. Why did Rudi find comfort in the cathedral?
3. What are some differences between Rudi's father and Salek's father? How do Rudi and Salek react to fear?
4. What happens for YOU when you help others?
5. What are ration cards? Why did they have to turn in their radios?
6. Why were the Jews forced out?
7. Describe why Rudi had such anger.

8. Why did Rudi go back and not tell his father? Is this disobedience?
9. Why did Rudi's father want him at the hospital with him?
10. Why was Rudi treated so badly?
11. What did Rudi's mother write to him that helped at this point in his life?
12. Why did the Germans take Mr. Serdusek and the council members?
13. Rudi noticed snowflakes, and how quickly they disappear. Describe the comparison in his own life. What was the cause for the changes in Mr. Serdusek? What good came from this?
14. What was the promise? Pg 112, 115, 116 see also page 243
15. Why did it take 30 minutes to cross the field?
16. Why is it important to have guts and brains?
17. What was Rudi supposed to do the first night at Anna's? What does Josef think about Hitler? About Jews?
18. ***"Your life depends on your ability to observe the world around you."***
How did Rudi change with Oscar's lessons? Where were Oscar and the others going? Why didn't Rudi go with them? Where did Rudi stay?

19. When thinking about Christmas memories, what did Rudi decide was/is most important? In his mother's letter, she described dying to self. Describe what Ingrid's part is in Rudi's learning to die to self (reread pg 163).

20. How did Ingrid "help" Rudi?

21. What did Rudi do to escape the soldiers and dogs?

22. Why did Rudi go back to Anna's farm after 4 years? What did Anna do to help Rudi? To help Ingrid? Please comment on the last paragraph of page 197: ".....a heart pure enough to hate evil without hating evil men..."

23. Why do Rudi and Josef dislike each other?

24. What is Anna's thought about why Josef doesn't like Rudi? (pg 209) Why did Rudi leave Anna's farm? Why in the middle of the night?

25. What news did Rudi get from the running farmer? From Oscar?

26. Why did Rudi go to the Jewish Relocation Center? Why do people write their names on the walls? What happened to the Serdusek family that changed their hearts to accept Christ? (pg. 236-238)

27. Anna believed in God, but trusted in her own goodness (pg.242). Comment. Why did Anna tell Rudi "not only to believe as father believes, but do what father would do"? What can we learn from that comment? Why does Rudi not need a beard? (the last line)