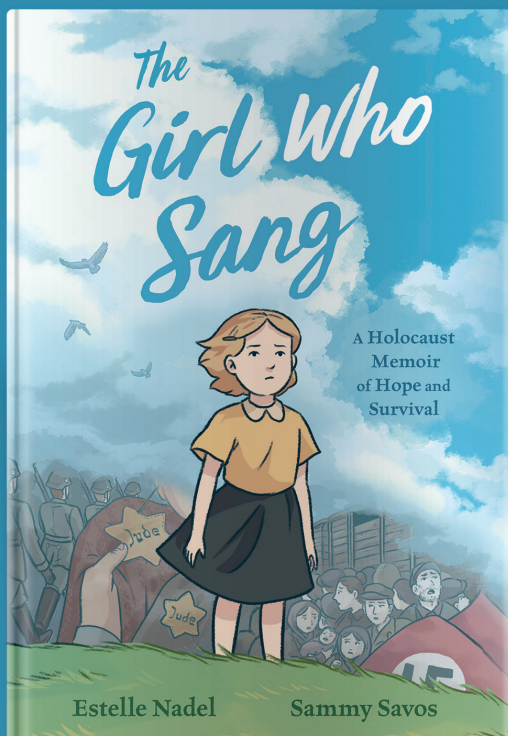


The Girl Who Sang

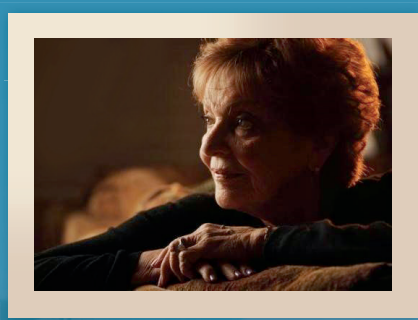
Discussion Guide



About the Book

Born to a Jewish family in a small Polish village, Estelle Nadel—then known as Enia Feld—was just seven years old when the Nazis invaded Poland in 1939. Once a vibrant child with a song for every occasion, Estelle would eventually lose her voice as, over the next five years, she survived the deaths of her mother, father, eldest brother and sister, and countless others.

The Girl Who Sang is an enthralling firsthand account of Estelle's fight for survival during World War II. At the mercy of her neighbors during a terrifying time in history, she would weather loss, betrayal, and near execution, and spend two years away from the warmth of the sun—all before the age of eleven. Once the war was over, Estelle would walk barefoot across European borders and find remnants of home in an Austrian displaced persons camp before finally crossing the Atlantic to arrive in New York City—a young woman carrying the unseen scars of war.



About the Author

Estelle Nadel (1934-2023) was a Holocaust survivor, business owner, and devoted singer. Over the course of thirty years, she shared her story with countless young people and had her testimony recorded by the Shoah Foundation Institute and housed at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. She is survived by her husband, three sons, and five grandchildren.

About the Illustrator

Sammy Savos is an illustrator and storyboard artist who has worked on shows at Cartoon Network, Titmouse Inc., and ShadowMachine. She is most interested in storytelling, whether it is through comics or storyboarding. *The Girl Who Sang: A Holocaust Memoir of Hope and Survival* is her debut.





The Girl Who Sang

Discussion Questions

1. When Enia and her family are hiding in Pudlina's attic, they are not allowed to make any noise for fear of being caught. As a result, Enia sings songs in her head. How does this help her?
2. Minashe decides to go off on his own after their mother is killed. Enia tries to stop him but Shia doesn't. Why do you think Shia didn't try to get him to stay? Why was it important to Minashe to leave?
3. Enia learns that Shia abandoned her when they escaped the jail. What made Shia leave Enia? How does Enia deal with this and find a way to forgive him?
4. The Kurowski family did so much to keep Enia's family safe and hidden, and yet it was one of their own relatives who reported Minashe when he was in hiding. Why do you think that the two sides of this family acted so differently? How does this reflect on the way that Jewish people were treated as a whole?
5. After the war was over and the Russians left Borek, there was still a large amount of prejudice against Jewish people. "Polish youths would come and pull Jews out of their homes and shoot them." Why would people still act this way?
6. Enia, Shia, and Minashe all choose new American names once they move to New York. Why do they choose different names? How does this affect them as they settle into their new lives?
7. Leaving her brother to live with the Nadels wasn't easy for Enia (now Estelle). The Nadels and her friends don't know what she has been through. How does she handle that? Why doesn't she speak about her experiences?
8. Shia takes on a lot of responsibility to keep his family safe. How does he handle this pressure?
9. Throughout the story, Enia doesn't lose her love of singing and continues to find comfort in it. Do you have something you do that brings you comfort during difficult times?

