

Before Reading

- What are some customs of funerals?
- What is typhus?

Key Vocabulary

Chapter 9

deftly

hearse

mourning

reluctantly

casket

Chapter 10

staccato

condescending

typhus

Build Comprehension

Key Ideas and Details

- What does Uncle Henrik explain to Annemarie about not knowing everything that is happening?
- Why didn't Annemarie tell Ellen the truth about Aunt Birte?
- Who do you think the people arriving for the funeral really are?
- Why does Uncle Henrik suggest that it's better to be brave if you don't know all the facts?
- What is implied about Annemarie and Mama by the lines: "Annemarie knew that Mama was lying again, and she could see that Mama understood that she knew. They looked at each other for a long time and said nothing. In that moment, with that look, they became equals."
- What did Annemarie do that proves she was brave?
- How did Mama trick the soldier?
- Why was Ellen sad during the funeral?
- What do you think would happen if the soldiers learned there was not a body in the casket?
- What do you think is in the casket?

Topics for Reading Responses and/or Journal Writing:

- Write about a time that you had to keep a secret or had to be brave.
- Why was Aunt Birte's funeral important?

Is there ever a good reason to lie? Explain.



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