



Discussion Questions

The Silenced by James DeVita

Source: Tyne Turner, Teacher, Golda Meir School
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1. This book was inspired by the true story of Sophie Scholl. What similarities are there to the actual social conditions facilitating the Holocaust?
2. What privacy issues exist today that could create similar government control opportunities in countries around the world? How about in our own country? Are you concerned?
3. Is this futuristic scenario possible in the USA? Are there things we can watch for to protect ourselves? Should we be concerned about oppression that doesn't seem to directly affect us? Why?
4. Do we have appropriate laws in place to protect our right to privacy? If so, what are they? If not, what should we add?
5. Have you ever betrayed someone's trust "for your own good"? Is betrayal ever justified?
6. Are there times when a government must circumvent individual freedom in order to protect its citizens? For instance, do you agree with the US justifications for "The Patriot Act"?
7. How do you decide whom to trust? Are you trustworthy under all circumstances? Does being trustworthy require courage?
8. Does non-violent protest really make a difference? What are some examples of this sort of subversion working in the past?

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