A Night Divided – Comprehension Questions

Chapter 1 to 5


2. Why do you think there was no warning about the fence going up?

3. What was the significance of which way the Grenzers faced?

4. How does Gerta define a “cold war”?

5. Why do the Stasi come to Gerta’s apartment every few months?

6. Why had so many people already fled to West Berlin?

7. Gerta said that maybe her mother had been a prisoner here long before the fence appeared. What can we infer from that statement?

8. Gerta refused to accept her life inside a prison. How do you think you would have felt?

9. How much time had passed between chapter 1 and chapter 4?

10. Why do you think it took four years for Dominic and Papa appeared at the border?

11. Describe the Death Strip.

12. Describe Mama’s reaction when Gerta told her she saw Dominic. Why do you think she reacts this way?
A Night Divided – Comprehension Questions

Chapter 6 to 10

1. Explain the secret that Fritz told Gerta. Why didn’t they tell their mother the secret?

2. Explain what Gerta’s father did on the platform on the other side of the fence.

3. Gerta thinks that her Papa was sending her a message to dig. Do you agree? Why or why not?

4. What happened to Anna’s brother Peter?

5. What evidence from the text in chapter 8 shows that Gerta felt empathy for her friend Anna?

6. What did the family begin to do because the apartment was bugged?

7. What did Fritz realize after being questioned by the Stasi?

8. What is the significance of the file the Stasi have on Fritz?

9. On page 67, Gerta said, “I felt like a disease. Just as my father had infected me, I could now infect others.” What does she mean?
A Night Divided – Comprehension Questions

Chapter 11 - 15

1. “In the days since coming back from the Stasi, something about Fritz had changed.” What changes does Gerta notice in her brother? Why might he have made these changes?

2. Do you think that Gerta should have gone to Herr Krause’s apartment when she heard him yelling for help? Would you have gone? Why or why not?

3. Fritz and Viktor used to be friends. What do you suppose has made Viktor change so much?

4. Why was it so difficult for Gerta to communicate with her father?

5. What do you suppose the drawing of the building means and who sent it?

6. “She [Anna] was practically quoting from the state’s propaganda, no better than a puppet on a string.” (Page 84) What is propaganda? Why is it an important tool for the Stasi?

7. Explain the importance of the two letters that came to Gerta’s apartment.

8. Why did Fritz have to break up with his girlfriend Claudia?
A Night Divided – Comprehension Questions

Chapter 16 - 20

1. Explain how Gerta came to the conclusion that Papa wanted her to dig a tunnel to the west.

2. At first Fritz does not want to dig the tunnel. What reasons does he give?

3. What event occurred to convince Fritz to dig the tunnel after he told Gerta he wouldn’t?

4. Do you think it was a wise decision for Fritz to spend their money on overalls? Justify your answer.

5. Why does Fritz want to finish the tunnel quickly?

Chapter 21 - 25

1. What is your opinion of Frau Eberhart?

2. When Gerta went to refill her brother’s canteen she sees a pulley. Why was it so important to Gerta to get the pulley?

3. As Gerta was sneaking out to get the pulley, she bumped into a woman hiding in an alley. Talk about their brief encounter. What is your opinion of this woman?

4. On page 152, Gerta said, “I stayed hidden in the corner for several seconds, steeling my nerves.” What does this mean?

5. At the end of Chapter 25, Anna comes to see Gerta. What is the significance of their conversation? Do you think Anna knows what Gerta is up to? Why or Why not?
A Night Divided – Comprehension Questions

Chapter 26 – 30

1. “Fritz and I had chosen to dedicate the day to pleasing the hidden microphones.”(page165) How did they do this? Why do you think it was important for them to spend time ‘pleasing the microphones’?

2. How did the pile of laundry help them solve the problem of where to put the extra dirt?

3. Fritz insists on buying a wheelbarrow with the money Papa sent instead of food. What do you think was more important, a wheelbarrow or food? Give reasons for your answer.

4. Even though Gerta wants her friendship with Anna back, she is unkind to her. Explain why.

5. Explain how Officer Muller knew they were tunneling.

6. What clues led Gerta to realize that Officer Muller had a family?

7. Do you think Gerta and Fritz should trust Officer Muller? Why or why not?

Chapter 31 - 36

1. What was the crisis in the tunnel that could have caused the tunnel to collapse? How does Fritz solve the problem?

2. How did mama react when she heard about the tunnel?

3. Why did Gerta need to get into Anna’s apartment?

4. When Gerta was looking out Anna’s bedroom window toward the Welcome Building, what did she notices a dark spot in the Death Strip near where they were tunneling? What caused the dark spot that Gerta saw in the Death Strip?

5. What caused Mama to change her mind about escaping?

6. Were you surprised that the mother changed her attitude about escaping? Do you agree with her?
**A Night Divided – Comprehension Questions**

**Chapter 37 - 45**

1. When the family determined that someone else must be tunneling also, Gerta seemed to think it could be Papa. What were her reasons for thinking this? Do you agree with her conclusion?

2. (Chapter 38) Describe the changes that Gerta sees in her mother?

3. How did you feel when Papa started singing Gerta’s song in the tunnel?

4. Explain how Gerta realized that Papa’s side of the tunnel was going to collapse.

5. (Chapter 41) Gerta said she didn’t know if she should feel intensely excited or intensely afraid. Can you understand how she felt? Have you ever felt that way?

6. Explain the promise that Anna’s family made to the Stasi. Do you think they were right in doing so? What do you think you would have done if you were in the same situation?

7. On page 274, Anna said, “I didn’t know it would be you, Gerta. Why did it have to be you?” What did this imply? How did you react after reading this statement?

8. Ironic means strange or funny because it is something is different from what you expected. How was the approved Communist art on the sides of buildings ironic to Gerta?

9. Gerta and her Mama had to decide what to bring with them and what to leave. Which things were they happy to leave? Why? Which things were they sad to leave? Why?

10. Why had the Grenzers come to get Fritz before the day was even over?

11. Why was Gerta so glad the Mama had made them clean the apartment?

12. How did you feel when you found out Anna and her family chose to escape also? What was their reason for doing so?
A Night Divided – Comprehension Questions

Chapter 46 and 47

1. What were Papa and Officer Muller doing after Gerta and Fritz were on their way out?

2. Was it wise of Gerta to still think of Officer Muller as a Grenzer? Why do you think as you do?

3. Why did Gerta run back to check on Officer Muller?

4. What were Officer Muller’s last words?

5. What had Papa put in the tunnel as a place marker? Why?

6. Why do you think Papa said that Officer Muller’s family was now part of their family?

7. “The Sun never rises in the west, but that day it did. For me, and for my family, the long, dark night was over.” What is the significance of this quote?