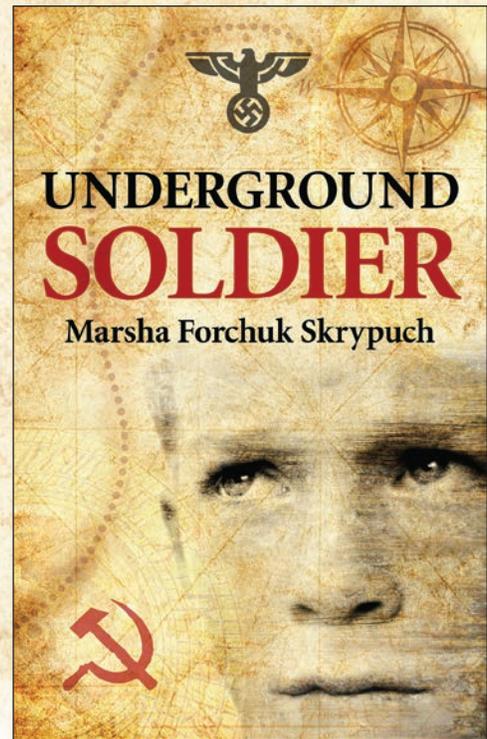


UNDERGROUND SOLDIER

Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch



Discussion Questions

1. The novel opens with a grisly chapter detailing the main character's escape. Is this an effective way to start the story? Why or why not?
2. Luka says he doesn't blame the British and Americans for bombing German farms — that if soldiers can't eat, they can't fight. Do you agree with this common military tactic? If you were in Luka's position, do you think you would blame the British and the Americans?
3. Why was it so confusing and scary for the Ukrainians to see the Germans marching into Kyiv? What do you think Luka meant when he said "They don't seem to be the devils Stalin told us they were"? (Chapter 6)
4. Why was it so important to Luka that he had Lida's blessing to try to escape from the hospital at the slave camp? Why do you think Helmut and Margarete took such risks to help Luka? Do you think you would have done the same? (Chapter 9)
5. What were some of the best survival tips that Martina taught Luka? What traits make someone a good survivor during wartime? (Chapter 13)
6. Vera asks Luka if he wants the Soviets to win the war. Why do you think this is a hard question for Luka to answer? (Chapter 16)
7. Why do you think Luka's days in the displaced persons' camp were so challenging for him? (Chapter 23)
8. Before reading *Underground Soldier*, did you know that some people in World War II were in danger from both Nazis and Soviets? How did the story affect your understanding of what challenges these civilians faced?

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Activities

1. Make a missing persons poster for one or more of Luka's loved ones. Include their names and any physical characteristics that might help them be identified. Be sure to list where they were last seen, and where Luka thinks they might be now.
2. Draft a letter from Luka to his parents or to Lida. Put yourself in his shoes. What sort of information would you tell them? Would you be honest about the work you were doing with the UPA? What would you ask them?
3. Write a job posting as if you were one of the leaders of the UPA. What types of people would you want to join your army? How would you encourage them to be a part of your team?
4. Write about one of the key events from the story as if it is a news item for a paper or for a radio broadcast of the time.

Read the companion novels to *Underground Soldier*:
Stolen Child and *Making Bombs for Hitler*.

