

Questions for your book club

- What did the title of the book mean to you? Can you think of any examples of ‘the light we cannot see’ throughout the story?
- ‘Doing nothing is as good as collaborating.’ Do you agree with Madam Manec? In which moments do you wish the characters had taken action, rather than sitting back and watching things unfold? Can you remember a moment like this in your own life?
- ‘He has to swallow back tears. The parlor looks the same as it always has ... yet now there is music.’ What is the impact of the radio on the novel and the time period in which it is set? Do you think it compares with the impact of the internet on today’s society?
- What did the novel teach you about blindness? Do you think the author captures the experience convincingly?
- ‘Open your eyes ... and see what you can with them before they close forever.’ The words of the Frenchman on the radio stay with Werner. How do you think this phrase relates to the novel’s wider message? Are there phrases from the book that stay with you in the same way?

- ‘She simply listens, hears, and breathes.’ Marie-Laure finds peace in walking along the beach. Where do other characters find moments of peace? What other forms does this peace take amidst the chaos of war?
- Do you think the Sea of Flames was an object with supernatural powers, or merely a gemstone? What is the effect of introducing such a mystical element to the plot, alongside the real-life horrors of the Second World War?
- The novel comes to its climax on 8 August 1944, but the story of that day is spread throughout the book. Why do you think the author chose this structure? What do you think it adds to the novel?
- The book ends with a glimpse into the characters’ futures. Did you appreciate this insight into their lives after the war? Did any of their circumstances surprise you?
- ‘Minds are always drifting towards ambiguity, towards questions, when what you really need is certainty.’ What questions did the novel leave you with? Do you agree that we ‘really need’ certainty, or do you like it when a novel leaves some things unanswered?