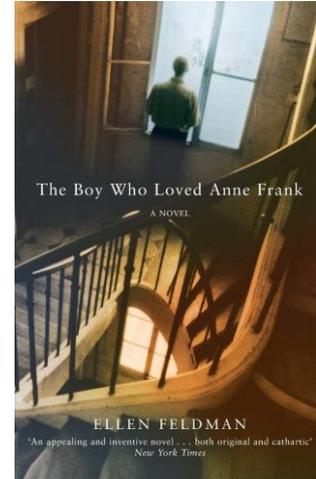


The Boy Who Loved Anne Frank

Ellen Feldman

Reading Group Questions

1. Feldman decided to give Peter the life he never had through fiction. Ethically, do you believe that she was right to do this? Why, or why not?
2. How does the novel provide an insight into the victims and survivors of the Holocaust? Given that Feldman did not experience the Holocaust first-hand, should she have written this novel? Does it do justice to those who did?
3. Why is Peter so insistent on hiding his identity regardless of the suffering it brings him?
4. Why do you think Peter changes his mind about getting his tattoo removed?
5. Peter's sister-in-law Susannah is reluctant to marry anyone who is not Jewish. Why does she feel so strongly about this?
6. How does being able to read Peter's inner thoughts impact the novel?
7. Towards the end of the book, it is revealed that some of Peter's memories are untrustworthy. Does this change the way you read his story?
8. Which character in the book is the most complex? Which is your favourite, and why?
9. Feldman carefully peels back the different layers of stories that have grown out of Anne Frank's diary. Is her novel critical of the commercialisation of Anne's remarkable life story? Or are these criticisms outweighed by the need to bring Anne Frank's story to the widest possible public?
10. Does the ending of the novel suggest that Feldman approves or disapproves of Holocaust tourism?
11. How useful is it to have read *The Diary of Anne Frank* prior to reading this novel? Would you be able to understand it without this context?
12. Is the way Anne Frank presents Peter different to the way that Feldman describes him? Is he different in the theatre/film adaptation of Anne's diary?



Edith Goldberg

Edith Goldberg's attitudes towards 'speaking out' are very similar to Peter's. Edith states that for some time she didn't feel able to visit Auschwitz, and that whenever a TV programme was on about the Holocaust, she would switch it off. For nearly 20-30 years, she never spoke about it. She says that in life 'you've got to go with the flow', and try to move past the trauma. However, when she saw that schools were teaching *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, a fictional account of the Holocaust, she felt she had to speak out to stop her experience being misrepresented, much like Peter does.



<https://holocaustlearning.org.uk/stories/edith-goldberg/>