



1. First, a show of hands: Who among you already knew the history of the French Resistance before reading this book? How, if at all, did *The Mademoiselle Alliance* affect or alter your understanding of this dark chapter in world history?
2. Author Natasha Lester puts a human face on World War II by bringing the “real” character of Marie-Madeleine Fourcade to life. Take a moment to discuss your reading preferences. Would you rather read a narrative novel about a historical individual, or a nonfiction biography? Why or why not?
3. Do you think *The Mademoiselle Alliance* would make a good film or TV series? What elements of the story are most cinematic? And, just for fun, who would you cast in the leading roles?
4. Discuss the novel’s narrative style. What storytelling techniques, from foreshadowing to cliff-hanger chapter endings, kept you turning the pages? You may choose to share some of your favorite lines of dialogue, characterizations, or descriptions as well.
5. The book explores the experiences of women who defy societal expectations and norms. What challenges did Marie-Madeleine and the other female agents of Alliance face that their male counterparts did not? You may wish to talk about other heroic females, real or fictional, who had to overcome unimaginable obstacles and odds as well.
6. What did you learn about the role of women during wartime from this novel? This might be a good opportunity to share your own stories about any women (or men) in your family history who served or offered support during WWII, or during more recent conflicts, as well.
7. If you had the chance to ask the author one question about *The Mademoiselle Alliance*—about her research, the writing process, or her personal background—what might it be?
8. What was your biggest thematic takeaway from the book?
9. Discuss any lingering questions you might have about this novel, from plot points to its final outcome.
10. We are taught, as young readers, that every story has a moral, or a lesson about our humanity that is ultimately revealed. What did you learn about the world or yourself after reading *The Mademoiselle Alliance*? And how, if at all, might you share your newfound knowledge?