***The Hidden Room*  Study Guide**

1. Briefly describe the personality of each of the following characters.
2. Jacob-
3. Rachel-
4. Eli-
5. Mama-
6. Papa-
7. Stepan-
8. Mrs. Koval-
9. Elena-
10. Name three different hiding places, or hidden rooms, that play an important role in this novel. (A potential fourth location is also referenced in the story.)
11. What are some errors of judgement that Papa makes, which create conflicts both internal (within himself) and external (with other characters)?
12. How does Jacob interact with the other members of his family? Though he is technically not a middle child, in what ways does he fill that role?
13. Give two examples of irony from the story. (Irony can be verbal—saying the opposite of what you mean, or situational—when the opposite of what you expect to happen occurs.)

a.

b.

1. Why is the spiritual presence of Jacob’s older brother, Abraham, important to the story.
2. To better understand the historical background of Ukraine and the time period, research the following terms and give a brief summary of each.
3. The Holodomor:
4. Einsatzgruppen:
5. Pogrom:
6. Joseph Stalin:
7. Collectivized Farming:
8. Nazi collaborators:
9. *Slava Ukrayini!*:

For further reflection.

In your opinion, what are some of the challenges that a novelist faces when he/she chooses to write about war for young readers?