



A Brilliant Life by Rachelle Unreich

Book Club Questions

1. Rachelle presumed she knew about her mother before she interviewed her. What were really the most important things she learned? Do you think children have a good understanding of who their parents really are without such conversations?
2. Mira seemingly did not incorporate the trauma of her past. Do you think this was accurate?
3. How do you account for the strange, mysterious occurrences that took place around Mira's life?
4. What was it about Mira that allowed her to see the world so positively? Is that something innate, or taught?
5. Which scene of Mira's life stuck with you the most? Would you describe her life as "brilliant"? Why?
6. Of all Mira's lessons, what one will you remember most?
7. What was a line or paragraph in the book that stood out for you?

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8. Is it important to remember moments of the historical past from long ago?
Why?
9. Rachelle explains that her mother's life composed of the bitter and the sweet. Is one happier if they have known unhappiness first?
10. What parts of the book did you find the most moving?
11. How do you think you would cope if your life was under threat?
12. There is a point in the book where bystanders taunt those on a cattle truck. Elie Wiesel once said, "What hurts the victim most is not the cruelty of the oppressor but the silence of the bystander." Discuss.
13. What challenges do you think Mira would have faced after her liberation?
14. Do you think children of Holocaust survivors should try and get information as Rachelle did?
15. Has this made you feel that it's important to get family history down, no matter what the history?
16. In what ways do you think Rachelle adopted her mother's attitude?
17. Which people in the book left an impression on you - and why?

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