



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Beneath a Scarlet Sky

- Tito pretends to be a partisan. How would you compare Pino and Tito? What is demonstrated about bravery, courage, and cowardice through their interactions?
- Pino is spying on General Leyers when he drives him around. What challenges does Pino face as a spy? What are the difficulties and challenges of working undercover, and how is Pino affected by working undercover?
- Why do Mimo and Carletto want nothing to do with Pino after he becomes General Leyers' driver? Why does Pino not try to heal the relationships by telling them the truth about himself and what he is doing? What would you do in Pino's situation?

Carletto

Mussolini with Karl Wolff

Hans Leyers

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Beneath a Scarlet Sky

- Some Germans want the Italians punished for a bombing that killed German soldiers. This is called the Nazi system of reprisal. Why does Leyers not recommend punishing the Italians? What unforeseen consequences could occur if the Italians are punished and why would those be detrimental?
- Many of the Jews Pino sees hauled away by train are being sent to Auschwitz. What do Pino and his family learn about Auschwitz? What does Auschwitz reveal about the atrocities of the Germans?

Carletto

Mussolini with Karl Wolff

Hans Leyers

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Beneath a Scarlet Sky

- In the novel, some characters are more thoroughly described than others. Who are some characters that are merely named in passing or have a minor role in the novel? What is the importance of these flat characters to the story line? In what way do these characters make the main characters more colorful or interesting? When there is conflict, what type of role do these characters play?
- How does Leyers seem to have a dual nature? Why is it difficult to understand the type of man he is because of his dual nature?



## Jo Jo Rabbit Analysis

1. Describe the ways in which Jojo Rabbit uses satire and describe a scene that utilizes this technique.
2. Describe one scene or element of the film that utilizes dramatic irony.
3. What is notable about the film's tone, and what effect does it have?
4. Relate this film back to what we have been discussing in history and what you have been reading in Beneath a Scarlet Sky. What does this film suggest about ideology and innocence?
5. How was this film impactful? What did you learn about life in Nazi Germany from this film?



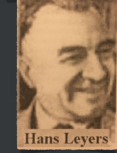
## Beneath a Scarlet Sky

- General Leyers said, "My country is under siege. . . So here in Italy, and in your eyes, I'm a criminal. Back home, I'll be an unsung hero. Good. Evil. It's all a question of perspective, is it not?" Do you agree or disagree with his perspective?
- Reverend Schmidt said, "Leyers was an engineer who joined the army because it was a job. He wasn't a member of the Nazi party. If he was involved in war crimes, I can only believe he was forced to be part of them. He must have had a gun to his head, no choice in the matter at all" (507). Many Germans after WWII made the same kind of argument after the war, that they only followed orders or felt forced into supporting Hitler and the Holocaust. Do you agree with this? Why or why not? Was Leyers an ordinary German in extraordinary times, forced to make terrible decisions, or was he a willing executioner and slave master for Hitler?
- Sullivan said, "Pino at that moment seemed to me like a portal into a long-ago world where the ghosts of war and courage, the demons of hatred and inhumanity, and the arias of faith and love still played out within the good and decent soul who'd survived to tell the tale" (508). Discuss your impression of the novel and Pino Lella's story. What did his story reveal to you about war and courage, hatred and inhumanity, faith and love -- or something else?



## Beneath a Scarlet Sky

- ❑ Hitler orders mass destruction of Milan if the war ends badly. How does Cardinal Schuster attempt to negotiate with the Germans and prevent mass destruction? Is he successful in preventing a scorched-earth policy after the war ends?
- ❑ In what ways does Pino mature and come of age in this story? Is this a coming-of-age story?
- ❑ Pino experiences internal and external conflicts in the novel. What conflicts do Pino and others experience? Are most of the conflicts in the novel internal or external? Are they mostly man vs. man, man vs. nature, or man vs. self? How does conflict affect plot?



Hans Leyers

Mussolini with Karl Wolff

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

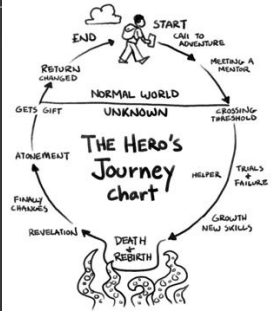
---

---

---

## Beneath a Scarlet Sky

- ❑ Discuss Pino's character. How are his character and experiences similar to the literary hero's journey?
- ❑ Discuss the changes that take place throughout the novel Benito Mussolini. What does his experience reveal about the nature of his regime, and the nature of totalitarian dictatorships as their power and influence deteriorate?




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Beneath a Scarlet Sky

- ❑ Anna told Pino that she didn't believe much in the future, that she tried to live moment by moment, looking for reasons to be grateful, trying to create her own happiness and grace, and to use them as a means to a good life in the present and not a goal to be achieved some other day. Discuss your perspective on Anna's philosophy. Do you agree or disagree and why, given what happens to her, and for you personally?
- ❑ Hans Leyers prophesied, "things had gone his way before Adolf Hitler, during Adolf Hitler, and after Adolf Hitler" (506). Discuss how Leyers' experience after the war demonstrates this. Do you feel that justice was served? Should we be content to say, "Justice is the Lord's"?



Hans Leyers

Mussolini with Karl Wolff

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Beneath a Scarlet Sky

According to one history student, "This story has made me laugh, nearly cry, scream in frustration and send me into deep melancholies. Never have I wanted to meet and show a respect to a man such as I do now want to meet and show respect to Pino Lella. What a tale. Life isn't fair, but that doesn't mean it can't be happy."

Do you agree or disagree with this student's assessment of the book and Pino Lella's story?



Hans Leyers

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---