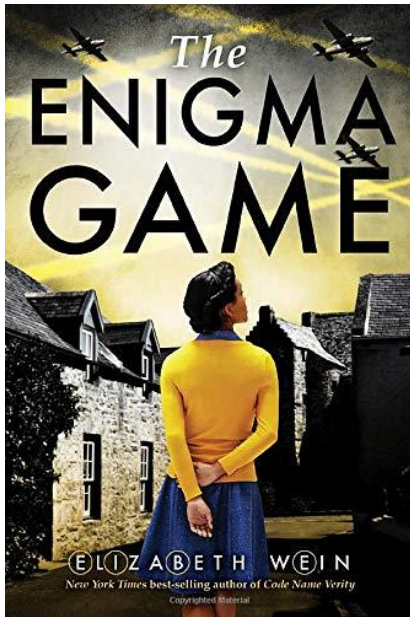


Berkshire Book Award 2021 – Longlist title The Enigma Game by Elizabeth Wein



Windyedge Airfield, Scotland. World War II.

Louisa Adair, newly orphaned and shunned for her mixed-race heritage, has come here to the edge of the world to look after an old lady with a dark past.

Jamie Beaufort-Stuart is a flight lieutenant whose squadron is posted to the airfield over winter.

Ellen McEwan is a young woman held hostage by the German pilot who lands at Windyedge one wild stormy night carrying a terrible secret.

Three young people desperate to make a difference in a war that has decimated their families, friends and country. When the means to change the course of history falls into their hands, how will they use it? And when the enemy comes looking for them, who will have the courage to strike back?



Book Club discussion questions and activities –

What do you already know about World War Two? Can you name key dates and facts of its timeline?

How does the writer convey Jamie's experiences as a pilot? Highlight or note down key words.

What disadvantages and dangers did Jamie's B-Flight aircrew face in comparison to the German pilots? Give examples.

Which other characters play vital roles in the war effort? What dangers and challenges do they face?

How does the writer explore themes of bravery and courage in the text? How can these qualities be shown in different ways?

Why doesn't Louisa feel accepted in 1940s Britain? What discrimination and prejudice does she face? Who else experiences discrimination and prejudice in the text and why? How does this affect them? Give examples.

Why is it important to feel like you belong? How does Windyedge offer characters a sense of belonging?

What comfort does Louisa find in the books that she reads? How does music also help her and Jane?

How can literature and the arts help us to be more accepting of each other's differences?

