

Book group questions for 'The House at Tyneford'/'The Novel in the Viola'

Elise points out how different Kit is from other boys she knows. What is your first impression of Kit? Are you drawn to him? How would you describe his relationship with his father, Mr. Rivers?

A confrontation with Diana inspires Elise to shock the partygoers during Kit's birthday. What was your reaction to this moment? How did it affect Kit and Elise's relationship? How did it change the way Mr. Rivers and the staff at Tyneford saw Elise?

What sacrifices does Mr. Rivers make to help Elise and her family? What did this tell you about Mr. Rivers? How would you describe his feelings toward Elise as the novel progresses?

Kit and Elise's romance stirs up a great deal of emotion in and around Tyneford. What is your opinion of how Mr. Rivers receives the news of Kit's love for Elise? What social and class challenges do you feel Kit and Elise faced?

What was your opinion of Kit's decision regarding his involvement in the war? What do you feel motivated him in this decision? How did his relationships with Elise and his father affect his decision?

What happens to Kit? How does this affect Elise and Mr. Rivers? How does it affect the relationship between them?

The danger of war comes home when Elise spots a German fighter flying near Tyneford. What is significant about this event? What do you gather about Elise's character from her reaction to this moment?

What does Elise discover about the novel Julian hid in the viola? What did you make of this turn of events? What impact does it have on Elise? What piece of work does the novel inspire and what significance does it have for Elise in the end?

What is your opinion of where Mr. Rivers and Elise's relationship ends up? As you see it, what events led to Tyneford's fate? What significance did Tyneford have to Elise, Kit, and Mr. Rivers?

Can a place like Tyneford exist in today's world?

Why do you think the novel in the viola blank?

The novel contains a concerto, and the viola contains a novel. What is the significance of music in the novel?