

## **Questions for Vichy and the Holocaust**

### **Odette Meyers, “Doors to Madame Marie”**

Do you think that Odette’s childhood friends would have turned on her as quickly if they had known she was Jewish but she had not been forced to wear a star? Why or why not?

What do Odette’s experiences at school (both with her fellow students and the principal), Odette, Sarah, and Henriette’s attempts to procure a glass of water and their subsequent visit to the library, as well as Madame Marie’s encounter with the French policemen who come to arrest Odette’s family tell you about French responsibility for what happened to the country’s population during the Holocaust?

What do you think accounted for Madame Marie’s devotion to Odette and her family and, ultimately, her willingness to take extraordinary risks to save them?

### **Lucienne Blondel**

What is Blondel’s attitude towards women and suffrage? How do her hesitations about giving women the vote compare with those of Republicans in the 1880s and 1890s?

What is the problem with democracy for Blondel?

What is her critique of the pro-natalist policy of the present government? What measures does she think should be taken to increase the French birthrate?

What would women’s role be in an ideal society, for Blondel?

To whom do you think her ideas would be appealing?

### **Claire Duchon, Chapter 1: Liberation**

How did both the attitudes towards, and punishments inflicted on, male and female collaborators differ after the war? What accounts for those differences?

How did occupation and war-time deprivation affect gender roles and attitudes towards gender? What similarities and differences do you see with the First World War?