



Discussion Questions for *Duke* by Kirby Larson

As World War II rages, Hobie feels it's his duty to lend his German shepherd, Duke, to the armed forces. With both his dad and dog off at war, Hobie quickly discovers the many meanings of bravery.

1. Why does Hobie feel that he's not as brave as his father is?
2. Hobie's father had a saying: "Courage doesn't always roar." What do you think that means?
3. Would you have sent your dog to the military? Explain why or why not.
4. How does Hobie feel about the letter from Pfc. Corff? How does he feel when he receives the letter from his father about the dog?
5. Hobie is especially good at relating to dogs. Do you have any skills that you're especially good at? What skills would you like to get better at?
6. Hobie's mother says, "Life is full of things we do not like, but what matters is our attitude." Do you think this is true? Why or why not?
7. Why does Max feel that Hobie has not been a good friend to him? Have you ever had a similar experience with a friend?
8. How does Hobie rekindle his friendship with Max?
9. What are some of the ways that life during World War II is different from life now?
10. Who does Hobie depend on since his father is not physically present? Explain your answer.