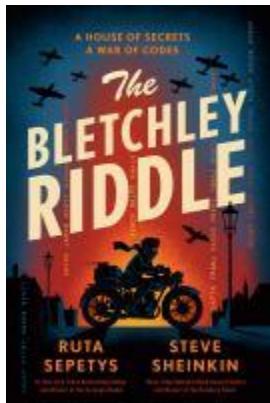


Knowledge Organizer: *The Bletchley Riddle*

Key Vocabulary

Cipher	A secret or disguised way of writing; a code.
Code-breaking	Translating a cipher into understandable words and meaning.
Precocious	Having developed certain abilities at an earlier age than usual – particularly children.
Correspondence	Written letters or other mail.
Posh	Elegant or stylishly luxurious.
Cryptic	Having a meaning that is mysterious or obscure.



See “Knowledge Organizer: World War II” for background information about the setting (time + place) of *The Bletchley Riddle*.

Characters

Jakob Novis	A university student recruited to Bletchley Park as codebreaker. Co-protagonist of novel.
Lizzie Novis	Jakob's younger sister who begins working at Bletchley Park. Co-protagonist of novel.
Willa Novis	Jakob and Lizzie's mother. Presumed dead at beginning of novel.
Gran	Jakob and Lizzie's grandmother.
Fleetwood	Man charged with taking Lizzie back to U.S.
Detective Jarvis	Policeman trying to catch spies.
Colin	Local boy and friend of Lizzie.
Marion	Lizzie's friend and fellow employee.

Literary Terms

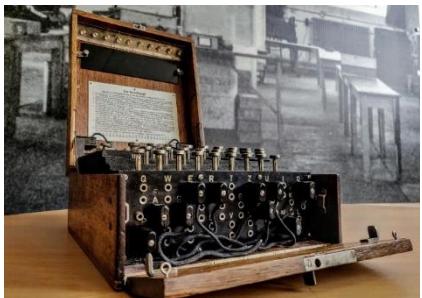
Dual narrative	A story that is told from the point of view of two different characters.
Setting	When and where a story takes place
Conflict	The central problem in the story: External conflict = motivation + obstacle Internal conflict = negative thoughts and feelings or tough choices
Motivation	What a character wants or needs (often causes the conflict)
Obstacle	What stands in the way of a character reaching their motivation
Perspective	The way a character views or thinks about a situation, another character, or themselves

Can you identify the objects and where each one shows up in the novel?



What is an Enigma Machine?

- Electrical-mechanical device first made in early 1920s for coding messages
- Initially used for commercial use (banks) but German government bought about 30,000 and modified them to make code stronger
- Allows operator to set rotors that establish initial keyword for code – this key will change while machine is being used
- Pushing buttons completes circuit, turning text X into coded text Y
- The Turing Bombe was an electromechanical device used to discover daily messages of the Enigma Machines in Germany



Key Facts About Bletchley Park

- Bletchley Park was a country house and estate (with 581 acres of land) sold to Great Britain's Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) in 1938 and set up as a secret location for codebreaking during World War II.
- British codebreakers were in debt to Polish codebreakers, who shared their intelligence and an Enigma Machine in 1939.
- The organization was called by several names, included GC&S (Government Code and Cipher School) and "Station X."
- Secrecy was key – every employee had to sign the Official Secrets Act, which prevented them from talking about their work during the war and for 30 years after (until the mid-1970s). Some people never talked about their Bletchley Park experiences.
- Workers were recruited from students at Oxford and Cambridge (all men), but 75% were women. Around 10,000 people in total worked at Bletchley Park between 1938 and 1945, when the war ended.
- Other people recruited included mathematicians, military experts, historians, bankers, musicians, chess masters and winners of crossword competitions.
- Codebreakers translated around 4,000 messages a day.
- Shifts were long and difficult, but there were occasional concerts, a tennis court, dancing, and chess clubs.