



*Center for*

**EUROPEAN STUDIES**

*at the University of Florida*

# **Euro Bookclub**

## **Spring 2024**

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TOPIC
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<p><i>I Must Betray You</i> Chapter 1 &amp; 2</p>
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### Lesson Summary

TARGET GRADE
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10 <sup>th</sup> Grade, English Language Arts and/or Social Studies
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OBJECTIVES
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Students will be able to identify the key elements and characters in Chapter 1 of "I Must Betray You" by Ruta Sepetys.

Students will demonstrate their understanding of the Chapter 1 by answering reading comprehension questions.

BENCHMARKS
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ELA.10.R.1.1: Analyze how key elements enhance or add layers of meaning and/or style in a literary text.

- Clarification 1: Key elements of a literary text are setting, plot, characterization, conflict, point of view, theme, and tone.

ELA.10.R.3.2: Paraphrase content from grade-level texts.

Standard 8: Recognize significant events and people from the post-World War II and Cold War eras.

- SS.912.W.8.8 - Describe the rise and goals of nationalist leaders in the post-war era and the impact of their rule on their societies.

INSTRUCTIONAL TIME
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50-60 minute class period
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OVERVIEW
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In this lesson, students will be introduced to Communist Romania and then delve into Chapter 1&2 of the novel to focus on setting, characters, language, and possible themes of the novel. This book is best taught within the historical context of the Cold War period, when Eastern Europe was Soviet aligned. This lesson covers Chapter 1&2 of the novel; therefore, students will begin their analysis of how key elements enhance or add layers of meaning and/or style in this literary text. To fully cover the benchmark the students will need to continue adding layers as they read further chapters.

## CONTENT VOCABULARY

Communist, Oppression, Dictatorship, Propaganda, Regime, Dissent, Suppression, Subversion, Interrogation, Disillusionment, Ration, Censorship

## INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

Reading complex text

Group discussion

Writing/Paraphrase

## LESSON SEQUENCE

### Pre-Reading

- Display [Europe During the Cold War \(1960\)](#) map with students.
- As a class, brainstorm what students already know about the Cold War. Keep a record of topics on the screen or board. The brainstorm should include some of the following details:
  - Communism vs. Capitalism
  - Socialism
  - Alliances
  - Warsaw vs. NATO
  - Berlin Wall
  - Satellite Countries
  - Totalitarianism

### During Reading

- Distribute copies of the Key Elements Chapter Notes Organizer to each student. Review each of the key elements with students.
- Distribute copies of Chapter 1 of the novel to each student.
- As students read they should begin making notes on each key element when it presents itself in chapter one.
- Students should read silently and jot down their notes as they read. Since this is Chapter 1&2 the students might not have information in all columns.

### After Reading

- Instruct students to turn and talk to their partner. They should compare notes they took during the reading of Chapter 1&2.
- Ask the students to identify the main elements introduced in Chapter 1&2.
- Facilitate a class discussion to explore the students' responses and guide them to the following key points:
  - Details: Describe the setting (time and place), establish the conflict or problem.
  - Characters: Introduce the protagonist (name, age, background), mention any other significant characters mentioned in Chapter 1&2.
  - Possible themes and tone
- Students should be adding to or revising their notes as the class discusses whole group.
- As students to make predictions about what will happen in future chapters as the plot advances.

## ASSESSMENT

### Check for Understanding

Writing Prompt: Write a paragraph that paraphrases Chapter 1 & 2 of *I Must Betray You*. Make sure to include information pertaining to setting, characters, etc....from your key elements notes. What themes have you already identified in the book and how do you predict they will develop as the novel continues?

## SOURCES

Background Information:

- [The Hidden Side of Communism: Ceaușescu's Grip on Romania](#)
- [Europe During the Cold War Map](#)

# I Must Betray You

Key Elements Chapter Notes

Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_

Setting	Plot	Characterization	Conflict

POV	Theme(s)	Tone