

The Danish Girl Worksheet



Answer the questions to the best of your abilities

1. What is the true nature of the marriage depicted in *The Danish Girl*? What does this story say about love and intimacy?
2. Both Lili and Gerda must change, for the sake of their marriage and for themselves. Discuss each woman's evolution.
3. What role does Gerda play in Lili's transition? What motivated her to help Lili?
4. *The Danish Girl* is just as much about Gerda as it is about Lili. Why is she such a major character? How would the story be different if Gerda had wanted to transition into a man?
5. Gerda loves the people in her life in different ways. How does her expressions of love change over the course of the movie?
6. What does art and painting symbolize for Gerda and Lili?
7. Why doesn't Lili tell Gerda about seeing Henrik again?
8. Why does Lili put so much faith in her final operation? What does it mean to her?
9. Discuss how Lili views her former life? What has she said goodbye to? What will she always carry with her?
10. Lili is a pioneer in the movement for civil rights for trans men and women. Did you know about Lili Elbe before hearing of *The Danish Girl*? Not many people did. Why do you think her story was forgotten over the years? Why does the story still resonate today?
11. *The Danish Girl* takes place around 1930. How have things changed for the trans community in the years since? In which ways does the world seem the same as depicted in the novel?
12. The movie takes place in Denmark. Do you think the story would be different if it took place in the United States at that time? What do you think the U.S. attitude toward a transgender person would be in that decade?
13. Which difference do you imagine it makes for someone whether being transgender is an unconscious part of their personality or something they identify with? How could it influence their lives?