

**Reading Group Guide for  
*Anchor in the Storm*  
by Sarah Sundin**

1. Had you heard about the U-boat war off the US East Coast in World War II before reading this novel? What did you find interesting or shocking?
2. Lillian Avery lives with a visible physical disability. How does it affect her? What negative consequences does she experience because of it? How is she stronger because of it? How have things changed for people with disabilities since 1942?
3. Arch Vandenberg fears being rich. What did you think about this? When you learned his history, how did this affect your opinion? In general, what are the benefits and dangers of wealth?
4. At the beginning of the story, Lillian dismisses Arch as a snobby society boy. Then Arch challenges her: “I believe in judging a person on words and actions and character. Not on background or appearance.” In what way do both Lillian and Arch struggle with judging, suspicions, and lumping people into categories? In what ways do you struggle?
5. Arch suffers from combat fatigue, what we now call post-traumatic stress disorder. Were you surprised at how the condition was treated—or not treated—during World War II? Do you know anyone with this condition? Did Arch’s story give you any insight into their struggles?
6. Mr. Dixon is not the most pleasant boss, but Lillian does her best to win him over. Have you ever worked for a difficult person? How did you handle it?
7. As Arch and Lillian investigated the drug ring, whom did you suspect?
8. Lillian struggles to open her heart—to God, to Arch, and to her roommates. How does her relationship with Opal Harrison challenge her and cause her to grow?
9. Both Arch and Lillian cling to their careers for security. In what ways is this acceptable? In what ways is this misguided? How do they change?

10. Lillian is close to her brother Jim but has a strained relationship with her twin sister, Lucy. What sort of dynamics do you see in the Avery family? In your own family? Do you think Lillian and Lucy will ever be close? Why or why not?
11. Arch tells Lillian, “We’ll be weak together, strong together, you and I.” Do you find that to be true in your deepest relationships? In what ways?
12. Discuss the meaning of the anchor.
13. “Blood is thicker than water”—how does this saying apply to Jim and Lillian? To Mrs. Harrison and her grandson? To Mr. Dixon? How have you seen it in your life?
14. In what ways did the weather mirror the characters’ journeys?
15. If you read *Through Waters Deep*, did you enjoy following up with Jim Avery and Mary Stirling? The third novel in the Waves of Freedom series features Lt. Dan Avery and Quintessa Beaumont. From what you’ve seen of these characters, what might you expect?



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