

WILLIAM BOYD

Restless

1.

Why do you think 'Restless' was chosen as the book's title? What aspect of both Ruth's and Eva's stories does it relate to?

2.

How does Eva use the skills she learned as a spy to manipulate people throughout her life? How has this shaped the trajectory of her life, and what effect does it have on her relationships with the people she cares about?

3.

When Ruth finds out about her mother's past, she finds it 'destabilising and disturbing'. How does what we know of our family history help us to construct our own identities?

4. What are Eva's feelings about the ethical implications of her actions, and do those feelings change at any point? Do you think that the end justifies the means?

5.

How far has Eva's training 'always suspect, always mistrust' affected her ability to see clearly? Can we as readers trust 'The Story of Eva Delectorskaya'?