**INSTRUCTIONS:** For the first class each week, while reading *The Zookeeper’s Wife*, partners will collaborate to respond to these questions**.** All of this writing should be kept in a notebook (handwritten) or **preferably** entered on a computer/file during class time (if we are in a lab). Use question numbers, **and writing must be in full sentences and paragraphs**. Each answer should **restate the question** as a direct statement to start the response. e.g. 1. The purpose of the Author’s Note is\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. 2. Ackerman thinks this is a story worth telling because\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**JOURNAL 1—On Intro. and Chapter 1**

1. **What is the purpose of the Author’s Note?**
2. **Why does Ackerman think this is a story worth telling?**

**JOURNAL 2 –on Chapters 2-10**

1. What do you think of what Ackerman describes as Jan’s “grand vision … that his zoo might achieve an illusion of native habitats where natural enemies could share enclosures without conflict”? (30). Why does Ackerman refer to this as the “mirage of a primal truce”?
2. How does Ackerman use the language of nature to evoke the cruelty of war?
3. How does Ackerman use similes and descriptive phrases to create an understanding of the destruction of the zoo? Give e.g. and cite page(s).
4. How is Lutz’s plan to recreate three extinct species consistent with Nazi philosophy?
5. Why was it important to Jan to keep the zoo open?

**JOURNAL 3** -- **on Chapters 11-22**

1. At the beginning of this Chapter Ackerman describes the “brain-dead reaction” (98) to

deal with the daily threats and horrors, but at the end of the Chapter she writes (102) that

“the fear of death does wonders to focus the mind, inspire creativity, and heighten the

senses.” Are these two views contradictory, or can they be reconciled?

1. How does Ackerman imply that the Midsummer’s Eve party is a rebuke of the German occupation?
2. Ackerman writes, “Jan discovered that being an atheist didn’t shield him from a robust

sense of fate and his own personal destiny” (114). What does this imply about Ackerman’s view of atheism?

1. Why are the “Guests” hidden at the zoo described as “one amphibious family”? (115)
2. How was Nazi ideology justified as a form of “ecology”?

**JOURNAL 4 -** **Chapters 23-36**

1. What does Ackerman mean when she refers to the “subtle mysticism of everyday life”?(208)
2. What date did Himmler choose to begin the destruction of the Jewish Ghetto? Why was that date significant?
3. What steps were taken to make the Jewish women appear and act more “Aryan”?
4. What was the “secret of the milk churns”?
5. When the German soldiers came to the Gutowskis’ apartment, what changed their attitude? Why?
6. How did Antonina’s apparent ability to communicate with animals serve to help her when German or Russian soldiers came to the villa during the Uprising?
7. Why did Jan say that Antonina was the real heroine of this saga?
8. What is a *tarpan*? An *aurochsen*? Where can we find these animals today?