



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

Hidden Valley Road by Robert Kolker

1. At the time when the Galvin boys are being diagnosed with schizophrenia, studies in mental illness claim the parents are responsible. How do you think this affected how Don and Mimi handled the changes happening in their family?
2. How did growing up on an air force base positively or negatively affect the Galvin family?
3. In *Hidden Valley Road*, each of the Galvin boys who are diagnosed with schizophrenia show different symptoms. How does schizophrenia present differently in each of the Galvin boys?
4. Discuss how the youngest Galvins, Lindsay and Margaret, both came to terms with their family's struggle with schizophrenia in different ways.
5. Tragedies have the power to shape families to bring them closer or pull them apart. How is the Galvin family shaped by their own tragedies?
6. Did your feelings change about any of the characters during the course of reading?
7. What was your impression of Mimi at the beginning of the book? Did it change by the end?
8. How did this book change your perception of mental illness?

The above questions were taken from
<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/566406/hidden-valley-road-by-robert-kolker/9780385543767/readers-guide/>
to enhance your discussion of the book.

Author Biography

Robert Kolker is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Lost Girls*, named one of the *New York Times* 100 Notable Books and one of *Publishers Weekly*'s Top Ten Books of 2014. As a journalist, his work has appeared in *New York* magazine, *Bloomberg Businessweek*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Wired*, *GQ*, *Oprah* and *Men's Journal*. He is a recipient of the Harry Frank Guggenheim 2011 Excellence in Criminal Justice Reporting Award from the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York.

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