

## ***Summer of '69* Discussion Questions**

1. One of the ways Hilderbrand brings the 1969 setting to life is by using songs as the chapter titles. How did that choice affect your experience reading the book? Were you familiar with all the songs?
2. *Summer of '69* is told from multiple points of view. Did you have a favorite character? Were there any characters whose perspectives were not in the book, but you would have liked to read?
3. The Nichols-Foley-Levin's are a "blended family." Why do you think Kate didn't let her children refer to each other as half- or step-siblings? Do you think that changed how the siblings related to each other?
4. The differences between each generation of the family were featured in many ways. Why do you think Kate and Blair reacted so differently when they were each faced with their husbands' infidelity? Do you agree with Exalta about the importance of tradition?
5. In some ways, Blair and Kirby represent the split between the traditional gender role for women and the new options that became possible after feminism. In what ways do the sisters learn from each other's choices? Do you think Jessie will be more like Blair or Kirby when she grows up?
6. Kirby suspects that Darren's mother Dr. Frazier does not accept her based on what she learned about Kirby when she treated her as a patient. Do you think that was the true reason why she didn't approve of Kirby dating Darren?
7. "In that moment, what Blair wants more than anything is not to be defined by other people." Like Blair, was there ever a time in your life when you felt defined by your role more than your individual self? Was that a positive or negative experience for you?
8. What do you think about the ways that different characters take justice into their own hands? Were you satisfied by how Kirby chose to confront Officer Turbo? What about how Suze dealt with Garrison the tennis coach?
9. Throughout the book, Kate feels Tiger was drafted to punish her for a guilty secret. Were you surprised to learn what the secret was? Do you think Kate was right to tell Jessie the secret?
10. *Summer of '69* is Elin's first historical novel. What time period should she dive into next?