



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.

Author website: www.robertkolker.com

Book Club in a Bag Terms of Use

Simplify your book club selection with Book Club in a Bag! Visit our website at www.clarington-library.on.ca/bookclubinabag to see a list of available titles, view the availability calendar and fill in a Book Club in a Bag Request Form.

Booking a Kit

- Booking may be made up to a year in advance
- Please check the calendar accessible on our website for availability
- Fill out the form with your information, and a staff member will be in touch to confirm your booking.
- Pick up your hold at the circulation desk. Your notification may come in a few days early, but it will remain available until your specified pick-up date.

Terms of Loan

- This kit includes: 12 regular print copies.
- 6 week loan period
- \$3.00 per day late fee
- No renewals
- Kit may be picked up at or returned to any branch.
- Kit must be returned at the desk during operating hours, not through an exterior drop box.
- All 12 items are checked out to one member's card.
 - The member who borrowed the kit is responsible for the distribution and return of all 10 items to their group members and any damages to the books/bag, or lost items.
 - The cost of a damaged or lost book varies depending on the item.