

## STILL LIFE Book Club Questions

- 1) In the novel, Still Life, Samantha's jealousy over her sister's talents shape who she becomes and the decisions she makes when in crisis. Do you feel that sibling rivalry is a healthy or unhealthy part of growing up? Have your siblings shaped who you have become in a positive or negative way?
- 2) Samantha seems to fall for Seth easily in the midst of everything happening to her husband. She has her childish jealousy, her feelings of betrayal, and her anger over his driving habits that eventually led to their family's suffering. Do you feel that there is a perfect storm for almost any person that would allow them to crack?
- 3) Do you feel that as a parent, we treat our children differently? Is this good or bad? Needed or not needed?
- 4) In the novel, Jacob is actually on trial for hit and run, not texting and driving. This is because in Virginia at the time the story is written, killing someone while texting and driving would not lead to prison time. Jacob had to leave the scene of the crime in order to be prosecuted to that degree. What do you feel would be the appropriate sentence for homicide caused by texting and driving? Keep in mind, it is a law often broken by our own loved ones. What can be done in addition to what is already being done to prevent these accidents? What is different between the time it takes to read a text and look for a radio station or look at your GPS?
- 5) Do you feel Seth had feelings for Samantha, albeit confused ones? Was Seth a good guy or a bad guy?
- 6) Samantha owns the ugly parts of herself in order to move on with her life. Do you feel that many people as adults still carry the same childish flaws of childhood?
- 7) One of the things that Samantha needed to own was that it was okay if her role in life was not to shine, but to genuinely applaud others when they do. Her flaw of being too proud came back to the fact that if she couldn't be the one "on stage" then she felt as if she was nothing of importance. Do you think that our society tends to make our children feel this way, by making them believe they can do anything they set their minds to? Are we making a world of people that think we all need to hit a home run in our field of expertise in order to be important? Are we overlooking the fact that only a small percentage actually sit on top? Do our kids understand that it is just as important to applaud others and be humble?
- 8) Do you believe that Samantha was at fault for falling in love with Seth or does it sometimes just happen even if we don't want it to? Can a person be truly in love with more than one person?
- 9) If your husband was going to jail for many years, could you wait for him?
- 10) Why do you think that the author leaves the ending dangling? Do you think that Seth was going to file a civil suit?