

## **GOODBYE LULLABY – book club discussion points**

1. Did you feel *Goodbye Lullaby* was a satisfying read?
2. How would you describe the pace of the book?
3. Is *Goodbye Lullaby* told as a three act story? If so, can you identify each act?
4. Did you enjoy the time shifts in *Miki* and *Jude's* life stories or do you prefer a novel told in a pure linear style?
5. Is the narrator present in the book? If so, (or if not) how did this affect the reading experience?
6. Did you enjoy the author's use of four characters' points of view to tell the tale?
7. How realistic for you were the characters and their story?
8. Do you have a favourite character, a favourite chapter?
9. Is *Miki* and *Jude's* teenage misunderstanding the central issue of the novel or not?
10. What do you think *Goodbye Lullaby* says about friendship?
11. How do you feel the book treats other issues, for example; motherhood, conscription, the stolen generation, forced adoptions?
12. Is *Bernie's* story important to the novel's theme?
13. Do the actions of the characters seem plausible? Why? Why not?
14. Did the story strike you as overtly political?
15. The teenage *Miki* makes a moral choice. Does the author 'force' you to empathize with her decision? Why? Why not?
16. What did you make of the *Rex Lapari* character?
17. Was *Sister Angela* treated fairly by the author?
18. *Laurel's* character – how does the author use her?
19. Do the settings, Brisbane and the Daintree, perform as characters? What about the eras, the 1950s and 1970s? Did you feel you were experiencing the times and places in which the book was set?
20. Can you compare *Goodbye Lullaby's* use of the tumultuous Vietnam era in Australia with any other Australian novel you have read?
21. Which other Australian novels have you read set in the 1950s?
22. How does the book compare to other books in the same genre?
23. Did you find the story's ending satisfactory?
24. Would you recommend *Goodbye Lullaby* to other readers?