Discussion Questions

The Thoroughbreds

by Elin Hilderbrand and Shelby Cunningham

1. What was the book's most important theme?

2. Was there one character that you connected to more than the others? Why?

3. What did you think of the school administrators' and teachers' actions and behavior?

4. How does the boarding school setting impact the students' friendships, identity, and self-worth? How does it differ from a public school setting?

5. Many characters struggled with their relationship with their parents. Which parent-child relationship resonated with you the most? What was the main theme behind the struggles?

6. The novel includes both student and adult drama. How does blending the more mature issues with teenage life affect the story?

7. How do family expectations and academic goals differ amongst the students? Which character do you understand better once learning about their background?

8. How would you compare boarding school to public school life? What are the strengths and weaknesses of both?

9. Were you satisfied with how the different storylines came together at the end? Was there anything you would have liked the author to resolve differently?