

## The Bloom Girls: Discussion Questions

1. Is it believable that, in this day and age, Joseph would have hidden his sexuality from his children?
2. At the end of the book, Violet has a small moment of reflection. Do you think she'll change her behavior at all? Is it possible for people to recognize the unflattering traits in their personalities and change?
3. What role does religion play in the book and in the sisters' lives?
4. Cal ultimately decides to leave her job in search of a better balance in her life. Is this possible? Is she naive in thinking that she'll be happier not working for a period of time?
5. Of the three, Suzy is the one most struggling with her identity. How is that connected to what happened to her the summer she stayed in Hudson?
6. Was Joseph a good father?
7. Which of the sisters did you most relate to and why?
8. Is this a realistic portrayal of sisterhood and sibling relationships?
9. The story revolves around the sisters' different understandings of what happened when their father was fired from Beckett. Is it realistic that they'd each have such different perspectives and beliefs about that time period? How might age and proximity to the events impact their understanding?
10. Are Cal, Violet, and Suzy stereotypes of birth order? How does birth order impact your own relationships with siblings?
11. Are the sisters realistically and fully drawn characters?
12. Discuss the structure of the book (multiple narrators, short chapters, flashbacks to childhood). Did this work for you or not?
13. One of the criticisms a few reviewers have had is that not much happens in the book. Did this impact your reading?
14. Many people have asked if there is a sequel in the works (there's not, though who knows!). What do you imagine the future holds for these three sisters?