

## INVINCIBLE SUMMERS READER'S GUIDE QUESTIONS

1. Although *Invincible Summers* is sold as a novel its eleven chapters span seventeen years in Claudia's life. Her story begins in 1963 and ends in 1980. How does the structure work or not work in telling the story? What is the significance of having each chapter take place in the summer?
2. How does the death of Claudia's father change her life and the lives of her mother and brother?
3. Explain the relationship Claudia has with her mother.
4. How are Big Becca and Claudia's circumstances similar?
5. *Invincible Summers* is set in the 1960s and 1970s in Mount Morris, a fictional suburb outside of Detroit, and then in Europe in the late 1970s. How important is setting to Claudia's story? How would the story have been different if it had taken place in a different time?
6. What is the bond Claudia has with her brother, Burke? Is it a healthy relationship?
7. What is the relationship between Claudia and her sister, Penny? What is it that Penny gives her?
8. Is Mal a good friend to Claudia? Is LeAnne? How do their friendships shape Claudia's life?
9. What are some of the themes in the book, and how important are they to the story?
10. Claudia is attracted to Elliot the first time she sees him. Why doesn't she answer the door when he comes to her room? What is she afraid of?
11. Why does the bookstore, Shakespeare & Company, hold the key to Claudia's future?