

## Running Against the Tide book club questions

1. *Running Against the Tide* is told by three different narrators: Erin, Ryan and Jono. Which character do you most identify with, and why?
2. From the first time they meet, Jono and Ryan don't get on. Why do you think this is?
3. Erin flees to Mallee Bay because of the fond memories the town holds for her. If you had to start a new life for yourself, where would you go?
4. What similarities do you see between the two sibling relationships in the book: Erin and Anne, Ryan and Mike?
5. When they run into each other in Adelaide, Ryan insinuates to Jono that he may hurt Helen. In your opinion, why does he do this? Do you think he intends to follow through on his threats?
6. Like many women, Erin made sacrifices for love and for her children. She moved from Adelaide to Sydney to be with Marcus, and then she gave up painting after she became a mother. How much of an impact do you think these decisions had on her satisfaction with her life and her marriage?
7. What do you think motivated Gavin to harass Erin the way he did?
8. Part of Ryan's animosity towards his mother can be blamed by her lack of communication with him when his parents separated, and then again when Erin decided to move the family to Mallee Bay. How would you have handled these situations if you were in her position?
9. *Running Against the Tide* explores the concept that you can't always trust your first impression of someone. Have you found this to be true in your experience?
10. What do you think really happened between Erin and Marcus the night they fought in Erin's kitchen?
11. If we were to revisit these characters a year after the story ends, what do you think their lives would be like?