

# The Texan

## BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS



1. Do you like any of the main characters in the book, despite the fact they're flawed? Do you root for any of the characters while reading the story and want them to have a happy ending? Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each main character. Do you have a favorite character?
2. Do you believe in the adage, "like father, like son"? If so, how are Bobby Senior and Bobby Junior alike? How are they different?
3. Explain Maria and Peggy Sue's relationship. In what ways do they rely on one another? In what ways do they tolerate one another? Would they be better off apart?
4. When talking about her father, Jonas, Janet Blake, aka Ohio, states, "What a womanizer. He cheated on my mom so many times. She got fed up and divorced him." Why does she pick a womanizer as a partner? Do grown children pick a partner with one of their parent's flaws while being blind to it? Have you read, *Women Who Love Too Much*, by Robin Norwood? If so, discuss how this applies to Janet.
5. What if B.J.'s parents had been more mature when he was born? Would B.J.'s personality be different? Is a child better off with younger, more fun-loving parents versus older, more responsible parents? How does each situation affect a child's development?
6. Why does our society think more highly of men like Bobby, Sr. and B.J., who have many "conquests" while thinking less of women with a lot of sexual partners? Why is it more acceptable for a man like Bobby, Sr. to partner with a much younger woman, like Evie versus an older woman and a younger man? How have these attitudes evolved or

changed during your lifetime? Discuss.

7. B.J. states that Maria has, “looked after me, better than Mother in many respects, right from the start.” Explain his remark. Is B.J. closer to the hired help than his Mother? His Father?

8. Do you think the main reason Ohio is the first woman B.J. falls in love with is because she is so different? Were you surprised that B.J. ended up with Sunshine? Do you think they are a better fit since they grew up in the same place and share similar upbringings?

9. Do you believe “opposites attract”? Do you think couples who are opposites have better relationships? Or do differences in upbringing, religion, and ideology make it harder to maintain a successful long-term relationship? Discuss.

10. Is sex addiction a real and valid addiction? Do you think monogamy is natural or does it take a conscious effort? Are men more likely than women to cheat on their partners? Has the nature of infidelity changed in our society since women went from traditional stay-at-home moms to working moms? Do you believe a relationship can survive infidelity? If so, does it make the relationship stronger or weaker in the long run? Explain.

11. How do the different addictions of the characters impact their lives in regard to their personal relationships, their jobs, and their hopes and dreams? Explain in terms of B.J., Bobby, Senior, Donny, and Tamara.

12. What is your take on family businesses? Does B.J. have true managerial responsibilities at the clubs? Does working for his father promote or hinder his maturity? Explain.

13. Even though Maria and Carlos are illegal immigrants from Mexico, they enjoy some

of the spoils of the Brayden family. Maria calls the kitchen, her kitchen, and Carlos spends his time outdoors on the ranch, which includes riding their horses. Are they better or worse off than the Brayden's? Why?

14. Does being successful materially help each of the Brayden's grow as people or does having material wealth stunt their growth? Discuss.

15. Explain how prejudice and racism affect each of the main character's lives?

16. Do you think the quality of life is better in a small town, a big city, or somewhere in-between? In the North or in the South? Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each upbringing.

17. Why is Peggy Sue upset with Jonas for making love to his editor when she is married and having sex with her husband? What makes her finally cross the line and "cheat"? Why is she attracted to another womanizer? Explain.

18. How does Evie's upbringing contribute to her ability to lie and use people to get what she wants? Were you surprised that Evie's baby was not Bobby Seniors? Does Bobby Senior truly love Evie or merely the adulation he receives from her? Compare his relationship with Evie to his relationship with Peggy Sue.

19. Are any of B.J.'s actions after Donny's murder, based on guilt over not letting Donny go back and get his gun?

20. What makes a woman like Amy Lynn put up with such poor treatment from a sexual partner and settle for so little? Explain.

21. Do you like the author's use of one main character, B.J. Brayden, throughout the entire novel, with a second narrator who changes in each part of the story? Do you like this style? Why or why not?