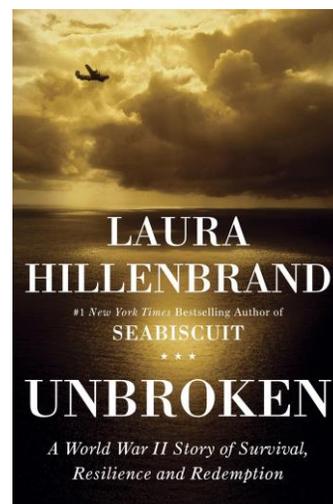


# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR **UNBROKEN**

BY LAURA HILLENBRAND



1. Readers have described *Unbroken* as gripping, almost impossible to put down. Was that your experience? How do you account for the page-turning quality given the grim subject material?
2. Was the movie a good representation of the book? What differences did you notice between the book and film?
3. Louie completed the last leg of his training at the Sioux City airfields in 1942. Did the statistics and safety records of the B-17 and B-24 planes surprise you?
4. How do the POW captives help one another survive, and what devices do they use to maintain sanity?
5. What accounts for mankind's capacity for cruelty – especially in times of war?
6. Hillenbrand devotes time to the difficulty of veterans re-entering life after the war. She says, “there was no one right way to peace; each man had to find his own path.” How does Louie’s conversion under Billy Graham help him? What role did his wife, Cynthia, play?
7. Louie eventually went back to Japan and confronted his tormenter. Would you have been able to forgive the way Louie did? Why was this forgiveness so important to Louie?
8. Did this story affect your views on war, and more specifically, on the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki? In what ways?
9. The story is told from the standpoint of a narrator. Why do you think the author chose this style? Did you like it?
10. Do you believe that “Lucky Louie” endured his many horrific experiences by mere chance, or did his survival come from some unique qualities or strengths?
11. What did you like or not like about this book?
12. Talk about the parts of the book that made you uncomfortable. What were some of the “feel good” moments in this story?

For more thought-provoking questions, take a look at the in-depth [study guide](#) to *Unbroken* prepared for the One Book One Community initiative in Sarasota, Florida.

Laura Hillenbrand wrote an adaptation of *Unbroken* for the young adult reader. Find reflection questions in the [family discussion guide](#), prepared by Scholastic Books.