

# Beyond Kidding

by Lynda Clark

- What were your expectations of the book after reading its title? What did you expect from seeing the cover?
- The story in *Beyond Kidding* is divided into two timelines: one taking place in the present and one in the past. Why do you think the author chose this format? What effect did this have on you as the reader?
- ‘As soon as Brodie had a name, that was it, he was real. Even though obviously, he wasn’t. Not at that point, anyway.’ (p. 74) This statement comes quite early in the book. How did you interpret it upon reading it for the first time? Has your interpretation of it changed after you finished the book?
- How would you describe Rob? Is he a likeable character? Why (not)? Has your opinion of him changed while reading the book?
- What role does Jules have in the novel?
- There are some elements throughout the novel that foreshadow the ‘big reveal’. Have you spotted any? Go back to the text and list three.
- Can you pinpoint the moment in the book when the lie starts morphing into reality?
- Why do you think Bummer’s sons can remember Brodie isn’t real?
- How do you interpret the ending? Is it a happy, sad or bitter-sweet one?
- Have you ever told a lie so big that it spun out of your control and came back to haunt you?