Book Club Questions
Love, Like Apples by Jeff Zentner

What lesson about kindness does Tiller learn from his brother Smith, and how does it influence him after Smith goes to war?

Tiller moves to 1977 New York City and connects deeply with the diverse artists of Imagine Nation. Compare this "found family" to his biological family in Sawyer, Tennessee. How does each environment influence his creative growth?

Tiller and Julie DiFrancesca have a long-lasting romance. What makes their relationship special, and how does Julie's energetic nature complement Tiller's quieter personality?

Why is Tiller drawn to puppetry after experiencing grief, and how do puppets help convey "radical empathy" to troubled teenagers?

Why do you think society neglects teenagers' emotional lives, and how does the show Imagine Nation address this? Can art save lives, or is that too sentimental?

How does Tiller's journey from a rural Tennessee apple orchard to gritty 1970s NYC illustrate the metaphor that love can grow from tough circumstances?

How did the documentary format of the story change your reading experience and affect your view of the characters' challenges in their youth?

Author Jeff Zentner described the book as a love letter to "artists who make art knowing it will probably be lost to time." What do you think about ephemeral art? Does a creative project lose value if it's eventually forgotten, or is its immediate impact what matters?

Looking at the story from the 1960s into the modern era, how did you feel about the way the novel handled aging, memory, and the enduring power of human connection?

Book club questions by Princeton Book Review