



Pushing the Limits of Survival Suggested Reading and Discussion Questions

This theme explores the fundamental urge to survive and how it has manifested in society in the past and today. Issues to consider in group discussions include the ways in which we strive for the survival of the planet, of our families, and as individuals.

The Limit: Life and Death on the 1961 Grand Prix

Michael Cannell, Non Fiction. In *The Limit*, Michael Cannell tells the enthralling story of Phil Hill—a lowly California mechanic who would become the first American-born driver to win the Grand Prix—and, ... brings to life a vanished world of glamor, valor, and daring.

The Limit charts the journey that brought Hill from dusty California lots racing midget cars into the ranks of a singular breed of men, competing with daredevils for glory on Grand Prix tracks across Europe. Facing death at every turn, these men rounded circuits at well over 150 mph in an era before seat belts or roll bars—an era when drivers were "crushed, burned, and beheaded with unnerving regularity." ... Race by race, *The Limit* carries readers to its riveting and startling climax—the final contest that would decide it all, one of the deadliest in Grand Prix history.

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- How do you assess risk in your everyday life? How did this book make you think about danger, safety, and survival?
- What kinds of technologies contributed to increasing survival? Or limited the possibilities for survival?
- Before reading this book, were you interested in car racing? Did this book make you think differently about the sport?
- Why do you think some people have a higher tolerance for danger and risk than others?

