

# the outskirts of hope



In 1967 when Jo was 10 years old, her father moved their family to an all-black town in the Mississippi Delta, where they were one of only two white families and the only Jewish one. There, her father started a medical clinic, her mother taught at the local high school, and Jo was the only white student at her junior high. Living in a trailer in the poorest county in the nation during the turbulent 1960s, they were drawn into the heart of the civil rights movement.

## WHY READ *OUTSKIRTS* WITH YOUR BOOKCLUB?

This timely memoir offers not only a glimpse into an important time in our nation's history, but also engages the reader in a highly personal story that makes that history come alive, creating an opportunity to examine the parallels between today's racial issues and those of the 1960s. And to imagine a world where people get along.



## COMPLEMENTARY ARTICLES

Want more from Jo Ivester? Read these powerful essays by the author!

[What can white people do to help?](#)

[Enough is Enough](#)

[Life as the Only Jewish Family in an All-Black Town](#)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR A BOOKCLUB

1. How is racism today different from the 1960s racism portrayed in *The Outskirts of Hope*? How is it the same?
2. What is white privilege? What is a white person's role in eliminating it?
3. Why might some of the townspeople object to white people coming into their town to start the clinic and to live there?
4. Why did Leon want to move to Mississippi? How did you feel about the way in which he made the decision?
5. In what way was the experience of living in Mound Bayou different for each of the Kruger family members?
6. How was the story impacted by the fact that the Krugers are Jewish?
7. What role does courage play in this story?
8. Given the opportunity, would you have moved your family to Mississippi?
9. How can people today fulfill the hopes and dreams of the Civil Rights Movement?

## HOW TO INCLUDE JO



Reach out to Jo via email to see if she'll be in town! Jo is available for some in-person presentation, lectures and classroom discussions. [JO@JOIVESTER.COM](mailto:JO@JOIVESTER.COM)

If Jo isn't local to your area, Skype her in. Reach out by email and set up a time for her to visit virtually.

Send Jo a list of questions from your classroom and she'll return a response. Get more in-depth on a topic or ask her opinion on current events!

## AWARDS



**2015 National Indie  
Excellence Award Winner  
for Autobiography**



**2015 National Indie  
Excellence Award Finalist for  
Social/Political Change**



**2015 Sarton Women's  
Book Award Shortlist -  
Story Circle**



**2015 Writer's League of  
Texas Book Awards  
Winner for Non-Fiction**

## CONTACT INFO

[WWW.JOIVESTER.COM](http://WWW.JOIVESTER.COM)  
EMAIL: [JO@JOIVESTER.COM](mailto:JO@JOIVESTER.COM)  
PHONE: 512-497-9469