

*The Infinite Air* by Fiona Kidman

- In your opinion, why did Fiona Kidman choose to write Jean Batten's story as a novel rather than a biography?
- How did you respond to the character of Nellie? What does the novel tell us about the relationship between mothers and daughters? To what extent was Nellie responsible for her daughter's success?
- Jean Batten has sometimes been portrayed as a calculating gold-digger who used her relationships with men for financial gain and career advancement. Do you think Fiona Kidman has succeeded in restoring Batten's reputation?
- In an interview with the *Dominion Post*, Kidman said, 'When you choose to write about someone else, you're committing yourself to them in a funny sort of way. I think you have to like them, not just admire their feats.' How does Kidman's affection for her protagonist come across in the book?
- Today, only around 3% of the world's commercial airline pilots are women. Does *The Infinite Air* give any clues as to why flying remains such a male-dominated pursuit?