

## Study Questions for *Coming Home*

Note: The first time you watch a film, you watch it for the story. On the second and third viewings, you start to notice technique—the ways in which the story is being constructed.

1. What does it mean to be a Marine in *Coming Home*? How is that different from the ways in which Kubrick presents what it means to be a Marine in *Full Metal Jacket*?
2. With whom are your sympathies throughout the film?
3. Why do so many scenes have televisions in them?
4. What do you notice about the position and movement of the camera in the film relative to the action it is recording? Why, for example, are there so many close-ups?
5. Note the use of silence in the film. Where does it appear and why?
6. Identify a scene with a song in the soundtrack. What function does the song serve?
7. How does the director show a character's interiority?
8. Which characters change in the film?
9. When Sally Hyde meets her husband for a few days of "R&R" (rest and relaxation) she asks him to talk about the war and asks him what it's like. He responds, "I don't know what it's like. I only know what it is. A TV show is what it's like." How do you interpret this scene?
10. Jane Fonda, the actress who played the part of Sally Hyde, protested the Vietnam War but also described herself as a patriot. Is *Coming Home* an anti-war film? A sympathetic portrait of those who served and sacrificed?