

Thursday, December 5th: In-Class Groupwork: Discussion of *Lying*, Part Three (The Convulsive Stage)

- You will work for 20 minutes in small groups to discuss the following questions (and related questions, concerns, and issues about the text).
- For each question (or series of questions), **as a group you will make a claim (argument) in response and provide at least three pieces of evidence (scenes, examples, quotes) from the text (make sure to cite them correctly, with page numbers)**. This evidence can come from Parts 1-3, but you should try to stay grounded in this week's reading (Part 3). I encourage you to discuss the evidence first, and then from there build claims (rather than the other way around).
- Everyone should take notes on this paper or another sheet, and also take notes during class discussion. These ideas will be useful as you brainstorm topics/thesis statements for Essay #3 on *Lying*.

[Chapter 6: The Cherry Tree]

In this chapter we see Lauren mature, and her narrative is filled with sex (literally and metaphorically). Specifically, she has an affair with the older writer, "Christopher Marin." However, perhaps more importantly, she meditates on her "preseizure auras" and her epilepsy, and their connection to sex, writing, storytelling, and lying. Discuss these connections.

Lauren discusses an important aura, which brings on "a series of memoires I had never known I'd had, but they were there, and I knew they were true." She then continues, "So much of our lives we forget, and, forgotten, the past ceases to exist" (143). What does this discussion help us to understand about her memoir and her notion of "truth"?

[Chapter 7: How to Market this Book]

In #3 Lauren talks about capturing the narrator's *essence* (160) and again in #9 (163). What is this "essence" and how does her narrative contribute to reader's understanding of it?

In this same paragraph, Lauren mentions the difference between "truth" and "fact" (160-1). She admits this is a paradox. What is this difference, in the context of her memoir?

In #5, Lauren states that if you read her memoir "literally" (161), she "will have failed" (162). Why is this?

What is this chapter doing here? How is this formatting different from the normal (expected) narrative structure of a book like this? How does it function, along with other chapters like the letter to the reader (chapter 4) and the medical case study (chapter 5)? How does it relate/further Lauren's message/narrative in the story?