



READER'S GROUP GUIDE

FOR

we were liars

by e. lockhart

1. Describe the Sinclairs. In what ways are their family experiences unique? In what ways are they like most other families? How do they deal with deaths, addictions, and the tragedies that afflict all types of families?
2. In what ways does her father's abandonment of their family impact Cadence? What can be inferred about his choice to no longer live as part of the Sinclair family?
3. Consider Cadence's narration. Though she freely admits she remembers little and is on a number of medications, do you believe her version of the story?
4. What role does Cadence's grandfather play in the story? How does his role as patriarch of the family define the choices made by his children and grandchildren? To what extent is he to blame for the shortcomings of others?
5. When describing her aunt's divorce, Cadence states, "I don't know what happened. The family never speaks of it." In what ways does the family's curtain of politeness paralyze them?
6. When Cady falls in love with Gat, their relationship and his role as an outsider to the family threatens to overturn the social order. In your opinion, what is the real danger of their relationship? To whom?
7. Discuss the significance of the title, *We Were Liars*. In what ways does it accurately describe the events and relationships portrayed in the novel?
8. How does the author's use of Shakespeare's *King Lear* and Brontë's *Wuthering Heights* influence the story?
9. Compare the parent/child relationships in the story. To what extent are the relationships of these characters shaped by the world around them? To what extent do their relationships shape that world?
10. Consider the moral questions raised by this novel. How are racism, land ownership, inheritance, materialism, greed, and manipulation handled by Lockhart? In your opinion, in what ways do these elements enrich the story?
11. Do you believe the Liars were justified in any way to commit the crime they committed? Was the crime successful in any way?
12. Was the ending a surprise, or did you see it coming? Return to earlier passages in the book and locate instances of Lockhart's use of foreshadowing of events to come.
13. What do you feel Cadence comes to learn at the end of the novel? In your opinion, what insights are gained?
14. What five words would you use to describe *We Were Liars*?

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