

Essay Prompts on Trauma

The Silence of Trauma

Many literary texts portray trauma not only through what is spoken but also through silence, gaps, or fragmented narratives. Analyze how an author uses silence, omission, or fragmented storytelling to represent traumatic experience.

Intergenerational Trauma

Explore how trauma is transmitted across generations. How do children or descendants inherit, embody, or resist the trauma of their parents or ancestors?

Memory and Trauma

In trauma literature, memory often appears unreliable, fragmented, or cyclical. Discuss how a specific text portrays memory in relation to trauma. What does this suggest about the possibility (or impossibility) of healing?

Narrating the Unspeakable

Trauma is often described as “unspeakable” or beyond language. How does a chosen text attempt to narrate or represent experiences that resist expression? What literary strategies are employed to bridge this gap?