

General Discussion Questions on Trauma

How do literary texts distinguish between personal trauma (experienced by one character) and collective trauma (experienced by a community or nation)?

In what ways is memory fragmented, unreliable, or repressed in trauma narratives?

How does reading about trauma affect the reader—does it risk retraumatization, or can it create empathy and understanding?

What role do community, relationships, or storytelling itself play in characters' survival of trauma?

How do endings (tragic, hopeful, ambiguous) affect the way trauma is remembered in a literary work?