

Essay Prompts on Mental Illness

Isolation and Stigma

Many literary characters with mental illness experience isolation from their communities. How does the text explore the stigma surrounding mental illness, and what effect does it have on the character's fate?

Unreliable Narration and Mental Illness

In some works mental illness is linked to an unreliable narrator. How does the narrator's mental state shape the story, and what effect does this have on the reader's understanding of truth?

The Fine Line Between Sanity and Insanity

Many texts blur the line between madness and sanity. To what extent does literature challenge the very definition of mental illness?

Institutional Power and Madness

Compare depictions of psychiatric institutions. How are institutions shown as either oppressive, therapeutic, or both?