

Essay Prompts on Trauma

How does trauma shape identity in literature?

Explore how a character's traumatic experiences influence their sense of self, values, or worldview.

What role does memory play in the representation of trauma in literature?

Analyze how fragmented or nonlinear memory structures reflect trauma in narrative form.

How do authors use symbolism or imagery to represent trauma?

Choose a literary work and explore how the author conveys trauma indirectly through metaphor, recurring images, or setting.

Can literature effectively represent the “unspeakable” nature of trauma?

Discuss the limitations and possibilities of language when authors try to capture traumatic experience.