

*The Liar's Club* by Mary Karr

1. Did you like this book? Why or why not? Would you recommend this book to others? Would you keep a copy of this book? Do you think you would read it again in the future?
2. How was reading a memoir in comparison to reading a work of fiction? Do you feel that Karr was accurate in her portrayal of her life? Would you consider reading other works by this author or other memoirs?
3. What did you think about the timeline of the book? Did it help advance the narrative? What about the pacing?
4. Would you consider this book to have universal appeal; any person could read it and find significant meaning in it? If so, why? If not, who is the intended audience?
5. Did you learn anything about phenomenon related to psychology from reading this book? Some of the topics include memory, child abuse, addiction, stroke, 'nervousness' and the impact of secrets of families.
6. Did you learn anything about family dynamics and relationships from this book?
7. What do you think about this quotation from Chapter 5 (page 101), "It is a sad commentary on the women of my family that we can recite whole wardrobe assemblages from the most minor event in detail, but often forget almost everything else."
8. Here is another quote about memory from Chapter 3 (page 66), "Probably you thought I forgot what you did, or you figured it was no big deal. I say this now across decades and thousands of miles solely to remind you of the long memory by daddy always said I had."
9. At the very end of the book in Chapter 15, Mary and her mother have an incredibly emotional conversation about her two other children that were born before Mary and Lecia. As an explanation for why she hasn't ever spoken about them her mother says, "I thought you wouldn't like me anymore." (page 318). What do you think about that?
10. There were a number of emotionally formative scenes in this book. If you have seen the new movie, *Inside Out*, the talk about how certain events form our core memories and become central aspects of ourselves. Can you pick one or two that you think define who Mary is?