

## Q4 – Independent Reading: Quotes Project STUDENT SAMPLE

1. **“We are liars. We are beautiful and privileged. We are cracked and broken.” pg. 37**
  - a. The family refers to the 3 cousins and Gat as the Liars. During their summers on the island, that is exactly what they are, 4 friends all the same age with a close bond who are always getting into trouble. They are attractive and advantaged. (only on the island does Gat receive the benefits of the Sinclair assets) But along with that, their lives are pretty messed up, and most of the time it's due to the burden of being a Sinclair. Their family is too swept up in their need for power that it destroys them. With the Liars each being the oldest of the grandchildren, their parents use them as pawns in their ploy to be heir to the Sinclair fortune. To the Liars, family is the cause of their opportunities, and their obstacles.
  - b. This line is very applicable because it expresses a common characteristic of all humans. Our projection of ourselves does not accurately represent who we really are. The Sinclairs have huge amounts of wealth which makes the public assume they have no problems, but in reality their money is the cause of their problems. You may seem successful, beautiful and happy on the outside, but no one knows what truly goes on behind closed doors.
2. **“Do not accept an evil you can change.” pg.101**
  - a. The Liars all come up with a personal motto and Cadence's choice further demonstrates her (and the rest of the Liar's) rejection of the Sinclair wealth. The novel constantly expresses the Liars' stance on their family's power and their passion to dismantle it in hopes of uniting them. This quote foreshadows the main event of the book in which the Liars burn down Clairmont house, a symbol of their family's money. This reinforces the theme of family as the Liars' only desire is to be one family, free of the greed and competition that comes with their riches, and they think this is the solution.
  - b. This is a powerful line and it makes you wonder about the evils you could change, but instead accept. While this quote is very strong, it is also harmful because your view of your own abilities are subjective and while it may seem like it, not every evil can be changed. Maybe it can, but at what cost? To achieve any kind of happiness, it took the death of a third of the Sinclair family. Maybe if the liars weren't so intent on fixing what was broken, they wouldn't have made more damage on their way to their goal.
3. **“The island is ours. Here, in some way, we are young forever.” pg.122**
  - a. The Liars are sitting on the roof, discussing their futures. They express their appreciation of the island as it offers an escape from the responsibilities of the world. During the summer, they can live whatever lives, and be whoever they please. In their isolated world, Mirren is not single, Johnny is carefree, and Gat's only love is Cadence, and they are family nevertheless. With the understanding that they aren't a part of each other's normal lives away from the island, it is here where they will always be each other's Liars.
  - b. The author's style of writing is very poetic and this line exhibits that. It is very meaningful and makes you feel almost nostalgic. Despite their problems on the island, the liars appreciate the one good thing it has to offer, and that is each other. They will always have the island and their memories to cherish. As humans, we have a similar response. We all have someone, or some place, or some experience that will always be ours.

**4. “Here I am frozen, when I deserve to burn.” pg.209**

- a. Cadence finally discovers what happened the night of her injury. She is overwhelmed by guilt as she has outlived (and as some may see it, killed) her beloved Liars. Cadence points out the irony that she is frozen, unable to move, while her Liars went down in the flames of Clairmont. She believes it is her who should’ve died in the fire and this displays her value of her Liars, and her family, over her own life. With this, she realizes that the Liars were only ever figments of her imagination the entire summer since her return to the island. This epiphany for Cadence allows her to recognize the importance her family (both ghosts and not) had on her recovery.
- b. In her poetic style of writing, the author tends to use imagery effectively throughout the novel. This line is very striking as the narrator describes her guilt and it causes readers to sympathize with her. I disagree with her claim because she is not the only one who contributed to the events of (and leading up to) the night of their death. It’s just like how one person isn’t the reason for a loss or win in sports. They all made the conscious decision to spontaneously burn down Clairmont. She is just now finding out about the events and her judgement is clouded by grief, and although she believes she deserves to burn, we don’t always get what we deserve.

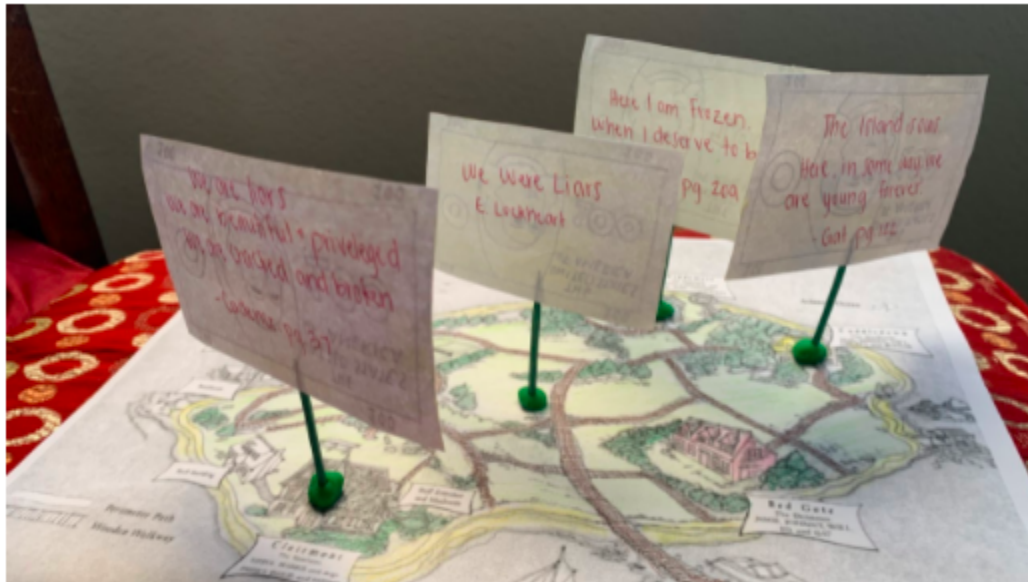
**5. “Be a little kinder than you have to.” pg.101**

- a. For the first time since the beginning of the novel, Cadence is fully aware of her reality, and her family now recognizes it. She makes this her new motto as she promises to no longer victimize herself and attempts to reconcile with her family whom she has shunned the entire summer. This is the ultimate moment of the recurring theme in which they finally come together. Although it took the death of their future family’s future, the sisters have finally learned to let go of their materialistic way of life and appreciate what being a Sinclair has to offer.
- b. This line raises an important idea that we should all adopt in our lives. It costs nothing to be kind and when you are a little kinder than you have to be, it can be very impactful in ways you can’t predict. A simple smile or conversation with someone can improve someone’s day or even introduce a relationship that can change both of your lives. Being compassionate without personal gain causes a chain reaction and everyone could be a little happier if we all decide to be a bit nicer.

**Quote of the Book: “We are liars. We are beautiful and privileged. We are cracked and broken.”**

I picked this as the quote of the book because it is perfectly summative of the entire story. It highlights the aspects that come with being a Sinclair. While belonging to the top 1 percent with their private island, separate staff and family dock, mudrooms, and Victorian houses full of golden retrievers, being a household name isn’t what the family makes it out to be. If the book were to be destroyed, it is this quote that can express what the book is about. Mirren, Johnny, Gat, and Cadence, they are the Liars. Money is to their advantage, and their destruction.

## Recording of project explanation by student.



3-D Object, We Were Liars

