



Think About...

Identity I

The book is called “Autobiography of a Face,” and Lucy writes: “*I was my face, I was ugliness.*” But was Lucy only her face? What else contributed to her sense of self?

Identity II

At the end of the prologue, Lucy asks: “*How do we go about turning into the people we are meant to be?*” Who did Lucy think she was meant to be and how did she go about becoming that person?

Encountering “Others”

Lucy is acutely self-conscious that others perceive her as different, yet she also draws distinctions between herself and others, often assuming her own superiority. As human beings, do we always try to avoid, segregate, stigmatize, or suppress those different from ourselves? Or do we also have the capacity to understand, accept, or even embrace our differences? In this spectrum of reactions, where does Lucy fit?

Communication

Lucy’s “family was not the sort to openly discuss things.” For years she did not even know that she had had cancer. How did that affect her experience with her illness and its aftermath?

What is Beauty?

In a world that places enormous value on what a person looks like, how did Lucy grapple with her changing appearance? What was the impact on the world around her?

Family Dynamics

How did Lucy’s parents deal with their daughter’s illness? Discuss the varying coping mechanisms they used. Describe the difficulty with the inability to know another’s experience.

Role of Books in Lucy’s Life

In what way did books serve her growing loneliness and need to be strong through her medical treatments?

autobiography of a
FACE