

When Truth Lies: A Journey with Schizophrenia
Questions and Topics for Discussion
Book Club

1. Kevin sees his voices as a natural part of life. When we go through developmental stages like puberty do we fully understand the changes taking place? Do we seek help or a guide?
2. Kevin's parents initially believe that drugs may be the reason for his problems. Is this reasonable for them to assume?
3. Kevin and Wendy spend all of their time together. Kevin's parents don't like it. Should young people avoid this type of intense relationship? How outside the norm is Kevin?
4. Many of Kevin's visions and beliefs are religiously based. He tries to control events with obsessions. Are many religions also based on unsubstantiated beliefs? Isn't prayer a way that many of us hope to control our destiny?
5. Kevin sees death everywhere when he is in the Army. Is that a "crazy" response to the military? Isn't their business in war bringing death to others?
6. Was Brenda McBride, the social worker at Gannon, a bad person or part of a bad system?
7. The life of the hospital is dull and boring. People are medicated and quiet. Does this surprise you? Is this a different view of a mental hospital than *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*?
8. The communes of the 1960s and 1970s were a way to replicate an idealized version of the family. Where did they succeed? Where did they fail?
9. Mother and Baba see Kevin's illness in a spiritual way. Were some of Kevin's visions legitimate?
10. Have you experienced medical professionals refer to their help in "we" terms? "If we take our medication, we'll feel better."
11. Why do you think John didn't just rob Kevin and take his car?
12. Was it OK for Dr. Mrs. Narayan to get her needs met with her professional relationship with Kevin?
13. Carol violated all professional boundaries with Kevin. The relationship worked out for a long time. Is it sometimes OK for therapists and patients to have social aspects to their relationship?
14. Stress brings on symptoms. Were there times when Kevin's illness got worse due to stress?
15. Was Kevin labeled at any point? Did the label help or hurt?
16. Schizophrenia is a biological illness. Did any of the talk therapy work?
17. The support of loved ones is very important. Is there evidence that Kevin had good support?
18. Is Kevin, in any sense, a hero? What sort of heroic things did he do?