

Discussion Guide for *Everyone Here Is Lying* by Shari Lapena

1. Discuss the relationships between the characters, especially the Wooler family and their neighbors. How do these dynamics contribute to the overall tension in the story?
2. Deception is a central theme in the novel. Explore how various characters, such as William, Nora, and Marion, navigate lies and secrets. How does their deceit impact the unfolding events?
3. Analyze the parenting styles of William and Erin Wooler. How do their approaches differ, and what role do their actions play in the events of the story? Consider the consequences of their choices on their children.
4. Were you surprised by the twists and turns in the plot? Discuss the effectiveness of the author's use of suspense and mystery throughout the novel. Did you have any predictions that turned out to be accurate?
5. Michael blames himself for Avery's disappearance. How does guilt play a role in the story, and do you think his feelings are justified?
6. Delve into Marion's character and her motivations. How does her unrequited love for William drive her actions, especially in relation to Avery? Do you find Marion's character and her plan believable?
7. The story is set in a suburban neighborhood. Discuss any social commentary the author might be making about suburban life, expectations, and the hidden struggles behind closed doors.
8. How realistic did you find the portrayal of Avery's character, especially considering her age and actions? Do you think a nine-year-old could be capable of the level of manipulation described in the book?
9. The novel raises ethical questions about honesty, trust, and the consequences of one's actions. How do the characters grapple with these dilemmas, and what are the ethical lessons learned from their experiences?
10. Address the theme of abuse, both physical and emotional, in the story. How is it portrayed, and do you think the consequences for the abusers were adequately explored or resolved?
11. Shari Lapena is known for her suspenseful writing. What techniques did she use to keep you guessing and engaged throughout the novel?

12. Were there any particular scenes or moments that stood out to you as especially tense or thrilling?
13. How would you compare this novel to literary works such as "Gone Girl," "The Ransom of Red Chief," and "The Bad Seed." How do these comparisons enhance or detract from your reading experience?
14. How did you feel about Avery's desire for fame and the way she manipulates the situation for attention? Did it change your perception of her character?
15. The ending of the novel has been described as abrupt. Discuss your feelings about how the story concludes. Were there any loose ends or unanswered questions that left you wanting more resolution?