

## *WTL Book Discussions Questions*

1. In “Truth Be Told,” and in the “Introductions,” the authors describe some of their own personal encounters with bigotry. How does hearing their personal stories better help you understand bigotry?
2. In “Mack,” Billy T. concludes that what happened to the dog Mack is the same thing that happens to some people. Do you agree or disagree with Billy T? If you agree, how do people behave who have been hurt like the dog Mack?
3. In “Lie Detective,” what was detective Sarah Saddlewhite trying to get Samuel to understand that he did not completely appreciate or comprehend?
4. In the essay “Recognize All Bigotry as a Lie,” the authors state all bigotry and prejudice against you state or imply you are inferior. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?
5. In the essay, “Awaken to the Bigot’s Motivation,” the authors state bigots perpetrate bigotry against you out of their own fears and feelings of inadequacy. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?
6. In “Liars Anonymous,” the authors compare “liars” to alcoholics and drug addicts. How does this comparison impact your understanding of people who commit acts of bigotry against others?
7. The authors suggest that “liars” are also victims of bigotry. How is this suggestion helpful in protecting yourself against the disparaging treatment of others?
8. In “The Talk of Terryton,” the teachers at the local high school noticed a change in the behavior of the black students. If people who experience bigotry embrace the idea that there is no such thing that some

people are inferior to others, what changes would you expect to see in their outward behavior?

9. Why do you feel the main character Joan, in “Myshen Nautbrae,” rejects the idea that she or anybody else in the world suffers from a disease called Myshen Nautbrae?

10. How does “The Dream” contribute to your understanding that seeing bigotry for what it truly is plays a huge role in determining what mental and emotional harm you suffer.

11. In “Up a Tree,” the authors invite the reader to envision the bigot as being up a tree. Do you believe a mental exercise such as this is helpful? If so, in what way?

12. Do you feel, as the authors argue, that detachment is an effective and necessary tool to protect yourself on the inside from the bigotry of others?

13. “Carl is Not Stupid” is a commentary on how the achievement of certain groups is celebrated in the United States. How does this story relate to your understanding of the way minority groups are celebrated?

14. In the essay “Don’t Debate the Lie,” the authors give explicit advice on how to react to some acts of bigotry that others may commit against you. How effective or ineffective do you believe this advice would be on an everyday basis?

15. The authors argue that harboring hostility due to bigotry is always harmful and does not benefit the victim in anyway. Do you agree or disagree with the position they have taken?

16. How does “What’s the Matter with Charlie Frank Johnson,” contribute to your understanding that harboring hostility is harmful?

17. Did this book change your understanding of bigotry in any significant way?

18. Do you believe the practices and principles the authors recommend in the book will actually help people who face bigotry?

19. What part of this book did you find most inspirational or helpful? What parts were challenging?