

# Rediscovering Sylvia Plath

## Session 3 Discussion Questions

Do you think this quote from Plath is accurate about her poems? Why or why not?

“I don’t think any good poet wishes to be obscure I certainly don’t; I write, at the present, in blood, or at least with it. Any difficulty arises from compression, or the jaggedness of images thrusting up from one psychic ground root.”

Where precisely do difficulties in meaning arise for you in the poems? What is the nature of that particular difficulty: semantic, or metaphorical, or does it have to do with significance (why she is saying something in this way, or where she is saying it)? Can you work through those difficulties as a group?

What are the most powerful symbols or images in the poems? What do you make of them?

How do you see the less explicitly autobiographical poems fitting in with “Daddy,” “Lady Lazarus?” Why do you think those poems have become the best known? Do you think they are a fair representation of Plath’s work? What are the downsides for her as a poet of being mostly known for those poems? How would you describe her more fully as a poet?