

Fragile

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think the author constructed the novel with the mid-sentence transitions between fragments of text from each character's viewpoint? What effect does this create as you read the novel?
2. What is the significance of the many instances of broken objects in the novel? In a related manner, how is the image of arcs used throughout the novel?
3. Why do you think the author used first person for Amelia's point of view and third person for Tris's point of view and Holly's point of view?
4. Amelia, Tris, and Holly are each constrained by an event that happened in the past. How does each of them ultimately move on from the past events?
5. Think about the three-part structure of the novel. In what ways does it mirror the three-character viewpoint the author has created?
6. *Fragile* begins with Amelia lying down in Holly's salon chair to have her hair washed. Amelia, Tris, and Holly each lie down on their backs several times during the course of the novel. What is the significance of this act? How does the act differ for Tris, Holly, and Amelia each time it happens?
7. How does Amelia's 'voice' change in the third part of *Fragile*? Why?
8. What is the significance of Tris running late to Amelia's funeral? How does this tie in to the eulogy delivered by the priest from St. Monica?