

**HD204 In-Class Discussion Worksheet for the
Little White Lies documentary in Kanopy**

The questions below are intended to guide your focus as you watch the documentary. Answer the questions as best you can so that you have ideas to contribute to the class activity/discussion.

We will further discuss this in our class meeting, so be sure to keep a copy of your notes available.

Question prompts:

- 1. What role did the story this family told play in the creation of the narrator's personal identity and the family's identity? For example, did her name have significance for the family and to her? What stories were told in her family to reinforce her identity as a white Jewish girl?**

Lacey's uncle passed away during her mother's wedding, which left a deep impact on her family. As a result, Lacey was named after her late uncle. Naming her after her uncle, helped create a sense of belonging to Lacy. It was also mentioned that Lacey's parents met at a camp, and it was written in the sky, they were meant to be.

- 2. How did stories told in her childhood create links between the past, present, and future? What did you observe them doing?**

She stated she "grew up in a world of synagogue... My family knew who were and defined who I was" I feel like this is a very powerful quote from the film because it shows that her identity was sort of forced on her during her childhood. She never questioned her ethnicity, during her childhood she believed she was white because that's what she was told. After uncovering the truth, and finding out her biological father was African-American, she felt lost and disconnected within herself.

- 3. Families co-construct stories - it is the way they are created and maintained. How did this family co-construct the story about the narrator's place in the family? Can you identify at least one example?**

When Lacey was singled out at school by a boy, she came home upset and talked with her Dad. He showed Lacey the family photo album, specifically a picture of her great grandfather, who was Sicilian, this helped explain why her skin was darker. Lacey had her mom's curly hair, and her skin was darker just like her father, who got very tan in the summer. These stories were one of the leading factors to reassure Lacey that she was a white Jewish girl.

4. In making this documentary the narrator helps her family construct a new narrative (a new story) about her and them as a family (i.e., about who they are). How does this process of creating a new story affect...
 - a. **relationships** within the family?
 - b. **rules** about what is spoken of/not spoken of?
 - c. the family's **identity** as a whole?

By crafting a new narrative, the family was able to enhance their relationships. The process they went through created a new perspective on the importance of honesty and prioritizing their personal opinions over outside perceptions. This had a huge effect on the family's communication style, they previously wouldn't talk about difficult or sensitive topics, now they are open for discussion.