

Practice SAT Essay Questions Suggested by *Flirtin' with the Monster*

Question #1

"[Suicide, sex, drugs, abuse, and other issues] touch lives every day, including the lives of children and teens. It's important to write about them honestly because only then can we gain insight into not only the victims, but also the perpetrators. Without that understanding, we can't hope to change things for the better."

- Ellen Hopkins, "Introduction"

The above passage is Ellen Hopkins's response to book critics who disapprove of her book topics. They claim that her subjects are too mature for her teenaged audience. Is allowing teens to be exposed to "mature" topics through literature more helpful or more harmful?

Plan and write an essay in which you develop your point of view on this issue. Support your position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, studies, experience, or observations.

Question #2

“It’s the fear of the unknown, the inability to predict the future, and often our lack of faith in ourselves or others that presses us into keeping secrets. . . . Secrets equal lies. Whether it’s an act of omission or any outright lie to divert attention from what’s being concealed, secrets equate to falsehoods and those untruths often build upon themselves until the perjurer is thoroughly entangled in a sticky web of their own making..”

- Terri Clark, “The Secret’s Out”

Society suggests that honesty is important, and that keeping secrets is a bad thing. But is there ever a time when keeping a secret is a *good* thing?

Plan and write an essay in which you develop your point of view on this issue. Support your position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, studies, experience, or observations.