

## Sons and Lovers Discussions Questions

1. At what point did you pick up on Paul's pathological relationship with his mother? How did it evolve? What makes Paul an Oedipal character?
2. How disconcerting was it that the point of view occasionally/very briefly shifted to Gertrude Morel, Miriam, Clara, or Walter Morel? Did Lawrence effectively describe their inner lives?
3. Is Paul's father a fully developed character? Why does the author write dialect only for him? Aside from being a nasty drunk, does the Morel family despise him because of his low-class origins?
4. Why do you think the author includes such long descriptions of flowers and nature? (And a whole family of Morels? Are they all dicks except Annie?).
5. Why does Mrs. Morel disapprove of Paul's relationship with Miriam?
6. Why do you think Paul has such difficulty forming human connections? Does his struggle seem believable to you?
7. Discuss the themes of jealousy and bondage that prevail in the novel. How do they lead up to the episodes of savagery?
8. What effect is industrialization and materialism having on the Morel family? Do you see Mrs. Morel effectively guiding her children toward adulthood? Why do you think the author introduces William as a main character and then kills him off?
9. What does painting mean for Paul? How does it relate to his alienation and lack of compassion?
10. Why does Paul do so much for Baxter Dawes at the end of the novel?
11. Why do you think the author consistently portrays marriage as meaningless and potentially destructive? How do the characters view marriage?
12. Do you see any parallels between this novel and *The Wasteland*? Both were written around the time of WWI and explore themes of mechanization and rootlessness. Do you think *Sons and Lovers* would have worked better as a short story?