

Homework Exercise: Thompson

Answer questions 1-3 below in 1 -1 ½ pages.

1. Why does Thompson begin her essay in the way that she does? How does this compare with Kaysen's introductory paragraph in the chapter from *Girl, Interrupted*?
2. What metaphors does Thompson use to describe her depression? How do these compare with Kaysen's metaphors? Which metaphors are more powerful, in your view? Which writer does a better job of describing mental anguish (some may say "mental illness")?
3. What's the meaning of the ending? How does the ending relate to the title? How do you feel about the scientist's primary motive for research on fluoxetine hydrochloride (Prozac)? What's it like to read this at MIT?

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