

Discussion Questions for *Her Name is Sabine*

1. Discuss how the failures of “the system”, from Sabine’s childhood to later in her adult life, affected her and her family.
2. Compare and contrast the system in France to our system (past and present) in the United States. Do you think Sabine would have had a similar experience here in the US?
3. This film brings up, if only subtly, the drawback of universal health care. Discuss the shortcomings of the health system and if this can be better addressed, or if this lack of mental health resources is a downfall of universal healthcare.
4. This film brings up the issue of misdiagnosis. Discuss this issue in contemporary terms, in regards not only to Autism but to other developmental and mental diagnoses as well, and the effects it has on a person, family and society as a whole.
5. Discuss the impact of family on Sabine, and her “recovery” and development. Do you think the love of a family has limits on its ability to help treat someone in this condition?
6. Compare and contrast this film with other films about mental and behavioral disabilities (both fictional and non-fictional). What do you think is the aim, if any, of this documentary?
7. Discuss the impact that the cinematography and the use of the intercut older footage have on your interpretation of the film. Is it helpful? Does it distract or enhance your viewing experience?
8. This is a deeply personal documentary, yet it is far from being simply a “home movie.” How does Bonnaire create a dramatic arc, and how does that, the soundtrack and other elements elevate the film to something more artistic?