Discussion Questions:

1. What is the most important 1st step to writing fiction?
2. What do you think is more important, the characters or the world being built? Relating to the assigned reading, *Something You Can’t live Without,* which do you think is the writers primary focus from the above mentioned.
3. Regarding Lamott’s work, does it show her experience when writing this extract? What are the most important takeaways from this work?
4. Lamott’s article tend to follow a more psychological approach to writing fiction, do her techniques seem worthwhile to you? Any flaws, in your opinion, with her mindset

For me, I have always such fantastical ideas from me watching many media (TV shows, movies, Anime & Manga, Games) or even thoughts that occurs to me (some amazing ideas can occur when one dreams). However, one of my major issues is that I’ve barely, if not ever, written fiction. I personally disliked a lot of my high schools’ English classes due to the material focusing a lot more on deep analysis of texts/plays etc. and trying to draw what the author felt with very oddly specific objects which annoyed me when my teacher asked to analyze them. I loved acting in plays, despite embarrassment, and the idea of writing stories but, it was never covered in the IGCSE curriculum. It may have been covered in A levels but I had to prioritize my career path of Computer Science. Due to this, I never had the experience or skills to write anything but a standard essay. My biggest fear is that my ideas wont flow correctly or be written properly. I tend to write faster than I think so a lot of my pieces will likely seem scattered or erratic or , even worse, be redundant or not make sense.

Personally, when I hear fiction, I tend to think along the lines of Adventure, Fantasy and amazing worlds. Fiction always has a pro and antagonist but even that can be played around with to amazing degrees. My ‘philosophies’ when it comes to fiction really changes over time or mood honestly. What hasn’t changed for me is that the central character/s should have a major role in the tale told and that the world of the story must be built to allow the reader to dive into the story.

Regarding Lamott’s extract, *Shitty First Drafts ,* I feel the underlying message within her work is basically Mind over Matter when it comes to writing. Personally, while she makes some amazing points and incorporates her experiences as well, it falls flat. The reason for this is due to it entirely being psychological based rather than a mixture of over techniques. I easily get lost in my thoughts yet the techniques she mentioned don’t resonate well with me. While she does acknowledge a lot of issues with writing a 1st draft, it feels more directed to experienced writers rather than people, like me, who wish to try to write fiction for the 1st time.

On the other hand, Burroway initially started their work that kind of left a bitter taste in my mouth (or eyes I suppose). They trivialized writer’s block to fear which I feel strongly opposed to as it could be just a lack of ideas due to other reasons. However, they did what I felt Lamott, should have done, focus more on other aspects with writing. They mention prompts, writing groups and other methods to help. They understand that fiction isn’t just a psychological hurdle alone (despite it primarily being one). She even gets quotes from other various writers to attribute her point not just using her own experiences as her sole muse. That is why I appreciated her mindset over Lamott’s(for now) despite the bitter introduction