



Graphic Novel Study Group  
Study Guides

# ***One! Hundred! Demons!***

## **By Lynda Barry**

Study guide by Colleen Frakes

1. "One of the most economical means of sketching a character is simply to show the readers a personal space that the character has created." -Janet Burroway. In what ways does Barry make use of this "economical" device in her work? How do her characters' surroundings reflect their personality?
2. In *One! Hundred! Demons!*, one of the demons is "Girlness". Discuss a character's struggle with gender identity and the role that their parent or parents play in it.
3. The images in *One! Hundred! Demons!* are all simple and brightly colored, a different style than much of Barry's earlier work. Why do you think she chose this style? What, if anything, do you think it adds to the narrative? Is the seriousness of (some) of the stories diminished by the images or the comic book form itself?
4. Which of the "demons" did you find most interesting? Why?
5. Barry's books make frequent use of flashbacks and do not follow a linear narrative. Why do you think the author chose this method of storytelling? Do you find it effective, confusing?

Answer questions 6-10 in a short three-paragraph essay.

The first paragraph should be a quote from the work (if images are necessary to understand the quote, briefly describe them here).

The second paragraph is your reaction to it.

The third paragraph is your interpretation of what the author meant by it.

Inspired by Lynda Barry's One Hundred Demons. [Image description: 4-panel comic. July 5, 2017. The demons following me. Panel 1: A creature says "You've wasted too much time." Panel 2: A creature says "A writer? You? Don't make me laugh!" Panel 3: A creature says "There is so much you can't control." Panel 4: A creature says "I'm not following you." Lynda Barry's beloved, genre-defying work of autofictionalography One! Hundred! Demons! exploded the comic book medium, ending up on "Best Of" lists from Time Magazine and the Chicago Tribune. In these seventeen vignettes that touch on the scent of people's homes, why babies are the best dancers, and how pretentious exboyfriends are like head lice, Barry brings her demons out to be exorcised. Described as "brutally honest, thoughtful and soulful" by Nick Hornby in the New York Times, One! Hundred! "Hundred Demons" (百鬼夜行 Hyakki) is an attribute. All cards within this attribute have a red painted-like "1/4" within a circle at the top right corner of their artworks. All worlds except Star Dragon World and Lost World have at least one Hundred Demons monster. They are the antagonist deck of Season 2 utilized by Ikazuchi and, in some form, by various other villains.