***Serial,* Season 1, Episode 1 “The Alibi”, 2014 – study questions**

You can’t talk about true crime podcasts without acknowledging the granddaddy of the genre. Dating back to 2014, series one of ‘Serial’ is the most famous and successful podcast of all time: Sarah Koenig’s hyper in-depth exploration[[1]](#footnote-1) of a 1999 Baltimore[[2]](#footnote-2) murder has been downloaded over a hundred million times, and had a vast cultural impact. It created a template[[3]](#footnote-3) that many true crime podcasts have since followed.

Go into your podcast app on your phone and find this episode of the series (scroll right to the bottom under all episodes of the series). Listen to the podcast. The questions are for use in class!

**Comprehension:**

1. **What is the date and year that Hae Min Lee was murdered?**
2. **Where was her body found?**
3. **How was she allegedly murdered?**
4. **Who is the key witness in this case?**
5. **What is the alibi that is revealed is Episode 1?**
6. **What is the important information that Asia owns?**
7. **What city did Hae Min's murder take place?**
8. **What it the name of Hae Min's boyfriend that supposedly killed her?**
9. **What is the reason Adnan and Hae Min's relationship was a secret?**
10. **Who is the narrator of the story and why did she want to investigate this story further?**
11. **Who are Saad & Rabia?**
12. **Who is Cristina Guetierrez?**

**Analysis 1:**

**The episode opens with a recording and music. Describe the recording and the music. Each episode opens with this recording and music.** **What kind of tone do they set for the podcast? In addition to creating atmosphere, what purpose does the music serve?**

**Describe the narrator's style of talking. Is she very formal or informal? Provide an example to support your answer. How does her tone affect the way you respond to the content?**

**The narrator, Sarah Koenig, is not the only person you hear speak in the podcast. When does she include other voices and why do you think she might do this? What affect does it have on the narrative and listener's responses to hear more than one voice?**

**At the center of this podcast is the question of Adnan Syed's guilt. Does Sarah Koenig reveal any bias for or against Syed in this episode? How can you tell?**

**Based on this episode alone, if you had to rule on Syed's guilt or innocence, what would your conclusion be? On what would you base this conclusion?**

1. Dybtgående undersøgelse [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Baltimore er den største by i den amerikanske stat Maryland med ca. 590.000 indbyggere [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. skabelon [↑](#footnote-ref-3)