Housekeeping:
- Homework: critical essay (groups)
- QUACs due by 8 p.m.

Gender Theory:
- “To be a girl is humiliating” (p 55): if all girls are taught to act as this typical “girl,” then are they really individuals at all or are they merely products of the “girl” that society creates? (KB)
- Are women the more respected sex/gender in this novel? (LK)
- Derek vs. Jack as manly ideal (ME)

Ageism, Child Psychology:
- “I would say that The Cement Garden is a disturbing novel.” (FF) – nature vs. nurture and child development
- “When you’re a bit older, you’ll realize that’s all they are, toys, expensive toys” (p 102) – Jack’s absorption of mother, sister, lover roles regarding Julie (MF)
- Is Jack a reliable narrator? Jack is controlled by his memories; the controller is not an active force, but an underlying theme in his life. (KJ) [frog scene – 126]

Freud: “Tell me about your muzzer…”
- “When Mother died, beneath my strongest feelings was a sense of adventure and freedom which hardly dared admit to myself and which was derived from that memory of that day years ago” (p 79) – what happens when parents prematurely relinquish control over teaching children what is or is not socially acceptable? (MM)
- “Tom had made up his mind that Julie was to take care of him now” (p 70-80) – necessity of a mother figure to care for the youngest (HS)
- Father is the most controlling character in the novel – no jokes at his expense. (DM)
- “I am only including the little story of his death to explain how my sisters and I came to have such a large quantity of cement at our disposal” (p 13). Twisted sense of what matters (SB)
- Misrecognition scene (p 84) – mother, but Julie, but neither (MO)