**Discussion Questions for Part I of *Combray***

**To do *BEFORE CLASS*:**

1. How would you describe Marcel’s relationship with his mother? With his father?
2. Why is Swann’s arrival at the house “l’objet d’une préoccupation douleureuse” (p 43) for Marcel?
3. What do you consider the most dramatic moment of Part I? explain.

4. Read closely the paragraph on pp 47-48 (Penguin edition) which begins  “For many years already, everything about Combray that was not the theatre and drama of my bedtime had ceased to exist for me ” and ends with “It is face to face with something that does not yet exist and that only it can accomplish then bring to light. ”

4a. What is the function of this paragraph?

4a1. What is the meaning of this paragraph? What information does it give us?

4a2. How does it relate to the paragraphs surrounding it and to the work as a whole?

4b. What do you notice about Proust’s choice of verb tenses ?