

## Dead Catch - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How large is the walleye fishing industry in Minnesota, and why could it be a possible inducement to crime?
2. Why would netting walleye be illegal, while netting whitefish is not? Why is it important to the story?
3. What are some of the points of evidence that lead law enforcement to believe Holden Riggins is the obvious murderer?
4. Holden Riggins has asked for Sam Rivers to investigate his case and the death of CO Charlie Jiles. Are there any other reasons Sheriff Dean Goddard agrees to go along with Holden's request? Are the sheriff's reasons for recruiting Sam reasonable? Ethical?
5. Discuss some of the reasons Sam Rivers decides to take on the informal investigation of Charlie Jiles's death.
6. Why is Lake Vermilion a good setting for the story?
7. Why did Cray Halverson believe Holden Riggins would be a good fall guy for their crimes? Why did he believe Holden would be exonerated?
8. When Rowena Melnyk confronted Charlie Jiles the second time, at the mouth of Smugglers Creek, do you think her actions were justified? Do you think she should have been charged with murder?
9. Was the ultimate punishment of Cray Halverson and Rowena Melnyk justified? Should it have been harsher?
10. Why did Holden burn and sink his birchbark canoe on Pine Lake? Why did he invite Sam Rivers to accompany him?

