

## Discussion Questions for The Crawford County Sketchbook by Tom Janikowski

1. How did you read Part 1? Did you read straight through, or did you read certain portions or episodes ahead of others?
2. How did you experience time throughout the three parts? Could you discern a clear chronology? Did time present itself as linear, cyclical, or something else?
3. Peter Switchback is described as a “virtuous” man, but his virtuous behavior is only made known as it is described through the eyes of various people. Is this a reliable means of judging his character? Does Peter Switchback seem virtuous?
4. Which characters, if any, seem believable? Which, if any, seem like caricatures?
5. What happens to Peter Switchback. What happens to Sheriff Morgan? Does anyone know the whole story?
6. Are you able to identify with any particular character in Part 2?
7. Why do you suppose Blind Charles swallowed Bitter's finger?
8. Do you suppose there was more than meets the eye in the relationships between the characters in Part 2? What would you like those relationships to be or to have been?
9. What happens after Denny walks on into the tool shed?
10. Describe Ashley's character in one sentence.
11. Is Ashley in Part 3 the same as the Ashley in the Part 1? If so, is there a change in her character between the two parts? Does Ashley change in Part 3?
12. The sentence in Latin on the title page, “Domine, non sum dignus,” shows up one other time in the three parts. It translates to “Lord, I am not worthy,” and itself is deeply charged with symbolism and meaning. Does it have newfound meaning in any or all of the three parts?
13. Each of the three parts might invite the reader to write an ending. How might you create an ending for any or all of the three? Might they rather invite the creation of a 'beginning' of sorts?
14. Are the different parts plot-driven or character-driven? Is there a purposed relationship between the way in which the three make use of the particular drive?
15. Is it possible to see a particular and different philosophical orientation being considered in each of the three parts? If so, what might those be?
16. Do certain archetypal characters appear in more than one of the three parts? Do some do so without being named?