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## Discussion Questions: ***In Cold Blood*** by Truman Capote

1. How does Capote color the opening section with a sense of impending murder and doom?
2. If everyone knew that the Clutters did not carry cash on them, why did the jailman who had worked for the Clutters tell Dick the opposite?
3. Is it right that Perry would not let Dick rape Nancy and yet he ended up killing her?
4. If the murderers had just attempted to steal from the Clutters and gotten caught, would the punishment be as severe?
5. How does Capote build suspense despite the fact that readers know the outcome from the beginning of the book?
6. *In Cold Blood* starts with details about the Clutter family's last day alive. Did any of the details particularly stick out to you? Did Capote make you feel attached to the family by sharing these details?
7. What does the crime reveal about the town of Holcomb? How does gossip surrounding the murders reflect underlying truths about the town?
8. Did you feel sympathy for Dick or Perry at any point?
9. Do you think Dick and Perry were sane? Did the psychiatric analysis of them and descriptions of other cold blooded killers surprise you? Scare You? Make you think differently about violent crime or the death penalty?
10. Capote seems to paint Perry in a more sympathetic light than Dick. He seems sensitive and even kind at points; however at the end you find out that Perry committed all four murders. Did that surprise you? Did you sympathize with Dick more than Perry at any point? Or did you not buy any of the kind of characterizations?

*Discussion Questions provided by the Beekman Library.*