“Killings”

1. Re-read the first paragraph closely.
   1. Why did the author include the exact amount of days Frank lived (1st paragraph)?
   2. How does the setting relate (or not relate) to the mood of the first paragraph?
2. Ruth goes to the store to purchase aspirin and cigarettes in the weeks following the funeral. What does this tell you?
3. What effect does it have on the reader to read about Richard’s past?
4. Why is there so much summer imagery in this story? The author continually talks about Frank’s (and his girlfriend’s) suntan, his body, and the beach.
5. Why don’t we ever see Mary Ann’s reaction to Frank’s death?
6. Re-scan the first half of the left side of the 5th PDF page. What do these details tell us about Richard?
7. Discuss the diction in the paragraph where Richard is shot (155ish)
8. At what point did you realize Richard was going to die?
9. Discuss all the tension between vitality and death, autumn and summer and winter, etc. in the final paragraph.

10. How has this deed changed Matt? Why is it significant that he

cannot “make love” at the end?