“Killings” Discussion Questions

1. *SET.2.B* – 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. *CHR.1.A&D* – Ruth goes to the store to purchase aspirin and cigarettes in the weeks following the funeral. What does this tell you about Ruth, and by extension her relationship with Matt?
3. What effect does it have on the reader to read about Richard’s past?
4. *STR.3.D* – Given the bleak nature of the story, why is there so much summer imagery present? (Remember, this is called *contrast*). Think about how 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. *CHR.1.A* – Re-scan the first half of the left side of the 5th PDF page. What do these details tell us about Richard?
7. *LAN.7.C&D* – Discuss the diction in the paragraph where Richard is shot (155ish). What effect is created, and how is that effect created?
8. At what point did you realize Richard was going to die?
9. *STR.3.D* – Re-read the final paragraph. Write down at least two contrasts you see. What is the function of these contrasts? What point is perhaps being made?
10. *CHR.1.D* – Why is it significant that he cannot “make love” to his wife at the end?
11. *STR.3.A –* Explain the overall plot structure of this story. How is the plot ordered?