

Jump right into the first chapter of Tom Franklin's *Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter*. You will have a head start on the class. Complete the following tasks and be prepared to present the results to your classmates next week. You don't have to finish chapter 1 on Thursday in "class", but you should finish chapter 1 and these tasks by Tuesday.

1. As you read, take note of passages that give a vivid [*bildhaft*] depiction of the setting – the town, the buildings, the landscape, the climate, the people in general. There isn't much landscape in the first chapter, however.
2. Start a character map or diagram which shows the basic information (sex, age, job etc.) of the characters in the novel and the relationships of the characters to each other. I've given you a start below. You should start a fresh page, however.
3. As you read, try to answer the following list of questions.

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | Who is Larry Ott? | A ____-year-old bachelor living _____ house in rural Mississippi far away from _____. |
| 2 | What does he do for a living? | He is a _____ and operates the _____ he has taken over from his dad. He has few _____ . Locals _____ |
| 3 | What is his daily routine? | After feeding the _____... |
| 4 | What does Larry enjoy doing in his spare time and also while waiting for customers? | He likes ... |
| 5 | Why does he go home that day only four hours later? | |
| 6 | What kind of nursing home does his mom live in? | |

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|----|--|---|
| 7 | What is his relationship with his mom like? | |
| 8 | Why is it unwise for him in particular to drive too fast? | |
| 9 | Why does the gun rack on his pick-up truck only hold an umbrella? | |
| 10 | Why does the Gerald County chief investigator, Roy French, pay [<i>gestatten</i>] him regular visits with a search warrant [<i>Durchsuchungsbefehl</i>]? | 25 years ago, Cindy Walker _____. Larry was never convicted, but _____.... |
| 11 | What is this person waiting for Larry wearing? | |
| 12 | What does the intruder accuse him of having done? | |
| 13 | <u>When</u> is the novel set? How do you know? | |

Larry's mother

- elderly, suffering from Alzheimer's
- lives in a retirement home

|

Larry Ott

_____ years old