

1. Why do you think Fetterman decides to take Derek on a camping trip, when neither of them enjoy camping? ~~by Fetterman~~
2. Fetterman's ex-wife Sonya gives him this advice: "When you correct others don't humiliate them. Show them new tenderness; then they will humble themselves." Does he follow this advice with Derek? In what way? Is his approach with Derek effective?
3. In the bookstore, Fetterman thinks to himself, "Isn't life just one big, long emergency, happening very, very slowly?" What do you make of this thought? Do you agree/disagree? Why?
4. When Fetterman stops at the gas station he realizes he spoke to Derek as though he was a dog: "Time to do your business." What is the significance of this line? Why does Fetterman say that and why does he then regret saying it?
5. What was Fetterman's relationship with his own father like? How does it inform the way in which Fetterman relates to Derek?
6. When Fetterman begs Derek not to kill himself, he says, "I'm begging you. Not as a father to a son. As a brother to a brother." What is the difference, and why do you think Fetterman says that?
7. How do you feel about the end of the story? What has been resolved, and how?
8. What is the significance of the story's title?