

“Crooked Letter, Crooked letter” by Tom Franklin. Chapter Four, RC task and key.

Having read chapter four, fold the sheet along the vertical line and answer the questions. Or work with a partner and take turns asking and answering the questions.

1. What is Larry’s condition like when Angie finds him?	He has been shot in the chest, is lying in his blood, holding a pistol in his hand. It is not clear if he will survive.
2. Why is CI French annoyed when he hears about Larry being shot?	Silas had sent Angie over to Larry “on a hunch”. French had not known about the relationship between Silas and Larry. He suspects Silas might be overambitious and after his job because only that morning he had found the body of another victim.
3. What does French’s suggestion that it would be good luck if Larry didn’t make it indicate?	Like everybody else in Chabot, he suspects Larry of the murder of Cindy Walker and this would simply be an easy way of getting rid of him.
4. What is Amos, the community Larry lives in, like?	Poor, dirt roads, no stores left, run-down houses. The population has decreased to only 85, mostly blacks. Silas mom had lived there too and also the Walker family.
5. Why can’t Silas take fingerprints form the crime scene?	Silas is not authorized to do this kind of detective work. It’s rather French’s job.
6. What is special about Larry’ house?	It’s a so-called ‘shotgun house’, typical of the American South. It is a narrow house, with one room right behind the other without a hall. There is a door on both the back and the front of the house. Usually built by poor people because it needs less space.
7. What does the inside inspection of the house reveal about Larry?	There are heaps of paperback books – he is an avid reader, especially of horror books. Boy’s clothing in the closet – he has kept even his old clothes. No dental floss in the bathroom cabinet – he does not care or know about its use. (lower middle class?) ...
8. What does Silas remember doing in the barn when, as a boy, he had once been at the house?	They enjoyed being unsupervised, and the adventure of catching lizards and snakes and ‘incarcerating’ them.
9. What is French’ guess about the reason for Larry’s condition?	He thinks he had tried to commit suicide.
10. What is strange about the case of beer in the fridge?	One can is missing, but Larry has always been a teetotaler.
11. Where does Silas live and what does that reveal about his financial situation?	He lives in a trailer, a mobile home, which is often used by people who can’t afford site-built homes.
12. What is the message on the answering machine about?	In the morning, Larry had made an urgent appeal to call him back even late at night.