

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

Having read chapter two, 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. Who is Silas Jones?	Sole law enforcement officer of small-town Chabot, Miss. Nicknames: 32 (his baseball number) or Constable (his job).
2. What's his current most important task?	He's trying to find the missing Rutherford girl and therefore searches the land.
3. Who does he find while looking for the girl?	He discovers the festering body of a small drug dealer, Morton Morisette (M&M), who had most likely been killed by a crackhead some time ago.
4. Where did Silas grow up and how does he know M&M?	In Chabot, in a hunting cabin without electricity or gas, owned by a white man. He lived there with his mom in very poor conditions. He is black. He had known the victim at high school and ponders on how life would have turned out for him had he stayed in contact.
5. What is life in Chabot like?	Chabot is very much in the sticks, a slowly decaying place. Cell phones don't always work, there is no ATM, it is a wet county, bordered by dry counties, which leads to a high number of DUI cases. Few stores, many vacancies. Only the Rutherford Mills offer good jobs. Town employees like Silas are a lot less well-off. Their way of life like e.g. junk food in the office etc. speaks volumes.
6. What's Silas' relationship to Larry Ott and why is Larry called "Norman Bates"?	He claims he just knows him from school. Silas' chief French tells him that he had paid "Norman Bates", which is a nickname for Larry, a visit because he is the usual suspect whenever a girl goes missing. (Norman Bates is the murderer in Hitchcock's horror movie "Psycho".) Larry is an avid reader of horror books.
7. What makes Silas concerned when he learns about the visit to Larry?	Larry had not been at his shop, which is highly unusual as he has never stopped being there during business hours, "regular as clockwork", even when there were no customers.
8. Why does Silas drive up to Larry's place?	Larry had tried to contact him two years before when he learned that Silas was back in Chabot. Silas had not returned the call, but Larry called him again just to tell him he was welcome back home.
9. What had happened 25 years ago with Cindy Walker?	Silas had known her too since he and Larry had known each other more closely. She had gone missing after a date with Larry, but Larry never confessed and no body was found, so the police could not arrest him.
10. What happens while Silas is on his way to Larry?	He is being told to take care of a rattlesnake in somebody's mailbox on "White Trash Avenue" where poor white people live in trailers and run-down houses. Therefore, he asks his girlfriend Angie, an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician), to go to Larry's place to check if he's alright.
11. While on duty directing traffic, Silas receives a call. What is it about?	Angie tells him that something went terribly wrong with Larry.