

NPR: Interview with [Tom Franklin](#), the author of “Crooked letter, crooked letter”. Author interviews: Search for ‘October 3, 2010’. 7:38 minutes.

<http://www.npr.org/sections/author-interviews/archive?date=10-31-2010>

Recording and transcript:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=130303007>

I. True or false? (1 credit each)

	true	false
1. According to the interviewer, the novel is about economic despair in the 21 st century.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Crooked letter stands for ‘s’ and is the way children in the South are taught to spell the name Mississippi.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Everybody in the US is familiar with this meaning of “crooked letter”.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

II. Complete this sentence. (2 credits)

Larry Ott is called “Scary Larry” and ostracized because he is suspected of having killed a girl after he had taken her out on a date although no body was never found.
 He had been ridiculed even before because he looked feminine and soft, unlike his father Carl.

III. Tick the one correct answer. (1 credit)

Franklin knows exactly what Larry went through in the drive-in because	a	<input type="checkbox"/>	everybody in his town knew he had experienced the same humiliation.
	b	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	he had done a similar a similar cover-up when he was a teenager.
	c	<input type="checkbox"/>	this is a common phenomenon shared by many Southerners.

IV. True or false? (1 credit each)

	true	false
1. Silas is one of Larry’s friends.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. When he returns to the village, he is a police constable.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Franklin found it challenging to put himself into the shoes of a black person.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

V. Give three reasons (3 credits)

To Franklin, being called a “Southern writer” feels less good every year because

1. he does not like to be pidgeon-holed.
2. nobody in New York would read him.
3. this classification makes it harder for a writer to break through.