

Discussion Questions for *Once Around the Track* by Sharyn McCrumb

Questions compiled by Sharyn McCrumb

- * The central point of the book was the difference between "The Dark Angel" and "Badger." How do his fans perceive him, and what is he really like? Do you in fact ever find out what he is really like?
- * Has this book changed your perception of stock car racing as a sport?
- * What personality traits does Badger have that make him unsuccessful as a race car driver?
- * Do you think Badger and Laraine lived happily ever after? What adjustments would they have to make to stay together?
- * Racing has been called "a football game with 43 teams on the field." Explain.
- * Would you want to get to know a celebrity that you admire? Do you care what they are really like, and would you want to know the private person?
- * At different times, three characters in the novel compare Badger to a horse. Discuss this metaphor as it is used by each of them.
- * Which character in the novel did you identify with and why?
- * What do you think happened to Badger after he left NASCAR?
- * Will Tony Lafon be more successful in NASCAR than Badger was? Why or why not?
- * "*Badger ain't the motor boat. He's the turtle.*" In what way is this statement true in his career and in his private life? Or is it?
- * For a film version of *Once Around the Track*, who would you cast for each of the major characters?