

9. Crutcher writes about lettering in football and the C Club initiation he had to go through. At what grade level did Crutcher go through this secret initiation? Was this level typical? What events took place during this initiation? Were the coaches aware of what was going on? Is this type of initiation still happening today? Would it now be considered harassment?

10. Crutcher was not much of an athlete as a teen, but as an adult, playing basketball, swimming, and running are an integral part of his life. In the epilogue he states, "A sport has its own built-in integrity, doesn't need an artificial one. Athletics carries its own set of truths, and those truths are diminished when manipulated by people with agendas" (p. 256). What are the agendas to which Crutcher refers? How do these agendas affect high school athletics today?

11. When Crutcher was in upper elementary school he was enthralled with the series of Chip Hilton sports books by Clair Bee. In later years Crutcher realized that although the character Chip Hilton may represent something young readers can aspire to, "Chip also represents what can never be" (p. 233). What does Crutcher mean by this statement? How does it relate to the type of young adult novel Crutcher writes?

12. Crutcher was not much of a reader when he was a teenager. He only read when he had to and that was not often. What does Crutcher mean when he writes, "Serendipity *did* get me to read one book during my high-school years" (p. 218)? Why had he not read before this? What was the book he read? Was the next school-assigned book as enjoyable?

13. Crutcher refers to a conversation with Reverend Grant, who asked him what his all-time favorite children's book was. Crutcher answered that it was *Horton Hatches the Egg* by Dr. Seuss. The reverend then asked him if there was a lesson to be learned from this book. He also asked Crutcher if he believed that an elephant could hatch an egg. What was Reverend Grant trying to get Crutcher to realize about the Bible when he asked these questions?

14. Crutcher writes about a student at one of his school visits asking him why someone always dies in his books. What was Crutcher's answer? Do you agree with him that "without loss there is no story" (p. 163)?

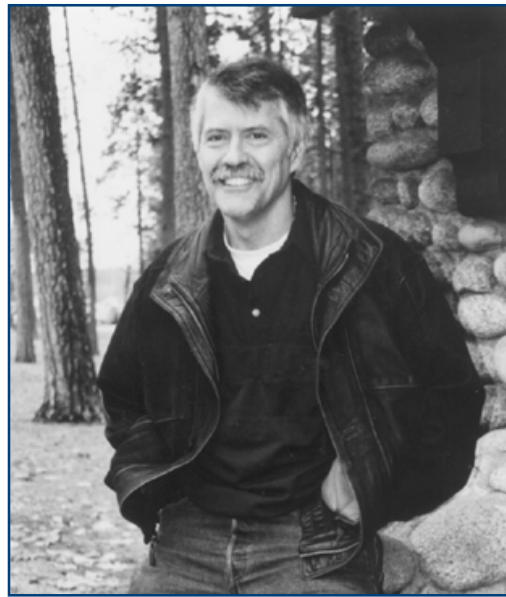


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About the Author

Chris Crutcher has won two lifetime achievement awards for his work: the Margaret A. Edwards Award for Outstanding Literature for Young Adults, and the ALAN Award for a Significant Contribution to Adolescent Literature. He lives in Spokane, Washington.

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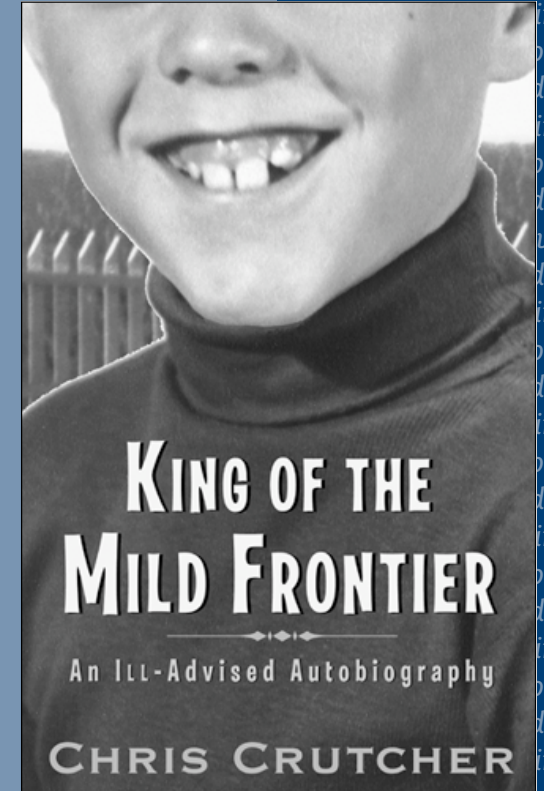
New York, New York 10019-4703

www.harpercollins.com • www.aboutcrutcher.com

April 2003

Reading group guide questions prepared by Ruth Cox.

Reading Group Guide



King of the Mild Frontier
An Ill-Advised Autobiography
By Chris Crutcher

Guide ISBN: 0-06-054507-0

