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**Mystic River**  
by Dennis Lehane

1. What does the Mystic River symbolize? What other metaphors do you find in this story?
2. What is the significance of the two quotes that appear at the beginning of the book?
3. How did Dave's abduction affect Sean, Jimmy, and Dave individually? How did it affect those around them?
4. Jimmy knew that he somehow contributed to Katie's death, but he didn't know how (page 235). What role did he have in his daughter's death?
5. What social issues are addressed in the book?
6. Why would Celeste help Dave get rid of the evidence? Why would she then tell Jimmy that she thought her husband killed his daughter?
7. Why would Annabeth choose not to stop Jimmy from committing a murder? What did she mean when she said "everyone is weak" but them?
8. Jimmy has a recurring dream where Ray Harris tells him, "You can't outrun a train." (page 368) What did Ray mean by that?
9. What is your idea of a hero? Does the description apply to Jimmy?
10. How is the neighborhood important to the story?
11. Are the characters believable? What personality traits does the author give them? Which character stands out?
12. What do you think of the author's use of language and dialogue? Read out loud your favorite passage. Why did you choose it?
13. The author uses several points of view to tell the story. Was this an effective way to structure the book? Why or why not? If you could choose another character's voice, whose would you pick and how would it affect the story?
14. If the story were to continue, what direction do you imagine would it take?