

Discussion Questions for *The Wild Inside*:

1. The Wild Inside has a strong sense of place and atmosphere. In fact, the main character is so haunted by Glacier Park that it feels like a character of its own. How do you think the atmosphere of northwest Montana and the stunning, yet unrelenting Glacier National Park affect each of the main characters?
2. What philosophical questions might be raised by the juxtaposition of man's immoral cruelty with nature's amoral cruelty?
3. Can Ted find meaning as an investigator of human crime in an imposing natural area, which has a lifespan measured in billions of years, compared to the relatively short span of a human life? And if so, how does he end up finding such meaning?
4. How does the quote the author chooses to place at the beginning color the reader's perception of the nature they are about to encounter in the story? By the end of the book, do Ted's emotions regarding Glacier National Park and its stark realities still mimic the severity of the quote or has Ted transformed his views on nature? And if so, how?
5. One reader once commented that the book reminded her of a movie made in the 1980's, *Ordinary People*, which was poignant even though only one horrible thing happened – a young man drowned. But, she commented, that's enough for a very human tragedy to unfold. In how many ways has the cruelty of one human being like Victor Lance reverberated outward and affected so many lives?
6. How do you think the Smith family will fair in the future? Will they be brought closer together by this travesty or torn further apart than they already have been?