

STUDY QUESTIONS for *Between a Rock and a Hard Place*

Answer these questions in complete sentences and paragraphs. Support your answers using examples and details from the book.

- Much of the book is spent in flashback. What does a reader learn about Ralston in these flashbacks? What does he learn about himself? How do these flashbacks prepare the reader for the end of the story?
- What does the book tell us about the human instinct for survival? Do you think less of Ralston that, at times, he seems defeated? Why/why not?
- The cover of the book shows how Ralston escapes his predicament. Do you think the book would be improved if there were a greater sense of suspense, or do you appreciate learning how Ralston comes to grips with the inevitable? Are there other incidents that create suspense?
- Ralston uses many unfamiliar terms, and refers to unfamiliar places. Does that make the book more difficult, more interesting, or more realistic? How did you figure out what Ralston meant?
- Imagine Ralston as a father, explaining his story to his child. What lessons do you think he would say he learned from what he went through?