

Response to Literature Questions for "On Dumpster Diving"

- a. Why does Eighner begin to capitalize the word *Dumpster*?
- b. Explain why Eighner prefers the word *scavenging* to the word *scrounging*. What other synonyms does he mention?
- c. Who are the *dilettanti*?
- d. What conflicts does the author have with can scroungers?
- e. What type of food does Eighner find "among the safest"? What serious problem is associated with this type of food?
- f. Categorize the things Eighner finds in Dumpsters.
- g. Describes the series of stages the author says a person goes through when learning to scavenge.
- h. Do any of the things Eighner finds in Dumpsters surprise you? If so, why? If not, why not? How might have your level of surprise affected your reading?
- i. Eighner writes that many times when he was homeless he lost everything but the clothes he was wearing and his dog. Speculate as to the circumstances of such losses. What do these things say about his life on the streets?