

Discussion Questions for *Mighty Fitz* by Michael Schumacher

1. Did you like the book? If so, what was your favorite part of the book? If not, why not?
2. Was the information in the book new to you?
3. What do you think happened to the *Edmund Fitzgerald*?
4. Did the crew of the ship become complacent about the dangers of being out on Lake Superior in November?
5. Have any of you had the experience of being on a boat or ship during rough seas? Tell us about it.
6. Does anyone have any experience with the Coast Guard? Any thoughts on the Coast Guard as portrayed in this book, and their role in the search for the *Edmund Fitzgerald*?
7. The Captain of the *Anderson* had mixed feelings about the observations he made right after the loss of the *Edmund Fitzgerald* and what he said in later years. What do you think was going through his mind?
8. The most poignant passage to me is when the captain of the *Anderson* knows something is wrong but can't get the Coast Guard interested. The second time he contacts them, he says (p. 80):

This is the *Anderson*. I am very concerned with the welfare of the steamer *Edmund Fitzgerald*. He was right in front of us, experiencing a little difficulty. He was taking on a small amount of water, and none of the upbound ships have passed him. I can see no lights as before, and I don't have him on radar. I just hope he didn't take a nosedive.

Did any thing that happened or was said in the book stick with you?

9. Did the book trigger any emotions as you were reading it?
10. Many ships have sunk over the years. Why are we so fascinated with the *Edmund Fitzgerald*? [Play Gordon Lightfoot's *The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald*.]
11. The author switches back and forth between information about the crew and their lives and information about the last voyage. Was this technique effective?
12. Are there any questions you would like to ask?