

American Literature  
*Against the Current*  
Discussion Questions

1. How did the fishing rights conflict between the Nisqually people and the federal government begin?
2. What phrase in the old treaties did Judge Boldt interpret in a new way? Explain.
3. Describe the various forces that have threatened the salmon population of the Northwest. How did the decline of the salmon affect relations between Natives and Whites?
4. What does this story reveal about the character and values of Billy Frank? What does it reveal about the character and values of Judge George Boldt? Explain your answers.
5. Discuss the implications of the title "Against the Current." Are there situations in your life where you find yourself acting against the current of peer pressure, popular opinion or accepted tradition? Discuss with your class.