

ROCKY ESSAY QUESTIONS

- **Characterization:** Is Rocky an American hero? Why or why not? What attributes make him a hero? What are we supposed to feel about him, and what causes us to feel this way?
- **Theme:** A theme that runs throughout *Rocky* is the value of taking a chance. How is this theme dramatized in the movie? Who takes a chance? Who doesn't? What are the results?
- **Theme:** What does the film *Rocky* have to do with the American Dream?
- **Diction:** The words "loser" and "bum" have already come up and will continue to be heard throughout the film. Why are those words so emotionally charged? How does Rocky react to them? How do people live up (or down) to people's expectations? What does it take to surpass people's expectations?
- **Setting:** The American bicentennial in 1976 was a celebratory time of patriotism. Why do you think this time period, and the setting of Philadelphia, were chosen?