

Guided Reading Response Questions
The Last Book in the Universe by Rodman Philbrick

Chapter One: They Call Me Spaz

1. Explain what you know about epilepsy.
2. How far in the future do you think this story takes place? What makes you think so?
3. Who are the Bangers?
4. Who is Ryter?

Chapter Two: Stealing Is My Job

1. What does Spaz mean by the *backtimes*?
2. Explain the title of this chapter.
3. Who is Little Face?
4. What item does Ryter say *is nothing of value*?

Chapter Three: Those Who Remember

1. What is it that Spaz never thinks about because it *gives him a shiver*?
2. How does Spaz feel when he rips off Ryter? Why do you think he feels this way?

Chapter Four: The Girl With the Sky-Colored Eyes

1. What do you think the Maximall was that Spaz describes?
2. What is a proof and what is the name of the one that Spaz meets?
3. Why doesn't Spaz hate the proof?
4. Describe Spaz's cube.

Chapter Five: Three Rules for Billy Bizmo

1. After reading this chapter, describe the Bully Bangers and Billy Bizmo.
2. What is a slummer?
3. What are the three rules for Billy Banger?

Chapter Six: The Thing About Bean

1. Why does Spaz go back to Ryter's place?
2. Describe the story that Ryter gets Spaz to tell him.
3. What does Ryter tell Spaz about his epilepsy?

Chapter Seven: All News is Bad News

1. What greets Spaz back at his crypt and what news does he bring?
2. Why is Spaz not thinking clearly about visiting Billy?
3. What is wrong with the fact that Spaz went to ask Billy for permission to leave?
4. What does Billy command of Spaz?

Chapter Eight: The Smell of Lightening

1. Predict what you think this chapter is about by the title.
2. What brings on Spaz's seizure in this chapter?
3. What happens when the boxer's surround and threaten Spaz?
4. Who saves him? Why does the old man offer to take him to Bean?

Chapter Nine: By The Edge We Travel, By The Edge We Live or Die

1. What is the Pipe?
2. What do you think *getting canceled* means?
3. From what you have read to this point in the novel, describe the character Ryter.

Chapter Ten: Attack of the Monkey Boys

1. Who turns up in the Pipe that frightens Ryter and Spaz?
2. How many latches did the runner have to cross through to deliver the message to Spaz about Bean?
3. When they come out of the Pipe, what does the trio see and what do you think it was in the past?
4. Who swarms in and surrounds them?

Chapter Eleven: Mongo the Magnificent

1. Describe the Monkey Boys and draw an illustration of them.
2. Why is it a good sign when Ryter, Spaz and Little Face pass the stinking and starving prisoners?
3. Why does Spaz almost laugh aloud when he sees the great Mongo?
4. Describe and explain the tek boss.

Chapter Twelve: The Problem With Looping

1. Describe Mongo's condition.

2. What connections can you make between Looping and events in today's world?
3. Who becomes the boss and what is his title?

Chapter Thirteen: Miles to Go Before We Sleep

1. Summarize what has happened so far to the travelers.
2. If you were a latchboss, what would your name be and what kind of a boss would you be?
3. Who is Odysseus in literature?
4. How is their journey like Odysseus' journey?

Chapter Fourteen: Fair Maidens Must Be Rescued

1. What is happening in this next latch? Do you see a pattern beginning to form as the group travels from latch to latch?
2. Who rescues them and what happens to Ryter?
3. What do you think the people of this latch are rebelling against? Show textual support for your ideas.

Chapter Fifteen: In the Zone

1. What are they riding through and how do they avoid the danger?
2. What important events occur in this chapter?

Chapter Sixteen: In the Latch of the Vandal Queen

1. Lotti has many names - what do they each represent?
2. What must the group find and what does Lotti promise if they succeed?

Chapter Seventeen: Looking for Probes in All the Wrong Places

1. What does Lanaya first suggest about looking for the probe runner?
3. Describe Traderville. Does it remind you of anything in today's society?

Chapter Eighteen: Mark of the Assassin

1. Describe the Furies.
2. What does Lanaya say makes things more valuable?
3. Whom do they go to in order to find the probe runner?
4. Where do they find that all the probes actually come from?

Chapter Nineteen: Spaz Boy Melts in the Rain.

1. Why is Spaz so upset with himself?
2. What happens as they get closer and closer to Spaz's home?

Chapter Twenty: What Bean Believed

1. What did Bean believe about Eden?
2. Describe Bean when Spaz first sees her.
3. What does Spaz find out about Charly?
4. What do you know about the disease leukemia?

Chapter Twenty One: A Sleep Like Death

1. How did Little Face entertain them after dinner?
2. What has happened to Bean?

Chapter Twenty Two: Their Terrible Swift Engines

1. Why is Charly against taking Bean to Eden?
2. What does Kay say to Charly that convinces him to let her go?
3. Do you think Bean can be cured? Why or why not?
4. Who has won the battle between the underground traders and the Vandals?

Chapter Twenty Three: If the World Were Blue

1. What is the significance of Bean finding the color blue? What color IS everything?
2. Describe Eden. What does Eden have that the Urbs don't?

Chapter Twenty Four: What the Cyber Said

1. Describe Lanaya's palace.
2. What is forbidden for Lanaya to do?
3. Who do you think the Authority is?
4. What happens with cyber-intelligence?
5. Why are they not able to treat Bean's leukemia?

Chapter Twenty Five: Thinking About the Future

1. Describe the Primary Laboratory and what happens there.
2. What do Jin and Spaz argue about in this chapter?
3. What is Jin shocked to hear from Ryter?

4. What does Lanaya say is one of the first things they improved with genetic engineering?
5. What does Spaz say about the future?
6. What does Spaz say would be a good way to wipe out the norms?

Chapter Twenty Six: The Bean is Back

1. What does the title of this chapter mean?
2. What do the proovs do to Bean?
3. Why does Bean say the beauty may as well be a holoscope?

Chapter Twenty Seven: What the Boy Said

1. What are the two important things that happened on their 7th day in Eden?

Chapter Twenty Eight: When They Come For Us in the Apple Trees

1. What does Bean say about Ryter's book? What do you think she means?

Chapter Twenty Nine: Say Good-Bye to Eden

1. Why do you think the proovs send Ryter and Spaz back home? Explain your answer and how you came to your decision.

Chapter Thirty: The Sound of Jetbikes

1. Why is Spaz so sad and what does Ryter say to cheer him up?
2. How would you feel if you were Spaz?
3. What do you think Bean is doing?

Chapter Thirty One: Fear Itself

1. Why is the latch in such chaos and confusion and disorder?
2. What does Billy tell Spaz that so surprises him?

Chapter Thirty Two: The Last Book in the Universe

1. Who was the last book in the universe before this chapter?
2. Who is the last book in the universe now?
3. What do you think it means to be the last book in the universe?
4. Predict what might happen if the story were to continue.