Oryx and Crake

\_\_ out of 50 points

**Directions:** Use “quotations” as evidence.

**Chapter six~ Oryx, Birdcall, Roses, Pixieland Jazz**

26. What is Oryx’s story? Give specific details.

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And, why is Jimmy so interested?

27. “As a species we’re doomed by hope, then?” (120). Examine what Jimmy says in light of the themes of the novel.

28. Explain what Oryx is saying here, especially in terms of the significance of the work as a whole.

*“But they had a money value: they represented a cash profit to others…Love was undependable; it came and it went, so it was good to have a money value” (126).*

*“That everything has a price” (139).*

*“All sex is real” (144).*

**Chapter seven ~ Sveltana, Purring, Blue**

29. “…his entire head is becoming one big stash of obsolete fridge magnets” (148). How does Atwood twist the idea of why people buy fridge magnets and the ongoing conversation Snowman maintains?

30. Give details of how the Crakers “live” and what roles they have.

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31. Discuss what Snowman says, “When any civilization is dust and ashes…art is all that’s left over. Images, words, music. Imaginative structures. Meaning ~ human meaning, that is ~ is defined by them” (167).

32. Why does Snowman ask, “Where’s my Bride of Frankenstein?” (169).

**Chapter eight ~ SoYummie, Happicuppa, Applied Rhetoric, Asperger’s U, Wolvogs, Hypothetical, Extinctathon**

33. Detail the differences between the Watson-Crick Institute and the Martha Graham Academy.

Watson-Crick Institute Martha Graham

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34. What happens in the Happicuppa wars?

35. What happened to Crake’s father and how does that “color” the story so far?

36. How does Jimmy’s visit to Watson-Crick (Asperger’s U) go? Describe the security he faces and the tour he goes on with Crake. (ChickieNobs and Wolvogs)

37. What does Crake postulate about diseases and their cures? Does this seem to hold true?

38. Why does Jimmy say, “No wonder Crake screamed so much” (218) at the end of the chapter?

39. Comment on the pictures below please.

**Chapter nine ~ Hike, RejoovenEsense, Twister**

40. “It won’t be long before all visible traces of human habitation will be gone” (222).

Explain what Snowman says in terms of the themes of the novel as a whole.

41. “The whole world is now one vast uncontrolled experiment” (228).

42. What happens with the pigoons and why is it significant? 235

**Chapter ten ~ Vulturizing, AnooYoo, Garage, Gripless**

43. Because words and communication present significant themes in the book, examine Amanda Payne’s art where she “vulturizes” single four letter words, her Vulture Sculptures.

44. What does AnooYoo translate to? What is the irony? What is Jimmy’s job here?

45. Speculate about why Uncle Pete might have “died suddenly. Some virus” (253).

46. Who is the girl locked in the garage that Jimmy hears a news story about?

47. What do the CorpSeCorps show Jimmy eventually and how does he react? “But there was no longer any comfort in the words” (261).

**Chapter eleven ~ Pigoons, Radio, Rampart**

48. The pigoons reappear, what happens now and why is it significant? “It’s as if they had it planned” (267).

49. What does Snowman discover with the radio?

50. Speculate about why Snowman says “If I’d killed Crake earlier…would it have made any difference?”

(276).

51. “No question now, it’s smoke” (280). What could be the meaning of the smoke?

**Chapter twelve ~ Pleebcrawl, BlyssPluss, MaddAddam, Paradice, Crake in Love, Takeout,**

**Airlock**

52. Why do Crake and Jimmy go to the Pleeblands? What does Crake do right before they go each time?

53. What is the BlyssPluss Pill and why does Crake say they’re “working on immortality” (292)?

54. Why does Crake hire Jimmy and what will he do for Crake? Who else comes to work for Crake? Why?

55. “Paradice is lost, but you have a Paradice within you, happier far” (308). Why does Oryx say this to Jimmy. What is the allusion?

*Of all the rest: then wilt though not be loth*

*To leave this Paradise, but shalt possess*

*A paradise within thee, happier far.*

*(XII.575–587)*

56. How does Crake manage to get Oryx to come and work for him?

57. Why does Crake ask Jimmy “Would you kill someone you loved to spare them pain?” (320).

58. What do we find out about what happened in the airlock? (328-329) Is Crake living “in a higher world” (313) as Oryx says? Why or why not?

**Paradise Lost: Chapters 11-12**

**Directions:** **Analyze and then respond to the following quotation from Paradise Lost by John Milton that Atwood’s alludes to in the novel.**

*“Paradice is lost, but you have Paradice within you, happier far” (Atwood 308). Oryx’s words in Jimmy’s head.*

*This having learnt, thou hast attained the sum*

*Of Wisdom; hope no higher, though all the Stars*

*Thou knew’st by name, and all th’ ethereal Powers,*

*All secrets of the deep, all Nature’s works,*

*Or works of God in Heav’n, Air, Earth, or Sea,*

*And all riches of this World enjoy’dst,*

*And all the rule, one Empire: only add*

*Deeds to thy knowledge answerable, add Faith,*

*Add Virtue, Patience, Temperance, add Love,*

*By name to come called Charity, the soul*

*Of all the rest: then wilt though not be loth*

*To leave this Paradise, but shalt possess*

*A paradise within thee, happier far.*

*(XII.575–587)*

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**Chapter thirteen ~ Bubble, Scribble, Remnant**

Discuss:

“King of Crakery” (333).  “Some of that darkness is Snowman’s. He helped with it” (333).

“Here are Crake and Oryx, what’s left of them. They’ve been vulturized” (335). Explain what has happened here in the past and how it connects to a previous chapter of the novel and the novel’s themes.

What does Snowman want to ensure survives and why? “Leave a legacy of knowledge. Pass on all my words” (339).

Same debate within his head as in the chat-rooms and with Crake earlier: “…demented theology debate” (340).

Why?

Explain what happens with the “Jetspeed Ultra Virus Extraordinary” JUVE” (341). Trial runs of the virus?

Uncle Pete? Crake’s Step-father? mother?

“Had he been a lunatic or an intellectually honorable man who’d thought things through to heir logical conclusion? And was there any difference”” (343).  Answer his question.

“To Whom It May Concern” (346). Discuss Jimmy’s note to their world and connect it to what he says about fridge magnets (347).

Why does Jimmy choose to become the “improbable shepherd” of the Crakers? (350 -353)

“We’re hard-wired for dreams… we’re hard-wired for singing” (352). Why? What does Jimmy un cover for us when he says this?

**Chapter fourteen ~ Idol, Sermon**

“I’m not just any dead man, he says out loud” (359). Why not? Explain why Jimmy feels the need to state this.

When Snowman returns from his foraging, the Crakers have built “a scarecrow-like effigy” (360) and they seem to be saying “Amen” ~ why does this disturb him? Explain the irony.

“Watch out for art…a soon as they start doing art, we’re in trouble” (361).  Why did Crake warn Jimmy about art and the Crakers?

What news do the Crakers have for Snowman upon his arrival?  Explain the significance.

**Chapter fifteen ~ Footprint**

“He gazes at it with rapture; there is no other word for it. Rapture” (371). Explain the significance of the beauty of the world as Snowman sees it.  What allusion does he make here?  Why? “After everything that’s happened, how can the world still be so beautiful? Because it is” (371).

“Here’s a human footprint, in the sand” (372). As Jimmy moves toward the people, what is his “stance” and why?  Explain the ending: “From habit he lifts his watch; it shows him its blank face. Zero hour, Snowman thinks. Time to go” (374).

What are the motifs and symbols? Explain their further connotation.

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What are the themes? Explain.

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