

Chapter 4 — *The Parent Lottery*

1. How did Pausch describe his "winning ticket?" Do you agree with him? Why?
2. How did he characterize "money" in his family?
3. When Pausch was growing up, he thought there were two types of families. What were they? What is your experience with these two types of families?
4. Pausch says there is logic in dispensing others' wisdom rather than one's own? What is it? Do you agree?
5. What was the photo that Pausch flashed on the overhead screen? (Be specific). Why is it important?
6. If Pausch's dad were still living when Pausch gave his lecture, what two pieces of advice would he had given him? Why are these good?

Chapter 5 — *The Elevator in the Ranch House*

1. What is the significance of this chapter's title?
2. What additions did Pausch make to his room? Do you have freedom to change your room? What would you change? Why?
3. After Pausch was grown, what was the focal point of Pausch's childhood home? What does this say about the family?
8. What advice did Pausch give to parents who want to "modify" their room? If you were a parent would you follow this? Why?

Chapter 6 — *Getting to Zero G*

1. What was a common dream of kids and Pausch's in his elementary class? Did you have this same dream? What were your dreams as a young child?
2. What bad news did Pausch receive when he and his class were invited to Johnson Space Center?
3. What lesson did he learn about negotiating for what you want from NASA? Have you negotiated for something you wanted? How did it end?

Chapter 7 — *I Never Made It to the NFL*

1. What lesson did Pausch learn when Coach Graham kept criticizing his skills?

2. What advice did the assistant offer Pausch when he felt his was a failure?
3. How did Coach Graham teach kids self-esteem? Do you agree with his methods? Why?
4. What saddens Pausch about today's kids? Do you agree with him?
5. Pausch says that Coach Graham was the master of the head-fake? Explain this.

Chapter 8 –*You'll Find Me Under "V"*

1. Pausch says he could picture a "paperless world," but admits he grew up in a very different time. What book fascinated him?
2. Can we live in a "paperless world" today? Why? How can a school the size of Norwin move to be "paperless"?

Chapter 9 –*A Skill Set Called Leadership*

1. Why does Pausch think he became a better teacher and colleague by watching his favorite fictional character on TV? Who do you think is "cool"? Why?
2. What types of things can we learn from fictional characters? Is it the same as real-life people? Why?

Chapter 10 –*Winning Big*

1. How did stuffed animals play a role in Pausch's life?
2. What is the one thing he didn't want people to know about his success?
3. What two secrets did Pausch say are necessary to winning giant stuffed animals? How do these secrets connect to life?

Chapter 11 –*The Happiest Place on Earth*

1. What did he learn about brick walls in this chapter? What is the significance of people identifying these brick walls?
2. What were the terms of his offer from Imagineering?
3. What advice did he get from two deans? What is the difference in the two responses? Who do you think gave better advice? Why?