

RULES OF RACING...and LIFE

Throughout the story, many rules of racing are presented to the reader. These rules can also be applied to our lives. As you read, write down the rules of racing as you come across them. See how you can apply these rules to your life!

The Art of Racing in the Rain

Character Sketch

As you read *The Art of Racing in the Rain*, you will be introduced to many characters. As you read, use the following pages to keep notes of the characters you meet.

Enzo



Denny



Eve



Zoë



Maxwell



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Trish



Mike



Tony



Annika

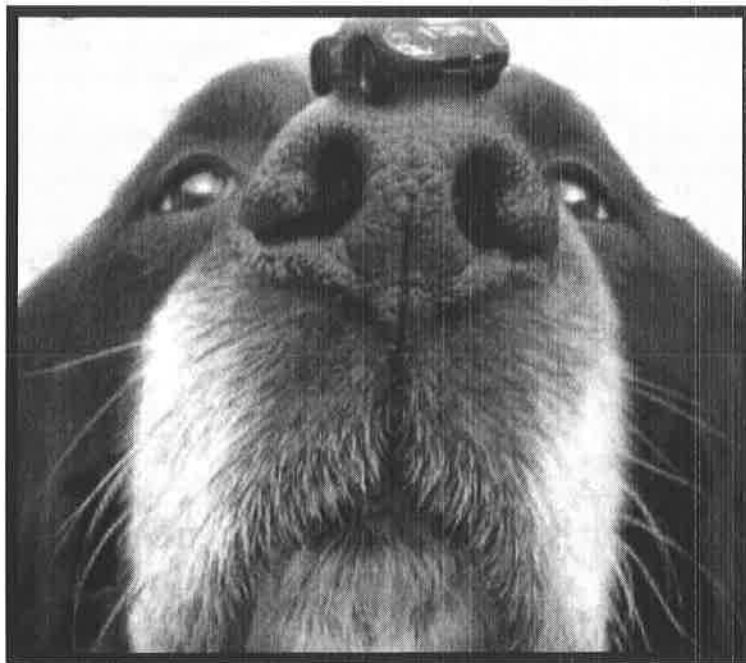


Mark Fein



The Art of Racing in the Rain Chapter 1-6 Questions

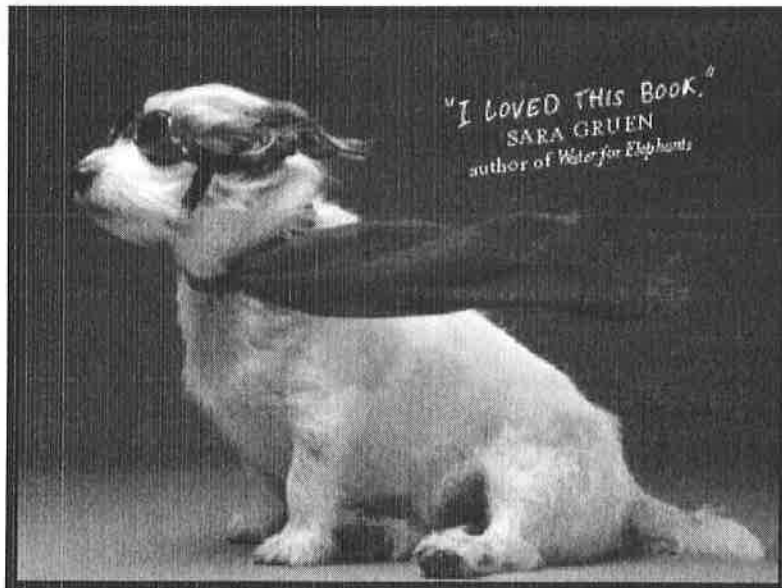
- 1) Whose point of view does this story take place?
- 2) What is different about the soul of this particular dog?
- 3) What is the part that Enzo is playing?
- 4) Where did Enzo originate?
- 5) Why must a race car driver never remember?
- 6) Describe the relationship between Enzo and Eve?
- 7) How does Enzo think humans should look at evolution and creation?
- 8) Graph out Enzo's theory that Man's closest relative is the dog.
- 9) What is Enzo's regret when thinking about the pregnant Eve?
- 10) How does the relationship between Eve and Enzo change after Zoë is born?
- 11) What does Enzo realize he can never be? What does he realize he can be?



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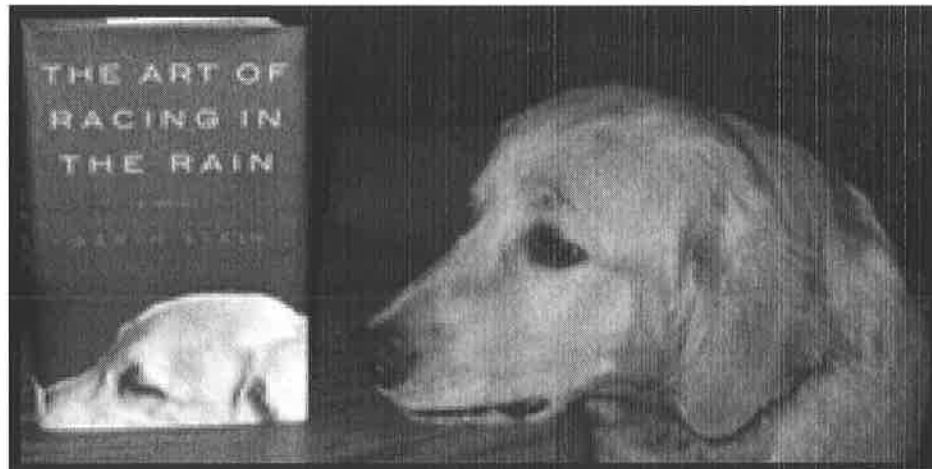
Chapter 7 - 12 Questions

- 1) Describe how life for Enzo is different now that Denny, Eve and Zoë are gone all day.
- 2) What fortunate accident changed Enzo's life? Explain.
- 3) Enzo detects a bad odor in Eve which is a foreshadowing of what is to come. Explain this.
- 4) How is watching an entire race from in-car video different from that of the camera angles shown on television?
- 5) What does Denny mean when he says, "That which you manifest is before you"?
 - How does this statement apply to your own life?
 - How does this statement apply to the title of the book?
 - How does this statement apply to Enzo's life?
- 6) "We don't live in an ideal world." Explain how this statement is true in your own life.
- 7) Chapter 10 is spent analyzing how a race car driver keeps control of his car when something causes the car to lose control. Take Chapter 10 and interpret it as a way to keep control of your life when the situations around you can cause you to lose control.
- 8) Zoe's zebra comes alive and threatens Enzo. What does the zebra symbolize?
- 9) How does Enzo sympathize with Denny's frustration by his impotence to Eve's situation?



The Art of Racing in the Rain Chapter 13 - 19 Questions

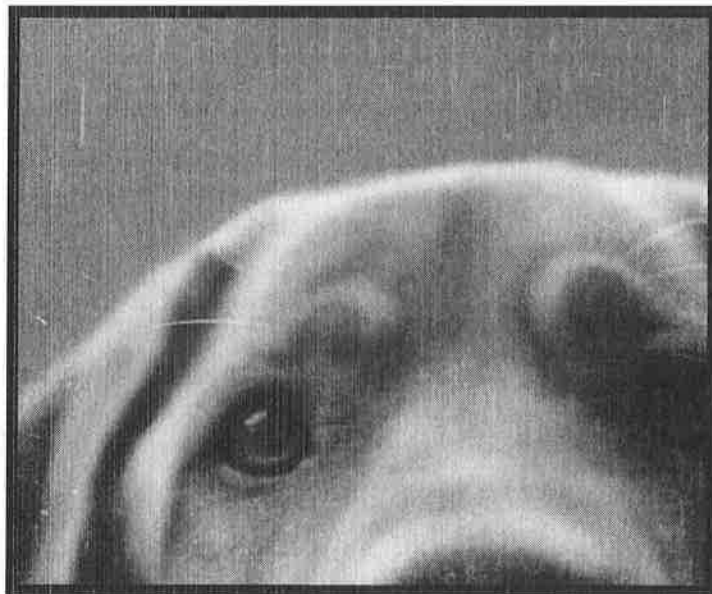
- 1) Why does Enzo have dreams about angry crows?
- 2) Why must a race car driver be very selfish?
- 3) How is a dog able to sense fear, anxiety and other body states?
- 4) How does the saying, “your car goes where your eyes go” apply to life?
- 5) How do you think the negativity of Maxwell and Trish affect Eve?
- 6) Why is Eve afraid of going to the race track?
- 7) Why do dogs and people love repetition?
- 8) Do you find yourself looking at your own dog, or dogs in general, differently while reading this book?
- 9) Do you think Enzo is really ready to die and return to this earth as a man? Why or why not?
- 10) Why is Enzo so angry?



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Chapter 20 - 26 Questions

- 1) How does Denny cope with day to day living while Eve is in the hospital?
- 2) What did Denny and Enzo do on their weekend off? Why did this feel wrong?
- 3) What is significant about the way Zoë plays with her Barbie?
- 4) What does Zoë do that makes Enzo see Eve in her characteristics?
- 5) Why does Enzo think the hospital has made Eve much more sicker?
- 6) It is decided that Zoë will stay at Maxwell and Trish's house. Do you think this is a wise decision? Why or why not?
- 7) Why does Eve insist on Denny going home rather than spending the night at her parent's house?
- 8) What does Enzo mean when he says, "A true hero is flawed"?
- 9) "For me to relate the history of Denny, who is a true champion, without including this missteps and failings would be doing a disservice to all involved." Why is this a foreshadowing statement?
- 10) What does Enzo mean by the statement, "The zebra keeps dancing."



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Chapter 27 - 33 Questions

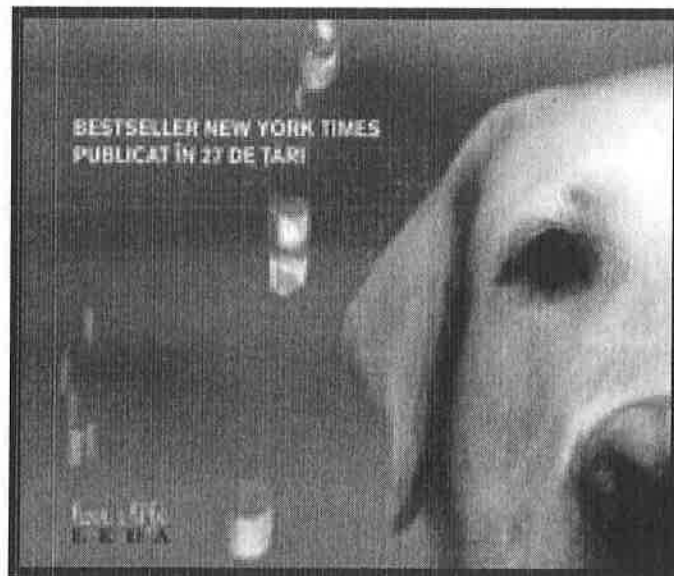
- 1) How was Eve's death a freeing moment for all involved?
- 2) Why did Enzo feel the need to run when he heard of Eve's death?
- 3) Why did Enzo eat the squirrel?
- 4) Why do you think Maxwell and Trish chose this moment to ambush Denny with a custody battle?
- 5) Do you think the police officers "are working for" Maxwell and Trish? Do you think it was simply a coincidence that they chose Denny's workplace, in the lobby, during the afternoon, to make an arrest?
- 6) Do you think its possible Denny was set up from the get go? Do you think its possible that Eve's parents had a game plan long before Eve died in order to get Zoë?
- 7) Which rules of racing have we learned so far that could be given as advice to Denny during this dark time in his life?
- 8) The one voice we have not heard a lot of thus far is Zoë's. What do you think Zoë would say to Denny if she knew more of the "grownup" details of what was happening?



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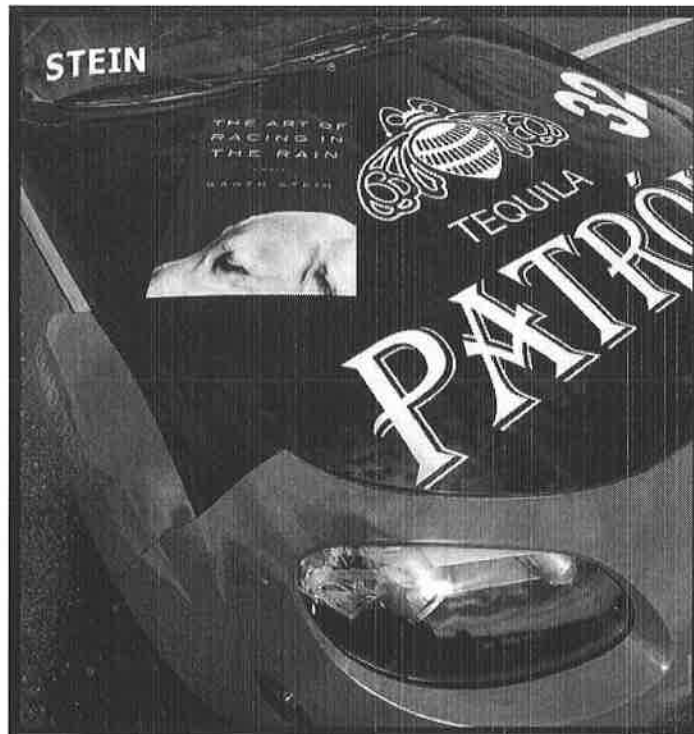
Chapter 34 - 39 Questions

- 1) "No races have been won in the first corner, but many have been lost there" How does this apply to Denny in his life right now?
- 2) What health problems does Enzo suffer from?
- 3) What does Enzo notice about Zoë the afternoon he spends with her?
- 4) How was being a prisoner of the state affecting Denny?
- 6) "That which you manifest is before you." This phrase was introduced to us at the beginning of the book. How does this phrase apply to Denny's life now?
- 7) How does Enzo spending time with Zoë make Denny feel better?
- 8) What does Enzo learn while spending the weekend with "the twins"?
- 9) How does Enzo show the demon not to mess with him?
- 10) Can you imagine the novel being told from Denny's point of view? How would it make the story different?



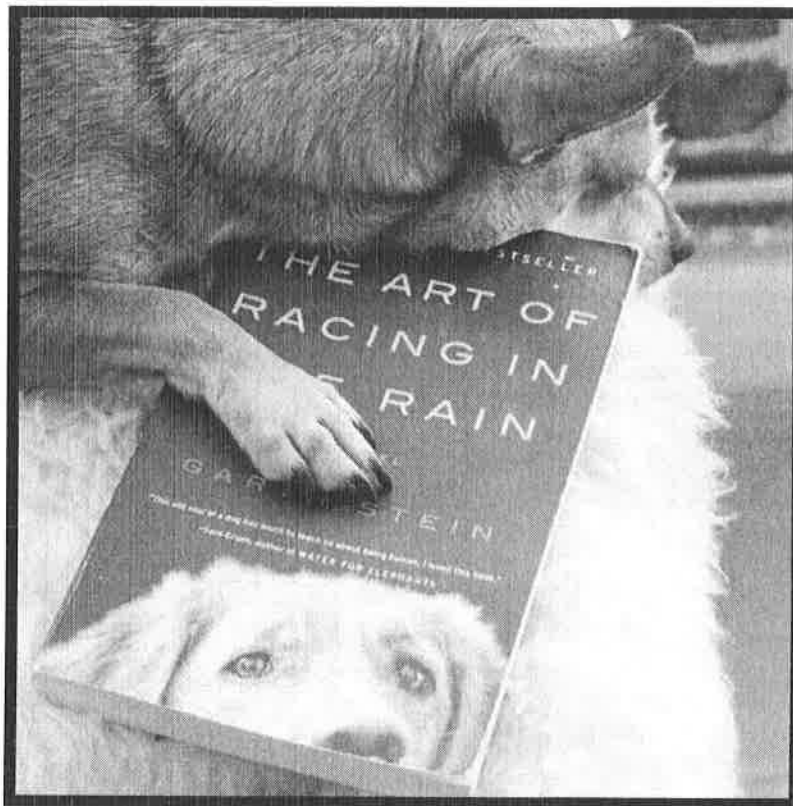
The Art of Racing in the Rain Chapter 40 - 46 Questions

- 1) Why does Enzo feel bad for Zoë?
- 2) What reaffirmed Enzo's faith in the balance of the universe?
- 3) How does Enzo say that Denny sustains himself for the duration of the custody ordeal?
- 4) What did Mark Fein say was the solution to Denny's custody problem?
- 6) "Does the end always justify the means?" How does this phrase apply to Maxwell and Trish suing Denny for child support?
- 7) Who is King Karma ?
- 8) Why was this winter a difficult one for Enzo?
- 9) How do you feel about the ideas of reincarnation and karma as Enzo defines them?
- 10) How do you think Enzo getting hit by a car will affect his future?



The Art of Racing in the Rain Chapter 47 - 53 Questions

- 1) Why did Ayrton Senna not have to die?
- 2) How did Enzo know that it was not his time to die?
- 3) What is the breaking point that makes Denny feel like he is done and cannot go on?
- 4) What does the zebra on the pen make Enzo realize about the demon zebra?
- 6) Now does Enzo convince Denny not to sign the settlement papers?
- 7) What job opportunity is offered to Denny?
- 8) Why has Luca taken such an interest in Denny?
- 9) Describe Denny's parents.
- 10) Why was the money given to Denny?



The Art of Racing in the Rain Chapter 54 - End of Book Questions

- 1) How must a driver have faith?
- 2) What do we learn about Denny and his life thanks to Mike's continuous questioning?
- 3) What is the significance of Enzo's courtroom dream?
- 4) What does Enzo mean when he says the following statements? "One can never be angry at another driver for a track accident. One can only be upset with himself for being caught in the wrong place at the wrong time."
- 6) How did Denny surprise Enzo?
- 7) Why did Luca take such an interest in Denny?
- 8) What does Enzo know about racing in the rain?
- 9) Why does Enzo now believe that to be a champion you do not have to be selfish?
- 10) In the first chapter, Enzo says: "It's what's inside that's important. The soul. And my soul is very human." How does Enzo's situation—a human soul trapped in a dog's body— influence his opinions about what he sees around him?

