

Summer Reading Guide

Ready Player One-Ernest Cline

9X

Directions: Use the following guide to focus your reading and direct your annotations. Completion is not a requirement.

Characters

- Familiarize yourself with the characters, their avatars, and the similarities and differences between the two.
- Think about the reasons the characters created their avatars with the characteristics they chose.

1. Wade Owen Watts/Bryce Lynch/Parzival
2. Helen Harris/Aech
3. Akihide Karatsu/Shito
4. Toshiro Yoshiaki/Daito
5. Samantha Evelyn Cook/Art3mis
6. Nolan Sorrento/IOI-655321
7. Ogden Morrow/Og

8. James Halliday/Anorak
9. Kira Morrow/Leucosia

Guiding questions:

- How do a person's fantasies affect identity?
- Is it possible to reinvent oneself?
- What is the relationship between objective truth and subjective truth in self-identification?

Setting

- Understand the economic, social and political realities of both the virtual world and the real one.
- Contrast the two worlds in which the characters live.

1. OASIS
2. Real world

Guiding questions:

- What are the merits of the OASIS in contrast to the real world?
- In what ways is the OASIS Halliday's attempt to recreate his own experiences in the real world and the virtual one?
- What are the advantages of the real world over a virtual one?

Key concepts

- Think about the themes Cline develops regarding these ideas through plot and characterization.
 - Make connections between Cline's themes and truths about the world in which we live.
1. Escapism
 2. Heroism
 3. Values
 4. Adaptation
 5. Impact of history
 6. Role of the media
 7. Identity
 8. Individual versus society
 9. Affects of isolation
 10. Critical thinking and learning

Guiding questions:

- How does a person discern truth?
- What pursuits are meaningful in life?
- Who am I?
- What gives me value?
- What matters?
- In what other books, movies, videogames have these themes been developed?

Literary form

- Analyze the way in which Cline chooses to tell his story.
- Note when the narrative structure changes.

Guiding questions:

1. The narrative perspective is set in the exposition. Why would Cline choose to include the excerpt from Wade's book?
2. How does hindsight change a story?
3. In what ways does a first person point of view affect a story?