

# ORYX AND CRAKE

by Margaret Atwood

## The author



Margaret Eleanor Atwood, (born November 18, 1939) is a Canadian poet, novelist, literary critic, essayist, and environmental activist. She is a winner of the Arthur C. Clarke Award and Prince of Asturias Award for Literature, has been shortlisted for the Booker Prize five times, winning once, and has been a finalist for the Governor General's Award several times, winning twice. In 2001 she was inducted into Canada's Walk of Fame.

## **Before you read:**

### Language

The language in the novel can prove to be difficult at times. There are several reasons for this:

- 1) complex vocabulary
- 2) scientific jargon
- 3) invented words

However, do not be discouraged by this. Simply keep reading and do not interrupt the flow unless you feel it is absolutely necessary to look up a word, because you do not understand anything. Even if you do not grasp the meaning of some words, you can certainly get a handle on the main storylines.

### Flashbacks

The story uses two timelines:

- 1) Snowman and life after the apocalypse
- 2) Jimmy and the life before the apocalypse

Snowman and Jimmy are one and the same person.

### Focus

Go to page 33 and read the presentation topics. This might make it easier for you to realise what you should pay attention to when you read.

## The apocalypse

Many films and series are based on post-apocalyptic worlds. In order to get a better feeling for the world of Snowman have a look at the department's website:

<http://lce-english.yolasite.com/>

Login: student

Password: LCE

### Clips:

- "I Am Legend"
- "28 Days Later"

## Psychological time

Our lives are organised according to clock time and chronological time. Minutes, seconds, days, weeks and years.

However, philosopher Henri Bergson introduced a different conception of time: psychological time. According to Bergson "psychological time" is not a different type of time, but a different manner of perceiving time. It is sometimes referred to as inner time. It is non-linear, highly subjective and is concerned with memory and personal experience.

# SECTION 1

## CHAPTER 1: MANGO



### Comprehension

1. What could have caused the end of humanity as we know it?
2. What are the basic problems that Snowman faces now?

### Beyond the text

3. Describe the post-apocalyptic world.
4. Imagine a life without the sense of time.
5. Discuss the primitive lifestyle of Snowman. What would you miss? What would you not miss?
6. Explore the concepts of Taylorism and Fordism and how they relate to modern day capitalism.

**Knowledge // power**

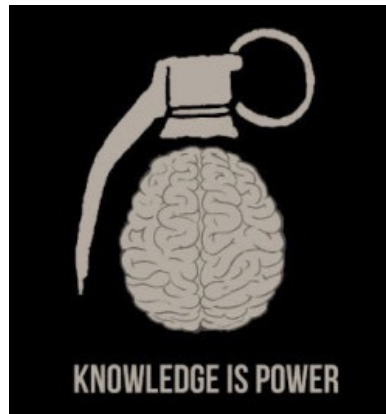
Notice the relationship between knowledge and power. Power, according to the French philosopher Michel Foucault, is different from physical violence. Power means that someone can make free people do something they would not have done otherwise or to make people believe in things that they think are true. However, people only accept truth if they trust the knowledge given to them by individuals or groups with power. In other words: knowledge is power.

**Language // reality**

Humans rely on language to structure their reality. What if words have no referent in reality anymore? What if someone creates false relationships between words and referents in reality?

Watch the clips on the webpage.

- “Dove”
- “Pepsi”

**CHAPTER 2: FLOTSAM****Comprehension**

1. Describe Crake's children and explain why they are the way they are.
2. Speculate again on what could have caused the end of humanity as we know it.
3. Why does the protagonist call himself “Snowman”?
4. Discuss the relationship between Snowman and Crake's children.

**Beyond the text**

5. Why is it fair to say that Snowman has immense power over the children of Crake?
6. How does he make use of this power? Is he responsible with it?
7. Explore the concepts of “deus deceptor” and “evil demon”.

## **The psychology of loneliness**

So as to understand the psychology of loneliness go to the department's homepage.

Clip:

- “Cast Away”

## **CHAPTER 3: VOICE**



### **Comprehension**

1. Who is Oryx?
2. Who is Snowman angry with? Why?

### **Beyond the text**

3. What do you make of the voices that Snowman is hearing?

**Snowman // Jimmy**

Be careful. Margaret Atwood uses two different timelines in this novel.

There is the present with Snowman and Crake's children. Then there are Snowman's flashbacks to the world before the apocalypse. Hopefully you have realised that Snowman and Jimmy are one and the same person.

**Mystery**

So far, the following intriguing questions should preoccupy your brain.

- a) What caused the apocalypse?
- b) What did Jimmy or his family have to do with it?
- c) Who is Crake?
- d) Who is Oryx?
- e) Why are Crake's children not dead?

Any other questions on your mind?

**SECTION 2****CHAPTER 4: BONFIRE****Comprehension**

1. What do you get to know about Jimmy's family background?
2. What do you notice about Jimmy's parents?
3. Why do they have make a bonfire?

**Beyond the text**

4. Can you guess again what might have caused the apocalypse?

## Biotechnology

Take a look at the videoclip “The perilous ethics of biotechnology” on your homepage and discuss the presented ideas.

## The end of nation states and the power of corporations

Imagine a future world that is not made up of nation states, but of space that is owned by giant multinational corporations.



## Splicing

Splicing is an important concept in the novel.



## CHAPTER 5: ORGANIC FARMS



## Comprehension

1. What exactly are pigoons? Why were they created?
2. What is Jimmy's father's role in the process?
3. Compare life in the OrganInc Compound to the life in the city?
4. Who are the CorpSeCorps men? What is their role?
5. What do you get to know about Sharon and her problems?
6. Who is Ramona?

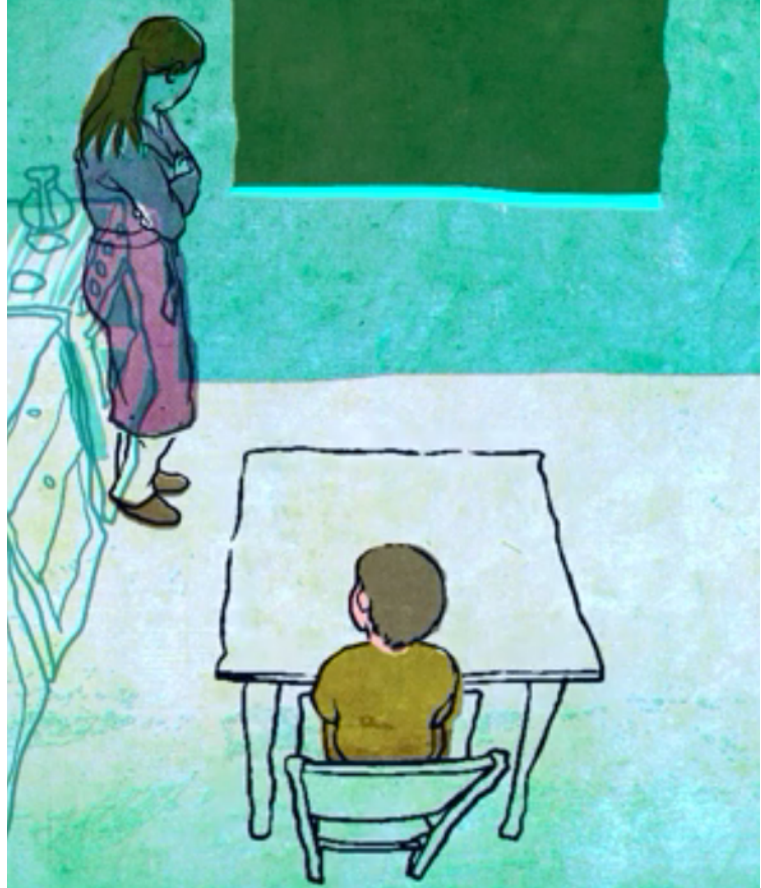
## Beyond the text

7. Discuss the morality of science in relation to the pigoons.
8. Discuss the privatisation of public space. Find out about gated communities, spatial apartheid and hostile architecture. (Read “Fortress L.A.” by Mike Davis)
9. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of patents. (homepage)

## **Mother and son**

Stay alert when it comes to the relationship between Jimmy and his mother. This relationship is going to become an important aspect of the novel.

## **CHAPTER 6: LUNCH**



### **Comprehension**

1. What is Sharon's job?
2. What are the troubles that affect Jimmy's mother?
3. Describe the relationship between Jimmy and his mother.

### **Beyond the text**

4. Do you empathise with Sharon? Why? Why not?

**Snowman VS Crake**

Notice that this is the second time Snowman displays his hatred towards Crake. You should try and develop an understanding why Snowman hates Crake so much.

**SECTION 3****CHAPTER 7: NOONERS****Comprehension**

1. What indicates that Snowman is slowly losing his mind and inner balance?
2. How is Snowman different from the Crakers?
3. Why does Snowman refrain from writing a diary?

**CHAPTER 8: DOWNPOUR****Comprehension**

1. Why is it fair to say that guilt plays an important role in this chapter?

**Racoon + Skunk =  
Rakunk**



**Alex the parrot**

Notice how Alex the parrot invents a new word for almond: cork-nut. Keep track of Jimmy's fascination with words, meaning and literature.

## SECTION 4

### CHAPTER 9: RAKUNK

#### Comprehension

1. Analyse Jimmy's relationship to his parents based on the information you get in this chapter.
2. Discuss the create-an-animal hobby of the OrganInc hotshots.
3. Who does Jimmy's father work for now? What is his job there? What about Ramona?
4. In how far is the new Compound different?
5. Discuss the the fundamental difference of opinion between Sharon and Jimmy's father when it comes to the purpose of science.
6. Analyse Sharon's state of mind in this chapter.

#### Beyond the text

7. Find out more about the concept of hubris.
8. How does Atwood use NooSkins to criticise trends in our current society?
9. What is the job of a "headhunter"?

## The pleeblands

The pleeblands is the area outside the compounds. This area is a decaying and rotten wasteland. Wild rumours circulate in the secure compounds about the pleeblands. It is supposed to be dangerous and full of crazies, prostitutes and criminals. Apparently the area is full of burnt out buildings, stinky industry and strip joints. People from the pleeblands are technically not allowed into the compounds because they could carry a disease or hold a grudge against the elite. Nevertheless, this area and its myths fascinates the teenagers from the compound.

## CHAPTER 10: HAMMER



### Comprehension

1. Discuss how Jimmy's relationship with his parents slowly gets out of control.
2. Discuss Sharon's disappearance.
3. What about Killer?
4. Why is Sharon's disappearance a problem for HelthWyzer?
5. What about Ramona?
6. Does Sharon stay in touch with Jimmy?
7. Why is the chapter called "Hammer"?

### Beyond the text

8. Do the pleeblands remind you of areas that exist today? (homepage)

## Crake // Glenn

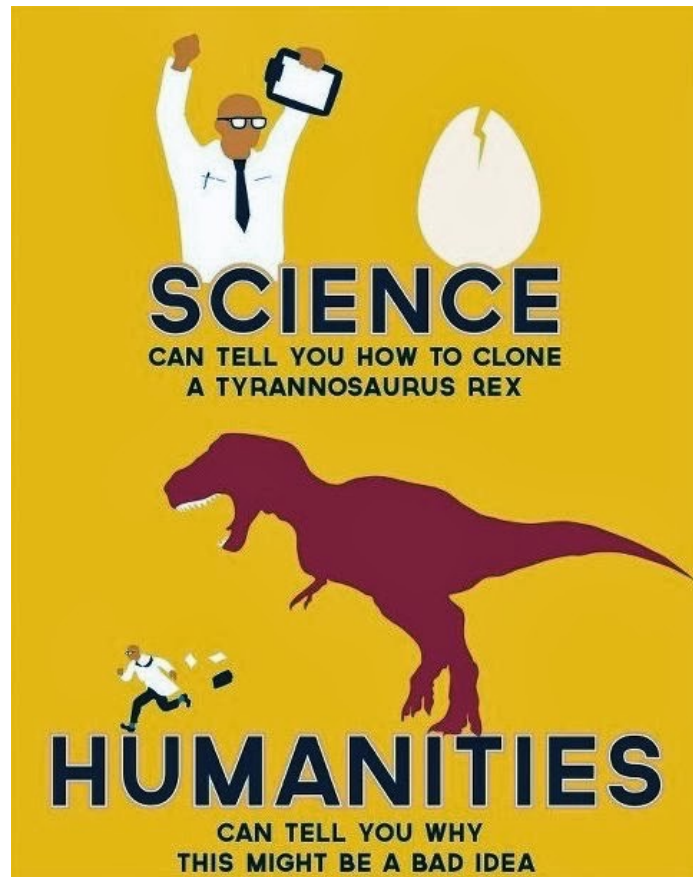
Notice that Glenn and Crake are one and the same person. However, in this chapter Snowman points out that he has trouble thinking of Crake as Glenn, because the Crake side was always there from the beginning. What could this mean? As you keep reading, try and find out what Snowman means with “Crake side”.



## Numbers VS words

Notice how Jimmy is fond of words and tells Glenn that he is not a numbers person. Glenn on the other hand is very fond of numbers and calculations. Keep track of this difference and how it affects the characters and their philosophy about life.

## CHAPTER 11: CRAKE



## Comprehension

1. What do you get to know about Crake?
2. Discuss the love/hate relationship between Jimmy and Glenn.
3. Comment on the shopping mall.

## Beyond the text

4. Discuss the difference between science and the humanities.

## Desensitization

Your emotional responsiveness towards negative or aversive stimulus diminishes because you are exposed to it repeatedly.

## MaddAddam

Keep this name and the game EXTINCTATHON in mind.

## Jean Baudrillard

French social theorist who argues that today “the map precedes the territory.” In other words, copies of reality become truths in their own right. What does this mean? Here’s an example. You have yet to leave home and study at a university. You have no idea what university life is like. However, movies like American Pie and Van Wilder feed you with expectations and behaviour patterns: lots of drinking, parties and sex. So you adopt this behaviour based on expectations that might have nothing to do with reality. Hence the simulation becomes reality.

## CHAPTER 12: BRAINFRIZZ

### Comprehension

1. Discuss the entertainment and gaming industry that is portrayed in this chapter.
2. How does Crake get his name?
3. Analyse the game “EXTINCTATHON” in detail.

### Beyond the text

4. What is Atwood criticising about our society in this chapter?
5. Look up the meaning of the concept “panem et circenses” and how it relates to the novel.
6. What is reality? What is simulation? What if the simulation precedes the reality?

(Simulacra and simulacrum)



## Oryx

Notice how Atwood builds up more mystery. We get to know that Jimmy and Glenn watched Oryx on a porno site. We also realise that many years later Jimmy and Oryx meet in real life. Nonetheless, we do not know the circumstances under which they met.

## CHAPTER 13: HottTotts

### Comprehension

1. What do we get to know about Crake's family? Who is uncle Pete?
2. What is HottTotts?
3. Which particular moment marks the beginning of the boys' obsession with Oryx?

### Beyond the text

4. What is Atwood criticising about our society in this chapter?



## Get your story straight

Notice how Snowman made up legends about the living things and where they came from. He tells the children of Crake all sorts of invented stories. However, he finds it difficult to be consistent as his memory fades and his sanity crumbles. His passion for words and meaning are once more underlined in this chapter. And his broken watch is used once more to show the Crakers that he can communicate with Oryx and Crake.



The Expulsion from Paradise by Charles Joseph Natoire

## SECTION 5

### CHAPTERS 14 /15: Toast / Fish Comprehension

1. Who are the children of Crake and who are the children of Oryx?
2. What is special about the children of Oryx?
3. What is special about the children of Crake?
4. Why is it difficult to explain to Crake's children what toast is?
5. What is Snowman's problem with the lack of imperfections of Crake's children?
6. Discuss the irony regarding Crake's atheism and Snowman's legend about Crake.
7. Discuss the lengths Snowman has to go to in order to still his hunger.
8. Discuss the discrepancy between how Snowman portrays Crake in front of his children and how he sees Crake himself.
9. Who saved Crake's children from the apocalypse?

### CHAPTER 16: BOTTLE

#### Comprehension

1. How is Snowman's world described here?
2. In how far is the way Jimmy drank alcohol shortly after the apocalypse and the way he drinks it now different?
3. Why are there so many wolvogs and not so many dogs or other pets?
4. How does Snowman take care of his sexual needs?

**Human trafficking**

Check the videoclip on your homepage.

**Twisted logic**

Example: Some people argue that sweatshops in Asia are horrible for the people who work there and they should be closed down for the sake of the working population. Other people argue that, although conditions in sweatshops are horrible, they help the people in those areas to be better off than before. Hence, they should not be closed to help the working population because in a sweatshop they have at least a money value.

**Refugee policy**

What is the EU's refugee policy? What is at stake? What are the problems?

Check videoclips on your homepage.

**SECTION 6****CHAPTERS 17/18/19:****ORYX / BIRDCALL / ROSES****Comprehension**

1. Summarise the tragic story of Oryx's past?
2. How does Oryx reflect on her past and in how far is this different from Jimmy's opinion?
3. What is Crake's opinion on this matter and how does it prove that Jimmy and Glenn have different views on humanity.
4. Describe the feelings of the mothers whose children were sold.
5. How did Unlce En earn money?

**Beyond the text**

6. The mothers were not forced to sell their children but they had no other choice. What is the difference?
7. Reflect on Oryx's analysis about the value of love and money value at the end of the chapter "Birdcall".
8. Is Unlce En a good person? Discuss.
9. Analyse the reasons for human trafficking in the light of the current flood of refugees who are trying to make it to mainland Europe.



## Stockholm syndrome

It is a psychological phenomenon in which hostages express empathy and sympathy and positive feelings toward their captors, sometimes to the point of defending them.

## CHAPTER 20: PIXIELAND JAZZ



### Comprehension

1. What happened to Uncle En? How did Oryx react?
2. What happened to the children?
3. What happened to Oryx and what is her new life like?
4. Why can't Jimmy let Oryx's past be?
5. What makes Jimmy so angry about all this?
6. What does Jimmy expect of Oryx?

### Beyond the text

7. Crake believes that Jimmy lacks "an elegant mind". What does Crake mean by that?

**Scurvy (Skorbut)**

Scurvy is a disease resulting from a deficiency of vitamin C. Scurvy can cause spots on the skin, spongy gums and bleeding from the mucous membranes.

**Learning VS innate ideas**

For Descartes, the idea of God is innate in everybody. Empiricists, like Locke claim that all knowledge is derived from experience.

**SECTION 7****CHAPTERS 21 / 22:****SVELTANA / PURRING****Comprehension**

1. Why does Snowman need to leave his safe haven for a couple of days?
2. How does he feel about that?
3. Why does he feel the need to inform the children of this?
4. The children of Crake were made based on Crake's ideas. Describe the characteristics, customs and features of the Crakers which are portrayed in the chapter "Purring".
5. What does Crake mean with "G-spot in the brain"? Does he succeed in erasing it?
6. What about the names of the Crakers?

**Beyond the text**

7. What do you make of Crake's "perfect" children?
8. Look up the people behind the names that were given to some of the Crakers. Why are they famous?
9. Do you think Crake is the only one to blame for what happened to Snowman?
10. Analyse Snowman's mixed feelings towards the myth of Crake that he himself spread among the Crakers.

**Bobcat (Luchs)****Love**

What is love? Can we fall in love with artificial intelligence? Can robots fall in love with us? Watch the clips on your homepage and talk about them.

**CHAPTER 23: BLUE****Comprehension**

1. Why were the bobkittens created? Was this experiment successful?
2. Describe the Crakers' different phases of mating.
3. Where did Crake get his inspiration from to design this mating ritual? What was the main idea behind it?
4. Analyse Crake's idea of love, sex and relationships as described in this chapter and compare it to Jimmy's beliefs.
5. What is the purpose of art according to Crake and Jimmy. In how far do their different views exemplify their dissimilar ideologies.

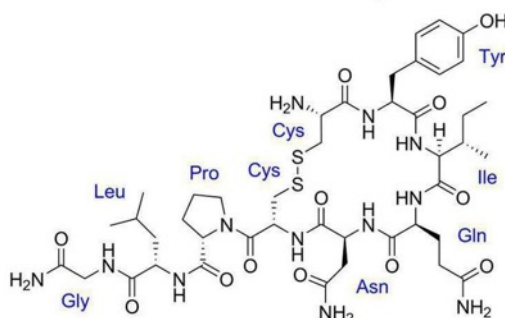
**Beyond the text**

6. What is the purpose of art?
7. What makes us human? When are we no longer human?

What People Think of Love



What Love Actually is



## **Coffee wars VS Monsanto's GMOs**

There is a similarity between the coffee wars in *Oryx and Crake* and the controversy with Monsanto's GMO seeds. Check your homepage for more information.

## **Foreshadowing**

At the end of the chapter "Happicuppa", Snowman asks himself the question how he could have missed the fact that Crake had his demons to fight with, despite his extremely emotionless nature. Keep track of moments and scenes that might have scarred Crake in order to gain a deeper understanding for his later actions.



# SECTION 8

## CHAPTERS 24/25:

## SOYUMMIE / HAPPICUPPA

### **Comprehension**

1. Discuss Jimmy's and Crake's graduation and their future perspectives.
2. What do we get to know about Jimmy's father and Ramona?
3. Analyse the way Crake talks about the death of his mother. In how far is this consistent with his earlier behaviour in the face of tragedies?
4. What were the reason for the gen-mod coffee wars?
5. What do we get to know about Jimmy's mother and her whereabouts?
6. What do we get to know about Crake's father?

### **Beyond the text**

7. Uncle Pete on the coffee wars: "They'll get tired of it, they'll settle down. Everybody wants a cheaper cup of coffee - you can't fight that." Are you aware of the high cost of low price?
8. What is the "noodie news"? What does the author criticise about our society here?

## **Public schools VS private schools**

What are the advantages and disadvantages of public and private schools?



## **CHAPTER 26: APPLIED RHETORIC Comprehension**

1. What about Jimmy's first impression of Martha Graham College?
2. In how far has technology corrupted the studying of arts and humanities?
3. What do we get to know about Jimmy's love life? Which type of women is he preying on?
4. In how far is Oryx different from Jimmy's girlfriends?
5. Who is Bernice? What do you make of her?

## **CHAPTER 27: ASPERGER'S U. Comprehension**

1. Why is Jimmy so eager to share his university life with Crake? What about Crake's impressions of university life?
2. Discuss Crake's latest disillusion with the concepts of love and sex?
3. Analyse Jimmy's fascination with language and old-fashioned words.
4. What does Jimmy notice about the pleeblands on his train journey to Crake?
5. In how far is the Watson-Crick institute different from Martha Graham?

### **Beyond the text**

6. Analyse the nature of Jimmy's and Crake's friendship at this moment in time.



### **DARPA**

Have a look at the latest inventions and plans of one of the top military research projects:  
[www.darpa.mil](http://www.darpa.mil)



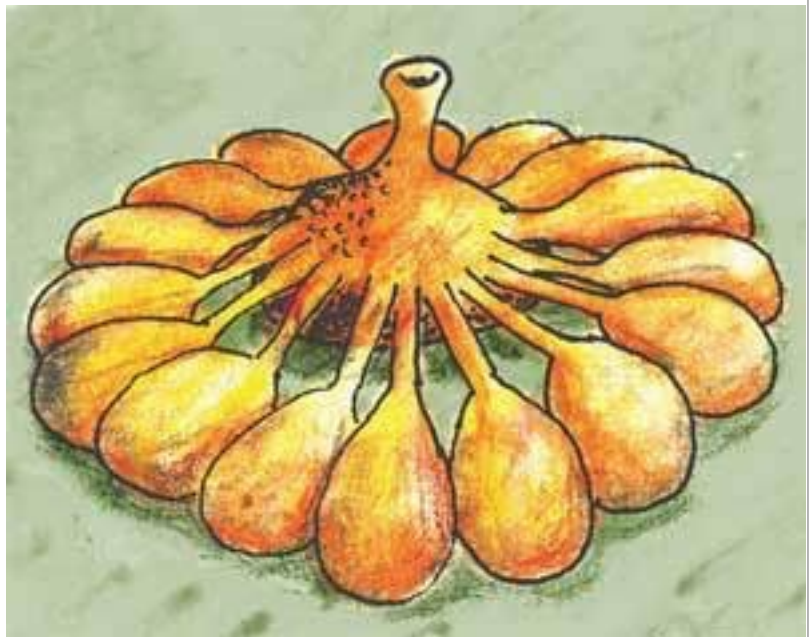
## **CHAPTER 28: WOLVOGS**

### **Comprehension**

1. Make a list of the scientific inventions that you witness in this chapter. Discuss the usefulness of these inventions.
2. Why does Crake not have any moral concerns about the work that is being done at Watson-Crick? What about Jimmy?
3. Why were the wolvoogs created? What were the consequences?

### **Beyond the text**

4. Discuss the relationship between technology and the weapon industry.



## Conspiracy?

You already discussed the pros and cons of patents. Could pharmaceutical companies really be as ruthless as described by Crake? Check your homepage.



## **CHAPTER 29: HYPOTHETICAL** **Comprehension**

1. Why are the students at Watson-Crick not encouraged to enter serious relationships or to have love affairs with their peers? How do they satisfy their sexual desires?
2. Discuss Crake's theory about his father's death along with the business model of pharmaceutical companies he presents.
3. In how far are the food and drinks at Watson-Crick different from other Compounds?

### **Beyond the text**

4. In 2014, companies like Apple and Facebook offered to pay to freeze the eggs of their female workers, so that they could work during their fertile years without feeling the pressure of the biological clock. What do you think about this idea?

## **CHAPTER 30: EXTINCTATHON**

### **Comprehension**

1. What can Crake do in the game Extinctathon because he is a grandmaster? Why is this risky and fun at the same time?
2. Why is Jimmy a bit jealous?
3. Discuss the significance of the chapter's final paragraph.

### **Beyond the text**

4. Pschoanalysis: If you were a psychiatrist, what would be your verdict on Crake? Support your ideas with evidence from this chapter.
5. Have you played games similar to Extinctathon? Why are they fun? (Plague Inc.)

**Snats****Read the signs**

Crake is constantly hinting at the events to come. In hindsight, Jimmy realises that he should have noticed it all sooner. Make sure, you notice it in time!

**Is Snowman alone?**

In “Hike” Snowman wonders if he is alone on the planet or if others have survived, too.

**SECTION 9****CHAPTERS 31/32/33:****HIKE/REJOOVENESENSE/TWISTER****Comprehension**

1. Discuss Crake’s latest hypothetical scenario?
2. Discuss the discrepancy between what is being said in Crake’s hypothetical scenario and how the boys talk about it.
3. What happened to the frozen millionaires at the CryoJeenyus Compound?
4. Which difficulties is Snowman facing on his trip?
5. Comment on the mix of voices in his head.

**Beyond the text**

6. Imagine the following scenario. An apocalyptic event is wiping out humanity. You and your family try to survive. What do you do? If you leave, what do you take with you?

## Marketing

Check your homepage for some stand-up comedy on marketing and advertising.



## Mind games

*Chapter 37: "Gripless"*

Why are five people part of an execution commando and not one?

# SECTION 10

## CHAPTERS 34/35/36/37:

## VULTURIZING/ANOOYOO/GARAGE...

### Comprehension

1. With which degree does Jimmy graduate from Martha Graham university?
2. What is his job at the university's library? Why does he lose it?
3. What do you make of Amanda Payne/Barb Jones and her art?
4. Discuss Jimmy's relationship with Amanda.
5. What is his job description at AnooYoo? Why is Jimmy perfect for this job according to his employers? How does he feel about the job?
6. Why do Jimmy and Amanda break up? How does his love life continue?
7. What is happening in the pleeblands?
8. In how far are Jimmy and Crake slowly drifting apart?
9. What do you get to know about Crake's career?
10. What happened to Uncle Pete? What are your thoughts on this?
11. What do we get to know about Oryx?
12. What do we get to know about CorpSeCorps and the fate of Jimmy's mother?
13. How does Jimmy cope after he knows the fate of his mother?

**The walking dead**

Snowman once said that the worst thing that could happen to him would be an injury to his feet. Unfortunately, this is exactly what happens to him. Now he is slow and vulnerable. Also notice that Snowman still has no spray gun and he forgot to take the radio.

**SECTION 11****CHAPTERS 38/39/40:****PIGOONS/RADIO/RAMPART****Comprehension**

1. Analyse Snowman's dream at the beginning of the chapter "Pigoons".
2. Why can't the pigoons get to the watchtower?
3. Is Snowman the only human survivor of the apocalypse? How does that make him feel?
4. How does Snowman manage to trick the pigoons and escape?
5. Snowman: "If I had killed Crake earlier (...) would it have made any difference?" Draw conclusions from this statement and speculate.
6. Why does the cloud of smoke on the beach worry him?

## Overpopulation

Check your homepage for more information on overpopulation.



# SECTION 12

## CHAPTERS 41/42/43:

## PLEEBCRAWL/BLYSSPLUS/MAD...

### Comprehension

1. Why does Crake visit Jimmy?
2. Discuss their visit to the pleeblands?
3. Explain the concept behind “BlyssPluss ”. What is its ultimate aim?
4. What are the 3 pillars of the project? Why?
5. What is the 4th pillar of the project and why is it kept secret?
6. What is Jimmy’s job in all this?
7. Analyse Crake’s reasoning behind the “BlyssPluss” concept and Jimmy’s feelings towards it.
8. Where did Crake find skilled workers for his project? Why is this risky?

### Beyond the text

9. Which solutions to overpopulation do you see as acceptable? Which strategies are already in use?
10. What is your opinion on “BlyssPluss”? Can you foresee any trouble or injustice?
11. Describe what a perfect world would look like to you? How would it be different from today’s?

**Make up your mind**

So far we got the image of Crake being this science nerd who does not believe in the magic of love.

Everything he does is based on rational reasoning and calculations. But then along comes Oryx. Has Oryx managed to change Crake?

**CHAPTERS 44/45:****PARADICE/CRAKE IN LOVE****Comprehension**

1. What is the “Paradice Project” and in how far is it connected to the concept of BlyssPluss?
2. Explain Crake’s vision behind the project.
3. How does Crake define immortality? In how far is this different from our interpretation of the term?
4. Who does Jimmy meet and how does this affect the relationship between him and Crake?
5. What is Oryx’s job and how did she get there?
6. Discuss the relationship between Crake and Oryx. Why is it strange to see Crake like that?
7. Discuss the relationship between Jimmy and Oryx and how it develops?

**Beyond the text**

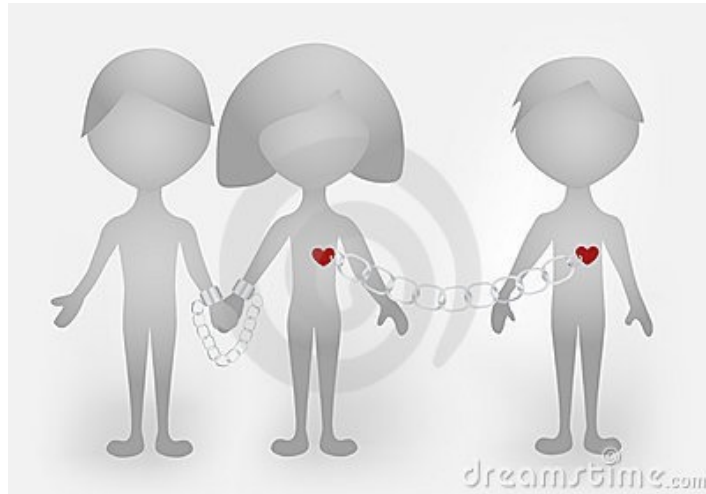
8. Can you foresee any problems, now that Oryx is among the midst of Jimmy and Crake?
9. Discuss the irony behind the chapter’s name “Crake in love”.

### Love triangle?

Knowing Oryx's history and Jimmy's anger, do you think a normal relationship between the two is even possible? Is a relationship between Crake and Oryx more plausible?



## CHAPTER 46: TAKEOUT



### Comprehension

1. Discuss the relationship between Jimmy and Oryx at this stage.
2. Is Crake jealous?
3. What is it that Oryx and Crake want Jimmy to do in case something would happen to them? Why is this suspicious?
4. Which signs did Snowman miss according to his own analysis?

### Beyond the text

5. What could happen to Crake or Oryx? Speculate.

## The mad scientist



## CHAPTER 47:

### AIRLOCK

#### Comprehension

1. What is so worrying about the news bulletins that come in?
2. Why is Jimmy suddenly in charge and forced to deal with the situation? How does he handle it?
3. Why is Jimmy safe?
4. Which revelations about Crake's ultimate plan come to light in this chapter?
5. "I'm counting on you." How do Crake's final words shed a completely different light on everything that happened before?
6. Was Oryx in on the plan or just a pawn in a game? Explain.

#### Beyond the text

7. How has the death of Oryx and Crake affected Snowman in the new world?
8. Why did Snowman not simply abandon the Crakers or leave them to die?
9. Why did Crake do this? Try to explain his actions based on what you know about Crake's past.
10. "Crake wanted to create a world without jealousy, but ironically he needed jealousy to fulfil his dream." Discuss.

## **A better world**

**Do ends justify means?**

**Discuss this in relation to Crake's brave new world.**



# SECTION 13

## **CHAPTER 48: BUBBLE**

### **Comprehension**

1. Snowman is suffering in many ways. Discuss and give evidence for your claims.

## **CHAPTER 49: SCRIBBLE**

### **Comprehension**

1. How does Jimmy manage to keep CorpSeCorps security from breaking into his safe haven? What is their theory on the events?
2. What does Jimmy do with the bodies of Oryx and Crake? Why?
3. Discuss the different phases and stages that take place before humanity is almost wiped out. Also comment on how the news is covering the epidemic.
4. How did Jimmy kill time in isolation?
5. Discuss Jimmy's letter at the end of this chapter.

## **CHAPTER 50: REMNANT**

### **Comprehension**

1. Analyse the symbolic meaning of the birth of Snowman. Why does Jimmy feel the need to do this?
2. Discuss Snowman's engagement with the Crakers and how he is forced to sell them Crake's version of reality.

# SECTION 14

## CHAPTERS 51/52: IDOL/SERMON



### Comprehension

1. Explain the source of the smoke that Snowman witnessed from the watchtower.
2. Explain the irony regarding the actions of the Crakers and Crake's masterplan.

### Beyond the text

3. Why is the fact that there are human survivors a blessing and a curse for Snowman?

## SECTION 15



### CHAPTER 53: FOOTPRINT

#### Beyond the text

1. What is Snowman going to do when he confronts the three survivors? Where does his allegiance lie? Give evidence for your speculation.

## **PRESENTATION TOPICS**

- 1) **“Oryx. Exploited and used until the very end?”**
- 2) **“One knows more than one understands.” Which signals and messages did Jimmy miss that could have warned him about the things to come.**
- 3) **“We are family.” In how far are the lives and actions of Jimmy, Crake and Oryx related to their family background?**
- 4) **“Dystopian fiction is about coming to terms with present trends.” Explore how Atwood criticises current trends in our society.**
- 5) **“Just because something is possible doesn’t mean it should be realised.” Carve out the philosophy and scientific rationale behind Crake’s ideas and compare them to your own.**
- 6) **Explain and discuss the differences between how Crake, Oryx and Jimmy see the world they are living in.**