

THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY

DOUGLAS ADAMS

LIVING LITERATURE SERIES

A PERMA-BOUND PRODUCTION

TEACHER'S GUIDE

GUIDE WRITTEN BY MARY ELLEN SNODGRASS

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SYNOPSIS

Introduction A planet far out in the Galaxy suffers from obsession with money problems. Around A. D. 2030, a girl in Rickmansworth discovers how to make the world happy. Before she could telephone her idea to anyone, catastrophe strikes the planet. From this era, a publisher in Ursa Minor issues *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, a supplement to *Encyclopedia Galactica*. The real story begins on Thursday with one particular house.

Chap. 1 In a West Country village, Arthur Dent, who works in radio, lives in a 30-year-old house after moving from London three years before. On Thursday at 8:00 A. M., he battles bulldozers that arrived the previous day to knock down his home to make way for a bypass. Prosser, the agent in charge, tells Arthur that the plans have been in the works for nine months.

Arthur's friend, Ford Prefect, a native of Betelgeuse, has lived on Earth 15 years pretending to be an unemployed actor. He convinces Arthur to come with him to the Horse and Groom for a drink.

Chap. 2 At the pub, Ford confesses to being an alien from Betelgeuse and confides that Earth is going to be destroyed.

Chap. 3 Beings in space focus on the contents of Ford's satchel, which contains his manuscript. One entry is about the importance of towels. Arthur blanches at the sound of his house being demolished. Ford buys four packs of peanuts and overpays the barman with another five-pound note. The barman asks if the world is truly doomed. Ford estimates destruction will occur in two minutes.

Arthur runs up the lane yelling at the bulldozer operators as huge yellow objects fly through the clouds. Ford recognizes that Vogons are attacking Earth. Vagon Jeltz of the Galactic Hyperspace Planning Council warns that a hyper-spatial express route through the star system will pass through the area formerly occupied by Earth. He states that the plans have been on display at Alpha Centauri for 50 years.

Chap. 4 Meanwhile, Zaphod Beeblebrox, President of the Imperial Galactic Government, rockets his boat across the seas of Damogran. As part of the secret Heart of Gold project, he exults that he ran for office for this day, which is also his 200th birthday. A reception committee awaits. Zaphod waves at over 3 billion spectators and steps into a transparent globe, which rises on a water spout and rolls down a platform. After he greets the press and Trillian, his girlfriend, a party official opens a white dome by remote control. A huge starship underneath carries a gold box called the *Heart of Gold*. He tosses a bomb from his pocket that paralyzes onlookers and runs toward the ship.

Chap. 5 The Vogons are poorly evolved creatures who discovered interstellar travel. After migrating to Megabrantis,

the political hub of the Galaxy, they formed the Galactic Civil Service. Ford, who crouches in the ship with Arthur, knows that Vogons dislike stowaways. Ford offers peanuts to Arthur, who is traumatized by the dark. Ford explains that they are in a galley cabin, the sleeping quarters of Dentrassi caterers in part of the Vagon Constructor Fleet.

Ford hands Arthur his electronic book and presses the button to call up a description of Vogons. The entry describes Vogons as unpleasant. Ford adds that he is researching a revised edition of his text and consoles Arthur with the news that Dentrassis help hitchhikers. He explains that he rescued Arthur from Earth and urges him to stop panicking and have a good time in the Galaxy. To aid Arthur in interpreting the Vagon PA announcement, Ford puts a fish in his ear.

Chap. 6 Jeltz's message reveals that he knows about the hitchhikers and has dispatched a search party. The crew must remain on board after the ship moves into hyperspace to Barnard's Star for a 72-hour refit. A passage explains how the Babel fish interprets for Arthur, who lapses into grief for Earth, Nelson's Column, Bogart movies, and McDonald's hamburgers. Ford points out an entry about Earth, which he summarized as "mostly harmless." He hears guards approaching and fears that Jeltz will force them to listen to a reading of his poems.

Chap. 7 Ford and Arthur perch on the Poetry Appreciation chairs with electrodes strapped to Ford's brow as he writhes in agony at Jeltz's reading. Arthur claims to like the poems and pretends to interpret them. Jeltz orders the guard to toss them out of number three airlock. Ford works on the guard's reluctance to kill them, but fails to halt ejection into space.

Chap. 8 The guide says that a lungful of air will preserve the body in space for 30 seconds. After 29 seconds elapse, Ford and Arthur are rescued.

Chap. 9 Ford and Arthur lie gulping on the pavement. A female voice announces probabilities and welcomes them to the starship *Heart of Gold*. Ford recognizes the ship as one powered by an Infinite Probability Drive.

Chap. 10 The drive applies a new method of hurtling through space in a fraction of a second. The device was the creation of a student sweeping a physics lab. It earned him the Galactic Institute's Prize for Extreme Cleverness. He died at the hands of rampaging physicists.

Chap. 11 When Zaphod questions Trillian about the hitchhikers, she replies that the ship picked them up. She orders Marvin, the depressed robot, to bring the aliens to the bridge. Ford discovers that the ship is new and equipped with Genuine People Personalities. Marvin divulges that Zaphod stole the ship.

Chap. 12 The news reports that Zaphod stole the ship equipped with the prototype improbability drive and identifies him as the inventor of the Pan Galactic Gargle Blaster. Trillian tosses an electric pencil that shuts off the radio and announces that the ship picked up the two men in Sector

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ZZ9, Plural Z Alpha. Zaphod does not understand and tries to work out the probability of such a coincidental rescue.

Chap. 13 Ford laughs at Marvin's crankiness. Zaphod greets Ford. Arthur identifies Zaphod as Phil, whom he met at a party six months earlier. Zaphod is annoyed with the coincidental reunion.

Chap. 14 The foursome is uncomfortable knowing that no human engineered the meeting. Sleepless, Trillian stares at two white mice in a cage, the only links to Earth. Ford rewrites the Vogon entry for his guide. As the ship moves into orbit, Trillian spies a planet in Horsehead Nebula. Zaphod exults at the sight of the small red orb.

Chap. 15 The guide describes Magrathea, center for custom-made luxury planet building. As Magrathea flourished, the Galaxy was reduced to poverty. The Empire collapsed. Magrathea slipped into obscurity.

Chap. 16 Zaphod observes a dual sunrise. Ford demands to know what Zaphod wants from Magrathea. Zaphod replies that he arrives out of curiosity and a sense of adventure.

Chap. 17 Arthur soothes his nerves with pseudo-tea from a machine. Zaphod describes Magrathea as dead for 5 million years. A recorded voice explains that the planet is closed for business and warns that missiles may attack intruders. Two silver darts approach the ship. No one can fly the ship manually. Zaphod calls for retro thrust and flies toward the missiles. Eddie the computer sings "Walk On" before an explosion erupts.

Chap. 18 Arthur saves them by turning on the Improbability Drive. Zaphod calls for a landing.

Chap. 19 Marvin accompanies the party as they depart. Trillian exclaims that her mice have escaped. Eddie the computer refuses to let them leave. Threatened with an ax, Eddie opens the hatch and predicts disaster.

Chap. 20 The group moves toward a crater splashed with whale meat. Zaphod locates an entrance cracked open by impact with the whale. In the subterranean passageway, Zaphod appears to search aimlessly and explains that part of his brain is shut down. A steel shutter slams down and gas chokes them.

Chap. 21 Wandering Magrathea, Arthur reads the *Guide's* entry on Veet Voojagig, who pondered what happened to all his ballpoint pens. The text mentions Zaphod's business in used pens. Arthur walks away from Marvin's negativism, and, in falling dark, encounters an old man.

Chap. 22 The man, named Slartibartfast, promises not to harm Arthur and describes his planet as sleeping through an economic recession. Slartibartfast recalls building fjords. He summons Arthur to the hovercraft for a journey into the bowels of the planet where the people revive from sleep to build Earth 2.

Chap. 23 Dolphins knew that Earth was doomed and tried to alert the public. In addition to undervaluing dolphins, humans also discounted mice, who are more intelligent than dolphins.

Chap. 24 Plunging down a tunnel, the car halts at a nexus of tunnels on its way through hyperspace to the factory floor where planets are made. A flash illuminates a copy of Earth, which the company built. Slartibartfast regrets the loss of a planet that the mice paid for and calls them "hyperintelligent pandimensional beings" who experimented on humans.

Chap. 25 Millions of years earlier, mice meet to solve their problems. They build a computer the size of a small city. Programmers Lunkwill and Fook listen to Deep Thought, the

second greatest computer in the Universe of Time and Space, who predicts the coming of the greatest computer. Fook demands an answer to life; Lunkwill asks about the universe. Two intruders, philosophers Majikthise and Vroomfondel, barge in and demand that the computer be turned off. Meanwhile, Deep Thought continues to calculate answers to ultimate questions and accuses the philosophers of deliberate obfuscation. The duo departs.

Chap. 26 After Slartibartfast finishes the first half of the story of the mice, he offers to continue. Arthur declines to hear what happened 7.5 million years later on the "great day of the Answer." Slartibartfast turns the aircar around to depart.

Chap. 27 The explosion of a diode in a life-support computer disrupts Slartibartfast's library. Arthur holds two stripped wires and experiences the announcement to Vroomfondel and Majikthise's descendants that the "Time of Waiting is over." Deep Thought supplies the answer to life, the universe and everything by announcing, "Forty-two."

Chap. 28 Phouchg and Loonquawl are dismayed by the indecipherable answer. Deep Thought intends to design the greatest computer and to call it Earth.

Chap. 29 Ford tries to awaken Zaphod, who got a double dose of gas. Gold ground stretches out from the scene. Ford explains that it is an illusion—part of a Sens-O-Tape display in a product catalog. Zaphod takes credit for the phenomenon. Ford recalls his childhood with Zaphod and meeting Yooden Vranx, the former president. After Zaphod raided a megafreighter in his trijet to demand conkers, Vranx fed the boys and teleported them into Betelgeuse state prison.

Shortly before Vranx's death, he confided to Zaphod plans for *Heart of Gold*. The only way for Zaphod to steal it was at its launching. He ran for president just to hijack it. The catalog dissolves. A man ushers Zaphod, Ford, and Trillian in to see the mice.

Chap. 30 Slartibartfast concludes his story of how Deep Thought designed Earth and how the Vogans destroyed it five minutes before the program came to fruition. Arthur reports a free-floating fear, which the old man describes as normal paranoia. During the replacement of Earth, he designs fjords for Africa. He leads Arthur in to meet the mice.

Chap. 31 Arthur and Slartibartfast encounter Ford, Trillian, and Zaphod. Arthur meets Benjy and Frankie mouse, whom Trillian transported from Earth.

Benjy reports that mice have run the planet for 10 million years in search of an answer to the Ultimate Question. He and Frankie migrated back to Magrathea, the gateway to their own dimension. They value Arthur as the last human, the only one to escape, and want to analyze his brain. Trillian drags Arthur toward the door as a medical team brings in equipment to open his head. An alarm sounds.

Chap. 32 A hostile ship lands on Magrathea. As Zaphod, Trillian, Ford, and Arthur flee, police from Blagulon Kappa attack Zaphod with an energy bolt. The four duck between computer banks under a fusillade. The computer bank disintegrates.

Chap. 33 The barrage ends. Ford discovers that one police officer died when his life-support system blew up. The foursome find an aircar left them by Slartibartfast.

Chap. 34 They rocket up to the planet's surface, where a police car and two officers are dead. Marvin reports how he plugged himself into the car and caused it to commit suicide.

Chap. 35 That night, as the *Heart of Gold* flies away from

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Horsehead Nebula, Arthur reads Ford's *Guide*. Zaphod reports that they will stop to eat at the Restaurant at the End of the Universe.

TIME LINE

- 10 million years earlier** Mice meet to solve their problems and build Deep Thought, a computer that they expect to answer universal questions.
- 7.5 million years earlier** Deep Thought supplies the answer, "Forty-two," and intends to design the greatest computer and to call it Earth.
- 1830** Zaphod Beetlebrox is born.
- 1980** Officials post plans at Alpha Centauri for a hyperspatial express route through the solar system.
- 2000** A house takes shape in England's West Country.
- 2015** Ford Prefect moves to Earth from Betelgeuse.
- 2020** Zaphod Beeblebrox is elected president of the galaxy.
- 2027** Arthur Dent moves from London to the West Country.
- ca. 2025** Ford meets Arthur.
- in adulthood** Zaphod runs for president so he can steal the *Heart of Gold*.
- nine months earlier** Civil agents post plans for a bypass through the West Country.
- six months earlier** Arthur meets Zaphod posing as Phil, who crashes a party and encounters Tricia McMillan.
- 2030** **8:00 A. M.** Arthur Dent battles L. Prosser and the bulldozers threatening his house.
shortly Ford tells Arthur that the Earth is going to be destroyed.
around 8:18 A. M. Huge yellow objects fly through the clouds.
seconds later Jeltz realizes that Ford and Arthur have boarded their ship.
later After being subjected to Vagon poetry, Arthur and Ford are ejected into space. The *Heart of Gold* rescues Ford and Arthur.
sunrise Zaphod observes two sunrises on Magrathea.
shortly Arthur saves the *Heart of Gold* by turning on the Improbability Drive. The ship lands on Magrathea.
dusk Arthur encounters Slartibartfast and boards his hovercraft for a journey into the bowels of Magrathea, where the people revive from sleep to build Earth 2.
later Arthur meets Benjy and Frankie mouse, who want to analyze Arthur's brain.
immediately A hostile ship lands on Magrathea, allowing Zaphod, Trillian, Ford, and Arthur to flee a medical crew.

that night *Heart of Gold* flies away from Horsehead Nebula.

AUTHOR SKETCH

A modern jester, Internet pioneer, and master of whimsy, Douglas Noel Adams perceived his world through a satiric lens. A native of Cambridge, England, he was born on March 11, 1952. An honors student, Adams attended St. John's College, Cambridge. He later became a fiction writer and script editor for BBC radio and television. In 1978, he introduced on British radio a witty sci-fi series, *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*.

To Adams's surprise, Pan Books commissioned him to reprise *Hitchhiker's Guide* as a novel. A bestseller, it was followed by several sequels and a British television series. Adams followed with detective fiction; *The Meaning of Liff*, a satiric dictionary, and *Last Chance to See*, a guide to endangered species based on his journey to global habitats of dwindling species.

Adams developed his sci-fi characters and themes into *Starship Titanic: The Official Strategy Game* (1998), an interactive computer game, and internet sites based on his comedic view of the universe. He died of a heart attack at his home on May 11, 2001, in Santa Barbara, California, leaving a wife, Jane Elizabeth Belson, and a daughter, Polly Jane Rocket. He left incomplete a screen version of his bestselling novel.

CRITIC'S CORNER

Adams's success as a popular satirist was obvious in 1979 during the initial release of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, which sold 100,000 copies in four weeks. His "inspired lunacy," based on what the *London Times* called "pseudo-high-tech mis-information," avoids the clichés of science fiction by collecting them into a zany, surreal comedy adventure.

Among the targets of Adams's joyous romp are jogging, over-managed business meetings, pop psychology, God-is-dead theology, vapid and larcenous politicians, travel guides, and science fiction itself. Critics see in Arthur Dent a touch of autobiography skewering the author himself. As he predicted in Arthur's survival of Earth's destruction, Adams gets caught up in literary accolades without totally comprehending his role in a publishing marvel, which turned his *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* into various money-making adaptations, including a stage play.

OTHER WORKS BY DOUGLAS ADAMS

- The Deeper Meaning of Liff* (with John Lloyd) (1990)
Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency (1987)
The Great Ape Project: Equality Beyond Humanity (contributor) (1993)
The Illustrated Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (1994)
Last Chance to See . . . (with Mark Carwardine) (1989)
Life, the Universe and Everything (1982)
The Long Dark Tea-Time of the Soul (1988)
The Meaning of Liff (with John Lloyd) (1984)
More Than Complete Hitchhiker's Guide (1987)
Mostly Harmless (1992)
Not 1982: Not the Nine O'Clock News Rip-Off Annual (1981)
The Original Hitchhiker's Radio Scripts (1985)
The Restaurant at the End of the Universe (1980)
So Long, and Thanks for All the Fish (1984)

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The Ultimate Hitchhiker's Guide (1996)

The Utterly Merry Comic Relief Christmas Book (1986)

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GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the impact of world catastrophe
2. To account for faulty government leaders
3. To interpret attitudes toward usurpation and conquest
4. To contrast the outlook and stability of survivors
5. To discuss the application of coincidence
6. To recount the main events in the escapes
7. To particularize the demands of life on the run
8. To describe attitudes and behaviors during tense moments
9. To describe elements of atmosphere and tone
10. To analyze flashbacks as sources of information

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To explain Ford's affection for Arthur
2. To analyze the symbolism of a starship called *Heart of Gold*
3. To account for the Vogon destruction of Earth
4. To express the importance of Trillian to the story
5. To justify the vengeance of mice

6. To predict how Arthur will use the copy of Ford's guide-book
7. To characterize Vranx and Zaphod as galactic presidents
8. To discuss the implications of an improbability drive
9. To summarize the roles of Prosser, Marvin, Slartibartfast, mice, and the Dentrassis
10. To list dismaying events that threaten the protagonist's life
11. To explain the long sleep of Magrathea
12. To analyze details that contribute to tension on board starships

LITERARY TERMS AND APPLICATIONS

For a better understanding of Douglas Adams's fiction, present the following terms and applications:

episode a coherent event, digression, or incident in a narrative or serial that stands out on its own merit, in particular, Zaphod's dramatic arrival by speedboat at the cliffs of the island of France and his greetings to the crowd and media. By depicting his race across the sea past archipelagos and skid to a stop before rising on a bubble and hijacking the *Heart of Gold*, Adams characterizes his actions as puerile, self-aggrandizing, and larcenous. The episode contributes to an overall evaluation of recklessness and greed in elected officials.

characterization the creation of full-fledged human motivation, behavior, and response in fictional people. Adams creates in Ford Prefect an admirable writer of travel hints for space adventurers and a worthy friend to Arthur Dent. By establishing altruistic motives in Ford, the author implies that alien beings are capable of estimable traits, especially a friendship that risks self for the rescue of another being.

irony an implied discrepancy between what is said or done and what is meant, as in the rescue of the four main characters after Arthur Dent throws a switch at random in hopes of saving them from destruction. In contrast to Dent, Zaphod steals and assumes command of a massive new starship without any idea of how to fly it.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SETTING

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy extends over a vast universe limited only by the author's imagination. He creates a controlling irony by contrasting Arthur Dent's fight for his 30-year-old house in England's West Country with the plight of planet Earth as an express route looms across the heavens, dooming all in its path to extinction. From an ordinary pub, the Horse and Groom, Ford moves from a gulping of six bitters with Arthur to escape via hitchhiking on a Vogon starship dispatched from the Galactic Civil Service of the Megabrantis cluster.

By the light of a flaring match, Prostetnic Vogon Jeltz's flagship casts monstrous shadows and hideous alien shapes. To Ford, "the air was thick with musty smells which sidled into his lungs without identifying themselves, and a low irritating hum kept his brain from focusing." On the control bridge, where Jeltz's green bulk commands operations, a door slides open to reveal mattresses and underwear strewn about the galley. In reference to the clutter left by the Dentrassis cook for Vogons, Arthur concludes, "It's a bit squalid."

The ejection of Arthur and Ford to certain death produces new tension as they enjoy their last 30 seconds of life in outer space. Automatically picked up by the *Heart of Gold* in

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the 29th second, the two once more acclimate to a newly manufactured starship, complete with a sales brochure explaining some of its features. A conventional spaceship at first glance, it offers a white, oblong cabin with curving parallel walls and computer banks, a switch that connects to the Improbability Drive, and a mystical gold box that supplies its name.

The most dramatic setting is Magrathea, the sleeping planet that once hosted a thriving factory that custom-built planets. When the newcomers reached the crest of a crater by starlight, they view desolation and the remains of a sperm whale that struck the ridge. Arthur is surprised to encounter a Hovercraft and accompanies Slartibartfast, who coasts into "cold darkness." At a nexus of tunnels that crisscross like a rabbit warren, the old man prepares Arthur for entry into "a gateway into a vast tract of hyperspace." On his escape from Magrathea, Arthur contemplates his new environment and a quick stop for food at the Restaurant at the End of the Universe.

CROSS-CURRICULAR SOURCES

Novels

Antoine de Saint Exupery, *The Little Prince*

Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett, *Good Omens*

Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*

Kurt Vonnegut, *Cat's Cradle*

Play

Gore Vidal, *Visit to a Small Planet*

CD-ROMs

Starship Titanic

Internet

"Brownian Motion," <www.math.utah.edu/classes/217/assignment.04.html>

"The Hitchhiker's Guide Project," <www.penguinstorm.net/hhg/>

"The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy," <www.douglasadams.com/creations/infocomjava.html>

"Welcome to H2G2, the Earth Edition of 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy,'" <www.bbc.co.uk/h2g2/guide/>

Videos/DVDs

Dark Star (1973)

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (1981)

Mars Attacks (1996)

Monty Python and the Holy Grail (1974)

The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975)

Time Bandits (1981)

Visit to a Small Planet (1960)

THEMES AND MOTIFS

Themes

A study of the central issues and situations in *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* should include these aspects:

Themes

- protest
- survivalism
- adventure
- curiosity
- self-reliance
- greed
- whimsy
- camaraderie
- megalomania
- escapism

- acceptance

Motifs

- coping with a narcissistic criminal
- fleeing catastrophe
- studying variant forms of life
- comprehending the need for courage
- nostalgia for a lost world

MEANING STUDY

Below are significant words, phrases, or sentences from the novel. Explain each in context. Chapter and page numbers pinpoint each entry so that you can re-read the passage in which it appears.

1. In many of the more relaxed civilizations on the Outer Eastern Rim of the Galaxy, the *Hitchhiker's Guide* has already supplanted the great *Encyclopedia Galactica* as the standard repository of all knowledge and wisdom, for though it has many omissions and contains much that is apocryphal, or at least wildly inaccurate, it scores over the older, more pedestrian work in two important respects. (Introduction, p. 3)
(Adams prefaces the novel from the point of view of many years after the events, when Ford Prefect's new edition of the guidebook has grown famous, even though it omits and fictionalizes material.)
2. Curiously enough, though he didn't know it, he was also a direct male-line descendent of Genghis Khan, though intervening generations and racial mixing had so juggled his genes that he had no discernible Mongoloid characteristics, and the only vestiges left in Mr. L. Prosser of his mighty ancestry were a pronounced stoutness about the tum and a predilection for little fur hats. (Chap. 1, p. 6)
(Adams's droll description of the official who threatens Arthur Dent's house compares him to Genghis Khan [1165-August 1207], the Mongol warlord who conquered China and whose descendents created an empire stretching from the Pacific Ocean to Eastern Europe.)
3. By a curious coincidence, "None at all" is exactly how much suspicion the ape-descendant Arthur Dent had that one of his closest friends was not descended from an ape, but was in fact from a small planet somewhere in the vicinity of Betelgeuse and not from Guildford as he usually claimed. (Chap. 1, p. 10)
(The first star identified by telescope, Betelgeuse is a massive red supergiant 10,000 times brighter than the sun and 650 times the sun's diameter. Betelgeuse fluctuates in brightness. Ironically, it will use up its hydrogen fuel in a few hundred thousand years, making it as vulnerable as Earth to potential extinction.)
4. Beneath that in Ford Prefect's satchel were a few ballpoints, a notepad and a largish bath towel from Marks and Spencer. (Chap. 3, p. 26)
(Adams sets up future satires about towels and ballpoint pens. Marks and Spencer names a typically British department store chain that sells clothing and housewares.)
5. Because of this topographical awkwardness Damogran has always remained a deserted planet. (Chap. 4, p. 36)
(The description of Damogran as a planet surfaced with "large desert islands separated by very pretty but annoyingly wide stretches of ocean" tweaks the scientific

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search for a real planet that contains water. Adams extends the humor of this description by naming two land masses *Easter Island* and *France*.)

6. President: full title President of the Imperial Galactic Government (Chap. 4, p. 38)
(Adams's witty use of footnotes adds a note of scholarship to an aside that characterizes imperialism as anachronistic and the Emperor as a brain-dead potentate locked in suspended animation. The presidency controls nothing, expresses only outrage and works "to draw attention away from [power]." Adding to the spoof on power, Adams notes that Zaphod has spend 40% of his presidency in prison for fraud.)
7. He singled out Trillian from the crowd. Trillian was a girl that Zaphod had picked up recently while visiting a planet, just for fun, incognito. (Chap. 4, p. 42)
(Critics point out that Adams's novel contains only one female, an attractive trophy girlfriend to suit Zaphod's narcissism.)
8. Prostetnic Vogon Jeltz was not a pleasant sight, even for other Vogons. (Chap. 5, p. 45)
(Adams applies the evolutionary picture of human evolution to Jeltz, a Vogon who emerged from a primeval sea and failed to develop because "the forces of evolution had simply given up on them there and then, had turned aside in disgust and written them off as an ugly and unfortunate mistake." Adams muses that "they should never have survived," a subjective commentary on nature's choice of beings that flourish and those that dwindle and die out.)
9. The Infinite Improbability Drive is a wonderful new method of crossing vast interstellar distances in a mere nothingth of a second, without all that tedious mucking about in hyperspace. (Chap. 10, p. 86)
(Adams's famous spoof of the theory of probability is based on modern mathematics. As explained by George Boole, "Probability is expectation founded upon partial knowledge.")
10. *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* defines the marketing division of the Sirius Cybernetics Corporations as "a bunch of mindless jerks who'll be the first against the wall when the revolution comes," with a footnote to the effect that the editors would welcome applications from anyone interested in taking over the post of robotics correspondent. (Chap. 11, p. 92-93)
(Adams's pun on Sirius/serious enhances his denigration of robotics. A part of *Canis Major*, the star, called the *Dog Star*, is a binary star accompanied by a white dwarf called *Sirius B*. *Sirius* is 30 times brighter than the sun and some nine light-years away from Earth.)

COMPREHENSION STUDY

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers with quotations from the novel.

Motivation

1. What causes the destruction of Earth?
(After introducing Arthur Dent's frail efforts to halt the destruction of his 30-year-old house, Adams heightens the irony with the destruction of Earth a few minutes later. He delays explaining the reason for the catastrophe until after Arthur's personal troubles end, when

Prostetnic Vogon Jeltz makes his announcement to Earthlings concerning their fate. A member of the Vogon Civil Service, the huge green hulk with domed nose, piggy forehead, and rubbery skin is the instrument of destruction, a task that makes him "vaguely irritable." Still only a voice to his victims, he projects "plans for development of the outlying regions of the Galaxy [which] require the building of a hyperspatial express route through your star system." He adds that "regretably your planet is one of those scheduled for demolition," which will take two minutes.)

Setting

2. Describe Arthur's introduction to spaceships.
(After Arthur and Ford grab a ride aboard the Vogon ship, Ford offers packs of peanuts to his human companion, who groans and mutters incoherently. Arthur's first comment is about the darkness of the small galley cabin. Ford identifies the ship as part of the Vogon Constructor Fleet. By the light of a match, Arthur discovers a squalid interior, "grubby mattresses, unwashed cups and unidentifiable bits of smelly alien underwear" left by Dentrassi cooks.)

Character Development

3. How does Zaphod reveal his character faults?
(A worthless public official who ran for president of the Galaxy solely to steal Heart of Gold, Zaphod Beeblebrox is a puerile, self-absorbed delinquent whom the galaxy's president once tossed into a state prison. On his 200th birthday, Zaphod travels joyously by speedboat across the Damogran seas to a "scything" skid at the cliffs of the Island of France. Rising on a bubble atop a water jet, he prepares to steal the spaceship Heart of Gold at the moment of its unveiling.
On the way to his target, Zaphod works the crowd, grinning and waving at his girlfriend Trillian, whom he picked up after crashing a party in Islington, England. Limiting his public statements to a vapid "Hi," he chooses not to read a prepared speech to the crowd and tri-D cameras. Instead, in full view of billions in the media audience, he casually tosses a bomb to paralyze the huge crowd. His behavior reveals that he is filled with infantile desires and no practical ability.)

Historical Milieu

4. How does the story reflect on an historical era?
(Adams examines the "me" generation of the late 1970s. The era was rife with insubstantial values and advancing affluence among the elite. Yuppiedom, an upwardly mobile mini-class, was gaining hold as grasping individuals limited their character growth to physical comforts, jet-setting, name-dropping, and expensive hobbies and residences.)

Theme

5. How does Slartibartfast's history of Magrathea add to the satire?
(Adams quickly strips Earth of pretension by depicting it as merely material goods designed and manufactured in the Magrathean factory. He has Slartibartfast explain the creation of Deep Thought to unlock for the mice the humanistic questions of existence. In the story's second half, Adams suggests that Arthur "experience the events yourself on our Sens-O-Tape records." After Arthur undergoes numerous sensory anomalies, he hears Deep

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Thought return with the answer—42. Deep Thought volunteers to design the great computer that is to come and, in King James Biblical language, concludes, "And I shall name it also unto you. And it shall be called . . . the Earth.")

Interpretation

6. What does Adams suggest about Zaphod's trivial life, career, and ambitions?

(By depicting Zaphod as a sybarite and inventor of the Pan Galactic Gargle Blaster, Adams pokes fun at a shallow personality and an insubstantial life. By identifying him as "adventurer, ex-hippie, good-timer, [crook? quite possibly], manic self-publicist, terribly bad at personal relationships, often thought to be completely out to lunch," Adams ridicules the typical egotist politician and public charlatan. Naming him "ideal presidential fodder, Adams characterizes the media-driven public figures who pose as viable candidates without offering proof of character, ideals, or commitment to the public good.

Part of the absurdity of Zaphod is his absorption with powerboating, for which he has himself fitted with an extra arm "to help improve his ski-boxing." After he skids to a halt at the headland of the Island of France, he illustrates a narcissistic love of effect: "It was what he was best at." After running to the deck and down a ramp, he poses and grins for over three billion onlookers watching him in tri-D. Adams adds, "The antics of the President always made amazingly popular tri-D: That's what they were for." To the people's dismay, "today would be a bigger antic than anyone had bargained for."

Conflict

7. What does Zaphod's hijacking of the *Heart of Gold* suggest about corrupt politicians?

(Because Zaphod is an elected official, he has the imprimatur of the electorate. He has obviously charmed his way into office by manipulating the public and media. As the robot camera zooms in, he waves and exposes an extra arm and second head with chins that "were almost always unshaven." Rising on a bubble, he "smiled, picturing himself." The self-absorption suggests that people have chosen a popinjay to head the galaxy's government.

Even though Zaphod's office is largely ceremonial, his cultivation of public applause reveals a shallow people who enjoy watching their leader floating upward on a jet of water. Ignoring even the speech provided for him to read, he says only "Hi" again and awaits the revelation of the huge starship, *Heart of Gold*, which emerges from a dome. Adams allows Trillian, the person who knows Zaphod best, to anticipate the hijacking and to ponder the nature of "a terrible show-off." Ironically, after snatching the beautiful ship, Zaphod reveals that his qualities of "dash, bravado, conceit" fail to include mechanical skills or the ability to activate the object he went to such trouble to steal.)

Atmosphere

8. How does Adams heighten the terror of ejection into space?

(After Jeltz orders, "Guard! Take the prisoners to number three airlock and throw them out," Arthur and Ford have a short period to anticipate a quick death from asphyxiation. The command of the officious guard to abandon

resistance nonetheless inspires Ford to attempt reverse psychology to convince the man that he is in the wrong job. Meanwhile, "Arthur looked backward and forward between them in bafflement."

While the guard contemplates getting promoted to Senior Shouting Officer, the trio reaches the airlock, which swings open smoothly to admit Ford and Arthur with one toss. Arthur pants for breath; Ford tries to muscle his way against the hatch before it closes. In a claustrophobic cylinder six feet by ten feet, Ford continues to mutter while Arthur falls without looking up and remarks that they are trapped. To Ford's nonchalant declaration that they will enter deep space and asphyxiate, Arthur wails, "We are going to die." Ford jokes about locating a switch, then slumps against the bulkhead. The hiss and whir that precede ejection into space seems totally mechanical and lacking in humanity. The duo "[pops] into outer space like corks from a toy gun.")

Author Purpose

9. Why does Adams end the novel as though it is a joy ride?

(As a writer of radio and television fantasy, Adams leaves an opening for more adventures that would allow him to extend his plot into an adventure or sci-fi serial. He incorporates a hint as to the status of life in the universe by adding one more entry of Ford's *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. By reducing human history to three phases, "Survival, Inquiry and Sophistication" and depicting the question of the third stage as "Where shall we have lunch?," he sets up an ominous hint that life is about to revert to the first phase. With light-hearted glee, he depicts Zaphod asking Arthur if he is hungry and has the foursome coming to a halt for a "quick bite at the Restaurant at the End of the Universe.")

Structure

10. What does the introduction add to the novel?

(The introduction, which is composed in the form of allegorical fable, at first seems to have no meaning. When the reader completes the novel, a rereading of the opening pages accords more value to the prefatory story of a planet where people live for "small green pieces of paper," an allusion to valueless people who think more of money than anything else. Ironically, they make no connection between greed and happiness.

Adams sets the introductory story two millennia after Christ's crucifixion and points to a doomed figure, an innocent, a girl in Rickmansworth, a name suggesting "rich man's worth." Shortly before the Vogons destroy the planet, she realizes "how the world could be made a good and happy place." Enigmatically, Adams kills off the character on "this terrible, stupid Thursday," ending the life of a potential savior of humankind.)

HOW LANGUAGE WORKS

As a means of controlling tone, Adams makes use of comic repartee, a series of fast-paced comebacks or a witty exchange of words in a verbal duel. For example:

1. When Ford and Arthur look out on the universe from *Heart of Gold*, Arthur remarks, "It looks just like the sea front at Southend."

"Hell, I'm relieved to hear you say that," said Ford. "Why?"

"Because I thought I must be going mad."

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"Perhaps you are. Perhaps you only thought I said it."

The nonsensical exchange continues, debating the difference between real experience and delusion.

2. At a climactic moment in the flight over Magrathea, the passengers realize that they are the target of a missile defense system. To Zaphod's suggestion that they fly the ship manually, Ford asks, "Can you fly her?" The silly conversation grows more improbable:

"No, can you?"

"No."

"Trillian, can you?"

"No."

"Fine," said Zaphod, relaxing. "We'll do it together."

Ironically, Arthur, whom the other three exclude from the running in selecting a navigator, engages the Improbability Drive and, improbably, saves the ship from the missiles.

3. The deus ex machina, a stage device that introduces a savior late in the drama, turns out to be Marvin. In the repartee of Chapter 34, he explains how inadvertently he killed off the Blagulon Kappa police squad:

"That ship hated me," he said dejectedly, indicating the policecraft.

"That ship?" said Ford in sudden excitement. "What happened to it? Do you know?"

"It hated me because I talked to it. . . ."

"And what happened?" pressed Ford.

"It committed suicide," said Marvin.

ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Art

1. Design insignia, uniforms, weapons, and equipment for intergalactic pirates, Blagulon Kappa police, Zaphod, Trillian, Marvin, Veet, Slartibartfast, Lunkwill, Fook, Majikthise, Vroomfondel, Dentrassis, Vranx, Benjy, and Frankie.
2. Propose an outline for a film on the destruction of Earth. Make character studies of Prosser, Arthur Dent, and the little girl who discovers a way to make Earth happy. Zoom into the ionosphere to depict how the catastrophe affects the rest of the galaxy.

Business and Economics

1. Describe the reality of the types of work that people perform in space, including computer operation, security guard, medical staff, manual flying of spaceships, designing, spaceship repair, and cooking. Explain how Zaphod succeeds at a technical job that he knows nothing about.
2. Chart in dollars and cents the annual expenditure throughout the history of space travel. Determine at what stage the United States spent the most for space projects, including the first moon landing, survey of Mars, and the international space station. Predict which subsequent stage will require the most planning, equipment, and expenditure, for example, a permanent space platform.

Cinema

1. Propose a film version of the novel that includes elements of the computer game. Stress adventures into dangerous and unknown territory, reliance on logic and daring, and valuing nations and cultures above selfish motives and ambitions.

2. Write a review of a film that combines sci-fi and humor. Compare the movie's situations, settings, themes, and dialogue to those of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*.

Composition and Research

1. Write a tutorial for television or internet explaining the eras of planetary formation, glacier and fjord formation, extinction of dinosaurs, and the arrival of mice, dolphins, and humankind on Earth.
2. Research facts concerning animal intelligence. Arrange in order of IQ humans, dolphins, mice, sperm whales, dinosaurs, dogs, and monkeys.

Drama

1. Role-play the part of a space pilot, news reporter, security guard, ship cook, space police officer, computer designer, bartender, bulldozer operator, or Magrathean reviving from a deep sleep. Explain how the story would change if the mice had captured Arthur and dissected his brain.
2. Draw stage settings for a dramatization of the novel. Supply sketches of costumes and props.
3. Pantomime the abnormal personality traits and behaviors of Zaphod, Marvin, Veet, Jeltz, Frankie, and Benjy, particularly their behaviors as they apply to the creation and destruction of Earth. Determine how Ford outfoxes Zaphod and why Trillian and Zaphod welcome Ford and Arthur on the flight from Magrathea out of the Horsehead Nebula.

Geography

1. Describe three-dimensional mapping methods to demonstrate the relative positions and sizes of Earth, Horsehead Nebula, Barnard's Star, Alpha Centauri, Antares, Sirius, Sol, Alpha Proxima, Betelgeuse, Orion Beta, and Ursa Minor.
2. Explain why Arthur would want to leave London to live in the West Country. Comment on the irony of roadwork destroying his home at the same time that an express route menaces the star system containing Earth.
3. Use a computer map program to show relative distances between these places in England: Guildford, London, Basingstoke, Reading, Southend, Islington, and Greenbridge, Essex.

Health

1. Join a research group to determine how and why humans die when exposed to outer space. Contrast the deaths of people with those of police officers from Blagulon Kappa.
2. Summarize causes of depression and the results of serious impairment left untreated, including social dysfunction and suicide. Surmise why Adams makes a joke about Marvin's despair and the policecraft's suicide.
3. Outline the systems of the human body that designers must duplicate to create a robot like Marvin. Include heating and cooling, fueling, reasoning and communication system, and mobility.

History and Social Studies

1. Compose an extended definition of social misfit. Explain how the term fits Zaphod, Trillian, Marvin, Eddie, Ford, Veet, Jeltz, Frankie, and Benjy. Rank the characters in terms of their dysfunction. Note which character contrasts most with Arthur and Slartibartfast.

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2. Outline a chart, web site, or poster on the theme of whimsy. Give reasons for Zaphod's extreme narcissism and his haphazard method of hijacking and controlling the *Heart of Gold* and exploring the universe. Add details of his relationship with Trillian, the former Tricia McMillan.
3. Research the fate of pirates, hijackers, and stowaways in international law. Compare regulations governing lawlessness on ships, trains, and planes.

Language Arts

1. Draw cartoon posters illustrating the cartoonlike features of Marvin, Frankie and Benjy, Veet, Slartibartfast, Majikthise, Vroonfondel, Vranx, Blagulon Kappa police officers, and the Vogons. Add captions that explain why Adams refuses to take his scenarios too seriously and why he ridicules such foibles as counting ballpoint pens, looking for a cup of tea, worshipping running shoes, and reading bad poetry as a punishment.
2. Suggest sequels to the novel that would capitalize on warnings from dolphins, Trillian's relationship with Zaphod, Arthur's yearning for a McDonald's hamburger, the awakening of the Magratheans to a new design task, hope for a messiah among advanced computers, higher intelligence in mice, Marvin's destruction of the police-craft's computer, computer programmers Fook and Lunkwill, and the philosophers Majikthise and Vroonfondel.
3. Divide the class into small groups to compose tutorials on these topics: conventions in sci-fi, surrealism, sarcasm, parody, irony, puns, clichés, allegory, simile, and humor. Locate models of each from the novel, for example, the pun on Sirius/serious in Chapter 11 and the simile between ejection of men into space and a popgun.
4. Draw a cause-and-effect diagram illustrating how the bumbling, well-meaning Arthur Dent escapes destruction more than once. Suggest reasons that he befriends Ford, an unusual alien posing as an unemployed actor, and how their relationship saves Arthur's life.
5. Draw a Venn diagram contrasting the novel with other whimsical, allegorical, and sci-fi literature.
6. Record aloud descriptive passages from *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. Consider the sight of dual sunsets, Zaphod's skid below the cliff of the Island of France, ejection into space from Jeltz's spaceship, arriving on the crater splattered by the whale, a business session with mice, a view of Earth 2, and a shootout between computer banks.

Psychology

1. Explain with a character web the overlapping adventures of Arthur, Zaphod, Ford, Slartibartfast, Vranx, Trillian, Jeltz, Arthur, Benjy, and Frankie. Note the motivation of each character for venturing out of a known environment, for example, the collapse of Magrathea's economy, Vranx's death, Ford's revision of a galaxy guidebook for a new edition, and Zaphod's crashing of a party attended by Tricia McMillan.
2. Draw a flow chart explaining how Arthur acclimates to the loss of his home planet and to subsequent space travel aboard Jeltz's spaceship and the hijacked *Heart of Gold*. Project his future as a member of the foursome aboard the ship and as a human traveler coping with a

depressed robot and personable computer.

Science and Mathematics

1. Explain how a slide rule would be useful to Zaphod in place of Eddie, the malfunctioning computer.
2. Prepare a brief oral presentation on one of these topics: synapse, matrix, trajectory, orbit, Brownian Motion, Pavlov, zero gravity, encephalographic screen, cauterized, cerebellum, cosmos, philology, asteroid, speed of sound, pandimensional beings, abacus, QED, subliminal, cybernetics, diode, photon, counterpoint, binary, light-years, and the Tertiary and Quaternary Periods of the Cenozoic Era.
3. Research the use of "Babel Fish" as the name of an Internet site that translates words and phrases. Comment on the choice of Adams's fictional invention as a name for the site.

Speech

1. Organize a discussion of Douglas Adams's spoof of science fiction's literary conventions. Cover shootouts with ray guns, kidnap by aliens, rogue planets, computers with human personalities, aliens studying life on Earth, periods of hibernative sleep, wise old men, humanoids with multiple heads, devices that translate alien languages, intergalactic intrigue, transferral from one space vehicle to another, subhuman slaves, and threats of annihilation of Earth.
2. Compose a formal presentation on trust. Explain why Arthur puts his trust in Ford on the day Earth is destroyed and why Arthur depends on Ford and his travel guide to the galaxy for advice and comfort.
3. Deliver a brief chalk talk on the elements of real science that permeate Adams's humorous fiction, including hyperspace, wormholes, travel in light-years, life forms that depend on ozone and carbon monoxide for respiration, orbits, and the possibility of a cataclysm when planets collide.

ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

1. List and describe fantasy beings in the novel, including talking mice, aliens visiting Earth, Blagulon Kappa police, Marvin, Eddie, workers in the planet factory, Deep Thought, Jeltz, and the two-headed president of the galaxy.
2. Draw some of the settings in *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. Suggest a purpose for each visit, for example, a study of aliens, of natural resources, and of Zaphod's headquarters and other interplanetary government offices.
4. Make a character list and explain the relationship of each to Arthur. Include Zaphod's dismissal, Ford's friendship, the police officers' pursuit, Trillian's hospitality, L. Prosser's officiousness, Jeltz's hostility, and Slartibartfast's fatherliness.

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VOCABULARY TEST

Select words from the following list to replace the underlined synonyms in the passage below:

- | | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| antic | contrives | faltered | lews | rhythmic |
| bareface | counterpoint | floundered | licentious | satchel |
| bemusement | cumulative | hazarding | metaphysical | sublimate |
| compassionate | deferentially | homestretch | perused | surrealism |
| concept | dichotomies | humanity | repository | timbre |

"I thought that some of the (1) mystical _____ imagery was particularly effective."

Ford continued to stare at him, slowly organizing his thoughts around this totally new (2) idea

_____. Were they really going to be able to (3) bluff _____ their way out of this?

"Yes, do continue . . ." invited the Vogon.

"Oh . . . and, er . . . interesting (4) metrical _____ devices too," continued Arthur, "which seemed to (5) set off _____ the . . . er . . . er . . ." he (6) blundered _____.

Ford leaped to his rescue, (7) suggesting _____ ". . . counterpoint the (8) incongruity _____ of the underlying metaphor of the . . . er . . ." He floundered too, but Arthur was ready again.

". . . (9) frailty _____ of the . . ."

"Vogonity," Ford hissed at him.

"A yes, Vogonity—sorry—of the poet's (10) merciful _____ soul"—Arthur felt he was on a (11) conclusion _____ now "which (12) manages _____ through the medium of the verse structure to (13) refine _____ this, transcend that, and come to terms with the fundamental (14) dualities _____ of the other"—he was reaching a triumphant (15) height _____—"and one is left with a profound and vivid insight into . . . into . . . er . . ."

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COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Character Identification (30 points)

Match each of the following descriptions from the novel with a character name. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left.

- | | | |
|-------|--|-------------------|
| _____ | 1. lies in the mud to halt machines | A. Slartibartfast |
| _____ | 2. relates the history of Magrathea | B. Jeltz |
| _____ | 3. objects to machines replacing philosophers | C. Eddie |
| _____ | 4. follows an alien from a party | D. Prosser |
| _____ | 5. employs Dentrassis | E. Marvin |
| _____ | 6. gets career tips from an aunt | F. Veet |
| _____ | 7. orders six pints of bitter and packets of peanuts | G. Tricia |
| _____ | 8. puts Zaphod in prison | H. Arthur Dent |
| _____ | 9. programs Deep Thought | I. Zaphod |
| _____ | 10. falls face down in despair | J. Vogon guard |
| _____ | 11. refers Arthur to the local planning office | K. police officer |
| _____ | 12. engraves initials on a brain | L. Ford |
| _____ | 13. a bouncy shipboard computer | M. Fook |
| _____ | 14. searches for lost pens | N. Vroonfondel |
| _____ | 15. dangles a Kill-O-Zap gun | O. Vranx |

Part II: True/False (20 points)

Mark the following statements either **T** for true or **F** if any part is false.

- _____ 1. The shootout results in a serious wound to Marvin, who lies in the dust with no will to go on.
- _____ 2. Magratheans plunged into a deep sleep after the collapse of the economy.
- _____ 3. The barman receives ample tips along with an alert to the end of the world.
- _____ 4. Prosser agrees to forget about demolition and follow Ford to the Horse and Groom.
- _____ 5. Ford and Arthur are about to die in the explosion of Earth when the *Heart of Gold* whisks them into outer space.
- _____ 6. Trillian displays more skill at navigation than Zaphod, who stole the starship as a means of winning an election for president.
- _____ 7. The Improbability Drive is able to locate 42 as the answer to the question of life.
- _____ 8. Arthur turns to Ford's electronic text to introduce him to space.
- _____ 9. The guard is more interested in advancement than in saving two hitchhikers from asphyxiation.
- _____ 10. On Earth 2, Slartibartfast plans fjords for Africa.

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Part III: Completion (20 points)

Fill in the blanks below with a word or phrase that completes the sentence. Place your answer in the space provided at left.

1. A publisher in _____ issues *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, a supplement to _____.
2. In a West Country village, Arthur Dent, who works in _____, lives in a 30-year-old house after moving from _____ three years before.
3. _____ confesses to being from _____ and confides that Earth is going to end.
4. Prostetnic Vogon _____ of the Galactic Hyperspace Planning Council warns that a hyperspatial express route through the star system will pass through the area formerly occupied by _____.
5. On his 200th _____, Zaphod hijacks the _____.

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Describe how Ford tries to wheedle aid from the Vogon security guard.
2. Explain how the *Heart of Gold* differs from other starships.
3. Compare preparations for the destruction of Earth and of Arthur's house.
4. Account for Arthur's familiarity with "Phil."
5. Summarize events that coincide with the reawakening of Magrathea.

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COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Multiple Choice (20 points)

Select the phrase that completes each of the following sentences. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left.

- _____ 1. Arthur recognizes Zaphod as
 - A. commander of the official galaxy starship.
 - B. Phil.
 - C. the hermit who lied.
 - D. an unemployed actor.
- _____ 2. Desperately, Ford
 - A. hums a bar of Beethoven's "Fifth."
 - B. types in "42."
 - C. alerts Prosser of approaching bulldozers.
 - D. searches for Trillian's escaped mice.
- _____ 3. Eddie is unable to
 - A. compete with philosophers.
 - B. avoid the Vogon starfleet.
 - C. supply carbon monoxide to the dying police officers.
 - D. suggest evasive action.
- _____ 4. Slartibartfast is proud of
 - A. the pieces of whale along the ridge.
 - B. the fjords he rescues for use on Earth 2.
 - C. designing Norway.
 - D. mastering the hovercraft.
- _____ 5. On the way out of Horsehead Nebula, Zaphod
 - A. drinks Pan Galactic Gargle Blasters.
 - B. punches up data on Ford's electronic guide.
 - C. experiments with the controls of the *Heart of Gold*.
 - D. locates a small red planet that controls the wealth of the universe.
- _____ 6. Arthur prepares himself for
 - A. entry into hyperspace.
 - B. questioning by a panel of angry mice.
 - C. entering the deep sleep of Magrathea.
 - D. Prosser's command to the bulldozers.
- _____ 7. The impending destruction of Earth
 - A. is one of the factors of "42."
 - B. causes Veet to abandon studies at the University of Maximegalon.
 - C. forces Ford to produce a new edition of the Ursa Minor guide.
 - D. is not news to dolphins.
- _____ 8. Eddie
 - A. terrorizes Deep Thought.
 - B. is interrupted by an electronic pencil.
 - C. is eager to be called by his first name.
 - D. predicts he will become the second best computer.
- _____ 9. Ford
 - A. shows Arthur how to take evasive action.
 - B. questions taking the paranoid robot along.
 - C. fires retro thrusters and retreats from the silver darts.
 - D. breaks a lever that sends the ship upward.
- _____ 10. Jeltz is glad he doesn't have to
 - A. hire Dentrassis to cook for him.
 - B. torture the hitchhikers by reading his verse to them.
 - C. report on a new type of spaceship unveiled on Damogran.
 - D. smash crabs with an iron mallet.

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Part II: Matching (30 points)

Match the following actions with places from the list below. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left.

- | | | |
|-------|--|-------------------------|
| _____ | 1. Frankie and Benjy escape from their cage. | A. France |
| _____ | 2. A dome opens to reveal a new starship. | B. Vogon fleet |
| _____ | 3. Veet locates a hermit who lies. | C. Islington |
| _____ | 4. Slartibartfast travels with Arthur toward converging tunnels. | D. Heart of Gold |
| _____ | 5. Ford originates. | E. crater |
| _____ | 6. Dentrassis cook for Jeltz. | F. near Betelgeuse |
| _____ | 7. Arthur anticipates 30 seconds to live. | G. police craft |
| _____ | 8. The president drives recklessly to a skid. | H. no. 3 airlock |
| _____ | 9. Mice control a planet. | I. Earth |
| _____ | 10. A sperm whale lies splattered. | J. Hovercraft |
| _____ | 11. One place in the galaxy produces a dark screen. | K. Horsehead Nebula |
| _____ | 12. Life was once wild, rich, and largely tax free. | L. seas of Damogran |
| _____ | 13. A wormhole opens. | M. Galactic Empire |
| _____ | 14. Black stenciled letters identify a ship's source and power. | N. small asteroid |
| _____ | 15. Zaphod crashes a party. | O. space-time continuum |

Part III: Short Answer (20 points)

Supply a word or phrase in answer to the following questions. Place your response in the blank provided.

- _____ 1. Whom does Ford regret seeing on the way to planet Earth?
- _____ 2. What must a man hang on to to be a "man to be reckoned with?"
- _____ 3. What would Zaphod depend on rather than the computer?
- _____ 4. What cracks Magrathea's ridge?
- _____ 5. What is burned into cauterized synapses?
- _____ 6. Who programmed computers to revive them after the recession?
- _____ 7. At what event do the programmers with briefcases complain?
- _____ 8. Who lies dead from lack of methane?
- _____ 9. Who offers Arthur a chair made from the rib cage of a stegosaurus?
- _____ 10. What do the Blagulon Kappa police fire from their guns?

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Explain how Arthur reacts to Slartibartfast's story.
2. Contrast the outlook of Arthur, Ford, Slartibartfast, and Zaphod toward adventure.
3. Account for the re-emergence of the mice.
4. Summarize events that precede the collapse of the galaxy economy.
5. Characterize the advice Arthur reads in Ford's electronic manuscript.

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ANSWER KEY

VOCABULARY TEST

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. metaphysical | 6. floundered | 11. homestretch |
| 2. concept | 7. hazarding | 12. contrives |
| 3. bareface | 8. surrealism | 13. sublimate |
| 4. rhythmic | 9. humanity | 14. dichotomies |
| 5. counterpoint | 10. compassionate | 15. crescendo |

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Character Identification (30 points)

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. H | 6. J | 11. D |
| 2. A | 7. L | 12. I |
| 3. N | 8. O | 13. C |
| 4. G | 9. M | 14. F |
| 5. B | 10. E | 15. K |

Part II: True/False (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. F |
| 2. T | 7. F |
| 3. T | 8. T |
| 4. F | 9. T |
| 5. F | 10. T |

Part III: Completion (20 points)

1. Ursa Minor, *Encyclopedia Galactica*
2. radio, London
3. Ford, Betelgeuse
4. Jeltz, Earth
5. birthday, *Heart of Gold*

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSIONS TEST B

Part I: Multiple Choice (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. B | 6. A |
| 2. A | 7. D |
| 3. D | 8. C |
| 4. C | 9. B |
| 5. A | 10. C |

Part II: Matching (30 points)

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. D | 6. B | 11. K |
| 2. F | 7. H | 12. M |
| 3. N | 8. L | 13. O |
| 4. J | 9. I | 14. G |
| 5. F | 10. E | 15. C |

Part III: Short Answer (20 points)

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Vogons | 6. Magratheans |
| 2. towel | 7. Great On-Turning |
| 3. slide rule | 8. Blagulon Kappa police officer |
| 4. sperm whale | 9. Slartibartfast |
| 5. Z. B. | 10. energy bolts |

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.



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