

## STUDY QUESTIONS: THE LAST LECTURE

Randy Pausch

### Chapter 1 – Pages 3-10 – *An Injured Lion Still Wants to Roar*

1. What is the significance of this title?
2. What were the important questions that professors were asked to answer in the “*Journeys Series*,” formerly called “*The Last Lecture Series*?”
3. What was Pausch diagnosed with?
4. What news did Pausch receive the week he was supposed to give his lecture?
5. Why didn’t he choose to back out of speaking engagement?
6. On what two grounds did Jai Pausch feel that her husband should decline the speaking offer?
7. How did Jai feel Pausch would choose to spend his time?
8. Who helped Pausch make up his mind to give his last lecture?
9. According to Pausch, what was his motivation to perform?
10. How old were Pausch’s kids?
11. What questions did Pausch think his lecture would answer for his kids?
12. Where did Pausch say his natural habitat was?
13. What was the one question Pausch felt compelled to address?
14. According to Pausch, what made him unique?
15. Before Pausch could speak, what was he asked to provide?
16. What title did Pausch send in an email to the lecture organizers?

### Chapter 2 – Pages 11–14 – *My Life in a Laptop*

1. Why wasn’t Pausch’s speech in text format?
2. In what format did the author’s speech take?
3. Why didn’t Jai plan to attend Pausch’s talk?
4. Who met Pausch at the Pittsburgh Airport on September 17?
5. What position did he have?
6. What feedback was Pausch given about his talk?
7. What was ironic about the waitress’s remark about her pregnancy and Pausch’s medical condition?
8. After lunch when Pausch was in his hotel, why did Pausch have doubts about his talk?
9. How many total slides did Pausch’s presentation have before he stood at the podium?
10. How did he feel before his presentation?

### Chapter 3 – Pages 15–19 – *The Elephant in the Room*

1. What is the significance of the chapter’s title?
2. How was Pausch dressed? (Be specific).
3. What was Walt Disney’s motto as he planned for his theme park fantasies?
4. Why did Pausch show his audience his CT scans?
5. Pausch said he looked good and felt good. How was this possible when he was suffering from pancreatic cancer?
6. What surprise did he give his audience?

## THE LAST LECTURE – STUDY QUESTIONS

### Chapter 4 – Pages 20-26 – *The Parent Lottery*

1. How did Pausch describe his “winning ticket?”
2. How did he characterize “money” in his family?
3. What did his parents say when he wanted to go to a movie?
4. When Pausch was growing up, he thought there were two types of families. What were they?
5. What was Pausch’s dad’s opinion about stories?
6. Pausch says there is logic in dispensing others’ wisdom rather than one’s own? What is it?
7. What word did Pausch’s mother use to describe him as a boy?
8. What was the “theory qualifier?”
9. What did Pausch’s mother say when he complained about it?
10. What project did Pausch’s parents get involved in?
11. How did Pausch characterize his father?
12. According to Pausch, what was his father’s goal?
13. How did Pausch’s father continue his legacy of charitable giving?
14. What was the photo that Pausch flashed on the overhead screen? (Be specific).
15. If Pausch’s dad were still living when Pausch gave his lecture, what two pieces of advice would he had given him?

### Chapter 5 – Pages 27-30 – *The Elevator in the Ranch House*

1. What is the significance of this chapter’s title?
2. What request did Pausch make to his parents?
3. What was his dad’s response? His mom’s?
4. What additions did Pausch make to his room?
5. How many “floors” did he have? Why weren’t there more?
6. What editing, if any, did his other make to Pausch’s work?
7. After Pausch was grown, what was the focal point of Pausch’s childhood home?
8. What advice did Pausch give to parents who want to “modify” their room?

### Chapter 6 – Pages 31-34 – *Getting to Zero G*

1. What was a common dream of kids and Pausch’s in his elementary class?
2. What limitation prevented Pausch from achieving his dream?
3. What was the “Weightless Wonder?”
4. What sensations does one feel on it?
5. How did Pausch’s dream become a reality?
6. What bad news did Pausch receive when he and his class were invited to Johnson Space Center?
7. How did he circumvent NASA’s rule?
8. Was NASA fooled when Pausch faxed them? If not, what was its response?
9. What did Pausch promise to do when NASA made an exception for his class?
10. What lesson did he learn from this?
11. Four decades later, on a 25-second ride, what did Pausch learn?

### Chapter 7 – Pages 35-39 - *I Never Made It to the NFL*

1. What sport did Pausch love as a 9-year child?
2. What was different about the first day of practice conducted by Jim Graham?

Total: 467 questions

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3. What did he learn from the experience?
4. What lesson did Pausch learn when Coach Graham kept criticizing his skills?
5. What advice did the assistant offer Pausch when he felt his was a failure?
6. How did Coach Graham teach kids self-esteem?
7. What did Coach Graham do on the first day of practice when they wanted water?
8. What did Pausch think about the coach's actions then? How did he view is as an adult?
9. What saddens Pausch about today's kids?
10. Pausch says that Coach Graham was the master of the head-fake? Explain this.

### Chapter 8 – Pages 40–42 – *You'll Find Me Under "V"*

1. Pausch says he could picture a "paperless world," but admits he grow up in a very different time. What book fascinated him?
2. What was one of his childhood dreams in terms of writing?
3. What opportunity was finally presented to Pausch?
4. What is the significance of the chapter's title?

### Chapter 9 – Pages 43-46 – *A Skill Set Called Leadership*

1. What character did Pausch aspire to be in the 1960s?
2. Why does Pausch think he became a better teacher and colleague by watching this fictional character on TV?
3. What was so "cool" about this character?
4. When Pausch was at Carnegie Mellon in his virtual reality lab, who wanted to visit him?
5. What did Pausch say was heroic about his visitor?
6. After Pausch was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, what did the celebrity write on his photo?

### Chapter 10 – Pages 47-50 – *Winning Big*

1. According to Pausch, who was the "coolest guy" at the carnival?
2. How did stuffed animals play a role in Pausch's life?
3. What suspicions did many have about Pausch's many stuffed animals?
4. What is the one thing he didn't want people to know about his success?
5. What two secrets did Pausch say are necessary to winning giant stuffed animals?
6. What did he do to show he still had an army of stuffed animals?
7. What offer did he make to his audience members?
8. What symbolism did Pausch see when one Carnegie Mellon student chose a particular animal?

### Chapter 11 – Pages 51-51-55 – *The Happiest Place on Earth*

1. What adventure did Pausch's family take when he was 8 years old?
2. When Pausch got his Ph.D., where did he send his letter of application?
3. What response did he get?
4. What did he learn about brick walls?
5. In 1995, when Pausch built a system called "Virtual Reality on Five Dollars a Day," what did he learn?
6. Whom did he speak with?

Total: 467 questions

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7. How did he prepare for his meeting?
8. What offer was made to Pausch when he explained that he had a sabbatical coming up?
9. From the questions that was asked, what did Pausch realize about the academic and entertainment culture?
10. What were the terms of his offer from Imagineering?
11. What advice did he get from two deans?
12. What is the difference in the two responses?
13. What proves how “geeky” Pausch really was?

### Chapter 12 – Pages 56-64 – *The Park is Open Until 8 p.m.*

1. When did the author’s medical problem begin?
2. What symptom was he having?
3. What did the CT reveal? How long did it take for him to see how bad his condition was?
4. How did Pausch approach his diagnosis?
5. Why did his doctors think Pausch was a “fun patient?”
6. What remark did Pausch make to Dr. Herb Zeh, a Pittsburgh surgeon?
7. What was the “Whipple operation” that Pausch endured?
8. How did Pausch hear about his check-up results with Dr. Wolff before he spoke with him?
9. What did Pausch consider a “glaring operational flaw?”
10. Why was he fascinated by the bad news Dr. Wolff had given him?
11. Why couldn’t Pausch get a liver transplant?
12. What kind of treatment would be used on Pausch?
13. What is Pausch’s wish for every medical student considering oncology?
14. What question did Pausch ask after he heard about his treatment plan?
15. How did Pausch feel about the news?

### Chapter 13 – Pages 64-65 - *The Man in the Convertible*

1. Who was the man in the convertible, and what was he doing?
2. What did the image remind Robbee Kosak, Carnegie Mellon’s President for Advancement, of?
3. Why did Robbee’s email mean so much to Pausch?

### Chapter 14 – Pages 66-68 – *The Dutch Uncle*

1. What was Pausch’s attitude toward his older sister when he was 7 and she was 9?
2. What did Tammy do that was totally unexpected?
3. How did the school handle the situation?
4. How did Pausch’s mother handle it?
5. How did Pausch’s father handle it?
6. How did Pausch’s friend Scott Sherman perceive his behavior when he was at Brown University?
7. Why didn’t Pausch notice that his behavior was offensive to others?
8. What advice did Prof. Van Dam, a computer science professor, say to Pausch about the latter’s behavior?

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9. What is the meaning of “a Dutch uncle?”
10. What was ironic about this phrase?
11. What did some of Pausch’s friends call him?
12. How did Pausch perceive his flaws?

### Chapter 15 – Pages 69-72 – *Pouring Soda in the Backseat*

1. How was Pausch’s identity seen for a long time?
2. What advice did Pausch’s sister Laura give her kids when they took a ride in her brother’s new Volkswagen?
3. What outrageous thing did Uncle Randy do while Laura was explaining the rules about their riding in his car?
4. What did they think about their uncle then?
5. Why was Pausch glad he had already “christened” his car?
6. What two rules did he have for his niece and nephew when they rode in his car?
7. Uncle Randy was an unconventional uncle. What did he do to show he was different from most uncles?
8. What special favor did Pausch ask of his niece and nephew when they were adults?
9. What did he want his niece and nephew to tell Pausch’s children about him?
10. If his kids mess up their cars, what did Pausch hope would happen?

### Chapter 16 – Pages 73-79 - *Romancing the Brick Wall*

1. Why did Pausch think there are brick walls?
2. How old was Pausch when he met his future wife?
3. What kind of home did he have?
4. What was Jai’s job in the fall of 1998?
5. How did Jai find out more information about Randy?
6. Why was Pausch reluctant to settle down? Why was Jai?
7. After Pausch returned to Pittsburgh from speaking in Orlando, what did he offer Jai?
8. What was her response?
9. What did Pausch say in a note to her?
10. When Pausch offered Jai a ring and got her to move to Pittsburgh, her attitude changed toward him. What did she say to him? How did he feel?
11. What was Pausch’s response to her words?
12. What advice did Pausch’s parents offer him?
13. After his week of teaching and being in an office from Jai, what was her response?

### Chapter 17 – Pages 80-84 – *Not All Fairy Tales End Smoothly*

1. What was different about Pausch’s and Jai’s wedding and reception ?
2. What happened to them that got their marriage off to a rocky start?
3. What did Pausch say to the balloonist when he saw a train track at the edge of the field?
4. What advice did the balloonist give the couple if the balloon hit the ground?
5. What did the couple learn from their experience?
6. What was the final touch to the wedding package?

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### Chapter 18 – Pages 85-87 – *Lucy, I'm Home*

1. What was the *I-Love-Lucy* episode that Pausch recalls early in his marriage?
2. What was Pausch's reaction when Jai mentioned the disaster that had occurred?
3. After the damage was assessed, what was Pausch's surprising response?
4. What did this disaster symbolize to Pausch?

### Chapter 19 – Pages 88-96 – *A New Year's Story*

1. What situation occurred on New Year's Eve?
2. What was Pausch told about his wife's condition?
3. What assumption did Pausch make about the B team?
4. What job was Pausch given at the hospital?
5. Why did Pausch's father think it was humorous?
6. What did Pausch do alleviate his wife's fears?
7. What two things did the doctor tell Pausch and Jai about the birth of their first child?
8. How did Dylan look after his birth?
9. What did Pausch and Jai think when they went to the hospital and saw Dylan's bassinette gone?
10. What was the nurse's response?
11. What would have been the worst case scenario?
12. What did the new parents learn from this experience?

### Chapter 20 – Pages 94-96 – *In Fifty Years, It Never Came Up*

1. What did Pausch find in his father's belongings after his death?
2. What kind of mystery did Pausch's dad give to his children?
3. What surprising thing did Pausch discover about his father while he was in the army in 1945?
4. What lesson did Pausch learn from this experience?

### Chapter 21 – Pages 97-102 – *Jai*

1. What is one thing that Jai learned from Randy?
2. What happened when Pausch wanted to take his family to visit his relatives during Christmas?
3. How did Jai handle Pausch's spreading his clean and dirty clothes around the room?
4. What is one way that Jai handled negative things that her husband did?
5. Why was the last New Year's Eve so emotional for Pausch?
6. What did Jai do later on that same evening to cheer Pausch up?
7. What did Jai say was one of the best parts of her day?
8. What was the "magical moment" of the Christmas Eve with Pausch's wife and children?
9. What is one piece of useful information that Jai read from a website from a wife whose husband was dying with pancreatic cancer?
10. What has been a good outlet for Jai when she needs to vent about her husband's situation or to complain about him?
11. What are some lessons that she has learned from Pausch?
12. What was one of his New Year's resolutions?

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### Chapter 22 – Pages 103-105 – *The Truth Can Set You Free*

1. What happened when Pausch was approached by a police officer for speeding?
2. How did the cop respond?
3. What was the cop's dilemma when it came to Pausch?
4. What did Pausch do to convince the officer not to give him a ticket?
5. What was Pausch's reaction?

### Chapter 23 – Pages 106-111 – *I'm On My Honeymoon, If You Need Me ...*

1. Explain why Pausch left the grocery store happier to have an extra fifteen minutes than 16 dollars.
2. What truth did Pausch realize about time?
3. What was the first truth Pausch learned about time?
4. What was the second truth Pausch discovered about time?
5. What question should we be asking ourselves in regard to time? What example did he cite to prove his point?
6. On what matter did Jai consider Pausch to be "compulsive?" What response did he give to Jai?
7. What one trick kept Pausch from having to hang on the phone for long periods of time?
8. What two techniques did Pausch have for keeping unnecessary calls shorter?
9. What technique did Pausch use for annoying telemarketers?
10. What technique did he use to have a short conversation with someone at work?
11. What did Pausch say is an important skill as a professor and as a father?
12. How did Pausch handle callers who wanted to contact him on his honeymoon?
13. What did Pausch say is the one thing we all have but lessens as we age?

### Chapter 24 – Pages 112-120 – *A Recovering Jerk*

1. What is one goal Pausch wanted to achieve in terms of his students?
2. How can educators best serve students?
3. What do many people compare college tuition to?
4. What does Pausch compare it to?
5. What was the hardest thing that Pausch had to do as an educator?
6. What does Pausch think is one cause of the downward spiral in education?
7. What delivery system was used in Pausch's classroom when he taught "Building Virtual Worlds?"
8. What was Pausch's experience with one student whom others found particularly obnoxious?
9. What did Pausch say gave him the moral authority to be forthright with this particular student?
10. What did Pausch do for this particular student that helped him improve?

### Chapter 25 – Pages 117-120 - *Training a Jedi*

1. What childhood dream did Tommy Burnett, an artist and computer wiz, who wanted a job on Pausch's research team, have?
2. What response did Pausch have for him?
3. What job did Tommy want as a kid after he saw *Star Wars*?
4. What made Pausch hire a dreamer like Tommy on his team?
5. What did he learn from Pausch while working on his team?

Total: 467 questions

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6. What was the most important piece of advice that Pausch gave Tommy in terms of what he expected of those working on his team?
7. What was remarkable about Pausch's move from the University of Virginia to Carnegie Mellon in terms of his employees?
8. What happened to Tommy?
9. What is luck, according to Pausch?
10. What job did Tommy have on the three *Star Wars* films?
11. On *Star Wars* Episode II: *Attack of the Clones*, what was so cool about Tommy's job?
12. What field trip did Pausch take his students on a few years later?
13. What reputation did Pausch have as a teacher?
14. What did Tommy say when a student wanted to know how luck would help them in the movie industry in their field of computer graphics?
15. What did Pausch say was so special about that moment?

## Chapter 26 – Pages 121-125 – *They Just Blew Me Away*

1. What questions did Pausch ponder, given the fact that he was a self-described "efficiency freak?"
2. How did he apply the answer to his question?
3. What was its premise?
4. How many students and from what disciplines were the students?
5. How was the course structured?
6. What were the **two** rules Pausch established for students' virtual reality worlds?
7. How did the students perform in the course?
8. What was Pausch's dilemma?
9. Whom did he seek advice from, and what was the advice he was offered?
10. Was the advice taken? Why was Pausch given this advice?
11. What kinds of projects did Pausch's students create?
12. What happened on show-and-tell days?
13. What comment did Carnegie Mellon's president, Jared Cohon, make to Pausch?
14. What did Pausch love most about his course?
15. What way did Pausch find to crank his work up a notch?
16. What was established with the help of drama professor Don Marinelli and Pausch?
17. Why was the program so successful?
18. What happened when others found out about the program?
19. What other plans were in the works?
20. What was the greatest thing that Pausch said evolved from this endeavor?

## Chapter 27 – Pages 126-129 – *The Promised Land*

1. What is Alice and who developed her?
2. How does Alice work?
3. How much does Alice cost? How many times had she been downloaded at the time this book was written?
4. How does Alice teach student the "fake head" premise?
5. What was Walt Disney's dream for Disney World?
6. How does Disney's dream apply to Alice?
7. Who is in charge of Alice?

Total: 467 questions



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8. What was Pausch’s response when asked by a colleague, “Why is it [Alice] so much fun?”
9. How did Caitlin Kelleher expand Alice for her doctoral dissertation?
10. What is Dr. Kelleher doing now at Washington University in St. Louis?
11. How did Pausch have a better understanding of Moses and how he got to the promised land even though he wasn’t there?
12. What will millions of students learn though Alice?

### Chapter 28 – Pages 131-133 – *Dream Big*

1. What dumb decision was made by the camp directors when man first walked on the moon?
2. What response did Pausch have?
3. Who saved the day for Pausch and how?
4. What did Pausch think was wrong with using money to fight poverty?
5. What does putting men on the moon show to humankind?

### Chapter 29 – Pages 133-134 – *Earnest is Better Than Hip*

1. Why is being earnest better than being hip?
2. Why is it underestimated?
3. When Pausch thought of being earnest, what came to his mind?
4. What is the only thing a 50-year old man can put on his resume that he did as a teenager that is so impressive?
5. What did Pausch’s parents say about buying new clothes?
6. Did Pausch say he is hip or earnest?

### Chapter 30 – Pages 135-136 – *Raising the White Flag*

1. What name does Pausch’s mother call him?
2. Why did she pick this name?
3. What was his response?
4. What happened when Pausch’s mother sent letters to him?
5. Why didn’t he argue with her about his name?

### Chapter 31 – Pages 136-137 – *Let’s Make a Deal*

1. What habit did Pausch develop when he was in grad school at the dining room table?
2. What was his mother’s response?
3. What contract did he make with her?
4. What, if any, repercussions, arose as a result of his habit?
5. What did Pausch think was his mother’s hope?

### Chapter 32 – Pages 138-139 – *Don’t Complain, Just Work Harder*

1. What was Pausch’s opinion about complaining?
2. Who was one non complainer, and what was his story?
3. Who was his favorite non complainer of all time? Why?
4. What message did Pausch get from these two non complainers?

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### Chapter 33 – Pages 139-140 – *Treat the Disease, Not the Symptom*

1. What example did Pausch use to illustrate the title of this chapter?
2. What was her problem?
3. What remedy did she use?
4. What suggestion did Pausch make to her?
5. Did it help or hurt her? Explain.

### Chapter 34 – Page 141 – *Don't Obsess Over What People Think*

1. What was Pausch's idea about people who worry too much about what others think?
2. What did he tell those who worked on his research work?
3. How much more effective was Pausch's team than others?

### Chapter 35 – Page 142 -144 – *Start By Sitting Together*

1. What did Pausch think of when he had to work with others?
2. What became a bit of an obsession with Pausch each semester?
3. How did he structure his classes?
4. List and explain the seven tips Pausch suggested when working in groups.
5. How did he call the roll?
6. What "cheesy tactic" did Pausch resort to when his class member chose to sit with their friends rather than their groups?

### Chapter 36 – Page 145 – *Look for the Best in Everybody*

1. What did Pausch's friend Jon Snoddy at Disney Imagineering say about people?
2. What was Snoddy's opinion on being frustrated and angry with people?

### Chapter 37 – Page 145-146 – *Watch What They Do, Not What They Say*

1. What piece of advice did Pausch's colleague give him about men who are romantically interested in a woman?
2. How does it apply to his children?

### Chapter 38 – Pages 146-148 – *If at First You Don't Succeed ...*

1. How did Pausch feel about clichés and why?
2. Why didn't he think more educators would use them?
3. List and explain the **four** clichés that Pausch mentions.
4. What kinds of other clichés did Pausch love? Why?
5. What did Pausch's students learn from him about clichés?

### Chapter 39 – Pages 148-149 – *Be the First Penguin*

1. What did Pausch learn about experience when he took a sabbatical at Electronic Arts?
2. What did he learn about failure?
3. What was The First Penguin Award?
4. What is the basis for the title?
5. How prevalent is failure in the entertainment industry? Who do start-up companies want to hire?

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### Chapter 40 – Pages 150-151 – *Get People's Attention*

1. What was an important lesson that Pausch wanted to teach his student who had built something for others to use?
2. What did Pausch do on the first day of school in the user interface class?
3. The students had at least **three** different reactions. What were they?
4. What present did Pausch receive when he left the University of Virginia for Carnegie Mellon, and what did it say?
5. What did Pausch want his students to remember as they were creating their new technologies?

### Chapter 41 – Pages 151-153 – *The Lost Art of Thank-You Notes*

1. What is the best way that Pausch believed one could show gratitude?
2. How will this help a student in the eyes of a future boss?
3. What story did he relate about a prospective applicant who was trying to be a Disney Imaginer?

### Chapter 42 – Pages 153-156 – *Loyalty Is a Two-Way Street*

1. What is the significance of the title of this chapter?
2. Who was Dennis Cosgrove?
3. What was his academic record?
4. Why did Pausch go to bat for him?
5. What reasoning did Pausch use to keep Dennis in school?
6. What was the dean's response?
7. What did Cosgrove eventually become?
8. How are the two men connected professionally?

### Chapter 43 – Page 116 – *The Friday Night Solution*

1. How did Pausch get tenure earlier than other junior faculty members?
2. What do most people want in terms of work?
3. What did Pausch compare hard work to?
4. How does hard work apply to a marriage?

### Chapter 44 – Pages 157-158 – *Show Gratitude*

1. What was the gift that Pausch gave to his fifteen-person research team?
2. What criticism did he receive from a fellow professor?
3. What was Pausch's response?
4. What, if anything, was educational about the trip?
5. How did Pausch pay back Andy Van Dam, one of his greatest mentors?

### Chapter 45 – Page 158 – *Send Out Thin Mints*

1. What did Pausch do as an academic reviewer to solicit other professors' help in reading and reviewing numerous research proposals?
2. What did his note say to them?
3. How effective was his incentive?

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### Chapter 46 – Pages 159-161 – *All You Have Is What You Bring With You*

1. What story did Pausch relate about being prepared?
2. How much money did Pausch believe was enough to have in one's wallet to be prepared?
3. What story did Pausch tell about Norman Meyrowitz, a man who was overprepared?
4. What was Professor's Van Dam's response?
5. What is another way to be overprepared?
6. What did Pausch say his students need to take with them in the woods?

### Chapter 47 – Pages 161-163 – *A Bad Apology Is Worse Than No Apology*

1. What did Pausch think an apology is like? A bad apology?
2. What were the two descriptions he gave of a bad apology?
3. What are the **three** parts to a good apology?
4. What was his response to those who asked him what should they do if the other person wouldn't apologize?
5. What is the key to waiting for an apology?

### Chapter 48 – Pages 163-164 – *Tell the Truth*

1. What did Pausch say about honesty?
2. What is one reason people lie?
3. What is wrong with lying?
4. What did Pausch think is so amazing about lying?

### Chapter 49 – Pages 164-165 – *Get in Touch With Your Crayon Box*

1. What did Pausch love about computer science?
2. As he aged, what did he come to realize?
3. What did Pausch carry in his shirt pocket?
4. What colors were his favorite ones?
5. What was so special about this practice?

### Chapter 50 – Pages 165-168 – *The \$100,000 Salt and Pepper Shaker*

1. Where did Pausch and his sister go when he was 12 years old and his sister was 14?
2. What were the two allowed to do?
3. What happened to spoil their surprise for their parents?
4. What advice were they given by a Disney visitor?
5. How did they explain their situation, and what happened afterwards?
6. How did the expert customer service in the gift shop lead to more money for the company?
7. What question did Pausch ask Disney executives after his experience?
8. What body language did they exhibit when they were asked the question?
9. What message was Pausch trying to send to the executives?
10. How did the gift yield more profits for Disney?

### Chapter 51 – Pages 168-171 – *No Job Is Beneath You*

1. What was one problem that Pausch saw among today's youth when job junting?
2. What was his advice to them?
3. What negative comment did Pausch hear from companies about the ETC interns that

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were working in their first job?

4. What comment did Pausch make to his father when he was 15 and worked in an orchard hoeing strawberries with day laborers and some teachers?
5. What was his dad's response?
6. What did Pausch do as a result of his father's comments?

### Chapter 52 – Pages 170-171 – *Know Where You Are*

1. What kind of attitude did a 27-year Imagineer have about Pausch when he was serving his sabbatical at Disney?
2. How did Pausch feel about Haley's attitude?
3. What had Pausch failed to consider when he left academia for the entertainment industry?
4. What project was he working on at Disney World?
5. What kinds of questions did he ask guests in his interviews with them?
6. What complaints did Pausch's colleagues have against him?
7. How did he gain their respect?
8. What point was Pausch trying to make about this experience?
9. At the end of Pausch's sabbatical, what happened?
10. How did Pausch keep his connection between the two worlds of academia and entertainment?

### Chapter 53 – Pages 171-174 – *Never Give Up*

1. What did Pausch plan to do after he graduated from Brown University?
2. What advice did his "Dutch uncle" give him?
3. When Pausch questioned his words, what response did Andy Van Dam give him?
4. What happened when Pausch applied at Carnegie Mellon as a graduate student in spite of a recommendation letter from his "Dutch uncle?"
5. When he approached Van Dam about it, what did his "Dutch uncle" offer to do for him?
6. What deal did he make with Van Dam?
7. What happened after his search to get in other schools?
8. What did Van Dam do for Pausch?
9. What was Nico Habermann's attitude toward Pausch?
10. How did Pausch redeem himself?
11. What did Pausch reveal about that particular incident?
12. What was the moral of his story?

### Chapter 54 – 175-176 – *Be a Communitarian*

1. What did Pausch find has been lost on today's students in his 20 years as a professor?
2. What lesson did Pausch want to teach his students when he asked them to sign an agreement to do certain things in his class?
3. What story did Pausch relate when his dad was a Little League Commissioner trying to get volunteer umpires?
4. What was the overall lesson Pausch learned from this?

### Chapter 55 – Pages 177-178 – *All You Have To Do Is Ask*

1. What did Pausch's dad want to do at Disney World with Pausch and his son Dylan?

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2. What did Fred Brooks, Jr. say to Pausch when he wanted 30 minutes of Brooks' time?
3. What was Brooks' great achievement?
4. What is Brooks' Law?
5. Since Pausch's illness, in what did he improve?

### Chapter 56 – Pages 179-182 – *Make a Decision: Tigger or Eeyore*

1. What did Jared Cohon, President of Carnegie Mellon University, tell Pausch when he informed Pausch of his last lecture?
2. On his last Halloween on earth, how did Pausch spend the evening?
3. What happened on his last scuba diving trip with three of his best friends?
4. What did Pausch say he wanted on his tombstone?

### Chapter 57 – Pages 182-183 – *A Way to Understand Optimism*

1. What advice did Pausch's doctor give him after learning about his cancer?
2. What was Pausch's humorous response?
3. What did Dr. Zeh call Pausch?
4. What did Pausch love about being optimistic, even with incurable pancreatic cancer?

### Chapter 58 – Pages 183-188 – *The Input of Others*

1. What happened as a result of Pausch's lecture on the Internet?
2. What did Pausch say to show that some things never change?
3. What advice did a stranger give to Jai, Pausch's wife?
4. What was Krishnamurti's (a spiritual leader in India who died in 1986) advice to a friend who was dying?
5. What advice did Diane Sawyer give Pausch after the cameras were turned off after she interviewed him?
6. What did Pausch doubt most in his life?
7. What advice did Pausch's minister give him?
8. What questions did his minister ask about Pausch's preparation for death?
9. How did Pausch's minister say he [Pausch] could cover the premiums on his emotional insurance?
10. How was Pausch's overall feeling about his ride toward death?

### Chapter 59 – Pages 191-198 – *Dreams For My Children*

1. What did Pausch grieve for more than his death?
2. What did Pausch and Dylan do on their mini vacation?
3. What did he, Jai, and Logan do for their adventure?
4. What did Pausch want Chloe to know about him?
5. Pausch said that Jai was modest. What wouldn't she tell their children about him?
6. What memories filled Pausch's head about Dylan?
7. What will Pausch remember about Logan?
8. What will Pausch remember about Chloe?
9. How was Pausch reinforcing the bonds he had with his children? (three ways)
10. What dreams did he have for his children?

## THE LAST LECTURE – STUDY QUESTIONS

### Chapter 60 – Pages 199-203 -- *Jai and Me*

1. What surprising thing did Pausch do during his lecture?
2. What **five** things did he and Jai discuss as they focused on what life would be like for her after his death?
3. What did Pausch and Jai discuss about her remarrying?
4. What did Jai give Pausch for his 47<sup>th</sup> birthday?
5. After Jai approached the stage, what did she whisper to him?

### Chapter 61 – Pages 204-206 – *The Dream Will Come to You*

1. What did Pausch worry about when he got to the final lines of his speech?
2. What was his contingency plan?
3. How did he feel physically about being on the stage for so long in front of 400 people?
4. What did Pausch gain by having advance notice of his death?
5. What was the real reason Pausch gave his last lecture?
6. What did Pausch say his final speech was about?
7. Why was the audience surprised?
8. What did the last slide contain?