

Searching for the answers to life, the universe, and everything? Well look no further...

The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy

By Douglas Adams

Published by Serious Productions

© 1976

A Sci-fi thriller

Page Count: 216

Your Guide to Survival

By AT

Planning on taking a quick stop by Ursa Minor? Just don't forget the number one rule of thumb when traveling across the galaxy: Always bring a blanket. Tips like these are shared periodically throughout *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, by Douglas Adams. In it, the deepest questions of the universe will at last be answered. The protagonist, Arthur Dent, is the sole survivor of planet Earth since it was destroyed for the means of making an intergalactic highway. Dent finds himself aboard a spaceship with Ford Prefect, his quirky best friend. Together they make their way across the galaxy through a series of highly improbable coincidences: stumbling upon the president of the galaxy, surviving in the vacuum of space, and finding the legendary planet of Magrathea. The novel's plot revolves around what happens to this unlikely crew as they are the first beings in five million years to reach Magrathea. This concept of life outside of Earth and traveling through great distances of space is what will likely keep the reader reading.

In the beginning this world renowned book pulls readers in through Adams unique tone including multiple hilarious scenes that will leave one laughing out loud. The book is comprised of twenty-two chapters, each short in length making the book a quick and easy read. It also has many elements that many teenagers enjoy including humor while maintaining a thought-provoking plot line.

The strong suit of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* is definitely its extensive creativity. Within the book there is another book entitled *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, where one will find descriptions of creatures and places throughout the galaxy. Some of its excerpts being literally out of this world! Who could have thought of its description of the Babble Fish: "it feeds on brainwave energy received not from its carrier but from those around it. It absorbs all unconscious mental frequencies from this brainwave energy to nourish itself." These overly complex ideas put a comic spin on the plot which is another strength. However straying from the plot to explain something can often make readers confused. This drift from the plot resulted in a very disorganized composite of certain scenes in the book. Adams may have chose to include this skipping around to lighten up the more serious parts of the book and remind the reader that it is a comic novel. In other words those looking for an uplifting and humorous book about life's greatest mysteries will surely find *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* very entertaining. After reading this, one can not help but ponder the very insignificance that our whole planet really has.

Douglas Adams' other books exhibit his passion for science fiction, specifically the larger world that exists outside of Earth. *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* was adapted into a mini TV series, and a full length feature film, in 2005. Adams has a series of follow up books entitled *The Restaurant at the End of the Universe*, *Life the Universe and Everything*, *So Long, and Thanks for all the Fish*, and many others. These novels include many jokes originating from *The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy*. Adams' career of wild success spun off of this one ground breaking novel, a truly remarkable feat. Unfortunately his career came to an abrupt end when he died at the age of forty-nine in 2001. His legacy lives on through this, and many other captivating books that will leave one wondering whether or not we are indeed alone in the universe.