

Ready Player One Discussion Guide

By Sam Sessa

Participant Guide

QUESTIONS PRESENTED CHRONOLOGICALLY

(hr:min:sec)

(0:00:35—0:21:50)

- How does the OASIS (the virtual reality system) distract people from their lives?

Wade says about the OASIS, "People come to the OASIS for all the things they can do, but they stay for all the things they can be."

- What does this say about identity?
- What are some good aspects of how you can change your identity in the OASIS? What are some downsides?
- What are some of the ways that the film portrays negative aspects of living a virtual life?

(0:28:27—0:29:27)

- IOI is depicted as a faceless, evil corporation that is only concerned with making money. How many large companies do you think are like that in real life?

(0:40:30—0:42:06)

- How does Wade's attraction to Art3mis change his relationship with Aech? Do you agree with what he is doing and how he handled it?

(0:59:40—1:02:28)

- How does being physically present change the way Art3mis and Wade interact?

(1:02:36—1:11:55)

- Halliday regretted missing out on a chance of a relationship with Kira. How does the second challenge warn others against his mistake?

(1:56:54—1:59:06)

In the final test, Halliday gives Wade the opportunity to be the sole proprietor of the OASIS. Wade realizes that the contract is a test and refuses to sign. Halliday's biggest regret was pushing Ogden Morrow out of the company.

- Why would this be Halliday's biggest regret?
- Halliday's search for control isolated him from others. What are some personal examples where you have isolated others?

(1:59:07—2:04:20)

In Halliday's childhood bedroom, he tells Wade how he allowed fear to rule his life. In the ultimate payoff of the film, Halliday says:

"I created the Oasis because I never felt at home in the real world. I just didn't know how to connect with the people there. I was afraid for all my life. Right up until the day I knew my life was ending. Now, that...that was when I realized that, as terrifying and painful as reality can be, it's also the only place you can get a decent meal. Because reality is real. Do you understand what I am saying?"

- He asks Wade, "Do you understand what I am saying?" What is Halliday saying?
- How can fear of reality cause us to live in illusion?

QUESTIONS PRESENTED THEMATICALLY

Virtual Reality vs. Reality

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