

I ♥ Huckabees Study Guide

Some hints:

- Be prepared for some very wacky humor—it's supposed to be weird (who's normal anyway?)
- Listen very closely (and learn everyone's names)
- Look for visual and linguistic metaphors.
- Stay awake
- Take notes
- Think!

Tie *Grendel* and *I ♥ Huckabees* into your answers whenever possible

1. How does isolation and despair drive one to seek out meaning?
2. Sketch a two sentence description for how each is when we first meet them: Albert, Tommy, Brad, Dawn, Caterine, and the Jaffes.
3. How are the characters all limited, conflicted, contradictory, or delusional?
4. Why might one give up on the search for meaning?
5. Where is religion in all of this? Isn't it a source for meaning, too?
6. How does ego and self-centeredness contribute to our problems?
7. What do people gain when they give up the search for meaning? What do they lose?
8. How is our "unthinking" culture criticized? Is it ok to be "unthinking"?
9. Return to Q2 and now write a two sentence sketch for how each character changed, or did not change through his or her interaction with the "Existential Detectives."
10. The movie has a really hard time tying things together, even though Bernard insists that everything is connected. How does Albert or anyone begin to rise out of the mess to find some peace and meaning out of the chaos of life?
11. Bonus: Did you catch the visual Thoreau reference? Where?

Due: Tuesday, 6/12.

100 points (10 each!)