

The Art of Racing in the Rain Study Guide

The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein

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Contents

The Art of Racing in the Rain Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	3
Chapters 1 - 7 (Pages 1 - 37).....	4
Chapters 8 - 14 (Pages 38 - 83).....	7
Chapters 15 - 21 (Pages 84 - 112).....	10
Chapters 22 - 28 (Pages 111 - 165).....	13
Chapters 29 - 35 (Pages 166 - 206).....	17
Chapters 36 - 42 (Pages 207 - 242).....	20
Chapters 43 - 49.....	24
Chapters 50 - 55.....	26
Chapters 56 -.....	28
Characters.....	30
Objects/Places.....	34
Themes.....	36
Style.....	38
Quotes.....	41
Topics for Discussion.....	43

Plot Summary

The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein is an unusual novel for more than one reason. What makes the novel unique is that the narrator is a dog named Enzo. It just so happens that Enzo is extremely intelligent and perceptive. In fact, Enzo's thought processes are very much like those of his owner, Denny Swift. Denny Swift is an aspiring race car driver whose dreams of Formula One glory consume all of Denny's energy and focus. Denny and Enzo are best friends from the moment Denny brings Enzo home from the puppy farm in Spangle, Washington until the last few seconds of Enzo's life. The novel is a love story, a story of speed and emotion, change and acceptance - all told through the eyes of a very astute canine.

The novel begins at the end of Enzo's life. He is looking back at some of the most critical moments of his existence as a dog and philosophizing about what he has learned on his journey so far. Enzo is old and ill but his spirits are buoyed by the lovely memories he has collected along the way. And even though he is accepting that his time is near, Enzo is nonetheless disappointed that he cannot take his memories into the next life with him. Enzo is convinced that he will be reincarnated as a man, with thumbs. Being a man is Enzo's ultimate dream and there is nothing more important to Enzo than leaving this life and beginning the next life as smoothly and as soon as possible.

Enzo narration of the story of their lives features several philosophical monologues in which Enzo uses racing as a metaphor for life. Enzo has learned everything he knows from Denny Swift. Denny hopes to be a champion Formula One someday and Enzo shares this dream.

One of the most valuable skills that a race driver can have is the ability to win a race in the rain. Enzo loves television, especially the educational aspects of The Weather Channel. Enzo thinks deeply about the world and his understanding of the truly important aspects of life makes his point of view both refreshing and illuminating.

Enzo and Denny are a family until Denny marries Eve and baby Zoë is born. Enzo comes to enjoy his role as protector and confidant to the little family until Eve suddenly becomes ill. Enzo watches as Denny's entire world is turned upside down and he stands to lose everything. Through everything that happens to Denny and his family, Enzo is the observant witness who shares his perspective with the reader while telling the story of his journey with his best friend.



Chapters 1 - 7 (Pages 1 - 37)

Chapters 1 - 7 (Pages 1 - 37) Summary

The Art of Racing in the Rain is the story of love and redemption for a dog. Enzo, a yellow Labrador, narrates the story of his life and times with Denny Swift, an aspiring race car driver. Enzo is not like other dogs: he thinks deeply, watches television, and philosophizes about life, death, and everything in between.

Enzo narrates the first chapter and the majority of the chapters in the novel. Enzo is old and his health is steadily failing. Enzo also knows that in his next incarnation, he will come back as a man. The only thing concerning Enzo is that he will not carry his most cherished memories into his next life. He is trying to imprint his soul with the moments he has spent loving his family and loving his life as a dog.

Enzo's favorite race of all time is the 1993 Grand Prix of Europe, won by Ayrton Senna. Enzo enjoys watching television.

In Chapter 2, Enzo describes the day Denny chooses him from the puppy farm in Spangle. Enzo dislikes the man who sells him to Denny. The man does whatever he can to get more money out of the prospective buyers. The man says that Enzo is the pick of the litter.

In Chapter 3, Enzo says that he has always loved watching race videos with Denny. While they watch, Denny gives Enzo instructions and pointers. Denny tells Enzo that "balance, anticipation and patience" are vital if one is going to be a successful race car driver (p. 13).

Enzo discusses the intelligence level of several other breeds. Claiming that "shepherds and poodles aren't especially smart," Enzo would like to believe he might be part terrier, because Enzo admires terriers for their toughness and brash attitude (p. 10).

In Chapter 4, Enzo remembers a time when he was just under a year old. Enzo and Denny were beginning to form a trusting bond when Denny meets Eve. Eve's arrival in Denny's life is a shock to Enzo and he resents Eve. Enzo feels that he is in competition with Eve for Denny's attention and affection. Enzo thinks Denny is moving too fast in his relationship with Eve.

In Chapter 5, Enzo claims that dogs are much more intelligent than monkeys and chimpanzees. This being so, Enzo goes on to say that this simple fact proves two things: (1) that dogs deserve to have thumbs and (2) that dogs are more closely related to human beings than chimps.

Enzo confesses to watching much too much television even after a warning from Denny. Enzo enjoys NASCAR as well as Formula One racing. On the other hand, Enzo also



likes educational programming. Enzo claims that a selective breeding conspiracy among humans is ultimately the reason that dogs do not have thumbs.

In Chapter 6, Denny and Eve are married. Unlike Enzo, Eve smells nice, bathes often, and gives Denny lists of things to complete and very special rewards. Enzo talks at length about Eve's pregnancy. Enzo admits to feeling more compassion for Eve during her pregnancy and after Zoë is born.

Enzo becomes Eve's confidant and he knows that Eve will be relying on him more, now that they are a family. Enzo feels obligated to protect Denny, Eve and baby Zoë. He welcomes the opportunity to contribute to their lives in some way. Enzo is less than happy that Eve's parents, Maxwell and Trish, have decided to help with the baby for awhile.

Denny returns home from a race in Daytona. Denny's team lost the race because another of the drivers on his team wrecked the expensive race car.

In Chapter 7, Enzo recalls that Denny had a good deal more free time and money before becoming a responsible family man. Denny made lots of money at one time, but he was forced to find something steady and predictable in order to have time to help with Zoë.

Enzo loves being a part of the happy little family and the first few months of Zoë's life are delightful. Soon, Eve returns to work and Zoë spends the better portion of her day at daycare.

Enzo likes the Weather Channel because they talk about the world at large. Enzo lets Denny know that he would like Denny to leave the television on all the time.

When Zoë turns two, Denny and Eve move the family into a house with a backyard. Enzo is amazed that Zoë is growing up so quickly. Enzo is three years old at this time. Enzo admits knowing that Eve was going to die before anyone else knows.

Chapters 1 - 7 (Pages 1 - 37) Analysis

These early chapters lay the narrative foundation for what follows in the novel. Enzo the narrator and main protagonist is introduced as are Denny, Eve, and Zoë Swift. Denny and Enzo enjoy a close relationship and Enzo is satisfied with things the way they are. It is well-established that Enzo is intelligent and curious about the world around him. This particular narrative adds to the existing body of work which encourages the study of animal intelligence and acuity. Enzo's brain and interests are no different from those of Denny's other friends and human beings in general.

The narrative begins with the revelation that Enzo is looking back on his past. This means that the narrative proper is circular in structure. That is to say, the story begins and ends at the close of Enzo's life. Facts cannot be changed when memories are the



primary source of information. However, memories are not always completely accurate. The assumption here is that in Enzo's case everything happens as he recounts.

Denny treats Enzo very much like a human being and it is only reasonable that Enzo would have the same emotions and observations as a human being. The narrative contends that there is more going on inside an animal's mind than humans will ever know.

Humor is thread throughout the narrative. This device serves to lighten the more prevalent themes in the narrative. In addition, the funny moments that Enzo mentions are indicators that the character truly enjoyed his life as a dog and did not spend excess time or energy wishing it could be otherwise. It is interesting that Enzo believes in reincarnation. His certainty that he will be reincarnated as a man is impressive. Enzo's feelings on reincarnation provide a foreshadowing of what occurs in the epilogue, "Imola, Italy" which follows the final chapter of the novel.

These early chapters also offer a glimpse of the breadth of Enzo's knowledge of the world. It is worth noting that Enzo's primary source of educational material is television. However, like any other being, Enzo eventually finds it necessary to monitor his viewing hours.

Maxwell and Trish, Eve's parents, are also introduced in the early chapters on the novel. Maxwell and Trish function, for all intents and purposes, as one person. Together, they represent a parental stereotype which has more than one layer. Trish and Maxwell are white, upper-middle class people who have been married for a number of years. Enzo observes that they look alike because they dress alike. They are narrow-minded and status conscious. Their desire to help with baby Zoë in Chapter 6 foreshadows their increased involvement in Zoë's life subsequently in the narrative.

The theme of Death is introduced into the narrative fairly quickly and Enzo's claim in Chapter 7 that he could smell death on Eve Swift plays into theories that animals are especially sensitive to impending death in humans.



Chapters 8 - 14 (Pages 38 - 83)

Chapters 8 - 14 (Pages 38 - 83) Summary

In Chapter 8, Enzo recounts the happenings of a particular "summer Saturday afternoon" (p. 38). Enzo, Denny, and Eve watch a video of one of Denny's long races. This race was eight hours long and Denny was to drive for two hours. On this day, Denny once again reminds Enzo that a race car driver has to make friends with the rain.

Enzo decides to manifest a closer relationship with Eve. Eve lets her guard down and pets Enzo until he rolls over onto his back, exposing his belly. Enzo refers to Eve as his "rain" (p. 44). To Enzo, Eve represents the changeability of circumstance.

In Chapter 9, Enzo talks about one of the best times ever. Conversely, it is also one of the worst times ever.

Denny is scouted by a prestigious racing team after participating in an expensive Formula Renault testing program in France. When Denny next races at Watkins Glen, Eve wakes up vomiting violently. Enzo says, "She vomited as if she were turning herself inside out" (47). Eve takes Zoë and leaves the house in a great hurry, leaving Enzo behind, alone.

In Chapter 10, Enzo explains the finesse and consciousness necessary to handle a car that is entering a spin. In the end, Enzo is optimistic about a confident driver's ability to resolve the situation, however precarious.

In Chapter 11, Enzo is locked in the house for three days. He decides not to panic. Enzo is not afraid of starving as his constitution is capable of going without food for up to three days. Not being able to let himself out to relieve himself, Enzo goes to the bathroom on the mat in front of the door.

After nearly three days have passed, Enzo begins to hallucinate. Convinced that Zoë's stuffed zebra is evil and must be stopped, Enzo tears the zebra, and most of Zoë's other stuffed animals, to shreds. When Denny finally returns home, he steps right into Enzo's impromptu toilet. When Eve finally returns, she and Denny have an argument about Enzo.

In Chapter 12, Enzo talks about the darkness of Eve's mysterious, volatile condition. Eve's behavior affects the entire family and Denny and Enzo become increasingly more concerned about Eve's physical and emotional breaking down.

Eve becomes ill and Denny takes over running the household and caring for Zoë as well as working his full-time job. Enzo becomes Eve's primary source of comfort and affection. When Denny takes care of the cooking, cleaning and child-rearing, Enzo takes care of Eve.



Eve tells Enzo that she feels as though something is pursuing her. Enzo believes it is Eve's personal demon. Enzo knows that all creatures have things against which they struggle internally.

In Chapter 13, Enzo talks about his vehement dislike of crows. He calls the crows "scum" (p. 69).

One day, Enzo watches the crows watching Eve unload the groceries from the car. The crows wait patiently, silently, for Eve to slip up and forget a bag of delicious food which they will gladly devour. Finally, Eve finishes her talk and goes upstairs to take a bath. Enzo notices that a bag has, indeed, been left behind. He then recalls the birds' reaction to having ripped into a bag containing his feces. Enzo fairly gloats while telling what he saw that day. Enzo's nightmares always feature angry crows.

Enzo comes to the realization that Denny had been preparing to race all along. Enzo claims the signs had been right in front of him the whole time. First of all, Denny had been playing racing video games almost constantly. Next, Denny was on a very strict diet; no alcohol, no sugar, and no fried food. Denny was definitely in training, but for what?

One morning, Denny's things are packed and he is saying goodbye to the family. Enzo feels hurt and surprised. Denny did not mention this trip to Enzo. Before he walks out the door, however, Denny tells Enzo where he is going and Enzo manages to forgive Denny.

And while Eve, Enzo and Zoë manage to live through Denny's absences just fine, Denny returns home from each race frustrated with his pit crew.

Denny and Eve have an argument after dinner one evening. Zoë is refusing to eat and Eve is upset with the girl. Enzo discovers that Zoë's chicken nuggets are rancid and that this is the reason she refused to eat.

Chapters 8 - 14 (Pages 38 - 83) Analysis

In these chapters, the narrative arc is carried forward by Eve's mysterious bouts of illness. Also, the concept for which the novel is named is introduced in Chapter 8 when Denny talks to Enzo about racing in the rain. The analogy is apropos in Enzo's situation, given the difficulty of his relationship with Eve. It is also worth noting that at this same point Enzo decides that he still wants a deeper kind of friendship with Eve. Enzo looks upon the relationship with Eve as a training ground, something which will challenge and strengthen him simultaneously.

Eve's sudden illness in Chapter 9 jolts the narrative in another direction. Things are no longer simple for any of the characters. Eve becomes a multi-dimensional character in that the illness provides the motivation for the character to learn and grow.



The episode in which Enzo spends three days alone in the house shows that regardless of Enzo's ability to articulate his astute philosophical meanderings, he is still a dog, without thumbs. Enzo's decision to stay upbeat shows that the character is particularly evolved. It is not until he begins to hallucinate that Enzo once again becomes aware of his canine shortcomings. When he cannot stop himself from destroying the stuffed animals, the shame Enzo experiences is as a result of his inability to fight what is his true nature.

In Chapter 12, Eve becomes the narrative's identified patient. That is to say, the characters in the narrative will all turn their focus, for a time, to Eve. As Denny's wife and the mother of his child, Eve is the center of his life. At this point, she is also the center of the story.

When Eve tells Enzo about being pursued in the same chapter, it becomes clear that Eve's relationship with Enzo has become one of confessor and penitent. Eve's fear of being caught by the demon mirrors her fear of dying. Eve is not ready to die at this point, but it is unclear whether she is willing to embrace her sickness and move forward.

Enzo's dreams about the angry crows prove that all creatures have their personal demons. The crows represent the lower elements of life, those dark things which exist in every psyche but which many try to outrun - often unsuccessfully. The crows also represent the part of the self which is concerned only with its own advancement, often to its own detriment.

Denny's disappointment is balanced out by Eve's condition. The rancid chicken nuggets are an indicator that Eve is not functioning well as a parent. This episode foreshadows the worsening of Eve's condition and her eventual demise. It also provides a mirror for what happens in Chapter 39 at Trish and Maxwell's house.



Chapters 15 - 21 (Pages 84 - 112)

Chapters 15 - 21 (Pages 84 - 112) Summary

The next time Denny goes out of town in Chapter 15, Eve, Zoë and Enzo spend some time at Eve's parents' home. Enzo calls Eve's parents, Maxwell and Trish, "the twins" because of their tendency to dress alike (85). Maxwell thinks Eve is too good for Denny. Eve tells Maxwell that she loves Denny no matter what anyone thinks.

In Chapter 16, Denny's career stabilizes, almost ensuring him a spot as rookie of the year. However, after an unfortunate dead-last finish, Denny is feeling uncertain of his future as a professional driver.

Eve begins feeling better. She is exercising regularly and eating well. Eve still complains that Denny goes out of town too often. They seem closer as a couple, though, and Enzo is satisfied with the way things are progressing.

Important people from the racing world begin visiting Denny at home. When Denny suggests that Eve and Zoë go on the road with him, Eve politely declines. The noise and chaos of the race track, along with Eve's anxiety about Denny's safety, would probably force her over the edge again; a fact both Denny and Enzo understand.

In Chapter 17, Enzo tells the story of the Slippery Slabs at Denny Creek.

Enzo says he loves the smell of the forest. He admits being able to enjoy smells on a much more profound level than Denny and other human beings. To Enzo, the forest is beautifully dichotomous. He can simultaneously smell birth and death, fertility and decay.

On the day of the Slippery Slabs, Denny and Eve monitor Zoë as she slides down the slick rocks, splashing and squealing the entire time. Things soon become dark again when Eve slips on the rocks and hits her head. Fearing that Eve might have a concussion, Denny rushes her to the nearest hospital.

In Chapter 18, Enzo says that he is ready to pass into the next life. He recounts something he learned from watching television. On the National Geographic Channel, Enzo learns that not all dogs are reincarnated as human beings. Only those dogs that are deemed ready are permitted to come back as people. There is no doubt in Enzo's mind that it is his destiny to come back as a man. Enzo is definitely ready.

Doctors find a mass on Eve's brain and decide to operate in Chapter 19. Zoë is sent to stay with Maxwell and Trish while Enzo stays with Denny's friends Mike and Tony. Tony inadvertently washes Enzo's favorite toy and at first Enzo is insulted. After smelling his nice clean toy, though, Enzo unashamedly admits that he prefers it to a smelly, dirty one. Enzo sees this new perspective as a hopeful sign of better things to come for his family.



In Chapter 20, Eve receives a less-than-positive diagnosis. Without Eve, Denny and Zoë's lives become extremely regimented. Denny follows a strict schedule that lacks lightness but is long on efficiency. Life without Eve runs like a well-oiled machine. Enzo misses Eve as well.

Enzo notices that he and Denny have grown apart. When Zoë goes to Maxwell and Trish's for a weekend, Denny and Enzo go to the dog park and they watch racing tapes and movies. And while these are things Enzo loves, spending one-on-one time with Denny just feels awkward to Enzo. When Denny returns from visiting Eve, he tells Enzo that she is going to be just fine.

In Chapter 21, Enzo remembers an especially glorious day when he wore Zoë's butterfly wings and Zoë put on her ballet costume. Enzo says, "We danced and laughed and ran and pretended to be angels" (p. 111).

Enzo believes that Maxwell and Trish are preparing Zoë for Eve's demise.

Chapters 15 - 21 (Pages 84 - 112) Analysis

The events in Chapter 15 lay the groundwork for the eventual showdown between Denny and Eve's parents. Here, Eve chooses her husband over her parents, which does not please Trish and Maxwell. Eve's choice also contradicts Maxwell and Trish's subsequent claims that Eve gave them her blessing to seek full custody of Zoë. Eve's improving health smooths over the tension she and Denny are experiencing in their marriage. Denny's invitation to race corresponds with the short-lived improvement in Eve's condition.

Enzo's observations on being in the forest tie in with the narrative's overarching themes. Enzo's experience of being able to smell life in all its stages reinforces the circular, cyclical nature of the story being told. Life happens in seasons, intervals, hours and laps on a race course. Enzo sees it all as one system and he can appreciate each one.

When Eve Swift falls at Denny Creek, the narrative undergoes another metamorphosis and things are further complicated for everyone involved.

The unpredictability of Denny's professional racing career is further reinforced by the events in Chapter 16. Denny doubts himself at this point, but he has not come to a decision to stop racing.

Enzo's declaration that he is ready to come back as a man alerts the reader that at some point in the narrative, this character is going to pass on. Enzo's attitude is hopeful and refreshing.

Whereas Enzo begins to welcome his own death, Eve goes further and further into illness. In Chapter 20, Eve begins the process of slipping away. This once again positions Enzo as Denny's confidant and close friend, even though everyone misses



Eve. The distance between the two characters that results from Eve's hospitalization becomes a point which must be resolved before Enzo dies.

Zoë's trip to her grandparents' house is the first of many such visits. Mike and Tony, friends of Denny's, are introduced into the narrative in Chapter 19. Mike and Tony are part of Enzo's family.

Enzo's memory of dancing and laughing with Zoë is an example of one of the episodes Enzo longs to imprint onto his memory. The character tries to absorb his memories, thereby increasing the possibility that the memories might accompany Enzo to the next life - his life as a man.



Chapters 22 - 28 (Pages 111 - 165)

Chapters 22 - 28 (Pages 111 - 165) Summary

Zoë's first day of Kindergarten is an eye-opener for Denny and Enzo in Chapter 22. Zoë picks out her own clothes and she gets herself ready to go to school. Zoë insists on Denny kissing her goodbye before the school bus arrives. Zoë tells her rather that she does not want her best friend Jessie to see her kissing her dad. Denny does as his daughter asks, and then marvels at how fast children grow up.

In Chapter 23, Maxwell and Trish convince Denny to allow them to take Eve into their home for her convalescence. They claim that the doctor has given Eve between six and eight months to live and they want to spend as much time with their daughter as possible. Denny hesitates at first but he eventually gives in.

Eve moves in the Maxwell and Trish and the family gathers together on her first day home from the hospital. Eve is even thinner than before. Her head is shaved and her eyes and cheeks are sunken. Enzo almost does not recognize Eve.

Next, Trish and Maxwell tell Denny that they would like Zoë to come and stay with them as well. They inform Denny that Zoë could be closer to Eve this way and that Eve misses her daughter terribly. Denny feels guilty for allowing Zoë to stay with Maxwell and Trish but Zoë assures Denny that she knows the situation is only temporary. Eve then tells Denny that she would like Enzo to stay with her as well.

The nurse who is hired to care for Eve puts Enzo in the garage one night. Eve promptly fires the nurse after rescuing Enzo and Enzo guards Eve as part of his promise to keep Eve's demon at bay for just one night.

Enzo lists his favorite movie actors in order. They are: Steve McQueen, Al Pacino, Paul Newman, George Clooney, and Dustin Hoffman.

Enzo and Denny become accustomed to living on their own again. Zoë comes to stay with them quite a bit and they all enjoy their sleepovers. Maxwell and Trish try to talk Denny into transferring Zoë to a school that is closer to their home. They claim that the commute to and from Zoë's neighborhood school is something of a hardship. When Maxwell even offers to pay Zoë's tuition to an upscale private school, Denny flatly refuses and Eve's parents are forced to make the commute each day.

In Chapter 25, Denny takes Enzo to a ski gathering with Zoë's relatives on Eve's side. They all stay in a large cabin somewhere in the mountains. Enzo is rather unimpressed with the relatives. He thinks they all smell bad. After three days, Denny is ready to leave. One of Eve's cousin, a 15 year-old girl named Annika, has made it abundantly clear (at least to Enzo) that she is romantically interest in Denny. Denny, however, is immune to Annika's machinations.



Despite severe weather warnings, Denny decides to make the five-hour drive to Seattle sooner rather than later. Annika, believing that time alone with Denny is just what she needs, invites herself along.

With the ice and snow, a drive which ordinarily takes five hours stretches to ten and by the time Denny, Annika, Enzo and Zoë make it to their house in Seattle, everyone is exhausted. Annika calls her father to say that she will stay the night at Denny's house.

Annika takes advantage of Denny because he is too tired to fight off her advances. When Denny realizes what has happened, he scolds Annika and tells her that she has the wrong idea. He reminds Annika that it is illegal for a man his age to be involved with an underage girl. Annika becomes upset and tells Denny that she loves him and wants to be with him even though he is married to Eve. Shortly thereafter, Annika phones her father again and asks him to pick her up that night.

With Eve still at Maxwell and Trish's house and Zoë spending entirely too much time away from her father and Enzo, life settles into a different kind of rhythm in Chapter 26. Denny takes Enzo on his first road trip!

After receiving a job offer from a driving school, Enzo and Denny head for California. Once they reach their destination, Denny takes Enzo to the race track for a jog. Running on a track before driving it is one of Denny's habits. Denny says that by running on a track, he can better familiarize himself with the track's subtleties. On foot, it is possible to learn more about the track than while speeding along in a car at over one hundred miles per hour.

Enzo enjoys the run, but Denny has an even better surprise in store for him. Denny then takes Enzo for his first hot lap. A hot lap is a lap driven at regular speed on a racecourse. Denny secures Enzo to the passenger seat by wrapping a sheet around him. Denny tells Enzo to bark once for slower and twice for faster. Enzo barks twice several different times. The ride is exhilarating and not Enzo fully understands Denny's love of the sport.

Enzo and Denny go to Maxwell and Trish's house for a family celebration eight months after Eve's brain cancer is diagnosed. Enzo makes an effort to play with Zoë but she tells him that it is now time for her to behave like a grown-up. Playing fetch the sock ball with Enzo, Zoë says, is a game for babies. Enzo is deeply disappointed that Zoë has lost so much of her joy at such a young age. Enzo still believes that Zoë is internalizing what her grandparents tell her about life.

Eve comes to the party looking absolutely divine. Enzo says there is a glow about her. Eve tells everyone that this is the first day she does not feel dead. She beams upon entering the room and everyone seems to enjoy the time they all spend together. Later, Denny helps Zoë with her bath and Enzo sits with Eve.

Eve tells Enzo that she is no longer afraid of her illness. She goes on to say that she no longer feels the need to be protected by Enzo; Eve can now accept her situation and



she is set free by her acceptance. Eve lives as though each day "had been stolen from death" (160).

That night Enzo does not sleep. Instead, he dreams of Eve's soul leaving her body.

Eve passes away in the night.

In Chapter 28, Denny takes Enzo for a long, long walk. Shortly after arriving at Luther Burbank Park, Denny receives a phone call. When Denny tells Enzo that Eve has died, Enzo runs blindly away from Denny. Enzo thinks that he cannot possibly ever become a human. He runs through the bushes, twigs, and vines. Finally Enzo sees a squirrel helping itself to a discarded bag of Fritos. The squirrel is in the wrong place at the wrong time. Enzo gives in to his instincts. He hunts down the squirrel because it is the only way Enzo can let out his feelings of anger, hopelessness, and disappointment. Denny finds Enzo sometime later, covered in blood, asleep in the bushes.

On the way home in the car, Enzo sleeps and dreams about the crows. In this dream, Enzo does more than watch the crows. In this dream, Enzo catches and kills the crows.

Chapters 22 - 28 (Pages 111 - 165) Analysis

The passage of time is shown in Chapter 22 with Zoë's first day of school. She is a mirror of her mother; independent and wanting to appear more mature. Enzo and Eve are faced with issues surrounding their own mortality.

When Maxwell and Trish take Eve into their home after her hospital stay, the plot progresses significantly. When they subsequently take Zoë into their home on the pretense of having her near Eve, things are set in motion which contribute to the narrative climax. Zoë's last eight months prove to be significant. This signals the reader that the character will be faced with more challenges in the coming chapters.

Eve's request to let Enzo stay with her at Trish and Maxwell's house is evidence of a closer bond between these two characters. At this point in the narrative, Trish and Maxwell have managed to alienate Denny from the most important people in his life.

Enzo's discussion of his favorite film actors is another humorous departure from the main narrative.

Zoë becomes a visitor in her father's house. Maxwell and Trish seem to be winning. Eve's parents are wealthy and Denny struggles with knowing how much they could give Zoë. Denny knows, though, that Trish and Maxwell have ulterior motives besides just wanting the best for Zoë. In fact, their actions have very little to do with their granddaughter at all.

Annika, Eve's cousin, enters the narrative in Chapter 25. Annika functions as Eve's polar opposite. She is seductive and manipulative. Annika's ego causes her to betray Denny later in the narrative. Annika is one of several characters who experience a kind



of redemption in the novel. Denny's refusal to give in to Annika foreshadows a later conversation the two characters have.

Enzo's first ride in a race car is especially significant, given the character's interest in new things and racing in particular. The road trip is a sign of Denny's confidence in Enzo and their friendship.

For the first time, Enzo notices what kind of impact that Zoë's grandparents are having on the young girl. Her refusal to throw the sock ball indicates a lack of joy, which Enzo finds sad and disappointing. It is also a sign that Denny's influence on his daughter is decreasing.

Eve Swift makes a significant forward leap when she admits to surrendering her fear of death. Eve knows she is dying and she has the luxury of not being concerned about death one way or the other. Her level of acceptance of the inevitable positions her as a character who understands what life is about. Eve Swift is free because she is expecting to die soon.

Enzo kills the squirrel when he is under a great amount of pressure. Intellectually, Enzo is a thinking, reasoning being. However, this episode reinforces the fact that a creature cannot go against its own nature. Once again, Enzo acts out his shame after his aggression. The dream in which Enzo catches the crows symbolizes the character overcoming his personal (perhaps self-made) obstacles. Much like Eve, Enzo has come to a point in his existence where it is no longer necessary to struggle against life at every turn. Enzo, too, has surrendered to life as it is.



Chapters 29 - 35 (Pages 166 - 206)

Chapters 29 - 35 (Pages 166 - 206) Summary

In Chapter 29, Denny and Enzo go to Maxwell and Trish's house the day Eve dies. There is a terrible sadness in the air. Enzo tries to play fetch with Zoë but she is quiet and listless so Maxwell throws the tennis ball for Enzo.

Trish and Maxwell are suing Denny for sole custody of Zoë. Maxwell claims that he and Trish discussed the matter with Eve, but Denny does not believe this. Trish and Maxwell present Denny with legal papers and suggest that Denny consult an attorney.

In Chapter 30, Enzo imparts more life philosophy disguised as racing philosophy. Enzo remarks on the importance of a smart strategy and not just a heavy accelerator foot. Denny thinks five moves ahead of his rivals. Denny's impressive racing record aside, Enzo realizes that Denny will simply have to out-think Maxwell and Trish.

In Chapter 31, Denny meets a lawyer named Mark Fein. Fein asks quite a few questions. Denny admits to hard feelings between himself and Eve's parents. Also, Denny is fully aware that Eve's parents have a great deal of money and Zoë would never want for anything again.

Mark Fein tells Denny that it will cost Denny \$8,000 to resolve the custody case in court. Denny swears that he will get the money somehow. Mark waives Denny's retainer for the moment.

In Chapter 32, Denny takes Enzo to work at the auto service center. Suddenly, two police officers enter the store looking for Denny Swift. Denny comes out to the counter and is arrested immediately. Everyone watching the scene is shocked and embarrassed. Denny is arrested for third-degree child rape. Denny is mortified.

Chapter 33 serves to set the stage for what takes place over the next three years. Enzo says that Maxwell and Trish are dragging out the legal process in hopes that Denny will simply give up. Enzo does not say how Denny is managing to keep up with his legal fees.

Enzo provides a disclaimer before continuing to tell the story. He points out that none of what he is about to say is first-hand information but Enzo assures the audience that he has watched enough "Law & Order" to be fairly conversant in legal matters.

It just so happens that two of Enzo's favorite television shows are "The Rockford Files" (with James Garner) and "Columbo" (starring Peter Falk). Enzo also goes so far as to reference two very famous courtroom dramas as being instrumental in contributing to his legal wherewithal.



Enzo says that the emotion of what he is about to say is true, although he freely admits that "the facts may be less than accurate" (p. 196).

In Chapter 34, Enzo talks about Denny's time at the police station. He sits in a small room alone with his thoughts. Enzo wonders if Denny realizes that being locked in this small room is a lot like being a dog. With no one to talk to, no one to blame, Enzo expresses his sadness over Denny's situation.

Mark Fein bails Denny out of jail and begins asking Denny about Annika, Eve's teenage cousin. Mark tells Denny that this is part of Maxwell and Trish's plan to completely discredit Denny before the custody proceedings begin.

Denny finds out that Zoë is living with Maxwell and Trish again. Denny is outraged. Mark warns Denny to stay away from Maxwell and Trish and Zoë until further notice.

In Chapter 35, Mike and Tony bring Enzo home to Denny. Denny begins drinking. Enzo barks his disapproval more than once but Denny tells Enzo not to judge him for drinking. After a short while, Denny apologizes to Enzo. Denny and Enzo watch videos of Zoë when she was just a little girl. Enzo marvels at how young and naïve they all were.

Chapters 29 - 35 (Pages 166 - 206) Analysis

The narrative arc continues to progress toward its apex with Eve Swift's death. Changes in each character are inevitable and the impact of Eve's absence is immediately noticeable in Zoë. Similarly, Denny's life changes drastically with Trish and Maxwell fighting for custody of Zoë. Eve's parents ambush Denny and their plan to destroy their son-in-law entirely goes into effect.

In Chapter 30, Enzo's use of metaphor comes into play when he considers the battle that awaits Denny, Trish and Maxwell. Denny is an expert driver, which corresponds metaphorically to the way Denny "drives" his life. If, in a race, Denny Swift is far ahead of his rivals, it follows that the same would hold true for his daily life. The stakes are even higher when considering how wealthy Eve's parents are.

Mark Fein is introduced into the narrative. He is Denny's lawyer. In the beginning of their relationship, it is clear that Fein sees advocating for Denny as a priority.

Denny's subsequent arrest adds another twist to the narrative. This thread is resolved in a later chapter. The custody battle continues three years after Eve's death. This gives perspective to the financial resources available to Maxwell and Trish. Conversely, it is also a representation of Denny Swift's level of commitment to his daughter.

When Enzo talks about Denny's time in jail, he expresses a real compassion for Denny's experience. Enzo knows what it is like to be locked in and unable to interact with anyone but himself. Denny becomes the solitary man, shut away and for a time, silent. Annika re-enters the narrative in Chapter 34.



The pendulum swings in favor of Trish and Maxwell when Zoë moves back in with her grandparents. The pressure of his life circumstance causes Denny to drink heavily for a short while. This brief lapse is forgivable in Denny's case. It does seem as though life is against him. However, this arduous period in Denny's life could prove to be an opportunity for the character to push through his difficulties or stagnate and wither. This is Denny' Swift's lowest emotional point in the novel. It stands to reason that things are bound to move in a more positive direction very soon.

In Chapter 33, Enzo admits to the possibility of his being an unreliable narrator. He freely confesses that there may be some discrepancies between his view and the actual truth, but his admittance mitigates any lies or omissions that may appear in his version of the story. This type of self-consciousness on the narrator's part signals that the narrator is aware of his own shortcomings.



Chapters 36 - 42 (Pages 207 - 242)

Chapters 36 - 42 (Pages 207 - 242) Summary

Not long after Eve's death, Denny takes Enzo for a very long walk in the drizzle in Chapter 36. Enzo notices that Denny is dressed differently than usual. He wears black slacks and a cashmere turtleneck and a black trench coat. Enzo thinks this is a nice change from Denny's typical jeans and sweatshirt combination.

Enzo runs and runs through wet, dewy grass, under a canopy of large trees. Denny keeps walking even after Enzo becomes tired. They go to another park called Interlaken. And while Enzo thinks Interlaken is one of the most beautiful places he has seen, he is nonetheless fatigued and quite thirsty.

Finally, Denny and Enzo arrive at Lake View Cemetery and Enzo understands what is happening. Enzo knows that martial arts movie star Bruce Lee is buried at Lake View. Denny and Enzo arrive at Eve's graveside before the service begins. They are met by Maxwell and Eve's two brothers. Maxwell, Trish, and the brothers all insist that Denny leave the funeral. Denny refuses to go until the tension is interrupted by Zoë.

Zoë tells Denny that it is probably best if Denny leaves. Denny cries in disbelief but promises his daughter that they will be together before long. Denny cannot stand the thought of his in-laws controlling Zoë, but for the time being there is nothing he can do.

Enzo and Denny watch the funeral from a hill nearby. When the other mourners have all gone, Denny and Enzo say a private good-bye to the lovely Eve.

Enzo is eight years old in Chapter 37. Enzo's hips have begun to bother him and he realizes that he and Eve are very much alike in their distrust of medical personnel. Enzo remembers a day when he was a puppy and still living with the breeder in Spangle. Denny takes Enzo to the vet anyway.

The doctor informs Denny that Enzo has hip dysplasia, something like arthritis. Enzo knows that hip dysplasia is painful and it can only be alleviated by expensive surgeries. Enzo knows that he will suffer a great deal before he dies.

In Chapter 38, Maxwell and Trish are granted a restraining order against Denny shortly after Denny's arrest. This means that Denny would not be allowed to see Zoë for several months. Enzo can sense that Denny is doubly grief-stricken, losing Eve and then Zoë.

On Mark Fein's suggestion, Denny tells Zoë that he will be in Europe racing for a few months and that Zoë will be staying on with her grandparents until Denny's return. Zoë and her father are permitted to exchange cards and letters. Zoë sends Denny drawings and Denny writes letters to Zoë that her grandparents are allowed to censor.



Mark Fein panics when Zoë asks to see Enzo, who is staying with Mike and Tony. Enzo begins spending Saturdays with Zoë at her grandparents' house. They run and chase, fetch and cuddle all day long. Mike then returns Enzo to Denny after the play date. Whenever Mike drops Enzo off after a day with Zoë, Denny quizzes Mike about Enzo's day. Mike tells Denny that Zoë is beautiful; she has Eve's smile. Mike does not know that Zoë is extremely lonely and that she misses Denny every day. While they play, Zoë talks to Enzo about escaping to Europe to find her father so they can all be a family again.

In Chapter 39, Denny leaves town to teach for a weekend and Enzo is allowed to stay at Maxwell and Trish's house to be with Zoë. They play happily together, enjoying each other's company dressing up or rolling in the grass. Enzo has decided to be on his best behavior. He does not want to jeopardize Denny's chances of getting Zoë back.

At bedtime, Enzo settles in for a restful night. Zoë piles her stuffed animals all around Enzo for protection. And although Enzo recognizes what a sweet gesture Zoë has made, he can see the evil replacement zebra glaring at him from atop the heap. Enzo, remembering the last time he tangled with a possessed zebra, does not get much rest.

The following day, Enzo feels rather lackluster. He overhears Maxwell and Trish talking about Denny and Zoë. Maxwell is particularly vitriolic in his condemnation of Denny. Trish, on the other hand, feels sorry for Denny, given what he has been through with Eve. Trish does not entirely believe Annika's accusation that Denny attacked her. This angers Maxwell and it becomes clear to Enzo what a heartless, manipulative pair Trish and Maxwell really are.

At dinner that evening, Trish hardly notices that Zoë barely eats a bite. When Maxwell offers Enzo another hot pepper, Enzo accepts enthusiastically, plotting revenge all the while. When Maxwell attempts to take Enzo out to relieve himself, Enzo merely stares at Maxwell while a torrent of diarrhea on the expensive rug. Enzo is pleased with himself. He knows that no evil zebra (or Maxwell) will ever try to intimidate him again.

It is September in Chapter 40, and Enzo is excited about the change of season. He is also excited on the day Denny Swift goes to court. The postponements had gone on and on until now.

Enzo looks up to see Denny return home with Zoë in tow. The three of them have a good laugh. Enzo notices that Zoë and Denny are both relaxed and he is overjoyed at the thought of all of them being together once again. Over ice cream, Zoë learns a hard lesson when Denny informs her that she will have to go back to her grandparents' house.

Mark Fein arrives to take a very sad and disheartened Zoë back to Maxwell and Trish. Denny and Enzo are equally deflated. Denny is frustrated that there is nothing he can do until after his felony trial is over. Mark Fein believes that Denny winning partial custody is still a significant step in the right direction. Denny promises Zoë that he will rectify the situation.



In Chapter 41, Enzo speaks admiringly of a famous race car driver named Luigi Chinetti. Chinetti was the winner of the 24 Hours of LeMans in 1949. Chinetti owned the first Ferrari dealership in the United States. Chinetti's customers were among the richest, most powerful people in society. Chinetti was also a shrewd businessman. His greatest asset as a driver was endurance; the ability to outlast rivals while maintaining enough speed to win the race.

In Chapter 42, Enzo reports that nothing has changed on the custody front. Zoë shuttles back and forth between Denny and her grandparents. Nevertheless, Denny is a faithful father. He is never late picking Zoë up and he always brings her home on time.

Denny takes Zoë to places that are culturally and historically relevant. They go to art museums and science exhibitions. Denny, Enzo and Zoë do their best to have as much fun as possible when they are together. One day, Denny takes Enzo and Zoë go-carting. It seems that Zoë is a naturally gifted race driver. She manages to defeat Denny without even breaking a sweat. Denny notices that Zoë has uncanny instincts and he becomes especially curious about his daughter and who she will be when she grows up. When Denny and Zoë are together, Denny is revitalized and better able to "maintain his focus" (p. 242).

The narrative's mention of the famous Italian driver Luigi Chinetti

Chapters 36 - 42 (Pages 207 - 242) Analysis

The narrative continues to build tension in the early chapters of this section. Eve has died and it seems as though Zoë has been convinced to side with Trish and Maxwell. After the funeral, Denny begins to experience real feelings of loss. Zoë feels even further away now that Eve is no longer a factor in her life, except through memory.

The reality of Enzo's age presents itself once again when he visits the vet.

Enzo revisits his hatred for stuffed zebras while he serves as Zoë's confidant when Denny is out of town for the weekend. And although it appears to Denny that his daughter has begun to disengage from him and Enzo, the opposite is true. Enzo learns that Zoë would much rather live with her father than Maxwell and Trish, but there is little either one of them can do to rectify the situation.

When Enzo overhears Eve's parents talking about the Annika and Denny situation, he learns that Trish's resolve is weakening. Trish is more emotional than her husband and her hesitation to believe Annika's story shows that she is not entirely opposed to Denny as a person. Her doubt over Annika's honesty is short-lived, though, when Trish once again falls under Maxwell's control. Trish's attitude toward Annika foreshadows what happens in Chapter 56 when the charges are dropped and Denny goes free.

The dinner scene in Chapter 39 mirrors an earlier scene. When Trish does not notice that Zoë has hardly eaten a thing, the reader is reminded of Eve's own lack of focus as



a mother. However, Eve's negligence is due to her illness. Trish's lack of attention, on the other hand, is just a matter of her personality.

Denny's attempts to give Zoë a decent cultural education inadvertently leads to the discovery that Zoë has a natural talent for race driving. Denny is impressed and proud that his daughter has inherited his talent for racing. Zoë's ability lends credence to the adage that children often take after their parents in surprising ways. Zoë's future comes to the forefront when Denny finds himself wondering what kind of woman that his daughter will become.



Chapters 43 - 49

Chapters 43 - 49 Summary

In Chapter 43, Mark Fein meets with Denny at Victrola Cafe one last time. Mark tells Denny that Denny owes him a substantial amount of money. Mark Fein agrees, giving Denny thirty days to settle his account.

In Chapter 44, Mark Fein tries to convince Denny that dropping his custody claim would make the felony charge go away. Maxwell and Trish want Denny to register as a sex offender. Sex offenders do not get custody of children. The in-laws are squeezing Denny tightly.

Try as he might, Fein is unable to persuade Denny to stop fighting for Zoë. Fein even stoops to telling Denny that Denny would be better able to pursue his racing career dreams with Zoë living with her grandparents full-time.

Denny surprises everyone when he sells the house in order to pay his debt to Mark Fein. Denny and Enzo move into a one-bedroom apartment. Enzo knows that Denny has sacrificed everything for Zoë.

Mark Fein is appointed a judge in Chapter 45 and Denny gets a new lawyer, Mr. Lawrence. Lawrence tells Denny that Maxwell and Trish are suing him for child support. Denny is incensed. Lawrence does not have a plan.

Enzo believes that his imaginary friend King Karma repays us for whatever we do in this life. Enzo sends King Karma to Maxwell and Trish in their dreams each night in the form of a pack of wild, ravenous dogs.

Winter arrives again in Chapter 46 and Enzo has grown tired of being a dog. He is unable to speak, to participate fully in life - or so he thinks. Being a supportive friend is no longer enough for Enzo. Denny allows Enzo to walk without his leash and Enzo breaks away to explore. He rushes out into the street and is hit by a car.

On the way to the emergency animal hospital, Enzo tells the chilling story of the day Ayrton Senna died and the mystery surrounding his fateful last lap.

Enzo contends that when the soul's purpose on Earth has been fulfilled, the body relinquishes the soul and vice versa.

In Chapter 48, a doctor talks to Denny about Enzo's hip dysplasia and arthritis. Denny gives the vet \$280 in cash and he takes Enzo home. Denny still owes the vet another \$520.

In Chapter 49, Denny goes to Mike and Tony's place to sign the custody papers giving Eve's parents full charge of Zoë. By signing over custody, Denny keeps his record clean



and Zoë attends the best schools. When Mike hands Denny a fancy souvenir pen with a plastic zebra floating inside, Enzo grabs the stack of papers and runs out of the house and onto the lawn. Enzo urinates on the papers.

Chapters 43 - 49 Analysis

At this point, Mark Fein does everything he can to impress upon Denny the importance of getting the felony child rape charge dropped. Maxwell and Trish are forging ahead with their plan to annihilate Denny. They use Zoë as bait; hoping they can convince Denny to humiliate himself and give up his claim to custody of Zoë. Chapter 44 proves pivotal in establishing Trish and Maxwell as the architects of Denny's major troubles. It is now obvious that Maxwell and Trish are directly responsible for the Annika situation. Regardless of the money he owes Mark Fein, Denny refuses to give up his fight.

Mark Fein becomes a judge, leaving the narrative completely in Chapter 45. Mr. Lawrence becomes Denny Swift's new lawyer. Mr. Lawrence does not exactly embody confidence or legal prowess and it appears as though Denny Swift will be going to jail for assaulting Annika as well as paying child support payments to Maxwell and Trish. Things continue to get worse for Denny.

When Enzo is hit by a car, the character's progression takes another surprising turn. Enzo is already tired of his life as a dog and his ill health. The accident means that Enzo could die sooner than expected. It could also mean that there is some sort of epiphany ahead for Enzo. In the face of injury and possibly an earlier-than-expected death, Enzo remains philosophical about the soul's purpose and the meaning of life. Money troubles continue to plague Denny when he is unable to pay the vet everything owed for Enzo's treatment. When Enzo tells the story of Ayrton Senna on the way to the emergency animal hospital, he is reminding the reader that no life lived to the fullest is a waste. Senna died doing what he loved and Enzo is certain Senna had no regrets. Enzo does not regret one moment of his life.

When Denny Swift finally decides to sign over custody of Zoë to Trish and Maxwell, the narrative arc reaches its highest point. Until this time, there was never any question that Denny would continue to do everything possible to gain and keep custody of his daughter. The fact that he takes the custody papers to Mike and Tony's house proves that Denny is still not entirely sure that signing the papers is a good idea. He needs Mike and Tony's support and perhaps he also needs further convincing that what he is doing is truly for Zoë's highest good. When Enzo escapes with the papers and urinates on them, he clearly communicates his displeasure at the thought of losing Zoë to Maxwell and Trish forever. This particular act of resistance is Enzo's most blatant show of emotion.



Chapters 50 - 55

Chapters 50 - 55 Summary

Enzo is about to turn 10 in Chapter 50 and he is feeling the effects of his age and the car accident more than ever. Luca Pantoni of Ferrari has come to the school especially to speak with Denny. Denny politely declines Luca Pantoni's lucrative job offer for the time being, citing legal troubles as the reason for turning down the offer.

In Chapter 51, Enzo's health continues to worsen. Enzo experiences incontinence now and he finds his lack of bladder control to be a huge embarrassment. Denny explains to Annika the consequences of her filing charges and how he may lose his daughter altogether.

In Chapter 52, Denny's mother and father come for a visit. Enzo says they smell funny and both of them look frail. Denny's parents do not talk much at all and Enzo thinks Denny looks terribly uncomfortable.

In Chapter 53, Enzo says that Denny's mother is blind. Zoë meets her grandparents for the first time. Denny's father gives Denny an envelope full of money. His father says he wants to "make things right" for Denny (289).

The identity of the narrator in Chapter 54 is somewhat unclear. The narrator says that above all, a driver must sometimes accept his fate and admit at some point that a race is not perfect and that mistakes are made. It is most important that a driver finish each race.

In Chapter 55, Denny tells Mike Fein the story of the relationship with his parents. His mother lost her sight when Denny was just a young boy. Denny and his parents were estranged for years. Things changed significantly when Denny called his parents and asked them to help him keep Zoë. His mother agreed, provided she could meet Zoë.

Chapters 50 - 55 Analysis

Enzo begins to slow down more significantly. Denny's refusal of Pantoni's offer does not adversely affect his relationship with Luca. In fact, Denny acts out of a sense of integrity and realistic self-preservation. These are characteristics that one would want in a potential employee, hence Luca's choice of Denny for Team Ferrari is justified. Enzo's experience of incontinence is parallel to that of aging human beings who encounter the same bladder control challenges.

When Denny next encounters Annika, he speaks to her honestly and candidly. Annika is redeemed in a subsequent chapter when she recants her damaging testimony against Denny. Denny's basic goodness of character plays out in his belief that most of the other characters are the same way. He gambles when he talks to Annika because she



is, at that point, an unsympathetic figure in the narrative. Denny manages to achieve a significant victory over his in-laws.

Denny's mother and father are introduced in Chapter 52. Interestingly, in the narrative, Denny's parents are referred to as Mr. and Mrs. Swift whereas Eve's parents are known by only their given names, Maxwell and Trish. Mr. and Mrs. Swift are mirror opposites of Eve's parents. The Swifts are frail, quiet, country folks who do not speak much and who hold back emotionally from their own child. Trish and Maxwell, on the other hand, are vocal and aggressively conniving. Trish and Maxwell are fairly affluent while Mr. and Mrs. Swift have next to nothing.

To their credit, though, Denny's parents do undergo an important change when they meet their granddaughter for the first time. There is warmth in their hearts for Denny and Zoë when they leave Seattle and Mr. Swift's gift of the money proves that he and his wife understand and feel sorry for the ways in which they failed Denny as parents. Trish and Maxwell differ from the Swifts in that they believe themselves to be beyond reproach. Trish and Maxwell are more likely to blame the world for their troubles than Mr. and Mrs. Swift.

The appearance of an anonymous narrator in Chapter 54 foreshadows Enzo's imminent death and alerts the reader that the narrative voice is about to change markedly.

Denny's revelation to Mark Fein in Chapter 55 adds texture to the character of Mrs. Swift. She becomes more sympathetic upon her request to meet Zoë. Mrs. Swift's softening toward Denny also reinforces the opposite position of Trish and Maxwell. The closer Denny is to his parents, the less close he becomes to Maxwell and Trish. Finally, this episode is unique because it signals an upswing in Denny Swift's fortunes.



Chapters 56 -

Chapters 56 - Summary

Denny's felony trial begins in Chapter 56. Each morning of the trial, Mike comes to the apartment and leaves with Denny. Tony stays with Enzo. They take walks. Sometimes Tony stops at a coffee shop to check his e-mail.

The prosecution opens its case and things look bleak as witness after witness swears to seeing Denny maneuvering to be close to Annika. Denny's mood becomes heavy and dark but he never gives Enzo any indication that he is giving up the fight.

Tony gets the call while he and Enzo are at the coffee shop. The case against Denny is dismissed. The prosecution did not have any actual evidence of the alleged attack and Annika recants her testimony.

Enzo dreams of having a device similar to that used by Stephen Hawking which would make it possible for Enzo to talk.

In Chapter 57, Denny and Enzo are ready to begin life again. Eve's parents have agreed to stop fighting for custody. Denny signs a three-year contract with Ferrari. Denny and Zoë will live in Italy.

In Chapter 58, the day Zoë comes home to live with Denny again is Enzo's last day as a dog. Enzo remembers his life and all the love he has shared with Denny and Zoë, Mike and Tony and Eve. Enzo is ready to begin his new life as a man. Enzo remembers being a puppy in the field at Spangle. He remembers how grass tickled his tummy when he ran and played.

Finally, Enzo puts his head in Denny's lap. He wishes he could wait for Zoë but he finds himself running fast and feeling free. Enzo can hear Denny's voice telling him it is alright for him to go.

Epilogue: "Imola, Italy"

About five years after Enzo passes on, Denny Swift is a Formula One Champion. Zoë finds Denny sitting alone and introduces Denny to a father and son who are great fans. The boy's name is Enzo. Denny signs their programs, but he cannot stop staring at the boy, who is around five years old. When the boy Enzo tells Denny, "The car goes where the eyes look," Denny Swift just throws back his head and laughs.

Chapters 56 - Analysis

The final three chapters and the epilogue provide multiple narrative resolutions. To begin, Denny Swift's trial begins. At this point, Denny is alone and feeling quite cut off



from his family and daughter. The tension builds throughout Chapter 56 which also features the outcome of the trial. Annika changes her testimony and Denny is vindicated. Also, when the trial ends, Trish and Maxwell grow tired of struggling for custody of Zoë. It is possible that they come to the realization that Denny is a more formidable opponent than they had originally guessed. It is unclear whether they ever really wanted Zoë to live with them for an extended period of time.

Enzo's dream about the Stephen Hawking device foreshadows what occurs in the epilogue. The dream also signals that Enzo is coming ever closer to the end of his life as a dog.

Life beginning again in the final two chapters brings the novel full circle. When the narrative begins, Enzo is sharing his last moments on Earth with his memories. Additionally, it can be said that whereas Enzo's narrative begins and ends with his death, another cycle is represented in the narrative. That is to say, in the epilogue, Denny meets a young boy named Enzo who just happens to be around the age of five. The young boy says something to Denny Swift that only his best friend Enzo the dog would say. Denny's laughter indicates his recognition of his best, oldest friend. Thus, the beginning of a life becomes part of the circle of the original Enzo. Denny's dream comes true. Perhaps more importantly, Enzo's dream for Denny comes true.

The narrative does not seek to posit whether or not Enzo the dog and Enzo the boy share the same soul, the same essence. However, what is central to understanding the narrative's message is the existence of possibility. Enzo the dog is a broad, universal thinker who does not rule anything out, up to and including reincarnation. Is Enzo reincarnated? Do dogs know something about the afterlife that people do not know? What matters, in terms of this narrative, is the ability to see life through to its end; to simply keep driving, learning how to handle the spins and the changes.



Characters

Enzo

Enzo is a dog. More specifically, Enzo is a golden Labrador Retriever. Enzo also happens to be the main protagonist and narrator of the novel. Enzo is rather old and he knows that soon he will die. Rather, he knows that his body will expire, his soul will leave this temporal plane and then Enzo knows that he will come back as a man. There is no doubt in his mind that this will be the order of things. For now, though, Enzo is an aging, ailing dog with aching hips.

Enzo is loyal and protective of Denny, Eve, and Zoë. Enzo feels things as deeply as any human being but because he is a dog, he is unable to share things with Denny and the others verbally. For Enzo, being a dog is both a blessing and a curse. On one hand, there are things about his situation that Enzo the dog would not trade; he loves his role as Denny's sidekick and best pal. Enzo treasures his relationship with Zoë and the bond he comes to form with Eve. Enzo cannot endure being around Eve's parents, Maxwell and Trish. Enzo finds them to be fake and pretentious and he knows they do not care for Denny. As a human being, Enzo's relationships with the individual family members would be decidedly more complex precisely because of language, which, to his discontent, Enzo lacks.

Enzo is intelligent and engaged. He watches educational television and racing videos with Denny. Enzo is also a big fan of The Weather Channel because it covers much more than just weather conditions. Enzo, like his owner, loves racing above all. He enjoys the time spent listening to Denny talk about the technique and the psychology behind being a champion race driver. Enzo is Denny's most stalwart cheerleader. He believes in Denny no matter what and he does his best to encourage Denny in any way possible.

Enzo is a philosopher who has a very pragmatic view of life. He is a realist who sometimes gives in to his feelings. Enzo lives in the present.

Denny Swift

Denny Swift is Enzo's owner. Denny is an aspiring professional race car driver. Denny lives to race. He has better instincts than most, but it has been difficult for Denny to catch a break. Denny is married to Eve and he is Zoë's father. Enzo describes Denny as "slender, with long and lean muscles" (p. 11). Denny is not very large but he can handle himself quite well. Enzo says that Denny's blue eyes are "keen" and "icy", giving the impression that Denny has a somewhat steely look about his face. When Denny and Enzo first meet each other, Enzo says that Denny wore a beard and short hair, both of which "were dark and wiry like and Irish terrier" (p. 11). Enzo is especially fond of terriers. Denny Swift is somewhere in his 30s.



Denny understands better than anyone that racing is a metaphor for life. Denny learns some of the most valuable life lessons while he is behind the wheel of a automobile traveling 120mph. Racing in the rain is what Denny Swift does best — it is what he was born to do, or so he and Enzo believe. Denny's single-mindedness is overthrown by his love for Eve and Zoë. His family and his passion for racing are the things that add meaning and texture to Denny Swift's life. Denny teaches Enzo everything he knows. He realizes that Enzo is one of a kind and in some ways he treats Enzo more like a person than a dog; except when Enzo does something only a dog would do — like destroying the stuffed animals.

When the narrative begins, Denny does not have a close relationship with his parents at all. At one point in time, Denny's father offered Denny an ultimatum which Denny found unacceptable. He and his parents remained estranged for years. Denny is uncomfortable with the idea of asking anyone for assistance and the fact that he reaches out to his parents indicates the depth of his love for his daughter. Denny is granted an opportunity to rebuild his relationship with his mother and father and they do become closer as a result.

Eve Swift

Eve Swift is married to Denny Swift. Eve is Zoë's mother and the only daughter of Maxwell and Trish. Eve is beautiful and free-spirited and it is her openness and candor that attracts Denny to Eve in the first place. Eve has straight blond hair, soft green eyes, and a curvy figure. Eve also has three brothers who make an appearance in the narrative but whose names are never mentioned. Nothing is known of Eve's life before marrying Denny. However, given family of origin, it can be assumed that Eve spent much of the time under her parents roof being monitored and controlled. Eve's marriage to Denny happens relatively soon after they meet and her parents are displeased with Eve's choice of a husband. At times, Eve could be somewhat distracted parent. Also, Eve is wary of doctors.

Eve's illness teaches her a good many things about life and by the time the character dies, she has reached a state of peace and acceptance with regards to her past and future lives. Ordinarily, Eve was an attentive, loving mother to Zoë but when her disease began to worsen, Eve became rather distracted where Zoë's care was concerned. In this way, Eve closely resembled her own mother. By the end of her life, Eve Swift is glowing with serenity and a readiness to end this part of her journey. Eve learns to race in the rain, so to speak.

Zoë Swift

Zoë Swift is the daughter of Denny Swift and Eve. Zoë is the granddaughter of Trish and Maxwell and Mr. and Mrs. Smith. Zoë is an only child, like both of her parents. She does not want for attention or affection. Zoë is curious and perceptive, intelligent and quite mature for her age. When her mother passes away, Zoë is very young. Zoë also has her



father's talent for racing. In all respects, Zoë is a normal girl. She is beautiful like her mother.

Trish and Maxwell

Trish and Maxwell are Eve's parents. Eve is their only child. Trish and Maxwell are decidedly upper middle-class and rather narrow-minded in their world view. They are stereotypical WASPs. As a couple, Trish and Maxwell are practically indistinguishable from one another. Enzo calls them "the Twins" because of their propensity for dressing alike. Trish and Maxwell are also fond of beige and khaki clothing and they both have the same color hair. Enzo also claims that "they both [smell] of chemicals: plastics and petroleum-based hair products" (p. 27).

Trish and Maxwell would like others to believe that they function as a unit at all times when this is not entirely true. Maxwell is the more vindictive of the two, while Trish is the more passive partner. It is also very clearly established in the narrative that Maxwell bullies his wife. Trish's attitude toward Denny actually begins to soften in Chapter 39, but this is rather short-lived.

They are deeply disappointed that Eve chooses Denny as her husband, though. After Eve dies, Trish and Maxwell fight for custody of Zoë as a way to spite Denny. Finally, Enzo finds Maxwell to be completely untrustworthy. Maxwell and Trish's surname is never mentioned in the narrative. Similarly, Eve has two brothers who are never named in the narrative.

Mr. and Mrs. Swift

Mr. and Mrs. Swift are Denny Swift's parents. They are simple people from somewhere in the middle of the country. They live on a small farm. Mrs. Swift has been blind since Denny was just a boy. The Swifts never had a close relationship with their son. Just after Denny finishes high school, Mr. Swift offered Denny an ultimatum: stay and help with caring for his mother and running the farm or leave and never come back. Denny chose to leave the farm and his mother refused to speak to Denny for several years thereafter.

After their visit to meet Zoë, there is evidence that Denny's relationship with his parents is already improving. When Mr. Swift admits to Denny that he and his wife were less than ideal parents, Denny's feelings about his upbringing are validated. The Swift family manages to heal. It should be noted that the Swifts' first names are never revealed in the narrative.

Luca Pantoni

Luca Pantoni is an important man in the Ferrari organization who offers Denny Swift a chance to work with him in Maranello, Italy. Luca and Denny become close friends



through the years and it is Luca's assistance that proves to be just the break Denny needs to fulfill his dreams of racing glory. Luca sees something of his younger self in Denny.

Ayrton Senna

Ayrton Senna (1960 - 1994) was a world-champion Brazilian Formula One driver. Senna was killed during the 1994 San Marino Gran Prix. He is thought by many to be one of the greatest F1 drivers of all time. Senna is Denny Swift's idol.

Luigi Chinetti

Luigi Chinetti was an Italian race car driver who moved to the United States shortly after World War II. Chinetti became famous as the owner of this country's first Ferrari dealership.

Annika

Annika is Eve's 15 year-old cousin. Annika meets Denny Swift for the first time on a family ski weekend in the mountains. Physically, Annika is a woman. Enzo describes Annika as possessing "a full set of breasts for milking and hips wide enough for childbirth" (135). Emotionally, however, Annika is still very much an immature little girl who can be manipulated. Annika unashamedly expresses her interest in Denny through a series of machinations that Denny all but ignores. When her advances are met with rejection, Annika strikes out at Denny with Trish and Maxwell's help. Annika is redeemed, though, when she recants her false testimony in court and Denny goes free.

Mark Fein

Mark Fein is Denny's lawyer in the custody battle with Trish and Maxwell. Fein is appointed a judge in Chapter 45.

Mr. Lawrence

Mr. Lawrence is Denny's replacement lawyer.



Objects/Places

Whidbey Island

Whidbey Island is located in Puget Sound in the state of Washington. It is approximately thirty minutes north of Seattle.

Sonoma

Sonoma is the name of both a county and a city in northern California in the western United States.

Sebring

Sebring refers to Sebring International Raceway, which is located near Sebring, Florida in the southern United States.

Nürburgring

Nürburgring is the site of a well-known motor sports complex in Nürburgring, Germany. The Nürburgring Raceway is famous for its long, windy Northern Loop.

Borneo

Borneo is an island located in the south China Sea. It is the third largest island in the world.

Sumatra

Sumatra is an island in western Indonesia.

Madrona

Madrona is a neighborhood in Seattle, Washington.

Methow Valley

The Methow Valley of the Methow River is located in eastern Washington.



Snoqualmie Pass

The Snoqualmie Pass is a mountain pass located in the Cascade Mountains of Washington.

Thunderhill Raceway Park

Thunderhill Raceway Park is a road race course located just outside of Willows, California.

Mercer Island

Mercer Island is both a city and an island located in Seattle, Washington.

Monaco

Monaco is a principality located on the Côte d'Azure (the French Riviera). Monaco is bordered on three sides by France.



Themes

Death and Dying

Death and dying as concepts and plot points underlie the entirety of *The Art of Racing in the Rain*. The novel opens with Enzo, the narrator and a dog looking back on his life and recollecting those moments that made the most significant impact. Enzo eventually dies, but Enzo's attitude toward death could be called optimistic, to say the least. While he has thoroughly enjoyed his life as Denny Swift's friend, confidante, and protector, Enzo is nonetheless overjoyed at the prospect of reincarnation. Enzo looks forward to death because of what comes after death and not because he finds his present life to be drudgery. Enzo is old and his body is failing. His physical condition is merely a necessary evil for Enzo. At the most, he finds such things as incontinence and weakness in the limbs to be minor inconveniences. Enzo is upbeat about "crossing over" because he has visualized his ideal life, his ideal self. Acceptance is key when examining Enzo's process of letting go of life. Without realizing it, Enzo has grasped the concept of delayed gratification. Enzo possesses a keen understanding that in order to finally be reincarnated as a man, he must be willing to relinquish his body. Enzo never loses his sense of wonder, even when he knows that his time is coming to an end.

However, Enzo's journey through life also includes Eve Swift's illness, decline, and eventual death. An important facet of the death and dying paradigm is the fact that people are left behind when an individual passes away. In the case of this narrative, Eve's death proved to be catastrophic for more than one of the other characters. Additionally, the fallout from Eve's death provides its own set of obstacles and challenges that manifested themselves in the custody battle between Trish and Maxwell and Denny Swift.

Man's Best Friend?

Enzo comments frequently on his role as Denny's best friend. To Enzo, his friendship with Denny rests on the reality that Enzo cannot speak. Therefore, the dynamic that exists between them is fundamentally determined according to this one facet. *The Art of Racing in the Rain* is a work of fiction and as such, Enzo's narration is proof that he processes information in much the same way as Denny Swift. More importantly, it is clear that if Enzo could speak, he would still choose to be friends with Denny. Enzo is a sentient being and his feelings for Denny, Eve and Zoë are genuine. Based on their close relationship, it is also obvious that Denny is Enzo's best friend. After all, a friend will take care of you when you are sick or when you begin to age perhaps less than gracefully. Denny's dedication to Enzo shows in the final chapters when Enzo's health begins to wane and Enzo prepares himself for what he believes will be his best life ever.

While Enzo loves and respects Denny Swift, there are times when Enzo questions Denny's decisions or wonders about his actions. These are elements that are present in



every human relationship and it stands to reason that Denny and Enzo's relationship would tend toward close brotherly connection. Enzo is especially adept at differentiating his feelings from Denny's. Enzo is his own person and he understands that being friends with Denny does not preclude those things which Enzo deems most important for himself. In other words, Enzo is autonomous. That is to say, Enzo is as autonomous as a dog could possibly be. Throughout his life, though, Enzo has made no secret of his loyalty to and faith in Denny and Denny consistently reciprocates.

A Matter of Perspective

The Art of Racing in the Rain is an unusual novel in that it is narrated by a non-human character. In this case Enzo, main protagonist and narrator, is a dog. Experiencing the story through a dog's eyes reminds the reader that narrative perspective cannot be taken for granted. Even in the case of a human narrator, there are always questions of accuracy and truth. As such, narrator credibility is ever at issue. In this novel, perspective is everything, as the reader must surely know. Seeing life from Enzo's viewpoint is humorous and thought provoking as well. Furthermore, Enzo's narration functions as a reminder that other creatures have the intelligence to think and analyze. Enzo gives voice to the happenings in his life and it seems as though Enzo is interested in the same life qualities and values as human beings. Enzo affirms the fact that other creatures enjoy and understand what they see on television. Most importantly, though, Enzo's narration is an example of possibility. the question becomes: What if things like this are going on inside most dogs' minds?

What makes the pet's point of view such a successful literary device is that the narrative features an interesting human story as a backdrop. Secondly, Enzo's narration provides a look into how an animal might choose to view the end of its life. Thus, Enzo's storyline gives the character an opportunity to discuss something that people often ponder: How does a dying animal feel when it is nearing the moment of death? In Enzo's case, the reader is told that death is simply a passage from one phase to the next. Enzo does not fear his impending death. Quite the opposite. Enzo is excited to look forward to whatever comes after this life. Enzo's only sadness comes from the inability to carry his memories into the next incarnation. To the end, Enzo is an optimist. His attitude toward life and death is balanced and open-minded.

Style

Point of View

The majority of this narrative is told from the perspective of Enzo, Denny Swift's golden Labrador retriever. And while this might seem somewhat unorthodox, it is a successful literary convention which has been employed numerous times. To begin, by choosing to let Enzo narrate the story, the author complicates the narrator's position. That is to say, when an omniscient narrator is used, the reader has no cause to doubt the narrator's reliability. However, since Enzo is narrating, it becomes the reader's responsibility to decode Enzo's impressions so that they fit into a human paradigm. An intelligent dog who watches television is still a dog. That being said, Enzo does prove to be a reliable narrator. The narrator's position is further challenged when considering the fact that since the narrator is a finite character in the story, there are things the reader never learns. In the case of this narrative, Eve's maiden name is not revealed; Mr. and Mrs. Smith's first names are never mentioned. When Enzo ceases to live, however, the narration shifts to the omniscient perspective once again.

The final section of the novel, "Imola, Italy" is narrated by an omniscient narrator. This section is especially interesting because it reinforces Enzo's closeness with his family. The omniscient narrator does not know Denny and his daughter the way Enzo does. As a result, "Denny" and "Zoë" are reduced to their identifying pronouns. In this case, the omniscient narrator's perspective distances the reader from Denny and Zoë as well as from Enzo and his emotional attachment to the other characters in the story.

Setting

The majority of the novel takes place in and around the Seattle metropolitan area of Washington state. The author uses actual locations in this narrative. For example, Denny Swift and his family live in the Madrona neighborhood of Seattle. Madrona is a residential area in Seattle that is situated on the shore of Lake Washington. Also, Enzo was born on a farm in Spangle, (Spokane County) Washington.

In Chapter 36, Denny and Enzo attend Eve's funeral at Lake View Cemetery on Seattle's Capitol Hill. Martial arts and film superstar Bruce Lee is buried in Lake View Cemetery, as is his son, actor Brandon Lee. Finally, Enzo's "Blue Dog Park" is another actual Seattle location (224). Mercer Island sits in Lake Washington. At one point in the novel, Denny takes a temporary teaching job in Spokane. Whidbey Island is located near Seattle.

Enzo talks about going on a road trip with Denny to Thunderhill Raceway Park in Chapter 26. Thunderhill is located in northern California. The Nürburgring racetrack in Nürburg, Germany is mentioned in Chapter 20. Denny goes to Paris on a training



excursion, and he races at Watkins Glen International in New York. The raceway is named for the nearby town of Watkins Glen.

Portland, Oregon is featured in Chapter 8. Finally, the novel's entire epilogue takes place in Imola, Italy.

Language and Meaning

The novel is written in English and the usage is standard. The prose in which the novel is written is elegant without sounding stiff. The narrative is relaxed in tone, accessible to a wide range of readers and makes no effort to be particularly literary. The dialogue And although a dog narrates the majority of this narrative, Enzo has a surprisingly extensive vocabulary. Enzo's observations are neither highfalutin nor overly simplistic. There is an extensive use of metaphor in this narrative. It can be said that the title itself *The Art of Racing in the Rain* is a metaphor for successfully, mindfully, living through times of adversity or great sadness. That is to say, the race is a metaphor for one's life and the rain is a metaphor for those things that happen in life which provide significant challenges to our mental and physical selves. Hence, when Enzo expounds on racing technique, he is actually giving advice on how to get through life — a human life.

Following the metaphor, a broad range of automobile racing terms are introduced into the narrative. Examples of racing words include cockpit, lap, "enduro" (38), counterspin, lateral g-force, horsepower, and torque.

Enzo's love of the Weather Channel contributes significantly to the narrative in terms of weather specific words and phrases: hurricane, cyclone, tornado, and monsoon are used.

In addition, since Enzo is a dog and not privy to a full range of the English language, there are some gaps of knowledge which result in Enzo's use of generalities. For example, he refers to alcoholic beverages as "fermented drinks" that cause Denny and Eve to "act funny" (15).

There is scant dialogue in Italian included in the epilogue.

Structure

The novel is 321 pages in length. The narrative proper is comprised of a total of 58 chapters and there is an epilogue entitled "Imola, Italy". The chapters are all fairly short in length. They range from one and a half pages to approximately fourteen pages. The chapters are all untitled.

The overall narrative structure is circular. That is to say, the action occurs in a kind of time circle. The novel opens at the end of Enzo's life as he reflects on the time he has spent as a dog. Similarly, the novel ends where it begins — with Enzo's last moments. Also, since the novel begins and ends in roughly the same spot in a temporal sense, it

can also be said that time is elastic in this narrative. At the end of his life, Enzo's time all becomes the present — even his memories. In the last moments of a life, all time blends together. The epilogue is set off narratively from the chapters in the main novel. This particular literary device serves to alert the reader that s/he is outside of the story. The distance established in the epilogue between the reader and the story functions to position the reader as a witness rather than an observer. The difference is subtle, but the claim is substantiated by Enzo's claims that he would be reincarnated as a man.



Quotes

"Very gently. Like there are eggshells on your pedals," Denny always says, "and you don't want to break them. That's how you drive in the rain" (Chapter 3, p. 3).

"[Enzo and Eve] were both satellites orbiting Denny's sun, struggling for gravitational supremacy" (Chapter 4, p. 16).

"And yet, how I yearn for the moment my soul inhabits one of these poorly designed bipedal bodies and I, too, assume the health concerns of a man!" (Chapter 5, p. 19).

"[...Maxwell and Trish] both smelled of chemicals: plastics and petroleum-based hair products" (Chapter 6, p. 27).

"Let me tell you this: The Weather Channel is not about weather; it is about the world!" (Chapter 7, p. 32).

"Eve had assigned [Enzo] to protect Zoe no matter what, but no one had been assigned to protect Eve. And there was nothing [Enzo] could do to help her" (Chapter 7, p. 37).

"That which you manifest is before you" (Chapter 9, p. 46).

"In our world, surprises sometimes happen, mistakes happen, incidents with other drivers happen, and a driver must react" (Chapter 10, p. 48).

"I've always found great pleasure in the narrative tease. But then, I'm a dramatist" (Chapter 11, p. 59).

"[There] are things that only dogs and women understand because we tap into the pain directly, we connect to pain directly from its source, and so it is at once brilliant and brutal and clear [...]" (Chapter 12, p. 62).

"But I am a racer at heart, and a racer will never let something that has already happened affect what is happening" (Chapter 14, p. 74).

"[Denny and Enzo] had come so close to greatness. [They] had smelled it, and it smelled like roast pig. Everybody likes the smell of roast pig" (Chapter 16, p. 91).



"When I sleep, I don't feel the urge to urinate nearly as badly as when I am awake" (Chapter 17, p. 97).

"People are loath to sit in a parked car for long. They are afraid someone might judge them for it" (Chapter 19, p. 100).

"Nothing was expected of me except that I do my business outside when called upon to do so, and that I stop barking when told to stop barking" (Chapter 20, p. 107).

"But even in the face of Maxwell's persistence, Denny proved that he had a bit of the Gila monster in him [...]" (Chapter 24, p. 129).

"A hero without a flaw is of no interest to an audience or to the universe, which, after all, is based on conflict and opposition [...]" (Chapter 25, p. 135).

"To feel the joy of life, as Eve felt the joy of life. To separate oneself from the burden, the angst, the anguish that we all encounter every day. To say I am alive" (Chapter 27, p. 160).

"We are all afforded our physical existence so we can learn about ourselves" (Chapter 38, p. 223).

"How quickly a year passes, like a mouthful of food snatched from the maw of eternity" (Chapter 42, p. 240).

"Like the last strong autumn wind that rattles the trees until the remaining leaves fall, brief but powerful was [Denny's parents'] visit, signaling that the season had changed, and soon, life would begin again" (Chapter 53, p. 289).



Topics for Discussion

Which episode in Enzo's past makes him afraid of doctors?

Why does Eve refuse to go to the hospital even when she knows she is unwell?

What does Denny's father mean when he tells Denny, "We never did right by you [...]?" (p. 289).

What motivates Annika to recant her testimony at Denny's trial?

Who is the boy Denny meets in Imola?

What is the one thing Enzo wants more than anything in the entire world?

What promise does Enzo make to Eve?

What reasons do Maxwell and Trish give for trying so hard to keep Zoe away from Denny?

Who is Mike's "wife"? What does Enzo say about this?

What explanation does Luca Pantoni give for choosing Denny to work at Ferrari?

Who is King Karma and why is he so important to Enzo?

Who is the narrator of the novel's final chapter?

What is behind Enzo's hatred of the stuffed zebra and crows?

Does Denny ever find out why Enzo has been reincarnated?

Why is the novel called *The Art of Racing in the Rain*?