

# **The Strange Case of Origami Yoda Study Guide**

**The Strange Case of Origami Yoda by Tom Angleberger**

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# Plot Summary

The Strange Case of Origami Yoda by Tom Angleberger, starts out with a quick excerpt by the protagonist, Tommy, explaining about Origami Yoda. The Origami Yoda was made by a child named Dwight who is weird and off putting but manages to give good advice through Yoda. Tommy tells the reader that Dwight is the social pariah of the school. The first chapter is a background summary for the book.

During the PTA Meeting Fun Night, Tommy and his friends sit by the stage and it's apparent that they are the shy social outcasts. Tommy, Kellen, Harvey, Lance, Mike, and Quavondo stay by the stage and off the dance floor since they don't have anyone to dance with. Dwight is the outcast of the outcasts and sits with the group too. Dwight ends up bumping into a popular girl, causing her to spill her drink, and the narrator talks about how everything Dwight does after this point is even more embarrassing. Dwight lays down on the floor and mops the drink up with his body before asking her to dance. When Dwight is shot down he returns back to the stage to Tommy's group. The boys all talk Tommy into asking a popular girl, Hannah, to dance but in reality Tommy likes a girl named Sara. Even though Tommy likes Sara he decides to give asking Hannah to dance a try. As Tommy heads over to her Dwight pops up with an Origami Yoda puppet and advises Tommy to ask it for advice. Tommy shrugs Dwight off, as Dwight is weird, but the boy keeps pestering him until he breaks down and asks the puppet for advice.

Dwight, acting as Yoda, tells Tommy to wait. The group ridicules Dwight and his weirdness until Sara's gigantic boyfriend arrives beside Sara. Tommy can't believe that Yoda/ Dwight actually gave him some good advice. The next people Dwight/Yoda helps are Kellen and Mike. Kellen spills water on his pants, making it look like he peed himself. When Kellen asks Dwight/Yoda for advice, Yoda tells him to completely soak his pants so no one can say that he's peed his pants, this way it buys him time until he can change into his sweatpants in gym class. Mike cries all of the time and because of this is made fun of. However, Mike mostly cries when he plays softball because he isn't any good. Yoda/Dwight's advice to him is that others are just better at softball and that he shouldn't let that get to him. Mike is so busy trying to understand Yoda's advice that he doesn't cry when he strikes out again in softball.

The focus switches to Sara, Tommy's love interest, as she enters into the story. Sara decides to sit close to Tommy's table one day. When she does she overhears Dwight/Yoda tell the group to learn a dance called The Twist. Harvey clears up the confusion Dwight causes by saying that The Twist is from the Spiderman 3 Soundtrack. Sara decides that she will go home after school with her friends and look up The Twist. Sara's grandmother comes into her room when she hears Sara and her friends trying to learn how to dance The Twist and joins in with them. Sara realizes that this is the most fun she's had since her parent's divorced. At school the next day Lance comes over to Tommy's table and takes Dwight's seat just to be mean. Tommy sticks up for Dwight and causes an argument to ensue between him and Lance which ends with Lance storming off, leaving Dwight's seat open. Dwight comes over to his seat acting sullen.



In a chapter that is only a paragraph long Tommy lists out all of the reasons why Dwight is weird and the things he has done that prove he is weird. In the next chapter Cassie ends up breaking a statue head of Shakespeare in her class and hides the bust in her backpack. On the bus ride to school Dwight deduces that Cassie has the broken bust in her backpack. Dwight has Cassie ask Yoda what to do and Yoda tells her to make a new bust. Cassie takes some Playdoh from her backpack and forms a new bust, to which the teacher announces in class that it's better than the old one. People are starting to take notice of the origami Yoda.

A girl named Marcie asks Yoda what word she needs to learn for the spelling bee tomorrow. Yoda tells her she needs to rest and will tell her tomorrow but Marcie is upset and calls Dwight 'Fart Face'. The next day Dwight/Yoda tells Marcie the word she needs to study is 'Mulct'. Despite how much Marcie studies she doesn't get that word and ends up failing out of the spelling bee. Tommy states that the word Mulct means to punish and Tommy inquires if this is Dwight's way of punishing Marcie for being rude.

The next people to come to Dwight/Yoda is Quavondo, the Cheetos hog. He wants to know how to get rid of his nickname that he earned in sixth grade. (IN THE PAST) He was on a field trip to the zoo and Quavondo snuck over to the vending machines and bought a pack of Cheetos. He got in trouble with the teacher but they allowed him to eat the Cheetos. Flustered, Quavondo shoved all of the Cheetos into his mouth, almost choking, rather than sharing with his classmates. Back in the present Yoda/Dwight tells him to get Cheetos and give them out during the assembly later on today. Despite getting in trouble for passing out Cheetos, Quavondo redeems himself and loses the nickname. A girl by the name of Caroline is the next person to ask for help. Caroline is lip reader due to hearing problems and wants to know if Dwight will ask Yoda if he could help her with her bully problem since a bully broke all her special pencils. Yoda talks directly to Dwight and states that he will take care of the problem. Later on it comes to light that Yoda attacked the bully to defend Caroline's honor.

The next day Tommy is absent from school and Kellen takes over narrating. Dwight comes to school in an ugly sweater and it gets out that he is doing this for Caroline. Harvey pesters Dwight about the sweater and some pencils for Caroline. He keeps pestering Dwight so much that Dwight loses his temper and yells at Harvey, getting both of them in trouble at the library but by the time the librarian comes to shush the boys Dwight has already left.

The next chapter switches to Sara narrating. In this chapter, the boys tell Sara and her group that Yoda told them there will be a pop quiz. The girls start to study parts of the leaf of paper that the boys leave for them, Sara included, even though she believes that it's cheating. In class the pop quiz is given out and the girls all get good grades on it. Sara stays after class to tell on her friends but the teacher says he just thought of the pop quiz on the spot.

A girl named Rondella is the narrator of the next chapter. The chapter is pretty short but Rhondella asks Yoda why Kellen is always bothering her. Yoda tells her that Kellen likes her and that is why he is bothering her. She ends up leaving when Dwight and Kellen



argue about Yoda's predictions and the following chapter is about people listing out all of the answers Yoda has given them.

Tommy is back to narrating the story as he asks Yoda/Dwight about why Sara isn't interested in him. Yoda/Dwight tells him in oh so many words that Sara does like him. However, when Tommy confronts Dwight about Yoda's advice Dwight simply says the world 'purple', escalating the fight until Dwight walks away. Tommy tries to apologize to Dwight for his behavior and wants to talk with Origami Yoda again but Dwight continues on his way.

The next day Tommy stops by Dwight again and asks what Yoda meant about Sara liking him. Dwight says 'purple' once more and Tommy loses his temper again. He tells Dwight that he needs to start being normal and Dwight has finally had enough. He stands up and crumples Origami Yoda into a ball before throwing him away. He tells Tommy that if he should be normal then he has no reason to hold onto Origami Yoda. At lunch Dwight is crying because he doesn't remember how to make Origami Yoda again. Harvey tries his own hand at making an Origami Yoda and starts giving out bad advice that seems good. Harvey also tells Tommy that Sara doesn't like him and when Tommy is upset laughs at him behind his back. Dwight, however, tells Tommy that Sara does like him in a 'Yoda voice' before stating that he woke up that morning and remember how to make Origami Yoda again.

Dwight criticizes Harvey's Origami Yoda, leading Harvey to try and destroy Dwight's second Origami Yoda. Tommy gets in the way and it's decided that there will be an Origami Yoda contest to see which is the better Yoda. The winner would be decided by Tommy asking Sara to dance with him at the next dance. If Sara says yes then Dwight wins but if she says no Harvey wins. The next chapter is about Tommy at the dance undecided on if he is going to ask Sara to dance or not. Tommy wants to side with his friend Harvey but in the end decides that Dwight's Yoda is the winner. At another dance Tommy finds Sara in the crowd and realizes that if he wants to tell Sara he likes her then it will be in front of all of her friends. Tommy struggles with which Yoda he should listen to, despite picking a winner but sees Dwight dancing with that girl Caroline. Dwight comes over holding Caroline's hand, wondering if Tommy has talked with Sara yet before telling Tommy not to be nervous since Sara told Dwight she liked Tommy. Seeing those two together gives Tommy the courage to go ahead and ask Sara to dance.

As Tommy is heading over to Sara, Harvey reminds Tommy that he can't dance, trying to get Tommy to stop. At that moment the DJ busts out "The Twist" the song Dwight had told them to learn earlier. Both Tommy and Sara know how to dance the Twist, and in the end Tommy asks Sara to dance and they end up dancing the night away.



# Chapter 1

## Summary

Chapter 1 takes place from Tommy's point of view. Tommy and his associates are sitting at a school dance function and from how the author describes them, they are social outcasts of the school. Tommy is goaded into going to ask out a girl named Hannah to dance. Tommy finds her cute but he has a crush on a girl named Sara. Dwight, the school weirdo asks him to ask an Origami Yoda he has made for advice. Tommy ends up asking, after Dwight pesters him enough, and it tells him to wait things out. Tommy then sees the girl he was going to ask to dance with a large guy that is her boyfriend.

## Analysis

In this first chapter the reader sees the birth of the Origami Yoda and is witness to the fact that it has 'strange powers'. Dwight, the owner of the paper Yoda, is weird and is seemingly uncaring about how people view him. He is fine with being himself, something that no one else in the school is comfortable with.

This first chapter showcases the main cast of characters and gives the reader a brief glimpse into how they act and why they are so unpopular. At the end of the chapter there is a commentary between Tommy and Harvey. Harvey makes the point that all Dwight did was tell him the song title of an Elvis song, but Tommy on the other hand believes something else is involved.

## Discussion Question 1

What is Dwight's character like?

## Discussion Question 2

Why do the kids at Dwight's school not like or understand Dwight?

## Discussion Question 3

What is Tommy's issue at the dance?

## Vocabulary

origami, scientific, commented, decision, inventing, affection, genuine, outcast, scootches, impression



# Chapter 2

## Summary

This next chapter is now from the viewpoint of Kellen, Tommy's good friend. Kellen is using the bathroom before school starts and goes to erase graffiti off the wall that is written about him. Kellen manages to get water on his pants in the meantime and it looks like he peed himself. Kellen is upset and bumps into Dwight in the bathroom and Kellen asks Yoda for advice. The Origami Yoda tells Kellen to make the entirety of his pants wet so no one can say that Kellen supposedly peed his pants. Kellen follows Yoda's advice and no one makes fun of him.

## Analysis

Kellen seems to be a neat freak and eccentric boy. The reader can tell from the graffiti about Kellen that he is not popular or well liked at all. When he gets his pants wet he gets bent out of shape, showing that he is easily flustered. This may be the cause as to why Kellen is so quick to accept what Yoda had said, primarily because there is nothing for him to lose. Kellen states in his chapter that he wears his wet pants till gym where he can slip into his gym shorts and out of the wet ones. This is the second time that Origami Yoda has provided good advice to help someone.

The theme of Belonging is introduced in this chapter. It is apparent that both Kellen and his friends don't feel as if they are popular or accepted at the Middle School where they attend. In order to fit in, any slightest nonconformity stands out like a neon sign to the others, or so they believe. When Origami Yoda offers Kellen a way out of his predicament, it is golden, and is something that he quickly passes along to any other middle-schooler who asks.

## Discussion Question 1

Discuss Kellen's character.

## Discussion Question 2

What has now become proof that the Origami Yoda is giving good advice?

## Discussion Question 3

Why did Kellen erase the graffiti from the bathroom wall?



## Vocabulary

seriously, stain, dipwad, suspension, uncomfortable



# Chapter 3

## Summary

Chapter 3 is from Mike's point of view. Mike is a crier and cries at everything, but especially at softball. Mike is not very good at softball and every time he misses the ball he cries. Mike asks Yoda what to do and Yoda tells Mike that there is no reason to get upset because someone is better at something than he is. Mike is so frustrated by Yoda's advice that it distracts him during the softball game. However, this is a good thing because Mike is so preoccupied by trying to figure out Yoda's advice that he doesn't cry when he strikes out.

## Analysis

Mike is emotional like most boys around that age. He is going through puberty and trying to sort through the emotions that he is feeling as his hormones take over. Mike gets frustrated and cries, and this chapter explains that there is another reason for someone to cry as opposed to being sad, and that is when they are upset. The problem is that children at this age are often uncomfortable with themselves and will make fun of others to make themselves feel better, and this is what his classmates have been doing. Yoda's advice to Mike is along the lines of there are more important things to get upset over than winning or losing, and that if you can't accept your limitations then you will never be able to accept yourself. The fact that Mike is able to get through a game without tears is counted as a small victory by Mike.

The theme of Coming of Age is introduced in this chapter. The reader sees that Mike is still crossing that line between being a child about something and accepting disappointment without tears. With his realization that he can get through a ballgame without crying Mike has learned some coping skills.

## Discussion Question 1

How was Yoda's advice to Mike what he needed to hear?

## Discussion Question 2

Discuss the Coming of Age Theme in this chapter.

## Discussion Question 3

Why does missing a ball in the softball game upset him so much?

## Vocabulary

strikeout, realized, misunderstood, important, comment



# Chapter 4

## Summary

The focus of this chapter changes to a girl named Sara, Tommy's crush. In this chapter Sara and her friends sit at the table adjacent to Tommy to make fun of their weirdness. While sitting there at the table Sara is confronted by Dwight and told to learn the Twist, which she learns is a dance from Spiderman 3. Sara goes home with her friend Amy and they look the dance up on the computer before trying to learn the dance. Sara's grandmother hears the commotion upstairs and comes running up to see what is going on. In the end she joins Amy and Sarah, learning to do the Twist too. Sara says that this is the happiest any of them have been since her parents divorced.

## Analysis

This chapter expresses the theme of Family heavily. It's implied that Sara has been grieving over the fact that her parents have divorced. Sara is in that stage of life where everything is changing and to add in a divorce makes things even harder to get through. The Twist is symbolic of acceptance and happiness. As Sara goes to learn the dance, her grandmother joins her and it allows the two of them to become closer. It also is the first time in a long while that Sara expresses true happiness, something that she sorely needs.

As Sara spends time with her grandmother she starts to learn more about her life. This chapter also shows that Sara is not like most of the children at school. She listens to Dwight's advice, despite how strange it is, and ends up experiencing a moment of happiness and becomes closer with her grandmother. It opens up a dialogue between the two of them that shows Sara that her grandmother was at one time much like her and that she understands her.

## Discussion Question 1

Why is Sara going through a difficult time?

## Discussion Question 2

How do Dwight and Sara have an interesting friendship?

## Discussion Question 3

What does Sara learn about herself by spending time with her grandmother?

## Vocabulary

blabbing, compared, groaned, yammering, wisdom



# Chapter 5

## Summary

This chapter is in the point of view of Tommy. The group is at lunch and Tommy decides to let a boy named Lance sit at their lunch table. The problem is that Lance sits in Dwight's seat and refuses to move from the seat when Dwight comes over. Despite the fact that Lance is more popular than the rest of the group Tommy argues with him, saying that Lance is in Tommy's seat and he needs to move. Lance leaves and Dwight sits down in his now vacant seat.

## Analysis

The theme of Fitting In is seen in this chapter as the group tries to have a more popular person sit with them instead of Dwight. The problem is that Tommy realizes that despite feeling more popular with Lance around, the feeling at the table is just off. This is representative of Tommy realizing that this isn't right, and thinking of Dwight's feelings on the matter, since he is essentially left out of the group. Tommy proves that he cares more about Dwight's feelings than being popular, as he tells Lance to move from Dwight's seat.

It's unknown whether or not Dwight heard the argument or not, but he acts depressed about something, suggesting that not even weird Dwight is immune to what people think or say about him. It's ironic that Lance ends up leaving the table, because he finds Tommy and his group too weird. Ironically, because this was what Tommy and his group were trying to avoid.

## Discussion Question 1

Discuss the theme of Fitting In as it is exemplified in this chapter.

## Discussion Question 2

Why did the kids invite Lance to sit with them and why did he end up leaving?

## Discussion Question 3

What makes Tommy change his mind about having Dwight sit with them?

## Vocabulary

argument, perfect, annoying, overheard, result



# Chapter 6

## Summary

This chapter is little more than a page long, and several paragraphs deep. However, Chapter 6 is a list of all the weird things Dwight has done over the years. Tommy makes up a list of ten things, which includes spraying water from his mouth all over cupcakes and asking squirrels to help him. Tommy concludes that all of these things that Dwight does is what makes him so strange to other people.

## Analysis

This chapter is written differently than the previous ones to give the reader a break from the multiple points of view, as well as give insight into Dwight's character. Dwight seems to have no trouble expressing who he is as a person, and doing things that entertain him, despite what others may think.

The fact that Tommy makes a list of the weird things Dwight does is representative of the fact that Tommy is jealous of Dwight deep down. He watches Dwight do these strange things, but deep inside of him Tommy wishes that he could do the same thing. This list acts as validation for Tommy, convincing Tommy that he is a normal person and more popular than someone in his school. Tommy also uses the list as an excuse to make it okay in his head to be rude to Dwight.

## Discussion Question 1

Why did Tommy make the list?

## Discussion Question 2

What does Tommy's obsession with Dwight's 'weirdness' say about Tommy's character?

## Discussion Question 3

How does Tommy use the list as a justification?

## Vocabulary

weirdest, mouthful, encyclopedias, equipment, massively



# Chapter 7

## Summary

This chapter is told from Cassie's point of view. Cassie is the new girl in school and she doesn't have a lot of friends, electing to spend time in her classroom alone during lunch. During one of these times Cassie breaks the English teacher's Shakespeare bust and hides it in her backpack when she becomes flustered about what to do. On the bus Dwight is the only one who will sit with her and he asks her to ask Origami Yoda for advice. Dwight's weirdness scares her because she is the only one who knows about the broken bust. When she asks Dwight about how he knew, Dwight explains it is simple reasoning and that it's not that hard to figure out. Yoda advises Cassie to make a new one and she does so out of playdough. The next day Cassie presents the new bust to the teacher, who ends up loving it more than the old one.

## Analysis

In this chapter the main focus is on Cassie doing the right thing to make up for something that was an accident. Like many children her age Cassie decides that hiding the evidence is the best course of action. However it's her guilt that causes Cassie to want to figure out how to fix the bust. She is so guilty that when Yoda gives her advice to make a new bust she takes it.

The bust itself has a lot of sentimental value to the teacher but Cassie's bust holds even more meaning because she put her feelings into recreating the bust. That love is plainly shown and that is why the teacher loves it more than the old one and isn't upset when Cassie gives him the new bust.

The theme of this chapter is Do What is Right, not what is easy. It would've been simpler for Cassie to simply throw away the broken pieces of the bust and keep quiet about what she has done, but instead she takes Yoda's advice and replaces it. Cassie takes a chance by making the new bust because there is always a chance that the teacher would be upset by her breaking the old bust. However, everything works out in the end.

## Discussion Question 1

Discuss the theme of Doing the Right thing as it is exemplified by Cassie in this chapter.

## Discussion Question 2

What was Yoda's advice to Cassie?





## Discussion Question 3

What was the outcome when Cassie followed Yoda's advice?

## Vocabulary

clumsy, punishment, lounge, particular, sentimental



# Chapter 8

## Summary

This next chapter is short and from Lance's point of view. The main thing that happens in this chapter is that Lance asks Yoda about the new horror movie coming out. Yoda tells him to save his money and not to see the movie since it was going to get bad reviews.

## Analysis

Yoda tells Lance to just save his money for better things, which is good advice for life. Lance was unsure about if it would be a good idea to see the movie or not, and because he was on the fence about spending his money Yoda is showing him that it's better to save the money if he isn't sure. Lance didn't have permission from his parents to see the movie, either, and he runs the risk of getting in trouble with his parents for a stupid reason. By not seeing the movie and realizing how awful the movie actually is Lance not only kept his money and kept himself out of trouble, but had no regrets for not going to see it.

## Discussion Question 1

How did Yoda help Lance?

## Discussion Question 2

What did Lance learn from taking Yoda's advice?

## Discussion Question 3

What did Lance learn about money and dealing with his parents?

## Vocabulary

parasite, sarcastic, explanation, remark, croaky



# Chapter 9

## Summary

This chapter is from Marcie's point of view. Marcie is an eighth grader who rides Dwight's bus. Despite being mean to Dwight she decides to ask Dwight what word she will need to learn for the spelling bee. Dwight tells her he will have Yoda tell her tomorrow, and Marcie reacts very badly to Dwight, calling him 'fart face' and other horrible names. The next day Yoda tells Marcie the word "mulked". Marcie studies all night and when the bee finally arrives she loses because mulked isn't even on the word list they use.

## Analysis

The symbol that shows up in the chapter is the word mulked. Mulked means to deprive by fraudulent means. This is ironic since the word Marci is told is false and she is a person who spends the majority of time studying this one word rather than learning a copious amount of words like the other contestants do. This exemplifies the theme of Honesty and Treatment of other people.

Dwight has shown that he and Yoda have limits to what they will help people with, especially if they are mean people. It's better to treat everyone nicely because a person will receive niceness in return. This goes to show the reader that Dwight has a vengeful side to him and is not above being childish and mean back to someone who has acted the same way to him.

## Discussion Question 1

What happened to Marci when she was mean to Dwight?

## Discussion Question 2

Why did 'Yoda' give the word Mulked to Marci?

## Discussion Question 3

Discuss the theme of Honesty as it appears in this chapter.

## Vocabulary

believed, predicted, regionals, mulked, vestige



# Chapter 10

## Summary

This chapter is about a boy named Quovondo. Quovondo is called the Cheeto Hog, a nickname that he wants to be rid of. Quovondo earned this nickname because in sixth grade he was on a field trip to the zoo and sneaked over to the vending machines and bought a pack of Cheetos. He got in trouble with the teacher but they allowed him to eat the Cheetos. Flustered, Quavondo shoved all of the Cheetos into his mouth, almost choking, rather than sharing with his classmates. Because he didn't share the Cheetos he bought on a school trip, when everyone was hungry, they nicknamed him Cheeto Hog.

Quovondo asks Yoda to help him out and Yoda says he must share Cheetos with everyone during the assembly. Doing this lands Quavondo in big trouble, but no one calls him Cheeto Hog any more because he has redeemed himself. In the end he believes he owes the Yoda for helping him to redeem himself.

## Analysis

This chapter touches upon the theme of Greed. Quavondo decided to be a pig and eat all of his Cheetos rather than sharing them with others. This exemplifies how people will often call others by how they act and that greed will cause a person to end up alone and without friends. Yoda opens up Quavondo's eyes to make him see that if he wants to change something, then he has to undo what he did wrong in the first place. That is the only way people will view him any differently. However, it is also possible that Dwight just wanted free Cheetos and he is abusing his power with the Origami Yoda to get what he wants.

## Discussion Question 1

What is Quavondo's story?

## Discussion Question 2

What does Quavondo ask the Yoda to help him with, and why?

## Discussion Question 3

Discuss the theme of Greed as it is exemplified in this chapter.

## **Vocabulary**

refreshment, grumbling, return, grabbing, practically



# Chapter 11

## Summary

This is another short chapter without a point of view. In this chapter the author has just scanned in detention slips that Dwight handed him for the case file. Dwight refuses to talk on the record. This chapter consists of one paragraph.

## Analysis

The symbol and foreshadowing object appears in this chapter, a paper Chewbacca. Now the Chewbacca doesn't come into play in this book, but the sequel is the case of the Paper Chewbacca. This shows that Dwight has already begun working on another origami oracle.

## Discussion Question 1

What has Dwight handed to the school official to be scanned?

## Discussion Question 2

Why might Dwight be the one handing in the detention slips?

## Discussion Question 3

Why might Dwight refuse to discuss the detention slips with anyone?

## Vocabulary

suspension, crumpled, refuses, discovered, remove



# Chapter 12

## Summary

Chapter 12 starts with Caroline coming to Dwight to ask Yoda for help about a bully who keeps breaking the pencils her grandmother has given her. Dwight talks to Yoda and says the he will handle this issue and leaves. Dwight is gone for a whole week until Tommy learns that Dwight tried to fight Caroline's bully, but lost badly.

## Analysis

In the chapter the reader sees the theme of Love being demonstrated. Dwight shows some attraction to Caroline in this chapter and, therefore, when she says she is having problems he jumps right in to rush to her aid. Furthermore, despite that Dwight is a weird kid with no notable powers of his own he still becomes a hero because he is willing to do something about the problem in hand. Everyone believes that heroes have to have powers, but in reality just helping someone solve their problems and stepping up for someone who can't help themselves makes someone a hero.

This chapter also shows Dwight, for the first time, listening to Yoda and trying to solve this problem on his own, rather than telling Caroline to do it. Even though Dwight ends up losing his fight against the bully it shows Caroline that she isn't alone and that there are people out there that have her back and are willing to fight for her.

## Discussion Question 1

Discuss the theme of Love as it is exemplified in this chapter.

## Discussion Question 2

Why does Dwight solve the problem himself rather than having Caroline do it?

## Discussion Question 3

What does Caroline discover about what it means to be a hero as a result of Dwight's actions?

## Vocabulary

language, dribbling, sharpened, whispered, brayed



# Chapter 13

## Summary

In this chapter the reader finds out that Dwight wore a ridiculously ugly sweater to school. Harvey made fun of him and so did Keller, to an extent. Dwight saw Caroline come into the room and he waved to her. Harvey made fun of him more because he realized Dwight dressed up to impress her. Dwight had enough, called Harvey a jerk, and left.

## Analysis

The sweater is a symbol of Dwight expressing himself, but also trying to look good for the person he likes, Caroline. In the chapter it is revealed that Dwight has brought new pencils for her and intended to give them to Caroline, but Harvey embarrassed him to the point that he leaves. Harvey is starting to become the antagonist of the story seeing as he is always putting the others down.

## Discussion Question 1

What is the ugly sweater a symbol of?

## Discussion Question 2

Why did Dwight want to get Caroline's attention?

## Discussion Question 3

Why didn't Dwight consult Yoda before attempting what he did in class?

## Vocabulary

reorder, collection, outrageously, production, imaginary





# Chapter 14

## Summary

Yoda was asked by Jennifer who would get voted off American Idol. Yoda said Terrell. The prediction came true. This chapter, which is all of a paragraph long, chronicles the quick question that Yoda is asked by a classmate.

## Analysis

Tommy now believes that Yoda is real, because its predictive powers have been proven true. This just furthers the legend of the paper Yoda and makes Dwight semi-popular.

## Discussion Question 1

What does this prediction establish for Dwight?

## Discussion Question 2

Why does Tommy now believe in the powers of the Yoda?

## Discussion Question 3

Why did Jennifer want to know who would win the contest?

## Vocabulary

smitten, laughable, permitted, lopsided, victorious



# Chapter 15

## Summary

The point of view returns to Sara. Sara explains that Yoda told Tommy's group about a pop quiz, and they in turn told Sara's group. They tell Sara's group the answers to what will be on the pop quiz so they can study and pass the quiz with high marks. Sara thinks it is cheating, but goes ahead and studies the leaflet anyway. Later on in class, Sara takes the pop quiz and she ends up passing it with flying colors. Sara goes to the teacher to say she knew about the quiz, but he says he didn't even know about the quiz until the moment he gave it in class.

## Analysis

Chapter Fifteen is important because it challenges the reader to try and figure out if Yoda was truly predicting the quiz down to the subject, or if it was merely dumb luck. Dwight has shown that he is a very perceptive person several times in the story, which makes it probable that he figured that a quiz was most likely going to happen in that class. However, the other theory to this is that Dwight somehow has an extra sense about him that allows him to call forth knowledge of the future. Either way it causes Sara to feel bewildered about the whole ordeal, because it is out of the ordinary. It causes her to wonder about who Dwight really is.

## Discussion Question 1

What makes this prediction different than the others?

## Discussion Question 2

Why does Sara go up to speak with the teacher after the quiz?

## Discussion Question 3

Discuss Sara's character.

## Vocabulary

smirk, permanent, personal, chloroplast, epidermis



# Chapter 16

## Summary

Chapter sixteen is told from the viewpoint of a girl named Rondella. Rhondella is the girl that Kellen has a crush on. She is goaded into asking Yoda a question. She asks him why Kellen always bugs her. Yoda responds by saying Kellen likes her. She leaves after Kellen and Dwight argue, because Kellen is embarrassed that Yoda told Rondella his secret.

## Analysis

In this chapter the reader sees that the Yoda is now also being used for matters of the heart. It's already seen that love is in the air around Tommy's school but everyone is having issues admitting their feelings to their crushes. Kellen believes that he will be made fun of if Rondella finds out that he likes her.

Kellen is angry at Yoda because Yoda has inadvertently forced him into a situation that he wasn't ready for. Rejection is something that everyone is afraid of and if they aren't ready to admit to someone that they like them it can cause problems. Because Rondella is asking Yoda why Kellen is acting strange it can be implied that she didn't know Kellen had feelings for her.

## Discussion Question 1

Why is Kellen upset with Yoda?

## Discussion Question 2

What do all of the boys share in common when it comes to girls at the school?

## Discussion Question 3

What is inferred by Rondella's question?

## Vocabulary

creeps, malfunction, shoved, annoying, falsified



# Chapter 17

## Summary

Chapter 17 is another list, this time of wrong predictions given out by Yoda. They include game cheats to YouTube videos.

## Analysis

This chapter shows the reader that Yoda does get some predictions wrong, or that the people who have received these predictions are unhappy with them. It makes the reader realize that Yoda isn't all-knowing, and that it's possible that Yoda's predictions and advice are little more than Dwight's own advice from what he has observed of people.

## Discussion Question 1

What is the purpose of the list?

## Discussion Question 2

What can the reader infer from the wrong predictions and the people's reactions to them?

## Discussion Question 3

Based on the advice being given via Yoda, what can one infer about Dwight's observational abilities?

## Vocabulary

operation, hilarious, unsatisfactory, rally, volley



# Chapter 18

## Summary

The point of view is focused on Tommy as he talks to Dwight. After everyone else leaves class, he asks about Sara. Tommy wants to know why Sara doesn't like him. Yoda tells him "Who says she doesn't like you?". Tommy wants a definite answer and to hear Dwight's roundabout way of speaking makes him upset. When Tommy confronts Dwight directly as to what Yoda means, all Dwight says is "purple". Tommy loses his temper and says terrible things to Dwight. Dwight starts walking away and Tommy follows him.

## Analysis

Tommy is becoming desperate to know whether or not Sara, whom he has a crush on, likes him back. Tommy is just like any other boy his age with a crush, he wants a definite answer. The problem is that with Dwight he doesn't get a very clear answer. Tommy is really frustrated by his own lack of insight on the matter. He sees how Dwight with his Origami Yoda can seemingly predict any event, and wishes that he could do that.

The fact that Tommy asks Dwight about Sara when none of the others are present indicates that the topic embarrasses him and he wants to talk alone with the finger puppet. Tommy doesn't like feeling vulnerable, and when someone is dealing with revealing something about their personal feelings it leaves them feeling vulnerable and very sensitive when they feel like they are being made fun of. When Dwight walks away it is showing that Dwight is starting to get tired of being used only for his Yoda. Everybody is willing to bother him when they think he has all of the answers, and because of that they are not allowing Dwight to be who he is.

## Discussion Question 1

Why is Dwight getting tired of everyone paying attention to the Yoda?

## Discussion Question 2

What does this argument between Dwight and Tommy indicate?

## Discussion Question 3

Why does Tommy really become angry with Dwight?

## Vocabulary

pathetic, realized, smears, suggested, absolutely



# Chapter 19

## Summary

The point of view is still on Tommy in this chapter. The next day Tommy goes to find Dwight and the Origami Yoda to ask again about the things Yoda said the day before. All Dwight says is "purple" over and over. Tommy loses his temper and yells at him, asking him why he can't be normal.

Dwight gets up and throws away the Yoda, stating that if he is to be normal he won't be needing this puppet. Lisa walks up and asks to see Yoda, and Dwight tells her though his tears that Yoda is dead. He tells everyone that he doesn't remember how to make another one.

## Analysis

At this point Tommy's annoyance stems from the fact that he is relying on Yoda far too much and he isn't getting the exact answer he wants from him and Dwight. The problem is that Tommy doesn't realize what his words can do to people as Dwight has finally had enough. Despite the fact that Dwight often marches to the beat of his own drum he can still be hurt by what people say. Once the Yoda is destroyed, the boys see Dwight crying over it. Dwight really cared for the puppet and also knows he can't make another one.

The death of the Origami Yoda is symbolic of the fact that Dwight is done trying to help others. Dwight has spent so long helping others with their problems that in the midst of it all he had started to lose sight of himself. The fact that Dwight is crying over the loss of the Origami Yoda suggests several things. One is that Dwight has a strong connection to the Yoda he made because it allowed him to express opinions on matters that otherwise people would have ignored. On the other hand it could be that Dwight is upset with himself because he has destroyed the only thing that garnered him attention at the school. Lastly, he could be crying because it is the death, symbolically, of his popularity.

## Discussion Question 1

Why is Tommy most likely annoyed with Dwight?

## Discussion Question 2

What prompts Dwight to throw Yoda into the trash?



## Discussion Question 3

What does the death of Yoda really symbolize?

## Vocabulary

sobbing, demanding, section, unscientific, un-crumple





# Chapter 20

## Summary

Chapter 20 is focused on Harvey. Harvey, in the wake of the fall of Dwight's Yoda, makes one for himself. This Yoda gives out horrible and mean advice. When Tommy asks about Sara, Harvey says that she hates him and laughs behind his back.

## Analysis

This is the point in the story where Harvey goes straight from a pessimistic character to full blown antagonist. Harvey makes a Yoda just to show everyone how silly they are and ends up really hurting Tommy's feelings about himself and Sara. Harvey's Yoda advice stems from the fact that Harvey made a Yoda out of negative feelings. Because the Yoda is made with negative feelings it also gives out negative advice to people. Harvey's reasoning behind making a Yoda reveals the fact that perhaps he is jealous of the attention that such a weird kid was getting so much attention and he figured that he could get that same attention if he made a puppet. That speaks volumes and demonstrates the theme of Good Versus Evil.

Popularity is something that many characters, Tommy and Harvey included, strive for. As the author shows, popularity and wanting everyone to think one is so great comes with a price. Those who seek to be popular through someone else's achievements is rotten and evil. True popularity comes from accepting who one is and if one can do that, other people will want to be around that person to see what is going on.

## Discussion Question 1

What is the author stating about popularity?

## Discussion Question 2

How does Harvey reveal himself as the antagonist of the story?

## Discussion Question 3

What would make Harvey want to make a Yoda of his own?

## Vocabulary

blubbering, tragic, expert, combination, downloaded



# Chapter 21

## Summary

In this chapter Dwight swoops in right after Harvey says Sara hates Tommy and says in his Yoda voice that Harvey is wrong. Dwight figures out how to fold his Origami Yoda again after waking up that morning. The two boys decide to have a contest to see who the real Yoda is and who is the fake one. The contest is for Tommy to ask Sara to dance, and if she says no then Harvey wins, but if she says yes Dwight wins.

## Analysis

Even though Dwight killed the first Origami Yoda he comes back this chapter to tell everyone that Origami Yoda is back. Harvey is the personification of all of a person's negative feelings. He takes joy in making everyone feel bad and telling them that if they want to fit in, it's better to never take a chance in life. It's possible that Dwight noticed what Harvey was doing to Tommy, and because Dwight is a nice person he jumped in to help like always. This showdown between Yodas demonstrates the theme of Good versus Evil.

There are a few possible theories as to why Dwight reveals that he has remembered how to remake the Origami Yoda. It's possible that Dwight lied about forgetting how to remake the Origami Yoda, because he was so tired of everyone wanting to get information from him that he needed a break. Dwight may have been so upset when he destroyed Yoda that his emotions were blocking out how to remake Origami Yoda and once he calmed down he remembered.

At this point, Dwight has now become a sort of hero to Tommy, but it's more than that because Dwight is serving to remind Tommy that he isn't a loser and that he never said that Sara hated Tommy. Also in Tommy's eyes he sees Dwight as being a better friend than he was, because even after Tommy said such horrible things to Dwight in the previous chapter, Dwight still comes to Tommy's rescue when Tommy needs it most. It shows that Dwight, for all of his goofiness, is a good person and has learned the value of friendship over vindictiveness.

## Discussion Question 1

What does this chapter tell the reader about Dwight's nature?

## Discussion Question 2

Discuss the theme of Good versus Evil as it is exemplified in this chapter.



## Discussion Question 3

How has Tommy changed as a character from the beginning of the story?

## Vocabulary

duel, stunned, grief, criticism, rereading, gamble



# Chapter 22

## Summary

In this chapter Tommy arrives to the dance and all the usual stage sitters are present. Harvey is there with his Yoda and is still giving hurtful advice. Tommy sees Sara and starts to get nervous and wants to meet with Dwight to ask the Yoda again if Sara likes him, but no one can find Dwight. Eventually everyone finds Dwight dancing with Caroline and holding hands, much to everyone's shock.

Dwight comes over to them with Caroline and asks if Tommy has gone to Sara yet. Tommy says no and Dwight tells him that Sara came to Yoda a week ago to ask if Tommy liked her as much as she liked him. This spurs Tommy into going to Sara on the dance floor, but Harvey brings up that Tommy can't dance. Just then the DJ plays "The Twist" and Tommy dances over to Sara and they dance the night away.

## Analysis

This chapter demonstrates to the reader the theme of Good versus Evil. Harvey has his Yoda which is better made and Dwight has his Yoda which is not as well made. However Dwight's Yoda wins and shows that just because you aren't as pretty or finely made you can still be a winner. This is symbolic of Dwight himself, as Dwight is not cut from the same cloth as everyone else, so to speak. And yet, he comes out the winner.

Dwight demonstrates that if one accepts who they are that the good people in life will come to them. In the end, Tommy learns that Dwight is a good guy who genuinely cares about people and even though he isn't popular he's a better friend than Harvey. The twist is also symbolic as it allows Tommy to be rid of Harvey's negative influence once and for all and feel confident enough to go to Sara.

Tommy also shows what he is made of as he finally decides to gather up the courage to ask Sara to dance. Even when Harvey tries to talk Tommy out of going over to Sara he still decides to take a chance and go over to her. Tommy has finally decided that being like everyone else is boring and he would rather take a chance on something that has the potential to make him happy.

## Discussion Question 1

What happens when Dwight and Harvey challenge one another?



## Discussion Question 2

With Dwight's success, what does it indicate to all of the other misfits in the middle school?

## Discussion Question 3

How does Yoda's final prediction make Tommy very, very happy?

## Vocabulary

admittedly, lurkers, bopping, terrible, hoax, spewed



# Characters

## Tommy

Tommy is an average boy in middle school who is a social outcast. Tommy wants to be cool but he has no idea of how to do that. Furthermore, Tommy has a crush on Sara but like most boys his age he has a hard time figuring out if she likes him back. Tommy is the main narrator of the book and mostly the main character. Tommy compiles all the Yoda stories so he can document it.

Tommy has a short temper and often times sends his frustrations out on the wrong person, like yelling at Dwight for Yoda's cryptic message to him. However, Tommy isn't a bad person as he is seen standing up for Dwight when Lance takes Dwight's seat.

In the end, Tommy realizes that because Dwight is himself he isn't afraid to go for what he wants in life and to be different is good. Because he understands that, Tommy is able to go for what he wants and asks Sara to dance with him.

## Dwight

Dwight is an eccentric young guy who has never fit in and doesn't strive to. Dwight loves being weird because that is who he is and he has accepted himself entirely. He doesn't care what other people think and while to others that makes him weird, in reality that makes him cool. Dwight is a nice guy who is willing to help people and stand up for those who can't stand up for themselves.

Dwight is the one who made the Paper Yoda and made Yoda talk even though he doesn't act like he knows what Yoda is going to say. Dwight is willing to make people make fun of him to get them to leave others alone, like when he wears an ugly sweater to school to get people to stop bullying Caroline. Even though Dwight wasn't looking to be accepted by anyone he ends up being accepted into Tommy's group by the end of the story.

## Sara

Sara is the love interest for Tommy. Sara is a popular girl at school but she isn't mean. Because her parents went through a divorce Sara is still affected by this. However, she is not afraid to be different as she takes Dwight's advice, via Origami Yoda, to learn the Twist. It not only makes Sara smile but brings her closer to her grandmother, something that she hadn't done previously.

It sets Sara up to learn that the world isn't a sad place and that if you take a chance then everything will turn out alright. In the end Sara finds that the Twist dance she



learned with her friend Amy and her grandmother comes in handy because it allows her to dance with Tommy, her crush.

## Kellen

Kellen is a minor character who only has a couple chapters in the book. He is Tommy's best friend it seems and one of the nerdier boys out of Tommy's group. Kellen is the second person in the book that Origami Yoda helps.

## Quavondo

He is another friend of Tommy, he ate all the Cheetos at the zoo field trip and didn't share, which earned him the name Cheeto Hog. He is seen to be remorseful of his greed and looking for a chance to change everyone's perception of him. He wants to fit in just like everyone else and is willing to do anything to make others see that he is more than just his nickname.

## Harvey

Harvey is a character who starts off to be a pessimistic character and turns out to be the antagonist. Harvey is mean and rude and doesn't really care about anyone in particular. Harvey makes his own Yoda and faces off against Dwight's Yoda.

He takes pleasure in giving out mean advice to people and making them feel bad just for the sake of getting attention. Harvey is the foil to Dwight in many ways because he is popular, mean, and cares what people think about him.

## Lance

Lance comes to sit with the characters for a brief moment then leaves. Not much is seen of his character other than he deems Tommy's group too weird to hang out with for very long.

## Mike

Mike is the friend of Tommy's who cries a lot. Yoda gives him the bright advice of accepting his limitations and that he should cry about things with more importance. While Mike doesn't seem to understand this bit of advice when he is playing softball, in the long run it does him well as he doesn't cry when he misses a pitch.

## Rhondella

She is Kellen's love interest.

## Amy

Amy is Sara's friend and they are seen together a lot. They talk about the various boys that they think like them. She is very sympathetic to Sara's situation at home.





# Symbols and Symbolism

## Oragami Yoda

Yoda is a puppet made by Dwight to give out sage-like advice. This puppet symbolizes Dwight's creativity and aversion to being normal.

## The Twist

The Twist is a song that Yoda predicted and told everyone to learn. This song is symbolic of not being afraid to try something new and that doing something that seems silly can often bring people together. The Twist acts as a way to bridge the gap between 'popular' people and non popular people.

## Harvey's Yoda

This Yoda is made out of jealousy and malice by Harvey. This is symbolic of the dark-side of the force.

## Shakespeare's Bust

Cassie accidentally broke her teacher's Shakespeare bust. Originally she wasn't going to confess but then Yoda told her to just make a new one to replace the old one. It was a success.

## Playdough Bust

This was the bust that Cassie made for her teacher after she broke the original one. This new one was made from playdough.

## Cheetos

Quavondo once ate an entire bag of Cheetos and didn't share them with anyone, thus gaining an unflattering nickname.

## Dances

The kids at the school have numerous dances. These dances are opportunities for the boys and girls to figure out whom they like and who likes them back.



## **DJ**

The school hires a disc jockey to come in and play music at the school dances.

## **Trash Can**

When Yoda is thrown into the trash can it is symbolic of Dwight throwing away the false popularity that it had brought him.

## **The Lunch Table**

The lunch table became a symbol of who was cool and who was not. Popular kids would eat together, leaving the rest to live as outsiders.

# Settings

## School

The majority of the action takes place inside the middle school. It houses sixth through eighth graders. The school, itself, is reportedly quite large.

## Dance Hall

This is where the characters are first introduced to the reader and to Yoda, and this is where the book finally ends.

## Sara's House

This is the place that Sara goes to look up the Twist and ends up bonding further with her grandmother.

## Bus

The school bus is where some of the Yoda predictions take place.

## Lunch Room

This is where the social divisions are most obvious, with the popular crowd sitting together and the rest of the students sitting alone or in forlorn clusters.



# Themes and Motifs

## Good v. Evil

The theme of good versus evil is one that moves through the book in an inconspicuous manner until the end. This theme doesn't have to be about people, it can also be applied to actions. While at the beginning of the book it seems that everything is lighthearted as Dwight and his Origami Yoda give out predictions there is the time where Marcie is mean to Dwight.

These actions can be considered evil as she tries to make Dwight hurt because she didn't get the prediction she wanted right away. Yoda telling Marcie the next day to study the word mulked was Yoda's way of punishing Marcie's bad behavior and allowing someone who actually studied words for the spelling bee to have a chance to win.

Furthermore, Tommy struggles between being a friend to Dwight because Dwight is a good person but also wanting to be popular, which will only happen if Tommy rids himself of Dwight. Many times Tommy chooses to be mean to Dwight because he is frustrated at Dwight's actions or things don't go the way he wants them to. At the same time Tommy does stick up for Dwight as in the case of when Lance takes Dwight's seat at Lunch.

The end of the novel is where the theme of good versus evil is apparent. With Dwight's Origami Yoda destroyed, Harvey sees this as his time to become the center of attention by making his own. The problem is that because Harvey is making an Origami Yoda for all the wrong and malevolent reasons and his Yoda exemplifies that by giving bad advice intended to hurt people.

Dwight's Yoda was made with good intentions and that is why his advice is helpful and meant to help people. The two face off at Tommy's expense to see who the right one in their predictions is. Dwight's Yoda wins in the end as Tommy finally realizes that he is good enough for Sara. It proves that good is a more powerful force than evil.

## Love

Love plays a minor role in the novel until the end. At the beginning of the novel most people are asking Yoda for advice about material things. It keeps the book lighthearted and entertaining. It's meant to grasp onto the reader to make them stay until the end of the book. There are points in the book that Yoda gives advice to Tommy that turns out to be about his crush on Sara.

The most important one is the first bit of advice he gives to Tommy about how only fools rush in. While this advice seems to disappear right after the dance, it doesn't. Throughout the whole book Tommy is waiting for his courage to rise but also for the right moment to ask Sara to dance.



It isn't until the middle of the book where love and infatuation come into play in a more obvious manner. Already the reader knows that Tommy has a crush on Sara in the first few chapters but not much comes of that. Rondella is the first person that Yoda formally talks about infatuation and crushes with and that ends in disaster as Kellen starts to yell at Dwight for revealing things that he shouldn't. It shows here that love is something that needs to go at its own pace and if it is rushed often times someone ends up getting hurt.

By the end of the book this is where the real meat of the story is as many separate storylines begin to intersect with one another. Tommy's main issue towards the end is trying to figure out if Sara likes him or not. While Tommy goes to Yoda for this advice he is also unwilling to hear the truth that Dwight is speaking to him by not giving Tommy a straight answer.

Dwight was trying to teach Tommy that in matters of the heart it's best to ask the person yourself and that you are the only one who can discern whether someone truly likes you or not. In the end Tommy learns that lesson and is a happier person because of it.

## Belonging

Belonging is another prevalent theme in the book. This is set in the time of middle school where children are just hitting puberty and are in that fragile stage of learning to grow up. Everything is new from the changes in body to the changes in lifestyle. Through all of this there is the need to belong that drives every character to do what they can to fit in. The whole reason Dwight creates the Origami Yoda is to fit in. He relishes the fact that he gets attention from everyone when they want to ask Origami Yoda for advice.

Tommy is also someone who desperately struggles with wanting to fit in and keeping his friends close. In this book if you want to be popular you have to be mean, suggesting that popularity is a pretense and that those people who are popular are unhappy people deep down.

Tommy often does things to make himself more popular, like inviting Lance to sit at their table for lunch because he is more popular. On the other hand Tommy ends up making Lance leave because he took Dwight's seat, excluding Dwight from the table. Deep down Tommy admires Dwight and does see them as friends and that is what makes it so hard for him to try and elevate his popularity.

In the end Tommy realizes that fitting in isn't as important as having good friends and accepting yourself for who you are. The advice from Origami Yoda has finally come to pass because Tommy has waited through the entire book to ask Sara to dance. During that time he has grown because he realizes that being popular isn't important. If you can accept yourself then you can belong anywhere and with anyone. He doesn't let things like popularity get to him anymore.



## Death/ Rebirth

Death and rebirth is a motif that appears right towards the end of the novel. When Dwight crumples his Origami Yoda after Tommy yells at him to be normal it's symbolic of the fact that Dwight is doing what Tommy wants, he's trying to be normal. The problem is that with the death of the Origami Yoda, Tommy realizes just what he has done. The Origami Yoda was a part of who Dwight was and it was another thing that made him special. By getting rid of it Tommy has asked Dwight to get rid of a part of himself even if it's only momentarily.

Tommy realizes that asking someone to kill off a part of themselves is the wrong way to go about taking out frustration and that it ends up hurting more than just one person. When Dwight says that he doesn't remember how to remake the Origami Yoda that is symbolic of the fact that even if Dwight could remake the Origami Yoda at that moment, it wouldn't be the same. Once you kill off a part of yourself, get rid of it, even if you try and replace what is lost it will never be the same.

Dwight creating another Origami Yoda is symbolic of the rebirth of Dwight. Dwight originally created the Origami Yoda out of a willingness to help Tommy and that puppet was born out of his strangeness. As the story progressed, it started to drift away from its original purpose.

By remaking the Origami Yoda, Dwight has made him stronger to show that even though he was upset for a bit after his fight with Tommy, he's remembered who he is and that remembrance that makes Dwight all the stronger. He has gone back to the person he used to be at the beginning of the book and is there for Tommy when he needs him most.

## Greed and Honesty

The themes of Honesty and Greed are touched upon lightly in this novel. The story of Quavondo indicates what happens when someone allows their greed to overcome them. It cost him his dignity as well as friends. Once Yoda tells him how to get past it and make amends, he is able to move forward with his life.

Likewise, the theme of honesty makes an appearance in the chapter that chronicles Cassie's breaking of her teacher's Shakespeare bust. At first she doesn't want to admit to the accident, but then her conscience bothers her. She asks Yoda and finds a solution to the problem, which was to be honest about it and to make it right by creating a new bust to take the old one's place.

Other characters throughout the novel struggle with doing the right thing and determining what they should do. Most of their decisions are based whether or not it will hurt their social status rather than how it impacts others or their own character. As a result with the help of Yoda, they are able to see around this and to make better decisions that aren't based on anything but doing the right thing.



Greed shows up in several ways throughout the novel, especially when different characters want to have what Dwight has. They don't see why Dwight has created Yoda in the first place, and only want to have the attention that Dwight has. Their greed makes Dwight uncomfortable as he begins to realize that he isn't being allowed to be himself any longer.

# Styles

## Point of View

The book's point of view is multifaceted. A cast of ten people share their experiences with the Yoda doll. Tommy has more chapters than others, since he is the main character. Each entry into the book is first person point of view. This allows for a closer connection between the characters and the reader. Multiple points of view from other characters also offer insight into the personal thoughts and feelings of those characters, and how they deal with the Yoda doll's predictions.

## Language and Meaning

The language was set on a level for middle school. The only issue with the language is the use of Star Wars lingo. Those unfamiliar with the Star Wars movies or franchise might find the references difficult to understand.

## Structure

The book happens in a loose linear story with many flashbacks. Each character is given their own chapter. There are a total of 22 short 1-5 page chapters in the book.





## Quotes

I don't know why they even come to Fun Night, because they have even less of a chance of dancing with a girl than I do.

-- Tommy (chapter 1)

**Importance:** This is important to the story because this shows that the whole main character crew were all outcasts and the “losers” of the school. It sets up the conflict of the story because Tommy believes that he isn't good enough to ask the girl of his dreams to dance. But by the end of the novel Tommy realizes that he is good enough to ask Sara to dance and he was the only one standing in the way of his happiness.

Rush in fools do.

-- Yoda/Dwight (chapter 1)

**Importance:** This is the first bit of advice that Tommy ever gets from Yoda, it turns out that the girl he was going to ask to dance was already with someone and he would have been looking like a fool. Throughout the whole book Tommy ends up waiting for Sara and the advice proves to be true because at the end of the book Tommy is able to dance with Sara like he wanted to all along, all he had to do was have a bit of patience.

All of pants you must wet.

-- Yoda/Dwight (chapter 2)

**Importance:** This is the advice Yoda gives to Kellen when he gets water on his pants. This is the second time that Yoda helps someone and because of this it reinforces the fact that Yoda has some sort of powers that are meant to help people.

You wish to run home why?

-- Yoda/Dwight (chapter 3)

**Importance:** Mike wants to be the hero for once instead of the cry baby. However this statement reveals how childish Mike's thinking is. He thinks that hitting a homerun will help him be better and make people stop picking on him.

Better than you they are.

-- Yoda/Dwight (chapter 3)

**Importance:** Mike doesn't want to hear this, but Yoda means that there is always going to be someone better than you. It's a fact of life and it doesn't mean one must cry about it. Accepting one's limitations is a part of life and if one can do that then there'll be no reason to cry.

No, you can't just listen to the Twist, you got to get up and do it!

-- Sara's Grandmother (chapter 4)



**Importance:** This is where Sara begins to believe that Yoda has some form of ESP. She is amazed by how she was able to bond with her nana. The twist brought together two generations to share in the fun.

He got up and left and Dwight sat down and started poking holes in his hamburger with his straw.

-- Tommy (chapter 5)

**Importance:** This shows that Dwight is not well liked by members of his own group. They use Dwight and don't appreciate him. This action may be a peek into why Dwight made the Yoda in the first place, to get attention. This is the first time that the reader notices that Dwight is upset by a person's actions, rather than brushing it off like normal.

New one you must make.

-- Yoda (chapter 6)

**Importance:** This is showing that Yoda knows that if Cassie doesn't try to correct her mistake then she will regret it in the end. This is essentially a theme statement, talking about taking responsibility for one's actions and doing the right thing, even if they are afraid of the consequences.

Mulked. Learn to spell you must. Forget not the T.

-- Yoda (chapter 9)

**Importance:** This is the first time the reader sees Yoda do two things: wait a day to tell a fortune and punish someone. It exemplifies the fact that Dwight often will give what he receives; if someone is rude to him then it's possible that they will be taught a lesson because of it.

Serves you right, Cheeto Hog.

-- Harvey (chapter 11)

**Importance:** This quote exemplifies the fact that Harvey is a mean person and that he is happy to make someone else feel bad for something that happened a long time ago. It shows how petty Harvey is and that he is only going to get worse as time goes on.

Does not says who like you she does.

-- Yoda (chapter 18)

**Importance:** Dwight knows Sara likes Tommy, but won't outright tell him since he needs to figure it out on his own. This is the starting point of Tommy's cross attitude with Dwight, which leads to Yoda being destroyed.

You want me to stop being a loser? Better get rid of this then!

-- Dwight (chapter 19)

**Importance:** Dwight gets mad at Tommy for calling him a loser, and he destroys the



Yoda puppet to make the point that what is normal is boring. Dwight shows that the words people say do actually hurt him, but most of the time he shrugs it off. Dwight shows that he has feelings too.

"No Comment.

-- Harvey (chapter 20)

**Importance:** This is when everyone has become better individuals, but Harvey. He refuses to acknowledge out loud the fact that he is no longer popular and has been bested. Harvey realizes everyone has left him, and that he lost to Dwight.