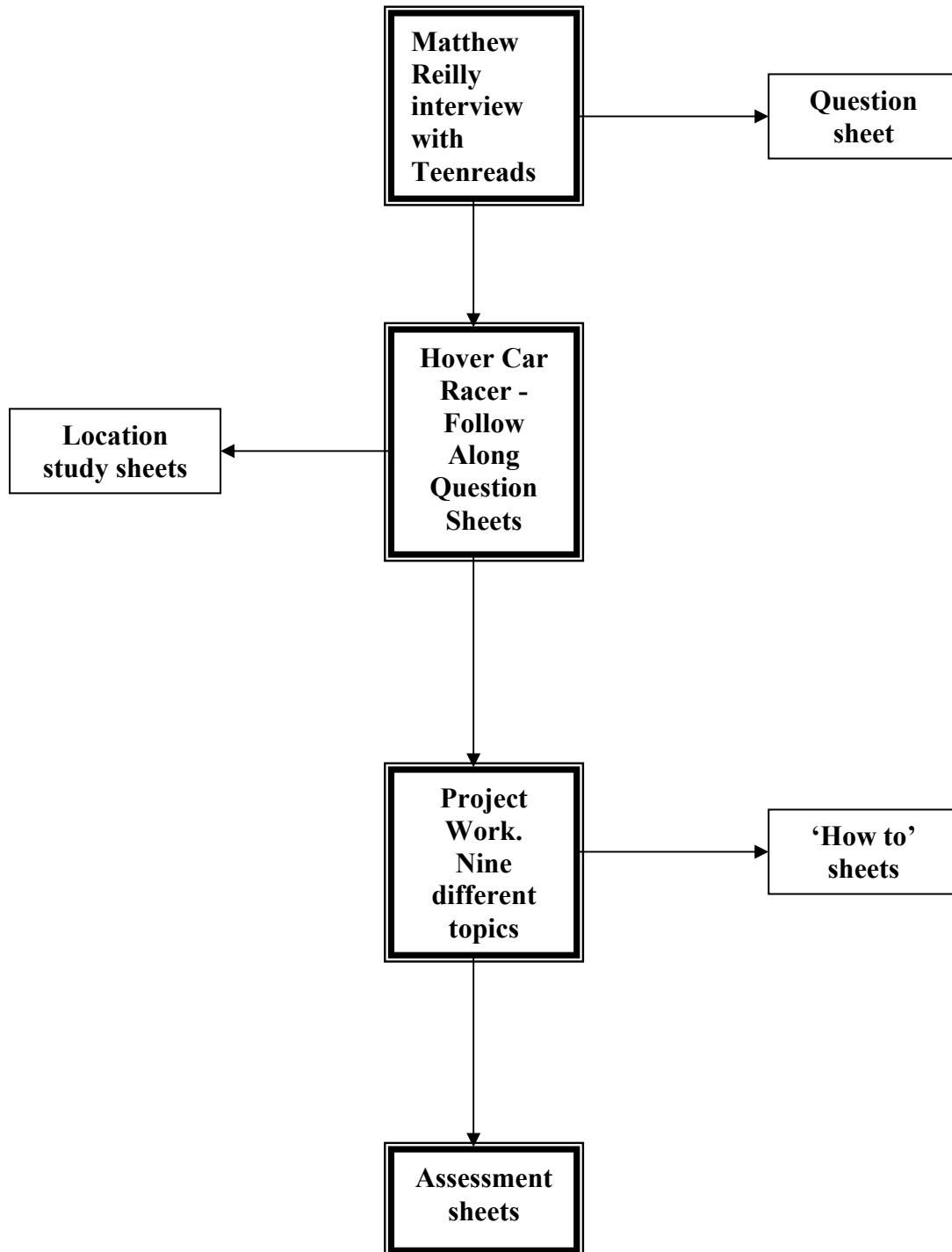


HOVER CAR RACER TEACHING RESOURCES FLOW CHART



HOVER CAR RACER TEACHING MATERIAL

BY BRENDAN MCKINNON

Author Interview



Matthew Reilly

BIO

Matthew Reilly was born in 1974 and studied law at the University of New South Wales. He has written four novels and several screenplays, and has had several magazine articles published. In 2002, he sold the film rights his worldwide bestseller, *ICE STATION*, to Paramount Pictures. He is also the author of *TEMPLE*, *AREA 7*, and *CONTEST*, and he lives in Sydney, Australia.

AUTHOR TALK

April 2004

Matthew Reilly talks to Teenreads.com about the plot of HOVER CAR RACER and why he is releasing it as a FREE e-book.

Q: What is HOVER CAR RACER about?

Matthew Reilly: Set a few years from now, HOVER CAR RACER follows the high-octane adventures of 14-year-old Jason Chaser, a gifted young pilot as he takes on the supercharged world of hover car racing --- where races are run at 810 km/h.

But Jason is exceedingly young to be a racer --- most racers are 18 and over. And so, in his trusty car, the Argonaut, he will race against all manner of villains and rivals in all kinds of fast-and-furious races at the famed International Race School and (perhaps) in the larger world of pro racing. One thing is for sure, his high-speed escapes and nailbiting finishes will leave readers literally clutching their armchairs. One thing is for sure: you've never read anything faster than HOVER CAR RACER.

Q: What inspired you to write a book about hover car racing? Have you ever raced cars, or had a desire to race them?

Matthew Reilly: I've always loved car racing, especially Formula 1. I also love the drama that comes out of competition --- the joy of victory, the despair of defeat, and the rivalries that are fought out on the track. I also love the sheer spectacle of Formula 1, NASCAR and Indy car racing: they are worlds where racers are superstars, where the rich and famous gather together. Those sorts of things inspired Hover Car Racer.

What I wanted more than anything, though, was to create a kind of car racing that the world had never seen. Something that was faster and more spectacular than any kind of car racing we know. And so I created these superfast "hover cars", essentially racing fighter jets. Then I just made hover car racing (in the near future) the most famous sport in the whole world!

As for my own racing experience: well, I do own a pretty cool (and fast) sports car, but no, I haven't raced before.

Q: Why did you decide to publish HOVER CAR RACER in such an innovative way -- on the Internet, for free?

Matthew Reilly: Two reasons. I think the Internet is a hugely powerful resource that hasn't yet been harnessed properly by publishers --- I want to harness its potential. The second reason is more simple: I want to get new readers reading my novels. The Internet is a great way to offer new readers a 'free sample' of my work, and ultimately, that's what HOVER CAR RACER is: the biggest free sample of a novel ever produced.

Q: So, why do it for free?

Matthew Reilly: I watched with fascination when Stephen King tried Internet publishing in 2000. I ultimately felt that (writing legend that he is) he got it wrong. He tried to charge people small amounts: \$2.50 or \$1. My gut feeling is that **people don't want to pay anything for stuff on the Net**. So I had to figure out a way to publish a book online for free...and I found the answer in advertising. You make it like commercial TV: put little ads on the top and bottom of the 'page'. Then I get paid a set amount and people get the book for nothing.

Q: But doesn't this mean writing a whole novel for potentially very little money (if you only get a set amount from your sponsors, as opposed to royalties based on each copy sold)?

Matthew Reilly: Yes, that is true. But that's why I hope people jump onto HOVER CAR RACER. I'm taking a big risk here --- I spent 8 months writing HOVER CAR RACER, and yes, I could have sold it to a publisher for lots of money and royalties, but honestly, there's more to life than money. I think HOVER CAR RACER can be a phenomenon --- a book that spreads exponentially around the world via email --- and that's much better than money. In fact, I hope people embrace the project and say, "This guy's doing something for literacy and reading, and doing it for free, so I'll give it a go." The good thing is, I think HOVER CAR RACER is the best novel I've written: bigger, faster and louder than any of my previous books. It's fast, it's entertaining, it's good...and it's free. What better combination can you get!

Q: Now, HOVER CAR RACER is also targeted at a younger age-group than your previous novels, isn't it?

Matthew Reilly: That's correct. HOVER CAR RACER is aimed squarely at a younger audience than my adult novels. It's also for adults who just enjoy a fun, fast-paced adventure story. It's superfast. And when I say superfast, I mean it: these hover cars race at 810 km/h.

Q: What do you hope to achieve with HOVER CAR RACER?

Matthew Reilly: I hope to create readers. I hope to drive a whole new group of people into bookstores! My novels (ICE STATION, CONTEST, TEMPLE, AREA 7 and SCARECROW) have been embraced by teenage male readers around the world --- as well as adults who are young-at-heart. What I'd like to do is get young kids into reading at an even earlier age, just as the Harry Potter books have done so well. And again, this is where the Internet comes into play: teens won't have a problem reading a book on their computer. And if it's a fun, big, fast-paced story, then they'll say "Hey, reading can be as fun as computer games or movies or web-surfing."

Q: So, how will it be released?

Matthew Reilly: HOVER CAR RACER will be released on the Internet in 8 parts,

each part ranging from 25 to 70 pages. After Part 1 is released on 04.04.04, each new part will be released at www.HOVCARRACER.com at roughly two week intervals, on the 4th and 20th of each month, until the final climactic part is uploaded on July 20. Each part will be released as an Adobe PDF document: so readers are encouraged to email it to friends and relatives, or even print it out for themselves. They can **read it at their desk at work** during lunchtime, **or at school** during library period, or even **print it out** and read it on the bus-ride home!

And at Christmas this year, the whole story, all eight parts, will be released as a novel in bookstores.

Q: Who are your sponsors?

Matthew Reilly: Two companies, United International Pictures (UIP) and Canon, have agreed to advertise on HOVER CAR RACER. UIP is a film distribution company, so they'll advertise their latest movies. While Canon saw the potential in HOVER CAR RACER immediately: they realized that many readers would want to print it out, and Canon is the world's largest printer company!

© Copyright 1997-2006, Teenreads.com. All rights reserved.

[Back to](#)

MATTHEW REILLY INTERVIEW WITH TEENREADS ABOUT HOVER CAR RACER - QUESTIONS

1. In what year was Matthew Reilly born? How old does this make him?
2. According to the article, what other books has Matthew Reilly written?
3. What date was this interview conducted?
4. What inspired Matthew Reilly to write Hover Car Racer?
5. Why did Matthew Reilly publish Hover Car Racer for free on the Internet?
6. How long did Matthew Reilly spend writing Hover Car Racer?
7. What suggestions does Matthew Reilly make for where people can read Hover Car Racer?

The Parts of Speech

The Parts of Speech

Prepositions, articles, interjections, adverbs, verbs, conjunctions, adjectives, pronouns and nouns are the 'parts of speech'. Parts of speech are words arranged in the correct order according to their purpose in a sentence. A sentence is a group of words that makes sense by itself. Every sentence **MUST** contain at least one verb.¹

By the end of this semester you should be able to recite them off by heart.

Patricia (Prepositions)

And (Articles)

Isaac (Interjections)

Are (Adverbs)

Very (Verbs)

Clever (Conjunctions)

At (Adjectives)

Procrastinating (Pronouns)

Non-stop (Nouns)

This saying may help you to remember the parts of speech.

Prepositions: tell you where somebody or something is in relation to something else.

Example: People **in** Australia are friendly.

Articles: refer to a certain person or thing. Articles introduce other words in the sentence.

Useful info: there are only three articles; a, an and the ('the' is definite and 'a' and 'an' are indefinite)

Interjections: are unexpected interruptions.

Examples: Cool! Hooray! Ugh.

Adverbs: tell you how something is done. Adverbs add more detail to a verb.

Example: Jason and the Bug ran **fast**.

Verb

Adverb

Verbs: are action or doing words. Verbs show and tell what is happening.

Example: Jason had **forgotten** about the upcoming tight bend.

Conjunctions: join a sentence together.

Example: Syracuse was a hard teacher, **nevertheless** Jason could not help but like him.

Adjectives: are descriptive words. Adjectives tell the reader what somebody or something is like.

Example: Ariel is **beautiful**.

¹ The Pocket Basics for English & Maths – Lyn Magree. Page 3.

Pronouns: takes the place of a noun.

Example: Jason and **I** had lunch at Chooka's Charcoal Chicken Restaurant.

Nouns: are a person, place or a thing. The four nouns are: common, collective, abstract and proper.

Example: **Matthew Reilly** wrote **Hover Car Racer**.

Location Studies

Van Diemen's Land (now more commonly known as Tasmania)

Tasmania was settled by Aborigines about 40 000 years ago. The sinking of Bass Strait (around 12 000 years ago) must have caused many problems for the settled Aborigines.

Abel Tasman saw and named Van Diemen's Land in 1642. The name-change to Tasmania did not occur until 1855-56. At this stage the population was around 80 000.

British colonisation of Tasmania mainly began in 1803-04. It was at this time that Hobart and Launceston began to grow.

Between 1813 and 1817 bushranging and escaped convicts were quite common in Tasmania. Not long after direct transportation from Britain began. Tasmania became important as a gaol. Transportation ended in 1852-53.

(from The Oxford Companion to Australian History – pages 633-635)

Port Arthur

Port Arthur was a penal settlement set aside for convicts sent across from Britain. The prison buildings were built by convict labour. The buildings consisted of yards for hard labour, facilities for constant surveillance and solitary confinement cells. Port Arthur was famous for harsh treatment of its prisoners. Several escapees who attempted to swim to freedom were drowned.

Port Arthur was closed in 1877.

The site was redeveloped as an historic site in the 1970s and became Tasmania's top tourist attraction. Debate raged about the merits of preserving a gaol that was embedded with the history of transportation and harsh punishment of its prisoners.

(from The Oxford Companion to Australian History – page 523)

Cradle Mountain

The Cradle Valley was carved out by glacial ice action about 20 000 years ago. Around 10 000 years ago what we see now was revealed.

Cradle Mountain was named in 1826 and is seen as one of the most scenic parts of Tasmania. Thousands of bushwalkers trek through the Cradle Mountain region each year.



Van Diemen's Land – Questions

1. Who were the first settlers in Tasmania? How long ago?
2. Roughly, in what years did Hobart and Launceston begin to grow?
3. In what year did transportation in Tasmania end?

Port Arthur

1. How were the prison buildings built?
2. What was Port Arthur Penitentiary famous for?
3. When did the gaol close?
4. Do you think Port Arthur should be used as a tourist attraction?

Cradle Mountain

1. How many years is it (approximately) since Cradle Mountain was revealed?
2. In which year was Cradle Mountain named?

Italy according to Hover Car Racer (Part V: The Italian Run)

Where in the world is Italy? List an atlas reference and name the atlas.



Reference: _____

Name of Atlas: _____

Name the cities that the Italian Run goes past or through (found on page 185 and 188).

What seas surround Italy?

A famous tourist destination in Italy is the Colosseum, Rome. This is where the Italian Run begins. Give a brief account of the history of the Colosseum. List one other tourist destination and give a summary of why it is famous.



←

The Colosseum

Jason and the Bug obviously had to eat in Italy. List two different (but simple) Italian food dishes that they may have eaten. Write down how to make them.

Dish 1:	Dish 2:
Method:	Method:

List two things that Italy has in common with Australia.

List two things that Italy does not have in common with Australia.

What is one significant geographic feature of Italy? List three dot points about it.

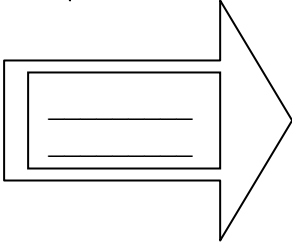
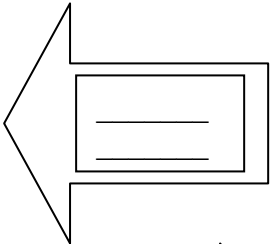
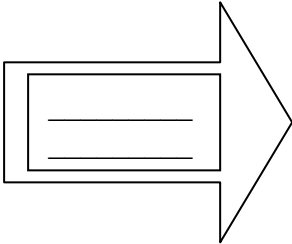
New York, New York

Where in the world is New York? List an atlas reference and name the atlas.



Reference: _____
Name of Atlas: _____

The following landmarks are all found in New York and are mentioned in Part VII of Hover Car Racer. Name them!



This is a picture of the _____ river. It runs mainly through New York State (but also forms the boundary between New York and New Jersey).



What is New York's most famous skyscraper?

The Statue of Liberty, New York's most famous landmark, is located on _____ Island. What is this landmark known as in the world of hover car racing?



Bit by Bit...

Your racer designation is:

HOVER CAR RACER SO FAR...

1. Quote the very last sentence you read and give a page number.

2. Give a small overall summary of what has happened in the book most recently.

3. Write down the page number you started on today and the page number that you finished on.

Started on: _____ Finished on: _____

4. Make a prediction about what you think might happen next.

5. Are you enjoying this book?

Circle one: Yes/No

Give a specific reason why.

6. Did you read aloud?

Circle one: Yes/No

If yes, how did you perform?

Hover Car Racer questions

HOVER CAR RACER

Matthew Reilly

DICTIONARY REQUIRED!

Part 1: Jason and the Argonaut

Jason and the Argonaut is a mythical reference. Find out some information about the myth. Why do you think Matthew Reilly uses this reference?

'Imagine twenty fighter jets racing around a twisting turning aerial track, ducking and weaving and overtaking at insanely high speeds and you've just imagined a hover car race.
Rand Thomasson,
3-time Hover Car Racing Champion.'

List the three most appealing adjectives in this passage.

A few years from now...

1. Find some information about The Gulf of Carpentaria, Australia and share it with the class. [Insert map of The Gulf of Carpentaria]
2. What speed was Jason Chaser doing when he lost his steering rudder?
3. Onomatopoeias are used on page 8. Quote them.
4. The Bug is linked to Jason Chaser in three ways. What are they?
5. How many spectators are viewing the race from the giant hover-grandstands?
6. Describe Jean-Pierre LeClerq. What is his occupation?
7. Describe Scott J. Syracuse; include his alias and a brief history.
8. Why does Jason feel 'embarrassed under Syracuse's glare'?
9. Describe The Argonaut. [Page 10 - 11]

10. What is responsible for making wheels unnecessary?
11. Describe Jason Chaser and the Bug. [Page 11]
12. What does it mean to be autistic?
13. Explain a 'gate race.' [Page 12 - 13] Put this together as a series of instructions [see provided instructional writing sheet] on a piece of A3 paper. Keep it neat and tidy and make it appealing to the eye.
14. Why did Jason feel bad about coming 'stone-cold last'?

Page 16

1. Using dot points, list chronologically, the history of the invention of the hover car.
2. Glossary:
 - Instantaneous
 - Revolution
 - Exploit
 - Corporation
 - Perpetual

Look up these words in a dictionary and write out their meanings.

Page 19

1. What type of person is Barnaby Becker? Why do you think this?
2. How would you have felt being Jason during the presentation? Explain.
3. Describe Jason's and the Bug's home life.
4. What good news do they receive?

Part II: Race School [Page 27]

1. Trace a map of Tasmania. Draw a hover car of your own design where Hobart should be.
2. Fictionally, who is Tasmania owned by?
3. What conflict do the Bug and Jason become involved in?

Page 33

1. Place the Derwent River into your traced map of Tasmania.
2. Jason meets two girls. Who are they? Give a small description of each.
3. What reputation has Scott Syracuse got amongst students?

'Make no mistake, this school is a crucible, a cauldron, a daily trial-by-fire that will push your skills, your minds - your very characters - to their limits.'

Principal LeClerq [Page 36]

4. Who is the current world champion?
5. Who do Jason and the Bug receive as a mentor?

Page 39
The International Race School
Pit Lane

1. What do you picture the opening ceremony being like? Describe.
2. Who becomes Jason's and the Bug's Mech Chief?
3. Name the different types of hover car racing.
4. On page 42 Sally says 'I like tough cars, cars with guts, character, haggis.' Find out what haggis is and give a description.
5. Martha and Henry Chaser decided to adopt both the Bug and Jason. What were the reasons behind their decision?
6. Draw a picture of the pit machine – try to make it isometric if possible.
7. On page 45 Scott Syracuse gives Jason some advice about learning from his mistakes. Quote his advice.

Page 47

1. Glossary:
 - Narcissistic
 - Roused
 - Sarcasm
 - Equality
 - Exemption
 - Ostracised
2. Should girls be allowed to race hover cars? Write down your point of view and discuss.

Page 53
Race School, Tasmania
Race 1, Course 1

1. Investigate what could happen in a 60km/h car crash. And 100 km/h? On page 53 two cars crash into the Derwent River at 500 km/h. What do you think would be the consequences?
2. On page 54, what is one of the great sights of Tasmania?
3. Who is responsible for Jason's pit bay violation?

Page 60
Racetime: 18:02 mins
Lap: 7

1. What is 18:02 in 12 hour time?
2. Who achieved a 7-second pit stop?
3. What happens to Ariel Piper?
4. The last word on page 66 is 'impact.' What does the single use of this word lead you to believe?

Page 67

1. Did Jason make the right choice (to not finish the race)? Discuss with a partner then write down your conclusions.
2. Find out the meaning of the word 'sabotage.' Why does Sally think the Argonaut was sabotaged?
3. Why is Ariel Piper scared?

Page 71
Part III
Enemies Within

1. What is an acronym? What does DNF mean?
2. What relationship does Xavier Xonora have with Zoroastro?
3. Pages 74-78 describes life at racing school. Summarise life at racing school using the information provided on these pages.

Page 79

1. If you were Jason, what would you have said to Wernold Smythe? Whatever you say, make it as polite and as to the point as you can.

Page 82

1. Can not pitting help a racer to win? Explain.
2. What is the success rate for racers who miss their last pit stop?

Page 87

1. What did Jason receive from Morales? Would you have done the same thing if you were Jason?

\Jason hit the wall. Hard. Blood spilled from his nose. "Hoo-ah! Ouch!" Morales sneered. He moved again towards the Bug, who backed up against the wall, cowering, defenceless, utterly terrified-\ [Page 89]

2. Glossary:

- Catatonic
- Foreboding
- Silhouette

Page 91

1. What is special about the New York Challenger Race?
2. Which race does Jason have to win?

Page 95

1. Describe Race 25.
2. What does 'cutting the heel' mean?
3. Explain what a peninsula is. An atlas might be handy to help you answer this question.
4. What could you use demagnetising ripple strips for other than on the racing track?
5. Who visits Jason and the Bug?
6. Quote what Henry Chaser says about teachers on page 98.
7. What happened when Scott Syracuse tried to cut the heel in the Italian Run?

Page 103

1. What happens to Xavier while coming out of the pits?
2. What are coalmines? You may need to do some research for this one.
3. Draw the entry to the mine. Would it look welcoming or foreboding?

Page 110

The Short-Cut Labyrinth

Lap: 17 [of 20]

1. Glossary:
 - Trapezoidal
 - Traction
 - Labyrinth
 - Ruthless
2. What does Jason do that puts him in the lead?
3. Do you think a perfect lap is possible? Give a justification with your answer.

Page 115

Lap: 20 [of 20]

1. On pages 115-116 Matthew Reilly does something ‘different’ with a few of his sentences. Why do you think he does this?
2. Find some information about Cradle Mountain. What types of things do people do there?
3. Why doesn’t Matthew Reilly let you know the outcome of the race at the end of the chapter?

Page 119
Part IV
The Tournament

Page 121
Chooka's Charcoal Chicken Restaurant
Hobart, Tasmania

1. How many centimetres did the Argonaut win by in Race 25?
2. Why can Scott Syracuse be seen as 'deviously clever'?

Page 126
The International Race School
Hobart, Tasmania
Friday, 31 May

1. Glossary:
 - Opulence
 - Flotilla
 - Archaic
2. Name one movie star that you know of who might attend the Sponsors' Event.
3. What is a 'society calendar'?
4. What does Sally erect in the pit bay?
5. Who is Jason's first race against in the Sponsors' Event?
6. 'There are no friends on the track.' Do you think this is achievable?

<p>'Never give up. Never say die.' – Scott Syracuse [Page 131]</p>
--

7. Is not giving up important? Explain.

Page 133

The Grand Ballroom

The Waldorf Hotel, Hobart

1. Martha Chaser is acting odd. Make an assumption about why she is being like this.
2. Put the word 'mischievous' into a sentence of your own construction.
3. Who is Umberto Lombardi? Describe him as best you can.
4. Why is sponsorship important to a hover car racer? Is it like this in the 'real world?'

Page 140

1. How many people (approximately) occupied the stands?
2. To the best of your ability draw the new uniforms that are given to Jason, the Bug and Sally. Make them true to what is written in the book.
3. "'What is this? The Right Stuff? Armageddon?'" Ariel's navigator said wryly.' Ariel's navigator makes allusions to The Right Stuff and Armageddon. Why?

Page 144

Race 1:

Chaser VS Piper

1. Sketch what the view might look like from Jason's cockpit at the start of this chapter.
2. Who pitted first and why?
3. What was the winning margin?
4. What did Jason give as his reason for winning?
5. On page 152 the tournament is described as having a 'carnival-like atmosphere.' Describe how you see it in your mind. What bands are playing? Name some VIPs. What food is available? Are there rides? If so, describe them.

Page 153

1. List the racers in the Quarter Finals.
2. Do you think the race between Schumacher and Becker was fair? Explain why.
3. Is Black Bullet an appropriate name for a hover car? Give a reason for your answer.
4. Did you expect Jason's reaction to Sally's mistakes to be so positive? What is the benefit of being so positive?
5. Write the names of the four semi finalists.

Page 162
1ST Semi Final:
Xonora V Krishna

1. Did Krishna lose because he was a bad racer? Speculate.
2. What problems can portable microwave transmitters cause?
3. How does Krishna surprise Jason?

Page 165
2ND Semi Final:
Chaser V Becker

1. What gave the Argonaut an advantage?
2. Why did Barnaby Becker achieve a commanding lead?

Page 167

1. Who does the surveillance camera catch out?
2. Was Race Director Calder's punishment severe enough in your opinion?
3. Write a letter to Jason, the Bug or Sally congratulating them on their success so far.
4. What is the difference in the number of laps, completed over the course of the race day, between Xavier and Jason?

Page 172
The Final:
Xonora V Chaser

1. In the first lap of the final the Argonaut's nosewing is snapped off. What would this do to the aerodynamics of the Argonaut?
2. Why was Xavier delayed getting out of the pits?

Page 177

1. Were you satisfied with the outcome of the race? Explain.
2. 'The crowd went nuts.' Why?

'It's not how we win that defines us, Jason, it's how we lose. Winners come and go, but the racer who goes down fighting will live forever in people's hearts.' - Henry Chaser [Pages 178-179]

Is this good advice? Give your opinion.

3. Describe the contents of the best burger on the menu at Chooka's Charcoal Chicken (use your imagination).
4. What does Umberto Lombardi offer Team Argonaut?
5. Locate Italy on a map or using an atlas.

Page 183
Part V
The Italian Run

Page 187

1. Name the four 'Grand Slam' races and give a brief description of each.
2. Where are the two pit areas located? Find these places using an atlas.
3. What does 'driver-over-the-line' mean?
4. If you had sixty billion dollars what would you buy/what would you do?

Page 190
The International Race School
Hobart, Tasmania

1. The school season will continue while Jason is away. How will this affect Jason?
2. What is the difference in points between Xonora, X and Piper, A?

Page 194
Venice II,
Italy (Monday of race week)

1. Name the colours of the Italian flag.
2. What was the media portraying Jason as?
3. What car will Jason be racing instead of the Argonaut?
4. What do you think will be the outcome of Jason racing Fabian?

Page 201

The Circus Maximus

Rome, Italy (Wednesday of race week)

1. Using an atlas, find Rome. Name some towns that are located along the western coast.

2. Glossary:
 - Illuminate
 - Circumference
 - Mammoth
 - Exhibition
 - Controversial

3. What date was Jason born on?

4. What is controversial about Fabian's car?

Page 204

The Circus Maximus

Rome, Italy (Wednesday of race week)

1. What is the 'racer's salute?'

2. How do you feel about the outcome of the race against Fabian?

Page 206
The Pole Position Shootout
Rome, Italy (Friday of race week)

1. Draw a right angle.
2. Describe the 'Chute.'
3. What pole position does Jason receive?
4. On page 208 the name Michelangelo is mentioned. Who is Michelangelo?
5. 'So. Chaser. Are your parents here? I hear there are some very good caravan parks on the outskirts of Rome.' Xavier says this to Jason. Why do you think Xavier has so much trouble accepting Jason?
6. Prediction time: What is Ravi Narendra Gupta up to?
7. Who does Jason meet at the end of the speeches?

Page 213
The Lombardi Grand Hotel
Venice II, Italy (Saturday)

1. Glossary:
 - Executive
 - Captivating
 - Introspective
 - Bemused

Page 217
The Italian Run
Rome, Italy (Sunday, Race Day)

'The starting area for the Italian Run was the Colosseum. Every racer started from the same spot, in the exact centre of the 2000-year-old Roman amphitheatre.'

1. What can you find out about the Colosseum?
2. What does Jason find out about Ravi Gupta?
3. What analogy on page 220 is used to describe the way hover cars enter the colosseum?

Page 222

1. Using an atlas, find Florence.
2. Explain 'little more than a high-speed game of "Chicken".'
3. Sally says 'We ain't in Kansas anymore.' This is a reference to a famous book/movie. What is the name of the book/movie?
4. Where are the Alps?
5. When Jason started to move up the field he overtook Brock Peters. 'Brock Peters' is a play on words by Matthew Reilly. Why?
6. Using an Atlas, find Nice.

7. The last words used on page 226 are ‘... when disaster struck.’ What chord do these words strike with the reader?

Page 227

1. What did Etienne Trouveau do to Jason?
2. What method was Jason employing to get back into the pits?
3. Jason came into the pits with only one mag operating. What percentage of it was left?

Page 232

1. After packing up, where does Sally need to get to?
2. Find Sicily and Sardinia in an atlas.
3. On page 234 what is Jason thinking about doing? Do you think this is a wise decision?
4. How is Scott Syracuse going to help Jason?

Page 236

1. How is the inside of the short cut described?
2. In order, list Syracuse’s instructions for navigating the short cut.
3. Using an Atlas, find Bari and the Adriatic Sea.
4. Describe the look on Xavier Xonora’s face when Jason exited the short cut.

5. Use one adjective to describe how Jason felt when he found no one waiting for him at the pits.

Page 242

1. Glossary:
 - Turquoise
 - Notorious
 - Fiendish
 - Surreptitiously
2. Why is the Venice II Gauntlet dangerous?
3. Using an atlas, find the Grand Canal.
4. What is a magnetic 'Dead Zone'?
5. What was placed on the tailfin of the Argonaut II?

Page 247

1. Describe the crash.
2. What happens to the Bug?

"Oh... my... Lord..." Lombardi breathed.'

Page 251
Part VI
The Death of Jason Chaser

Page 253
The Final Stages of the Italian Run
Venice II, Italy

1. Why does the Bug wave frantically?
2. Matthew Reilly takes the reader back a few moments in time. Why does he do this?

Page 256

1. What does Jason dream about?
2. 'They were the same clothes he'd been wearing on race day.' What does this say about Henry Chaser?
3. Why is Jason considered a hero?
4. What is Sally going to get framed?
5. What was Lombardi's reaction to his Ferrari's destruction?
6. 'Just at the sight of her, Jason felt a whole lot better.' Who is this?

Page 261

1. Fabian sends a nasty note to Jason. If you were Jason writing a note in reply what would it say? Keep it friendly but to the point ('cause that's the sort of person Jason is).

Page 263

**The International Race School
Hobart, Tasmania**

1. Why do you think Ariel Piper's race against Fabian had an impact on a lot of girls around the world?
2. What is the difference between practise and practice?
3. Take a paragraph from this chapter (which must contain at least four sentences), copy it into your workbook and repunctuate it.
4. In which race was Jason going to make his comeback?
5. What does Jason reveal to Dido?

Page 268

Race 42 (Supersprint)

Racetime: 29 Mins 32 Seconds

Lap: 29 of 50

1. Give an opinion on Horatio Wong.
2. Give an example of a classic pro tactic.
3. At this point in time, what advice would you give to Jason?

Page 271

1. What reasons does Jason have for confiding in Dido above all others?
2. Is Jason becoming paranoid?
3. What are hover drones used for?
4. Who were the two people watching Jason from the hilltop?
5. What surprised Jason and Sally?

Page 277

Race 44

1. What was the Bug's plan?
2. Why did Ariel bow out of Race 48?
3. To get to New York what does Jason need to achieve?
4. Describe Course 13.

Page 282

1. Name the two people that Jason hears speaking.

Page 284

1. 'On the horizon, dark clouds framed the rising sun.' Is it possible this is symbolic of something forthcoming? Explain.
2. What does Jason tell Dido about Barnaby's technique?

Page 286

1. A famous Australian event is used as an analogy on page 286. What is the name of the event?
2. There is an onomatopoeia on this page. Locate it and write it down!
3. What was Xavier doing for Barnaby?

Page 289

Race 50

Lap: 35 of 51

Racers Left on Track: 8

1. How did Jason shake off Cortez?
2. What decision do the Bug and Jason make that may help them to move further up the field?

'And Jason flipped the Argonaut onto its side as the canyon's walls became unbearably close and - CRASH! - the two icebergs came together with a deafening boom just as the tiny Argonaut blasted out from between them, house-sized chunks of ice raining down into the water behind it.'

3. What words could be used to replace 'boom' and 'chunks'?

Page 292
Race 50
Lap: 40 of 51
Racers Left on Track: 6

1. Write out the race order.
2. Who blocks the exit tunnel?
3. Glossary:
 - Disingenuous
4. What do you think of the tactics employed by Barnaby Becker and Xavier Xonora?

Page 295
Race 50
Lap: 43 of 51
Racers Left on Track: 5

1. Describe how the Bug's idea played out.
2. Why did Team Argonaut complete a manual pit stop so well?
3. Who were the big winners from the power shutdown?

Page 300
Race 50
Lap: 50 of 51
Racers Left on Track: 4

1. Who betrays Jason? How does he know this?
2. Why is third place as good as first place, according to Jason?
3. In desperation, what did Barnaby do?

Page 307

Race 50

Lap: 51 of 51

Racers Left on Track: 4

1. The win would go down in Race School history. Why?
2. Using a digital camera, and with the use of some basic photography skills, take a photo that mimics the photo taken of the Bug crossing the finish line.

Page 308

1. How many points did Jason get for coming third?
2. 'The blood drained from Dido's face.' Why?
3. What does Jason ask Dido to relay to Xavier and Barnaby?
4. Jean Pierre LeClerq is involved in a plot to rid the Race School of Ariel Piper. Explain his involvement and the result of his involvement.

Page 312

1. What relation is Dido to Xavier?
2. Who won Teacher of the Year? Do you think he deserved to win? Explain your answer.
3. Using an atlas, find New York.

Page 315
Part VII
Challenger

Page 317
New York City, USA

1. What are some of the significant features of New York City?
2. Confetti Snow fills New York City during Masters Week. Is this a gross waste of paper considering the environmental impact that it may have?
3. List the four main races that will take place in New York City.
4. Why is this a dream come true for Jason?

Page 320
The Challenger Race (Tuesday)
15 mins to Race Start

1. Which number is considered luckiest for the Chinese?
2. Xavier visits Jason. Why?
3. What does Xavier do every time he crosses the finish line?
4. What could be Xavier's weakness?

Page 325
The Challenger Race
Lap: 13 of 30

1. How many pit stops would be required over the course of thirty laps?
2. A catastrophic crash is caused by Igor and Vlad Krotsky. How?

Page 328
The Challenger Race
Lap: 18 of 30

1. Using a dictionary, find the meaning of protagonist and write it out in your glossary.
2. This chapter shows the two main protagonists eagerly battling it out for the win. Why do you think Matthew Reilly has placed only these two characters in a position to win?
3. By lap 28 how far ahead of Jason was Xavier?
4. How did Jason start to catch up to Xavier in the last lap?
5. ‘In. First. Place.’ Each word has a full stop after it. What effect does this have?

Page 333

1. Why, in your opinion, does Jason choose to race with Team Lombardi over the Lockheed-Martin Factory Team?

2. What reason does Jason give for beating Xavier?

Page 337

New York City, USA (Wednesday)

Parade Day

1. How many people lined the streets of New York?
2. Ask your art teacher to help you make a papier mache float in the likeness of the Argonaut.
3. What are Jason's odds according to InterBet?
4. Is Henry Chaser's quiet chat to the boys at the end of this chapter important? Explain your answer.

Page 343

New York City, USA (Thursday)

Race 1: The Liberty Supersprint

Lap: 1 of 40

1. Find out what you can about Manhattan Island.
2. Why did Jason black out?
3. Find out what G-forces are.

Page 347

Lap: 36 of 40

1. What is 'Masters Madness'?

2. The Bradbury Principal came into play. How?

Page 350

New York City, USA (Thursday)

After Liberty Supersprint

1. Why is Jason looking forward to Race 2?

Page 353

New York City, USA (Friday)

1. How many race gates are there in New York City?
2. What do you make of Ravi Gupta's presence in the pit area? Explain.

Page 358

New York City, USA (Friday)

Race 2: The Manhattan Gate Race

1. Who was staying close to Jason?
2. At the second pit stop how many points had Team Argonaut accumulated?
3. What did Jason do that was unexpected?
4. What gets commentators so excited about the Bug's race plan?

Page 362

Racetime: 1 Hour 30 Mins

1. How did Au Chow's race end?

Page 366

Racetime: 2 Hours 52 Mins

1. What were overcautious racers doing?
2. What did the two Renaults do to the Argonaut?
3. Why couldn't the Argonaut move forward?

Page 370

Racetime: 2 Hours 57 Mins

1. Why did Fifth Avenue fall silent?
2. What were the crowds chanting?
3. If you could use only one word to describe the actions of the Bug and Jason, what would it be?

Page 374

1. On the Masters Scoreboard Matthew Reilly has included Skaife, M. Why?

Page 377
Part VIII
Jason and the Golden Fleece

Page 379
New York City, USA (Saturday)
Race 3: The Pursuit
Lap 120 of 120

1. Find out some information about the Hudson River.
2. Complete this sentence: ‘... Jason and _____ were out in front of the other racers, battling it out for the _____.’
3. Glossary:
 - Conscious
 - Nauseous
 - Suffocation
4. What turn is Jason fearful of?

Page 383
New York City, USA (Saturday)
Race 3: The Pursuit

1. What is a Collective Pursuit Race?
2. What obstacles does this track feature?
3. What needs to happen for Jason to stay in the Masters?

4. Trouveau names his hover car after Napoleon's horse. What is the name of his car?

Page 386

New York City, USA (Saturday)

Race 3: The Pursuit

Lap: 1 of 120

1. Why is the Williamsburg Bridge considered a crunch point?
2. 'It kind of felt like an old Roman chariot race.' Would you agree with Jason?
3. How did Sally help to regather the Argonaut's lead?
4. How did Pablo Riviera's race end? Explain fully.

Page 391

New York City, USA (Saturday)

Race 3: The Pursuit

Lap: 110 of 120

1. Fabian and Trouveau boxed Jason in on the left-hand side of the track. What were Jason's options?
2. Sketch what you think a meat grinder looks like.
3. What is Jason's weak point?
4. At how many Gs did Jason pass out?

Page 396

New York City, USA (Saturday)

Race 3: The Pursuit

Lap: 120 of 120

1. How did the Bug enable Team Argonaut to win Race 3?
2. How many points does Team Argonaut receive for Race 3?

Page 400

New York City, USA (Saturday Evening)

1. Why was there no 'uproarious celebration' on behalf of Team Argonaut?
2. What advice does Syracuse offer Jason?
3. Name the sports that Donald Bradman, Muhammad Ali and Tiger Woods are famous for.

Page 403

New York City, USA (Sunday)

Race 4: The Quest

1. What does Team Argonaut have to do for the Masters' Quest?
2. What is the explosive device attached to? Who put it there?

Page 405

New York City, USA (Sunday)

Race 4: The Quest

Section: Outbound Journey

1. Find out what you can about Niagara Falls.
2. List some elements that can be found in the Endless Tunnel.
3. Describe what you see, as a spectator watching Jason and the Bug approach the Endless Tunnel entrance.

4. What is a subterranean gorge?

5. Glossary:

- Claustrophobic
- Ominous
- Echo

Page 411

Race 4: The Quest

Section: The Endless Tunnel (Outbound)

1. What did Jason do that was totally unexpected?
2. What is a precipice?
3. What was each racer's trophy?
4. Why was Jason's trophy a golden fleece?

Page 415

Race 4: The Quest

Section: The Endless Tunnel (Inbound)

1. What did Fabian do that was considered improper?
2. What did Jason remember that Fabian didn't?
3. How did Jason take the lead?
4. What happens to the Argonaut for the second time in the same year?

Page 422

Race 4: The Quest

Section: Fifth Avenue (Inbound)

1. What does Jason do to get over the finish line?

2. What was Henry Chaser's reaction?

Page 424

1. What were the first words spoken to Henry Chaser from the Bug?
2. Who did the cops catch and how can they prove that he did it?
3. What does Umberto Lombardi offer Jason?
4. The name Jason Chaser. Is it appropriate to the world of hover car racing in any way?

Hover Car Racer questions – The Answers

HOVER CAR RACER

Matthew Reilly

ANSWER SHEET

Part 1: Jason and the Argonaut

Jason and the Argonaut is a mythical reference. Find out some information about the myth. Why do you think Matthew Reilly uses this reference?

'Imagine twenty fighter jets racing around a twisting turning aerial track, ducking and weaving and overtaking at insanely high speeds and you've just imagined a hover car race. Rand Thomasson, 3-time Hover Car Racing Champion.'

List the three most appealing adjectives in this passage.

Twisting, turning, ducking, weaving and high are all possibilities (they can also be used as verbs)

A few years from now...

1. Find some information about The Gulf of Carpentaria, Australia and share it with the class.

Example:

The Gulf of Carpentaria is a large, shallow sea enclosed on three sides by northern Australia and bounded on the north by the Arafura Sea (the body of water that lies between Australia and New Guinea). In geological terms, the Gulf is young - it was dry land as recently as the last ice age.

The land bordering the Gulf is generally flat and low-lying. To the west is Arnhem Land and the Top End of the Northern Territory. To the east is the Cape York Peninsula. The area to the south (like the Cape York Peninsula, part of Queensland) is known as the "Gulf Country" or simply "the Gulf."

Information taken from Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia

2. What speed was Jason Chaser doing when he lost his steering rudder?

690 kilometres an hour

3. Onomatopoeias are used on page 7. Quote them.

‘-shoom!-shoom!-shoom!-’

4. The Bug is linked to Jason Chaser in three ways. What are they?

He is Jason’s navigator, co-driver and little brother

5. How many spectators are viewing the race from the giant hover-grandstands?

80,000

6. Describe Jean-Pierre LeClerq. What is his occupation?

LeClerq is regal-looking, has a perfectly groomed mane of white hair, has an imperious bearing and an expensive suit. He is the Principal of the International Race School.

7. Describe Scott J. Syracuse; include his alias and a brief history.

Scott J. Syracuse is in his early 30s, is sort of handsome, has intense features and impenetrable black eyes. He walks with a cane.

His alias is ‘The Scythe.’

He was one of the best racers in hover car racing until a horrific accident at the New York Masters (three years ago) finished his racing career.

8. Why does Jason feel ‘embarrassed under Syracuse’s glare’?

Jason and the Bug wore denim overalls, dusty farm boots and raced in old motorcycle helmets. All the other drivers wore co-ordinated outfits.

9. Describe The Argonaut. [Page 10 - 11]

The Argonaut is Car No.55. It is an old Ferrari Pro F1 – a hover car converted from an old F1 car. It has a bullet-shaped body, nosewing, hunchbacked fuselage, wide tail rudder, a navigator’s seat, a pair of swept-back wings and no wheels. The Argonaut is a hodge-podge of machinery and spare parts. It is painted blue-white-and-silver.

10. What is responsible for making wheels unnecessary?

Magneto drives

11. Describe Jason Chaser and the Bug. [Page 11]

Jason Chaser: 14 years old, blond-haired, blue-eyed and determined. Good at Math, geography and game theory. Has a 'mohican' style hair cut.

Bug Chaser: 12 years old, has a tiny body, has big thick-lensed glasses, doesn't talk much, could be borderline autistic, is shy and socially awkward and is a mathematical genius.

12. What does it mean to be autistic?

Excessive shyness, social awkwardness and mathematical genius.

13. Explain a 'gate race.' [Page 12 - 13] Put this together as a series of instructions [see provided instructional writing sheet] on a piece of A3 paper. Keep it neat and tidy and make it appealing to the eye.

A gate race takes place over a wide area of terrain 600 km wide by 600 km long. At various points around the terrain are 250 bridge-like arches through which hover cars drive. An electronic tag attached to nosewings records the pass. Passing through the gates gives you points. Gates further away from the Start-Finish Line are worth more; those that are closer, less. A racer has three hours to race through as many gates as possible then get back to the finish line. Every second of getting back late costs one point. The driver with the most points wins.

14. Why did Jason feel bad about coming 'stone-cold last'?

It was the most important race of his life, it was in front of 80,000 people and it was in front of two distinguished spectators.

Page 16

1. Using dot points, list chronologically, the history of the invention of the hover car.

- ***Wilfred P. Wilmington invents hover technology; hover cars follow soon after***
- ***Wilmington gave the technology to the world for free***
- ***Oil-producing countries crumbled***

- *Car and aeroplane companies embraced the technology*
- *Travel became faster; ‘the world became smaller.’*
- *Hover car technology spreads around the world*
- *Hover car racing established*

2. Glossary:

- Instantaneous – *occurring or done in an instant*
- Revolution – *any fundamental change or reversal of conditions*
- Exploit – *utilise or take advantage of for one’s own ends*
- Corporation – *group of people authorised to act as an individual and recognised in law as a single entity, esp. in business*
- Perpetual – *continuous, uninterrupted*

Look up these words in a dictionary and write out their meanings.

Page 19

1. What type of person is Barnaby Becker? Why do you think this?

Example of a basic answer:

A winner because he won the race

Example of a more concise answer:

A confident person because he ‘stood smugly’ on the podium and he ‘punched the air.’

2. How would you have felt being Jason during the presentation? Explain.

Disappointed, frustrated, annoyed and devastated because the malfunction of the steering rudder was the real reason for the loss.

3. Describe Jason’s and the Bug’s home life.

They live in Halls Creek, a desert town in Western Australia. They live with their parents; Martha and Henry Chaser. Martha and Henry are supportive of them both.

4. What good news do they receive?

An invitation from Scott Syracuse to attend the Race School in Tasmania.

Part II: Race School [Page 27]

1. Trace a map of Tasmania. Draw a hover car of your own design where Hobart should be.
2. Fictionally, who is Tasmania owned by?

The International Race School

3. What conflict do the Bug and Jason become involved in?

They are threatened and taunted by Guido Moralez and Barnaby Becker

Page 33

1. Place the Derwent River into your traced map of Tasmania.
2. Jason meets two girls. Who are they? Give a small description of each.

Sally McDuff: sixteen years of age, round face, bright flame-orange hair, flame-orange horn-rimmed glasses, a wide rosy-cheeked grin and hails from Glasgow, Scotland.

Ariel Piper: pretty, elfish face, bright green eyes, strawberry-blond hair and about seventeen years of age.

3. What reputation has Scott Syracuse got amongst students?

Works students long and hard, lots of theory, lots of pit practice and a lot of homework.

'Make no mistake, this school is a crucible, a cauldron, a daily trial-by-fire that will push your skills, your minds - your very characters - to their limits.'

Principal LeClerq

4. Who is the current world champion?

Alessandro Romba

5. Who do Jason and the Bug receive as a mentor?

Master Syracuse (Scott J. Syracuse)

Page 39

The International Race School

Pit Lane

1. What do you picture the opening ceremony being like? Describe.

Example: Hover cars flying around doing demonstrations, balloons and streamers everywhere, loud music and announcements, big screen televisions showing images of people like Alessandro Romba, new hover cars being shown off, big grand stands full of people.

2. Who becomes Jason's and the Bug's Mech Chief?

Sally McDuff

3. Name the different types of hover car racing.

Gate races, lap races, sprints, knockout pursuits and enduros

4. On page 42 Sally says 'I like tough cars, cars with guts, character, haggis.' Find out what haggis is and give a description.

Example: Haggis is a traditional Scottish dish. Although there are many recipes, it is normally made with the following ingredients: sheep's 'pluck' (heart, liver, and lungs), minced with onion, oatmeal, suet, spices, and salt, mixed with stock, and traditionally boiled in the animal's stomach for approximately an hour. It somewhat resembles stuffed intestines (pig intestines otherwise known as chitterlings), sausages and savoury puddings. Most modern commercial haggis is prepared in a casing rather than an actual stomach. There are also meat-free recipes specifically for vegetarians which supposedly taste similar to the meat-based recipes. – From Wikipedia

5. Martha and Henry Chaser decided to adopt both the Bug and Jason. What were the reasons behind their decision?

Martha and Henry Chaser couldn't have children. The Bug wouldn't leave Jason's side so they decided to adopt them both.

6. Draw a picture of the pit machine – try to make it isometric if possible.
7. On page 45 Scott Syracuse gives Jason some advice about learning from his mistakes. Quote his advice.

'Don't resist your mistakes, Mr Chaser. Learn from them. To err is human, to make the same mistake twice... is stupid.'

Page 47

1. Glossary:
 - Narcissistic – ***excessive interest in or love of oneself***
 - Roused – ***stir up, make or become active or excited***
 - Sarcasm – ***ironically scornful language***
 - Equality – ***state of being equal***
 - Exemption – ***to take something out***
 - Ostracised – ***exclude from society; refuse to associate with***
2. Should girls be allowed to race hover cars? Write down your point of view and discuss.

Examples:

Yes, as they are equal to boys and should be given the same opportunities. It is unfair to say to someone that they can't do something when they are obviously capable of doing it.

No, girls are not as physically strong as boys and would find it hard to maintain the same level of concentration and strength necessary to compete in a racing event. Participation by girls could lead to more accidents and injuries.

1. Investigate what could happen in a 60km/h car crash. And 100 km/h? On page 53 two cars crash into the Derwent River at 500 km/h. What do you think would be the consequences?

Example investigation material:

Many of us cheat a little when driving. We figure that while the speed limit is 60 kilometres per hour the police won't pull us over if we sit on 65. So we happily let the speedo hover just above the speed limit, unaware that by so doing we are greatly magnifying our chances of crashing.

Using data from actual road crashes, scientists at the University of Adelaide estimated the relative risk of a car becoming involved in a casualty crash – a car crash in which people are killed or hospitalised – for cars travelling at or above 60 kilometres/hour. They found that the risk doubled for every 5 kilometres/hour above 60 kilometres/hour. Thus, a car travelling at 65 kilometres/hour was twice as likely to be involved in a casualty crash as one travelling at 60. For a car travelling at 70 kilometres/hour, the risk increased fourfold. For speeds below 60 kilometres/hour the likelihood of a fatal crash can be expected to be correspondingly reduced.

From www.science.org.au

2. On page 54, what is one of the great sights of Tasmania?

Russell Falls

3. Who is responsible for Jason's pit bay violation?

Jason Chaser

Page 60
Racetime: 18:02 mins
Lap: 7

1. What is 18:02 in 12 hour time?

6.02 pm

2. Who achieved a 7-second pit stop?

The 'boy in black'

3. What happens to Ariel Piper?

Her car didn't take the left-hand hairpin turn like it was supposed to – instead it went straight ahead, heading for the open ocean. Her hover car starts shuddering violently and lists to the right in a superwide right-hand arc. Ariel's car is headed directly for the Port Arthur Peninsula coastal cliffs.

4. The last word on page 66 is 'impact.' What does the single use of this word lead you to believe?

That the Argonaut crashes into one of the coastal cliffs

Page 67

1. Did Jason make the right choice (to not finish the race)? Discuss with a partner then write down your conclusions.

Examples:

Yes, otherwise Ariel may not have survived and Jason wouldn't be the person that he is (a hero)

No, the race was the most important thing – Jason should have concentrated on winning. Ariel Piper takes her chances just like any other racer.

2. Find out the meaning of the word ‘sabotage.’ Why does Sally think the Argonaut was sabotaged?

Sabotage: destroy, spoil.

Sally thinks the Argonaut was sabotaged because Team Argonaut received bogus magneto drives.

3. Why is Ariel Piper scared?

Because someone wants her out of Race School permanently

Page 71

Part III

Enemies Within

1. What is an acronym? What does DNF mean?

Acronym: word formed from the initial letters of other words

DNF: Did Not Finish

2. What relationship does Xavier Xonora have with Zoroastro?

Xavier is Zoroastro’s nephew

3. Page 74 describes life at racing school. Summarise life at racing school using the information provided on this page.

***Racing school consists of ‘classes, races, homework and sleep.’
It is non-stop.***

Page 79

1. If you were Jason, what would you have said to Wernold Smythe? Whatever you say, make it as polite and as to the point as you can.

Example: Wernold, how would you like it if you were in my position? How do you think you would react to faulty magneto drives?

Page 82

1. Can not pitting help a racer to win? Explain.

Yes. It allows a racer the chance to catch up to, or even overshoot, other racers.

2. What is the success rate for racers who miss their last pit stop?

0.005%

Page 87

1. What did Jason receive from Moralez? Would you have done the same thing if you were Jason?

Jason received punches.

Examples:

Yes, I would protect my brother because he is family and family is important

OR

No, you should always let your brother fight his own battles.

\Jason hit the wall. Hard. Blood spilled from his nose. "Hoo-ah! Ouch!" Moralez sneered. He moved again towards the Bug, who backed up against the wall, cowering, defenceless, utterly terrified-\ [Page 89]

2. Glossary:

- Catatonic – ***schizophrenia with intervals of catalepsy and sometimes violence***
- Foreboding – ***expectation of trouble or evil***
- Silhouette – ***dark shadow or outline against a lighter background***

Page 91

1. What is special about the New York Challenger Race?

Entry is by invitation only and the race normally features up-and-coming racers from the satellite leagues.

2. Which race does Jason have to win?

Race 25 (on Thursday)

Page 95

1. Describe Race 25.

Race 25 is ‘an enduro, an eight-hour marathon on the School’s second-longest course, a multi-faceted track that snaked its way around the island of Tasmania, hugging the coastline, occasionally jutting inward.’ Each lap would take approximately 24 minutes. The race is 20 laps in length. It has two significant features: A short cut and demagnetising ripple strips.

2. What does ‘cutting the heel’ mean?

The exploitation of a short cut

3. Explain what a peninsula is. An atlas might be handy to help you answer this question.

Definition:

A peninsula is a geographical formation consisting of an extension of land from a larger body, surrounded by water on three sides.

4. What could you use demagnetising ripple strips for other than on the racing track?

Example:

They could be used to stop normal hover cars from leaving the road in the event of an accident, hence bringing down the road toll.

5. Who visits Jason and the Bug?

Their parents (Henry and Martha Chaser)

6. Quote what Henry Chaser says about teachers on page 98.

‘Never ever worry about having the “hard” teacher. Trust me, the hard teachers are always the best teachers... because the hard teachers want you to learn.’

7. What happened when Scott Syracuse tried to cut the heel in the Italian Run?

Scott Syracuse didn’t emerge from the short cut for four hours, and even at that point he came out the same way he went in.

Page 103

1. What happens to Xavier while coming out of the pits?

His car, the Speed Razor, fishtails to a halt due to a near miss with another racer

2. What are coal mines? You may need to do some research for this one.

Definition:

Coal mining is the extraction of coal from the earth for use as fuel. A coal mine and its accompanying structures are collectively known as a colliery.

3. Draw the entry to the mine. Would it look welcoming or foreboding?

Page 110

The Short-Cut Labyrinth

Lap: 17 [of 20]

1. Glossary:

- Trapezoidal – ***(adjective) quadrilateral with no two sides parallel***
- Traction – ***grip of a tyre on a road, a wheel on a rail, etc.***
- Labyrinth – ***complicated network of passages etc.; maze***
- Ruthless – ***having no pity or compassion***

2. What does Jason do that puts him in the lead?

He misses his final pit stop

3. Do you think a perfect lap is possible? Give a justification with your answer.

Examples:

Yes, because a skilled pilot combined with a navigator (likely a mathematical genius) could achieve this through lots of calculations and patience

OR

No, because nobody is perfect and there is always going to be a small margin of error in anything that anyone does.

Page 115

Lap: 20 [of 20]

1. On pages 115-116 Matthew Reilly does something ‘different’ with a few of his sentences. Why do you think he does this?

To give the reader a clearer picture of the Argonaut and the Speed Razor going head to head

2. Find some information about Cradle Mountain. What types of things do people do there?

Example:

In 1827 Joseph Fossey, a surveyor with the Van Diemen's Land Company, saw a dramatic mountain peak at the northern end of what is now the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park, in the World Heritage Area. He immediately named the peak Cradle Mountain, and as soon as you see it you will know why he chose the name. – Taken from www.discovertasmania.com.au

People camp, bushwalk, fish, swim and generally soak up the beauty at Cradle Mountain.

3. Why doesn't Matthew Reilly let you know the outcome of the race at the end of the chapter?

It makes the reader want to keep reading by maintaining suspense

Page 119
Part IV
The Tournament

Page 121
Chooka's Charcoal Chicken Restaurant
Hobart, Tasmania

1. How many centimetres did the Argonaut win by in Race 25?

4.2 centimetres

2. Why can Scott Syracuse be seen as 'deviously clever?'

Because he was reconnoitring the Italian Run short cut for the following year

Page 126
The International Race School
Hobart, Tasmania
Friday, 31 May

1. Glossary:

- Opulence – ***wealthy, luxurious, abundant***
- Flotilla – ***small fleet or fleet of small ships***
- Archaic – ***antiquated or of an early period of culture***

2. Name one movie star that you know of who might attend the Sponsors' Event.

Examples:

Vin Diesel, Kate Bosworth, Kate Beckinsale

3. What is a 'society calendar?'

A calendar for people who are independently wealthy and like to be seen at the biggest and best events

4. What does Sally erect in the pit bay?

Two closed-circuit cameras

5. Who is Jason's first race against in the Sponsors' Event?

Ariel Piper

6. 'There are no friends on the track.' Do you think this is achievable?

Examples:

Yes, it is easy to focus on the track and winning while racing; there is no need (or even time) to think about anyone else (including friends) while on the track

OR

No, a friend will always influence the outcome of any competitive matching because a true friend won't want to hurt the feelings of the other.

'Never give up. Never say die.' - Scott Syracuse [Page 131]
--

7. Is not giving up important? Explain.

Examples:

Yes, giving up will not get you anywhere in life; it is the people who don't give up that achieve great things

OR

No, it's who you are that counts.

Page 133

The Grand Ballroom

The Waldorf Hotel, Hobart

1. Martha Chaser is acting odd. Make an assumption about why she is being like this.

Example:

She is worried about Jason and the Bug being involved in such a dangerous sport

2. Put the word 'mischievous' into a sentence of your own construction.

Example:

Jason does not seem like a mischievous person

3. Who is Umberto Lombardi? Describe him as best you can.

Umberto Lombardi is an ‘absolute bear of a man.’ He dresses in expensive suits (that barely cover his enormous belly) and has a black beard that is impeccably trimmed. Umberto Lombardi is the billionaire owner of the Lombardi Racing Team.

4. Why is sponsorship important to a hover car racer? Is it like this in the ‘real world?’

It means that you will be recognised. It is like this in the ‘real world’ as demonstrated by Formula 1 and all the logos and endorsements that are attached to its cars and drivers.

Page 140

1. How many people (approximately) occupied the stands?

250,000

2. To the best of your ability draw the new uniforms that are given to Jason, the Bug and Sally. Make them true to what is written in the book.
3. “‘What is this? The Right Stuff? Armageddon?’” Ariel’s navigator said wryly.’ Ariel’s navigator makes allusions to The Right Stuff and Armageddon. Why?

They are both movies where people are seen to be walking in slow motion with meaningful looks on their faces.

Page 144

Race 1:

Chaser VS Piper

1. Sketch what the view might look like from Jason’s cockpit at the start of this chapter.
2. Who pitted first and why?

Jason, due to a lost magneto drive

3. What was the winning margin?

0.04 of a second (four hundredths of a second)

4. What did Jason give as his reason for winning?

'Never give up. Never say die.'

5. On page 152 the tournament is described as having a 'carnival-like atmosphere.' Describe how you see it in your mind. What bands are playing? Name some VIPs. What food is available? Are there rides? If so, describe them.

Example:

The Veronicas are playing up on a hover stage, in the V.I.P. boxes are people like John Howard, Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman. Fairy floss, battered hot dogs and buckets of chips are available on every street corner. Hover Kart racing is one of the most popular rides for kids, especially the karts that look like the Argonaut. They aren't as fast as the real thing but they still do over 100 kph around a circular track.

Page 153

1. List the racers in the Quarter Finals.

Xonora, X. Wong, H. Cortez, J. Krishna, V. Washington, I. Chaser, J. Schumacher, K. Becker, B.

2. Do you think the race between Schumacher and Becker was fair? Explain why.

Examples:

Yes, because Becker won according to the rules of the race

OR

No, because Schumacher should not have lost simply due to a pit machine malfunction.

3. Is Black Bullet an appropriate name for a hover car? Give a reason for your answer.

Yes, because the hover car is black and it is as fast as a bullet

4. Did you expect Jason's reaction to Sally's mistakes to be so positive? What is the benefit of being so positive?

Example:

I didn't expect Jason to be positive because he almost lost the race due to Sally's mistake.

The benefit of being positive is that Sally won't feel nervous during the next race and she will be less likely to make another mistake. Additionally, when people are treated in a positive manner they are more likely to be positive in return.

5. Write the names of the four semi finalists.

Xonora, X. Krishna, V. Chaser, J. Becker, B.

Page 162

1ST Semi Final:

Xonora V Krishna

1. Did Krishna lose because he was a bad racer? Speculate.

Example:

No, he lost because of two depleted mags. This leaves the reader thinking that Krishna might be the victim of sabotage.

2. What problems can portable microwave transmitters cause?

They drain magneto drives of their power

3. How does Krishna surprise Jason?

By letting Jason know that he has a friend

Page 165

2ND Semi Final:

Chaser V Becker

1. What gave the Argonaut an advantage?

Quick pit stops

2. Why did Barnaby Becker achieve a commanding lead?

Upon exiting the pits two of Jason's magneto drives were 'cactus' which meant he needed to pit again, allowing Becker to gain the lead

Page 167

1. Who does the surveillance camera catch out?

Guido Moralez

2. Was Race Director Calder's punishment severe enough?

Examples:

Yes, because Barnaby was disqualified destroying any chances for a semi final victory. This would have been highly embarrassing for Barnaby and Moralez and a lesson learnt.

OR

No, they should have been expelled from Race School. Zoroastro had too much influence over the final decision; his opinion should not have been taken into account.

3. Write a letter to Jason, the Bug or Sally congratulating them on their success so far.

Example:

Dear Jason,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your successes at The International Race School. You seem very determined and always put one-hundred percent effort into everything you do. The way you treat people is admirable; especially the way you dealt with Sally after she made that error in the pits.

With kind regards,

Astute Reader.

4. What is the difference in the number of laps, completed over the course of the race day, between Xavier and Jason?

265 laps

Page 172
The Final:
Xonora V Chaser

1. In the first lap of the final the Argonaut's nosewing is snapped off. What would this do to the aerodynamics of the Argonaut?

It would cause the Argonaut to handle sluggishly and gain very little speed

2. Why was Xavier delayed getting out of the pits?

'The pressure nozzle on Koch's coolant hose had broken off...'

Page 177

1. Were you satisfied with the outcome of the race? Explain.

Examples:

Yes, Xavier was the better racer and because of this he won

OR

No, it would have been great to see Jason win as he had an extremely tiring day of racing

2. 'The crowd went nuts.' Why?

'After a staggering 390 laps of racing, at the edge of total exhaustion, he (Jason) had lost by less than a second to a guy who had creamed every other opponent he had faced...' The crowd respected that.

'It's not how we win that defines us, Jason, it's how we lose. Winners come and go, but the racer who goes down fighting will live forever in people's hearts.' - Henry Chaser [Pages 178-179]

Is this good advice? Give your opinion.

It's great advice! It tells the reader that the person who tries their hardest will earn a greater level of respect than those who may win based on pure talent.

3. Describe the contents of the best burger on the menu at Chooka's Charcoal Chicken (use your imagination).

Example:

The Chooka Burger

A wholemeal bun, tender chicken breast, juicy bacon, cos lettuce, cherry tomatoes, tasty cheese, beetroot and topped with relish

4. What does Umberto Lombardi offer Team Argonaut?

A chance to participate in the Italian Run

5. Locate Italy on a map or using an atlas.

Page 183

Part V

The Italian Run

Page 187

1. Name the four 'Grand Slam' races and give a brief description of each.

The Sydney Classic, The London Underground Run, The Italian Run, The New York Masters.

The Sydney Classic:* *A lap race that lasts 20 hours. 'Racers do 156 laps of a course that runs past the eight giant ocean-dams that line Australia's eastern coastline, ending underneath... the Sydney Harbour Bridge.'

The London Underground Run:* *The most fiendish gate race of all. It takes place in the dark of the London subway system. A racer has to whip through as many underground stations as they can in 6 hours.

The New York Masters:* *Four races held over four consecutive days. A supersprint, a gate race, a collective pursuit and a 'quest' race.

The Italian Run:* *It is a unidirectional race. Racers start in one city and end in another.

2. Where are the two pit areas located? Find these places using an atlas.

Fiumicino (near Rome) and Pescara

3. What does 'driver-over-the-line' mean?

The first driver or navigator over the line, regardless of whether they are in their car, wins

4. If you had sixty billion dollars what would you buy/what would you do?

Example:

I would start a profitable and environmentally friendly company to provide jobs for the unemployed. I would make sure that the company produced something of a quality standard that humans in general would benefit from.

Additionally, I would buy homes for my relatives and friends and some new pants for myself.

Page 190

The International Race School

Hobart, Tasmania

1. The school season will continue while Jason is away. How will this affect Jason?

He will miss three races which means he will have to do 'some catch-up' when he returns from Italy (to be able to finish in the Top 4 of the School season).

2. What is the difference in points between Xonora, X and Piper, A?

54 points

Page 194

Venice II,

Italy (Monday of race week)

1. Name the colours of the Italian flag.

Red, white and green

2. What was the media portraying Jason as?

'...a brilliant young upstart, the 14-year-old wunderkid – but despite that, still ultimately a boy venturing into a man's world.'

3. What car will Jason be racing instead of the Argonaut?

A Ferrari F-3000

4. What do you think will be the outcome of Jason racing Fabian?

Example:

Jason will beat Fabian because Jason is down to earth and level headed, Fabian is arrogant and presumptuous

Page 201

The Circus Maximus

Rome, Italy (Wednesday of race week)

1. Using an atlas, find Rome. Name some towns that are located along the western coast.

2. Glossary:

- Illuminate – *light up; make bright*
- Circumference – *enclosing boundary, esp. of a circle or distance round*
- Mammoth – *when used as an adjective means huge*
- Exhibition – *display (esp. public) of works of art, industrial products, etc.*
- Controversial – *causing or subject to controversy*

3. What date was Jason born on?

August 6th

4. What is controversial about Fabian's car?

A 'bladed' nosewing

Page 204
The Circus Maximus
Rome, Italy (Wednesday of race week)

1. What is the ‘racer’s salute?’

A short touch of their helmet with their right hand

2. How do you feel about the outcome of the race against Fabian?

Example:

The outcome was fantastic because it was unexpected that Ariel would race in Jason’s stead. By winning against Fabian she showed that female racers could match it with male racers anytime.

Page 206
The Pole Position Shootout
Rome, Italy (Friday of race week)

1. Draw a right angle.
2. Describe the ‘Chute.’

An S-shaped section of track that is a narrow trench dug into the earth. It has four barriers stretched out along its length. Each barrier is an ultra-narrow gateway so that a hover car can only pass through on its side.

3. What pole position does Jason receive?

12th

4. On page 208 the name Michelangelo is mentioned. Who is Michelangelo?

Example:

Perhaps the greatest influence on western art in the last five centuries, Michelangelo was an Italian sculptor, architect, painter and poet in the period known as the High Renaissance.

Taken from www.who2.com/michelangelo.html

5. 'So. Chaser. Are your parents here? I hear there are some very good caravan parks on the outskirts of Rome.' Xavier says this to Jason. Why do you think Xavier has so much trouble accepting Jason?

Example:

Xavier has been raised in a totally different way to Jason and due to this he finds it difficult to understand Jason.

6. Prediction time: What is Ravi Narendra Gupta up to?

Example:

He is spying on Jason for another racing team (possibly Xavier's team).

7. Who does Jason meet at the end of the speeches?

Dido Emanuele

Page 213

**The Lombardi Grand Hotel
Venice II, Italy (Saturday)**

1. Glossary:

- Executive – ***person or body with managerial or administrative responsibility in a business organisation etc.***
- Captivating – ***fascinate; charm***
- Introspective – ***to look or to look at one's thoughts***
- Bemused – ***puzzle, bewilder***

Page 217

**The Italian Run
Rome, Italy (Sunday, Race Day)**

'The starting area for the Italian Run was the Colosseum. Every racer started from the same spot, in the exact centre of the 2000-year-old Roman amphitheatre.'

1. What can you find out about the Colosseum?

Example:

The Colosseum, originally known as the Flavian Amphitheatre, is the largest amphitheatre built in the Roman Empire. Originally capable of seating 50,000 spectators, it was once used for gladiatorial combat. It was built in the 70s and completed in 80.

Taken from Wikipedia

2. What does Jason find out about Ravi Gupta?

He is one of the biggest bookmakers in the racing world

3. What analogy on page 220 is used to describe the way hover cars enter the colosseum?

'...they looked like bullets being loaded into the chamber of a gun and then fired.'

Page 222

1. Using an atlas, find Florence.
2. Explain 'little more than a high-speed game of "Chicken".'

Example:

Hover cars are racing at extremely close proximities. This gives no lee way to any other racer when cars are racing at speeds of about 700km/h. Any small error could result in a catastrophic accident.

3. Sally says 'We ain't in Kansas anymore.' This is a reference to a famous book/movie. What is the name of the book/movie?

The Wizard of Oz

4. Where are the Alps?

The Alps stretch from Austria and Slovenia in the east, through Italy, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Germany to France in the west.

5. When Jason started to move up the field he overtook Brock Peters. ‘Brock Peters’ is a play on words by Matthew Reilly. Why?

Peter Brock is a famous Australian car racer

6. Using an Atlas, find Nice.
7. The last words used on page 226 are ‘... when disaster struck.’ What chord do these words strike with the reader?

Example:

The words make the reader think that something is about to happen to Jason that will put him out of the race

Page 227

1. What did Etienne Trouveau do to the Argonaut?

He sliced the Argonaut’s right-hand wing off its nosewing

2. How does Jason get to the pits?

By turning right ‘in a painfully slow, painfully wide circle.’

3. Jason came into the pits with only one mag operating. What percentage of it was left?

1.1%

Page 232

1. After packing up, where does Sally need to get to?

Pescara

2. Find Sicily and Sardinia in an atlas.

3. On page 234 what is Jason thinking about doing? Do you think this is a wise decision?

Jason is thinking about cutting the heel

Example:

This is a good decision as he is behind in the race anyway and it is his only chance to catch up

OR

He should not cut the heel as he may get lost and not end up finishing the race at all

4. How is Scott Syracuse going to help Jason?

He is going to guide Jason through the short cut

Page 236

1. How is the inside of the short cut described?

'A misty concrete-walled labyrinth, illuminated only by the Argonaut II's winglights.'

2. In order, list Syracuse's instructions for navigating the short cut.

- ***'First junction, take the ten o'clock fork.'***
- ***'Take the two o'clock fork – straight ahead – ninety degree right-hand turn – '***
- ***'Vertically down.'***
- ***'Now take the ten o'clock fork at the next junction.'***

3. Using an Atlas, find Bari and the Adriatic Sea.

4. Describe the reaction of Xavier Xonora when Jason exited the short cut.

A 'sideways-turned face' and a 'look of pure shock.'

5. Use one adjective to describe how Jason felt when he found no one waiting for him at the pits.

Some examples:

Helpless, surprised, dumbstruck, betrayed and mortified

Page 242

1. Glossary:

- Turquoise – ***greenish-blue colour***
- Notorious – ***well known, esp. unfavourably***
- Fiendish – ***wicked or cruel person, or mischievous or annoying person***
- Surreptitiously – ***done by stealth; clandestine***

2. Why is the Venice II Gauntlet dangerous?

It is 'fiendishly curved' and considered an intense test of racers' abilities

3. Using an atlas, find the Grand Canal.

4. What is a magnetic 'Dead Zone'?

A negatively-charged dead zone is a piece of equipment that stops hover cars from smashing into surrounding buildings. Hover cars come to a dead stop when they make contact with them.

5. What was placed on the tailfin of the Argonaut II?

A small explosive device (the size of a pinhead). An ultra-concentrated military explosive made of SDX-III epoxy.

Page 247

1. Describe the crash.

'The Argonaut II slammed into the surface of the Grand Canal with a terrible splash.'

'It hit the water nose-first, then tumbled three times, sending debris shooting out in every direction, before- whack! – it smacked down on the surface of the canal and lurched to a halt, floating upside-down: its underside pointing skyward, its cockpit underwater.'

2. What happens to the Bug?

He gets trapped by his jammed seatbelt, subsequently he can't swim to the surface

`"Oh... my... Lord..." Lombardi breathed.'`

Page 251

Part VI

The Death of Jason Chaser

Page 253

The Final Stages of the Italian Run

Venice II, Italy

1. Why does the Bug wave frantically?

Because Jason isn't moving

2. Matthew Reilly takes the reader back a few moments in time. Why does he do this?

Example:

To let the reader know in more detail exactly what happened to Jason. It also helps to keep the reader interested by allowing two aspects of the story to be told in the same moment in time.

Page 256

1. What does Jason dream about?

He dreams of being rescued and revived, of Henry Chaser telling a man 'I'm not going anywhere till my son wakes up', and crashing hover cars.

2. 'They were the same clothes he'd been wearing on race day.' What does this say about Henry Chaser?

He had not left the hospital

3. Why is Jason considered a hero?

Because he saved his brother

4. What is Sally going to get framed?

A copy of a newspaper that is headlined 'The Death of Jason Chaser'

5. What was Lombardi's reaction to his Ferrari's destruction?

He dismissed it as a way to get back at insurance companies for all the high premiums he pays. Overall, he doesn't care about the car; he just cars that Jason is okay.

6. 'Just at the sight of her, Jason felt a whole lot better.' Who is this?

Dido

Page 261

1. Fabian sends a nasty note to Jason. If you were Jason writing a note in reply what would it say? Keep it friendly but to the point ('cause that's the sort of person Jason is).

Example:

Dear Fabian,

It was nice to hear from you! My nightmares are slowly going away and are being replaced with sweet dreams of me beating you in the Masters. I thought that if Ariel could beat you, then I should be able to as well.

With kind regards,

Jason Chaser

Page 263

**The International Race School
Hobart, Tasmania**

1. Why do you think Ariel Piper's race against Fabian had an impact on a lot of girls around the world?

Because the result showed that women were just as good as men when it came to hover car racing

2. What is the difference between practise and practice?

‘Practice’ is a noun and ‘practise’ is a verb

3. Take a paragraph from this chapter (which must contain at least four sentences), copy it into your workbook and repunctuate it.
4. In which race was Jason going to make his comeback?

Race 42

5. What does Jason reveal to Dido?

That he is scared to get back in the Argonaut because of the crash in Italy

Page 268

Race 42 (Supersprint)

Racetime: 29 Mins 32 Seconds

Lap: 29 of 50

1. Give an opinion of Horatio Wong.

Example:

Horatio Wong sometimes lacks the ability to think for himself and appears to, more often than not, be easily lead.

2. Give an example of a classic pro tactic.

‘When a young racer is coming back from a bad accident and his self-confidence is shaky, you hit him in a similar way on his return race – and thus crack his fragile confidence.’

3. At this point in time, what advice would you give to Jason?

Example:

Jason,

Share your fears with The Bug! After all, he was in the crash with you and he might share a similar fear. This might help to take some of the burden off your shoulders; this will then let you get back into the swing of things.

Page 271

1. What reasons does Jason have for confiding in Dido above all others?

She isn't a family member or team member and she doesn't have any expectations

2. Is Jason becoming paranoid?

Examples:

Yes, Jason is paranoid. Hover car racing is a tough sport and accidents happen

OR

No, Jason is not paranoid. It appears obvious that there is a group of racers hell bent on trying to ram his tailfin.

3. What are hover drones used for?

'Bullet-shaped, superfast and extremely nimble, hover drones were training tools usually used to train very young hover car drivers...'

4. Who were the two people watching Jason from the hilltop?

Sally and the Bug

5. What surprised Jason and Sally?

The Bug spoke to both Sally and Jason

Page 277

Race 44

1. What was the Bug's plan?

'Win the start – and lead all the way...'

2. Why did Ariel bow out of Race 48?

She bowed out due to a technical problem

3. To get to New York what does Jason need to achieve?

He needs to beat Barnaby Becker and ‘had to hope some other results went his way.’

4. Describe Course 13.

Course 13 stretches southward, ‘down over the Southern Ocean along a superlong straight, before it transformed into a twisting turning series of bends that weaved between the outer icebergs of Antarctica.’ The ‘Clashing Bergs’ form a feature of the course.

Page 282

1. Name the two people that Jason hears speaking.

Jean-Pierre LeClerq and Wernold Smythe

Page 284

1. ‘On the horizon, dark clouds framed the rising sun.’ Is it possible this is symbolic of something forthcoming? Explain.

A good answer:

It could possibly mean that Jason is about to enter the equivalent of a storm in the hover car racing world and he will shine and come out at the end as a rising star.

2. What does Jason tell Dido about Barnaby’s technique?

Jason tells Dido that Barnaby’s weakness is right-hand hairpins

Page 286

1. A famous Australian event is used as an analogy on page 286. What is the name of the event?

The Melbourne Cup

2. There is an onomatopoeia on this page. Locate it and write it down!

‘Clang!’

3. What was Xavier doing for Barnaby?

Xavier was protecting Barnaby in an effort to help him win

Page 289

Race 50

Lap: 35 of 51

Racers Left on Track: 8

1. How did Jason shake off Cortez?

Jason lured Cortez into a trap. Jason took a turn too wide and Cortez tried to charge at his tailfin. Jason banked the other way and Cortez smashed into the side of an iceberg.

2. What decision do the Bug and Jason make that may help them to move further up the field?

They decide to go through the 'Clashing Bergs'

'And Jason flipped the Argonaut onto its side as the canyon's walls became unbearably close and - CRASH! - the two icebergs came together with a deafening boom just as the tiny Argonaut blasted out from between them, house-sized chunks of ice raining down into the water behind it.'

3. What words could be used to replace 'boom' and 'chunks'?

Possibilities:

For 'boom': roar, crash or crack

For 'chunks': rocks, pieces or fragments

Page 292

Race 50

Lap: 40 of 51

Racers Left on Track: 6

1. Write out the race order.

1st: Barnaby, 2nd: Xavier, 3rd: Krishna, 4th: Ariel, 5th: Isaiah Washington, 6th: Jason

2. Who blocks the exit tunnel?

Xavier Xonora

3. Glossary:

- Disingenuous – ***insincere, not candid***

4. What do you think of the tactics employed by Barnaby Becker and Xavier Xonora?

Example:

Barnaby's and Xavier's tactics are unsporting. They need to play dirty to make sure that Barnaby wins the race.

Page 295

Race 50

Lap: 43 of 51

Racers Left on Track: 5

1. Describe how the Bug's idea played out.

By continually going through the 'Clashing Bergs' on each lap Jason manages to get in front of Xavier. As a result of this Xavier is eliminated from the race putting the Argonaut in a position to possibly win. The Bug's plan played out well.

2. Why did Team Argonaut complete a manual pit stop so well?

Because they had practised manual pit stops before

3. Who were the big winners from the power shutdown?

Ariel and Jason

Page 300
Race 50
Lap: 50 of 51
Racers Left on Track: 4

1. Who betrays Jason? How does he know this?

Dido betrays Jason. He knows this because Barnaby Becker takes hairpins perfectly; he does not normally do this and the only person that Jason spoke to about Barnaby's weakness was Dido.

2. Why is third place as good as first place, according to Jason?

'All he had to do was beat Barnaby to get to New York: as things were, 3rd was as good as 1st in this race.'

3. In desperation, what did Barnaby do?

'Panicked and desperate, Barnaby rammed Jason hard – driving both of their cars across the nearest set of demag lights.'

Page 307
Race 50
Lap: 51 of 51
Racers Left on Track: 4

1. The win would go down in Race School history. Why?

Because it would be one of the most bizarre photo-finish photos ever

2. Using a digital camera, and with the use of some basic photography skills, take a photo that mimics the photo taken of the Bug crossing the finish line.

Page 308

1. How many points did Jason get for coming third?

8 points

2. 'The blood drained from Dido's face.' Why?

Jason confronts her about her involvement with Xavier and Barnaby

3. What does Jason ask Dido to relay to Xavier and Barnaby?

'... Jason Chaser is back. Back to full strength. Which means the next time we're all on the same track, they're going down.'

4. Jean Pierre LeClerq is involved in a plot to rid the Race School of Ariel Piper. Explain his involvement and the result of his involvement.

Jean Pierre LeClerq was getting Wernold Smythe to cause problems for Ariel Piper's team by giving her team depleted mags before races and tampering with crucial operating systems like the Tarantula.

The result of LeClerq's involvement was his suspension from principal duties at the Race School pending further investigation.

Page 312

1. What relation is Dido to Xavier?

Dido is Xavier's cousin

2. Who won Teacher of the Year? Do you think he deserved to win? Explain your answer.

Scott Syracuse

Example:

He deserved to win as he puts a lot of effort into his teaching. He has helped Jason to become a much better racer through giving lots of advice and training him hard.

3. Using an atlas, find New York.

Page 315
Part VII
Challenger

Page 317
New York City, USA

1. What are some of the significant features of New York City?

Central Park, the Chrysler Building, the Brooklyn Bridge and the Twin Pillars of Light

2. Confetti Snow fills New York City during Masters Week. Is this a gross waste of paper considering the environmental impact that it may have?

Examples:

Yes, the confetti is going to end up landing on the street and washed off into the water system possibly polluting the water systems in the area. It is also a waste of a resource that requires natural resources to make it

OR

No, I am sure the city council has got recycling programs in place that will handle all of the confetti.

3. List the four main races that will take place in New York City.

Race 1: The Liberty Supersprint, Race 2: The Manhattan Gate Race, Race 3: The Pursuit, Race 4: The Quest

4. Why is this a dream come true for Jason?

Because he is in the Masters; he had only ever dreamed about being in the Masters from watching it on television.

Page 320
The Challenger Race (Tuesday)
15 mins to Race Start

1. Which number is considered luckiest for the Chinese?

8

2. Xavier visits Jason. Why?

Simple answer:

To share an interesting statistic with Jason

More complex answer:

To attempt to psychologically put Jason off his race. He does this by having Dido by his side and by telling Jason that he has only once won a race against him; and that was ‘way back in Race 25.’

3. What does Xavier do every time he crosses the finish line?

He punches his fist into the air

4. What could be Xavier’s weakness?

‘Xavier thinks he’s a great racer.’

Page 325

The Challenger Race

Lap: 13 of 30

1. How many pit stops would be required over the course of thirty laps?

Five pit stops (at least)

2. A catastrophic crash is caused by Igor and Vlad Krotsky. How?

The Krotskys attempt to push past Chandra. Chandra doesn’t give in and he ends up flipping his car.

Page 328

The Challenger Race

Lap: 18 of 30

1. Using a dictionary, find the meaning of protagonist and write it out in your glossary.

Chief person in a drama, story, etc.

2. This chapter shows the two main protagonists eagerly battling it out for the win. Why do you think Matthew Reilly has placed only these two characters in a position to win?

Example:

Because they have been enemies from early on in the book. Putting them together, battling it out for a win, creates a greater level of excitement for the reader as the loser is out of this year's hover car racing series.

3. By lap 28 how far ahead of Jason was Xavier?

'...by two full seconds.'

4. How did Jason start to catch up to Xavier in the last lap?

Over the last lap Jason gradually gained on Xavier by using the right-angled turns of the city

5. 'In. First. Place.' Each word has a full stop after it. What effect does this have?

It accentuates each word helping to make them sound more powerful

Page 333

1. Why, in your opinion, does Jason choose to race with Team Lombardi over the Lockheed-Martin Factory Team?

Example:

Lombardi has been forgiving of Jason (Jason destroyed Lombardi's Ferrari F-3000), he has shared chicken burgers with Jason and he gave them an opportunity to race in the Italian Run. The Lockheed-Martin Factory Team only wants Jason because Xavier bowed out.

2. What reason does Jason give for beating Xavier?

He works harder than Xavier

Page 337
New York City, USA (Wednesday)
Parade Day

1. How many people lined the streets of New York?

10 million people

2. Ask your art teacher to help you make a papier mache float in the likeness of the Argonaut.
3. What are Jason's odds according to InterBet?

1500-to-1 to win the Masters

4. Is Henry Chaser's quiet chat to the boys at the end of this chapter important? Explain your answer.

Examples:

Yes, because it would help to give the boys piece of mind. They wouldn't feel the pressure of needing to win. This gives Jason and the Bug the opportunity to relax and be themselves

OR

No, it's nice but not necessarily needed. Jason and the Bug have done well up to now without any emotional chats from Henry.

Page 343
New York City, USA (Thursday)
Race 1: The Liberty Supersprint
Lap: 1 of 40

1. Find out what you can about Manhattan Island.

Example:

Manhattan is an island bordering the lower Hudson River. It is one of the five boroughs that comprise the City of New York. The borough is coterminous with New York County and includes the Island of Manhattan, as well as several other smaller islands and a small portion of the mainland. As of 2000, the population comprised 1,537,195 people, but the county is the smallest in the state of New York based on area.

2. Why did Jason black out?

Because of G-forces

3. Find out what G-forces are.

Example:

Gravitational force is the force of gravity pulling you toward the Earth. When you undergo a change in speed and direction, that force increases in proportion to the rate of change. To calculate the magnitude of the force you feel as gs increase, multiply your weight by the number of gs.

Page 347

Lap: 36 of 40

1. What is ‘Masters Madness?’

Reckless driving

2. The Bradbury Principal came into play. How?

‘It was largely the fault of the 13th-placed racer, Carlo Martinez, as he tried to avoid elimination by overtaking the 12th-placed driver, Helmut Reitze, in his Porsche.’ ‘Martinez collected Reitze – and the two cars rolled together, but not before the car immediately behind them ... slammed fully into the back of them.’ Jason cruised past the wreckage and gained a 12th placing, allowing him to continue in the Masters.

Page 350

New York City, USA (Thursday)

After Liberty Supersprint

1. Why is Jason looking forward to Race 2?

It is a gate race, ‘his and the Bug’s specialty.’

Page 353
New York City, USA (Friday)

1. How many race gates are there in New York City?

250

2. What do you make of Ravi Gupta's presence in the pit area? Explain.

Example:

He's definitely up to no good. The last time we saw Ravi Gupta was just before Jason was involved in a massive accident. He may have had something to do with it; and he might be in the pits now to do something like it again.

Page 358
New York City, USA (Friday)
Race 2: The Manhattan Gate Race

1. Who was staying close to Jason?

Fabian

2. At the second pit stop how many points had Team Argonaut accumulated?

750 points

3. What did Jason do that was unexpected?

He went for the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel which has the prized 100-point gate at its end

4. What gets commentators so excited about the Bug's race plan?

It shows that Jason and the Bug are 'going for the cloisters.' They are heading for the 100-point double and a win.

Page 362

Racetime: 1 Hour 30 Mins

1. How did Au Chow's race end?

'... Rein careered spectacularly through Chow's nosewing, shearing the Chinese racer's entire nosecone clean off...'

Page 366

Racetime: 2 Hours 52 Mins

1. What were overcautious racers doing?

They were rushing back over the Start-Finish Line a full eight minutes early to cash in their points and to avoid penalties for being late

2. What did the two Renaults do to the Argonaut?

Fabian used his Renault to push Jason into Trouveau's Renault. This resulted in the Argonaut's nosewing hitting Trouveau's bladed nosewing, thus splintering and breaking.

3. Why couldn't the Argonaut move forward?

'It had lost forward thrust.'

Page 370

Racetime: 2 Hours 57 Mins

1. Why did Fifth Avenue fall silent?

'... they saw an object emerge from 42nd St and come out onto Fifth Avenue. It was the Argonaut. Hovering low above the street.' 'Jason and the Bug were pushing it.'

2. What were the crowds chanting?

"HEAVE! HEAVE!"

3. If you could use only one word to describe the actions of the Bug and Jason, what would it be?

Examples:

Heroic, awesome, amazing, triumphant, daring

Page 374

1. On the Masters Scoreboard Matthew Reilly has included Skaife, M. Why?

Skaife, M stands for Mark Skaife, a famous Australian racer

Page 377

Part VIII

Jason and the Golden Fleece

Page 379

New York City, USA (Saturday)

Race 3: The Pursuit

Lap 120 of 120

1. Find out some information about the Hudson River.
2. Complete this sentence: ‘... Jason and _____ were out in front of the other racers, battling it out for the _____.’

‘Trouveau’ and ‘win’

3. Glossary:
 - Conscious – ***awake and aware of one’s surroundings and identity***
 - Nauseous – ***inclined to vomit***
 - Suffocation – ***choke or kill by stopping breathing, esp. by pressure, fumes, etc.***
4. What turn is Jason fearful of?

Liberty’s Elbow

Page 383
New York City, USA (Saturday)
Race 3: The Pursuit

1. What is a Collective Pursuit Race?

It is a relatively short circular track race that includes The 15-Second Rule (meaning that every racer has to stay within 15 seconds of the lead car or automatic disqualification ensues)

2. What obstacles does this track feature?

Ion waterfalls, Meat Grinders and Liberty's Elbow

3. What needs to happen for Jason to stay in the Masters?

He needs to finish in the top two of Race 3 and for 'some of the other racers to finish poorly or not at all'

4. Trouveau names his hover car after Napoleon's horse. What is the name of his car?

The Vizir

Page 386
New York City, USA (Saturday)
Race 3: The Pursuit
Lap: 1 of 120

1. Why is the Williamsburg Bridge considered a crunch point?

'... by the time the eight racers reached it, they had to be in single file in order to pass through the narrow opening in its curtain of golden ions.'

2. 'It kind of felt like an old Roman chariot race.' Would you agree with Jason?

Examples:

Yes, because the racers will do anything to win. They are bumping and pushing each other and the crowds are 'baying for blood'

OR

No, it's a futuristic hover car race and bares no resemblance to a Roman chariot race.

3. How did Sally help to regather the Argonaut's lead?

By performing like a genius in the pits

4. How did Pablo Riviera's race end? Explain fully.

He unsuccessfully took on a meat grinder. It seemed that Riviera did not understand that to make it through the Meat Grinder you had to 'take them at absolutely full speed: 810 km/h.' '... the tunnel around him began to iris shut, its gigantic iron cleaves squeezing inward with a loud mechanical clanking, like a giant industrial python swallowing its prey.' 'The crumpled remains of Riviera's F-3000 were spat out the other end...'

Page 391

New York City, USA (Saturday)

Race 3: The Pursuit

Lap: 110 of 120

1. Fabian and Trouveau boxed Jason in on the left-hand side of the track. What were Jason's options?

'... crash into Ward's Island, or go left – toward the second meat grinder.'

2. Sketch what you think a meat grinder looks like.
3. What is Jason's weak point?

Liberty's Elbow

4. At how many Gs did Jason pass out?

9-Gs

Page 396
New York City, USA (Saturday)
Race 3: The Pursuit
Lap: 120 of 120

1. How did the Bug enable Team Argonaut to win Race 3?

He guides the Argonaut over the finish line by leaning over Jason and clutching at the steering wheel. He was the only student at the International Race School who could stay conscious during a 9-G banking turn.

2. How many points does Team Argonaut receive for Race 3?

10 points

Page 400
New York City, USA (Saturday Evening)

1. Why was there no ‘uproarious celebration’ on behalf of Team Argonaut?

The seriousness of what Team Argonaut had achieved was realised, this sobered the situation. Jason, the Bug and Sally would soon be participating in one of the most prestigious races in the world.

2. What advice does Syracuse offer Jason?

He tells Jason that the other racers are just men, not superhuman beings

3. Name the sports that Donald Bradman, Muhammad Ali and Tiger Woods are famous for.

Cricket, boxing and golf

Page 403
New York City, USA (Sunday)
Race 4: The Quest

1. What does Team Argonaut have to do for the Masters' Quest?

Racers pick up their 'trophy' from a faraway point then return with it, and cross, the Start-Finish Line

2. What is the explosive device attached to? Who put it there?

It is attached to the Argonaut's tailfin. It was placed there by Ravi Gupta.

Page 405
New York City, USA (Sunday)
Race 4: The Quest
Section: Outbound Journey

1. Find out what you can about Niagara Falls.

Example:

Niagara Falls is a group of massive waterfalls located on the Niagara River in eastern North America, on the border between the United States and Canada. The Falls comprise three separate waterfalls: Horseshoe Falls (sometimes called Canadian Falls), American Falls, and the smaller, adjacent Bridal Veil Falls. While not exceptionally high, Niagara Falls is very wide, and is by far the most voluminous waterfall in North America.

From Wikipedia

2. List some elements that can be found in the Endless Tunnel.

Old mines, subterranean chasms, rivers, waterfalls and the Twin Caves

3. Describe what you see, as a spectator watching Jason and the Bug approach the Endless Tunnel entrance.

Example:

The Argonaut is just a blue and silver streak of colour as it approaches the tunnel entrance. The crowds are putting their hands in the air to clap as the hover cars approach. Balloons and confetti fill the air.

4. What is a subterranean gorge?

A huge space deep underground that can look bottomless

5. Glossary:

- Claustrophobic – *abnormal fear of confined places*
- Ominous – *threatening or of evil omen; inauspicious*
- Echo – *repetition of a sound by the reflection of sound waves*

Page 411

Race 4: The Quest

Section: The Endless Tunnel (Outbound)

1. What did Jason do that was totally unexpected?

'He slammed on his brakes.'

2. What is a precipice?

A very steep cliff

3. What was each racer's trophy?

Romba: the Italian flag, Fabian: a photo of himself, and Jason: a golden fleece

4. Why was Jason's trophy a golden fleece?

It is symbolic of the Greek myth Jason and the Argonauts

Page 415

Race 4: The Quest

Section: The Endless Tunnel (Inbound)

1. What did Fabian do that was considered improper?

He used Jason's radio frequency to speak with Jason during the race

2. What did Jason remember that Fabian didn't?

Where the wreckage of Etienne Trouveau's car was located

3. How did Jason take the lead?

Using a 'perfectly disguised fake'

4. What happens to the Argonaut for the second time in the same year?

'... the Argonaut's tailfin spontaneously exploded.'

Page 422

Race 4: The Quest

Section: Fifth Avenue (Inbound)

1. What does Jason do to get over the finish line?

He ejects over the finish line

2. What was Henry Chaser's reaction?

“ ‘YOU ... LITTLE ... BLOODY ... BEAUTY!’ ”

Page 424

1. What were the first words spoken to Henry Chaser from the Bug?

“ ‘Thanks ... Dad’ ”

2. Who did the cops catch and how can they prove that he did it?

They caught Ravi Gupta. They have digital surveillance footage of him pointing a remote at the Argonaut moments before the tailfin exploded.

3. What does Umberto Lombardi offer Jason?

A contract offering Jason the chance to race full-time for the Lombardi Racing Team on the Pro Circuit in the following year

4. The name Jason Chaser. Is it appropriate to the world of hover car racing in any way?

Examples:

Yes, 'Chaser' implies that he is constantly chasing drivers in front of him with the aim of winning and 'Jason' symbolises his efforts to gain the elusive golden fleece which is representative of him winning the Masters overall

OR

No, it's just a name that Matthew Reilly made up.

Projects

HOVER CAR RACER: HOVER CAR DESIGN

The aim of this project is to design three state of the art hover racers. They should be faster and more powerful than even the Argonaut. Make sure that you think about the aerodynamics of the car as well as its power system, cockpit and other devices that will help it to become one of the best hover car racing vehicles ever.

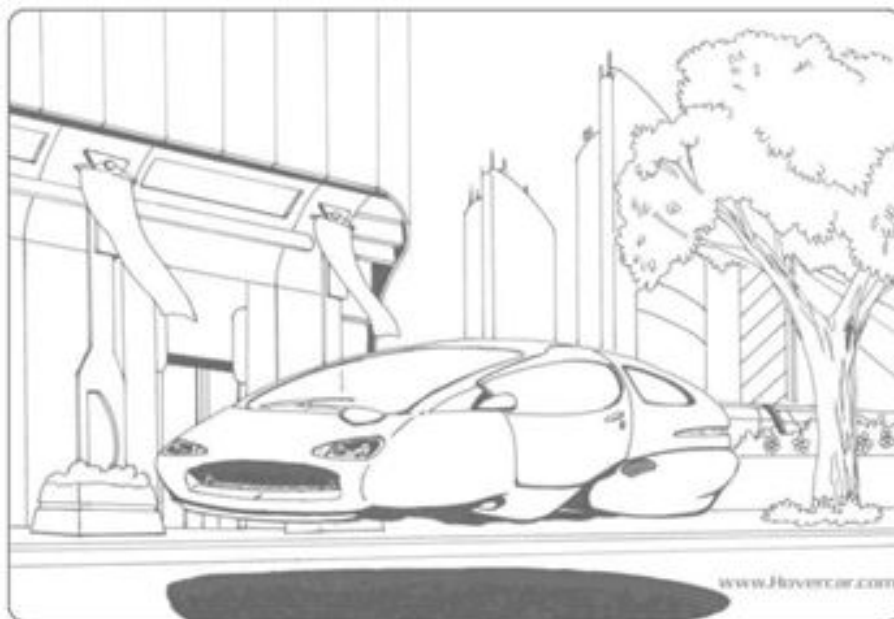
For this project you will be required to do the following:

- Write a summary of Hover Car Racer (at least 50 words)
- Sketch out some possible car designs (at least six) and pick the best three
- Write a description of each car including its special features and mechanical specifications
- Create three advertisements of some form that sell your hover cars to interested parties

All written work should be completed in a workbook first and then proofread by at least two people (one should be your teacher) before a final copy is started.

DO NOT FORGET:

- To put your name on your work
- To use your class time effectively
- To hand your work in by due dates



HOVER CAR RACER: MERCHANDISE

For this project you will be required to create and design **five** items that promote Hover Car Racer.

Possibilities may include:

- T-Shirts
- Badges
- Drink Bottles
- Model Hover Cars
- Soft Toys
- Board Games
- Food & Drink
- Celebration Cards and Wrapping



For each item you are required to do the following:

- Draw a rough sketch (then show it to your teacher) and name the product
- Write a description of the product (50 words) then have it checked by your teacher
- Develop an advertising campaign including a **storyboard** for a TV commercial, a **poster** for display at bus stops and a **script** for a commercial on a radio station. When you have finished each draft have it checked by your teacher
- Complete a final copy of each draft (including the sketch)


All written work should be completed in a workbook first and then proofread by two people (one should be your teacher) before a final copy is started.

And; at least one product is to have a summary of Hover Car Racer attached to it in some way. The summary should be no less than 50 words

DO NOT FORGET:

- To put your name on your work
- To use your class time effectively
- To hand your work in by due dates





HOVER CAR RACER: 'HOVER CAR RACER' SLOT RACER SET

For this assignment your job is to completely design a slot car/hover car set.

The following parts will be required:

- An instruction manual
- Sketches of possible tracks
- The finished track neatly drawn with notes pointing out its main features
- Fully sketched designs for at least two 'hover car' slot racers
- A box to package it all in that advertises the slot racer set

The instruction manual itself will require the following contents:

- A front cover
- A contents page
- A summary of the book that the slot car set is based on
- Descriptions of each car that you have designed for your track (including at least one illustration for each hover car)
- Instructions on how to play the game
- Hints on how to maintain the slot car set

Sketches of initial tracks will need to be kept and handed in with the final copy of your assignment.

All written work should be completed in a workbook first and then proofread by two people (one should be your teacher) before a final copy is started.

Finally, you will need to create the design for a box to package the whole slot car set in. Come up with a catchy slogan and a nifty summary that tells the buyer about all the cool things your slot car set can do that other slot car sets can't.

DO NOT FORGET:

- To put your name on your work
- To use your class time effectively
- To hand your work in by due dates



HOVER CAR RACER: SPECIAL EDITION MAGAZINE

For this project your job is to create a magazine full of anything and everything to do with Hover Car Racer.

The following parts will be required:

- A front cover (including title, price and barcode)
- A contents page
- An editorial (that is to give details about what is in the magazine)
- An author interview section
- A character review section
- A 'The Story of Hover Car Racer' section (summary)
- A 'What's Happening in the World of Hover Car Racer' section (gossip)
- Star Signs
- Advertisements
- And anything else that you can think of and would like to include

All written work should be completed in a workbook first and then proofread by two people (one should be your teacher) before a final copy is started.

DO NOT FORGET:

- To put your name on your work
- To use your class time effectively
- To hand your work in by due dates



HOVER CAR RACER: TECHNOLOGIES OF THE FUTURE

For this project your job is to investigate all the possibilities that the future might hold. Will there be such things as magneto drives, 'tarantulas' and hover cars? How realistic (in regard to the future) is Hover Car Racer?

The following parts will be required:

- A summary of Hover Car Racer (50 words at least)
- An investigation of three possible future technologies (these can be of your own choosing but must be based around Hover Car Racer in some way) (investigations should be around 125 words for each)
- A personal opinion as to whether you think these future technologies may come true some day

All written work should be completed in a workbook first and then proofread by two people (one should be your teacher) before a final copy is started.

DO NOT FORGET:

- To put your name on your work
- To use your class time effectively
- To hand your work in by due dates



HOVER CAR RACER: THE MOVIE

Your task is to promote Hover Car Racer to a big movie studio with the hope of getting it turned into a movie.

You will need to do the following:

- Give a tantalising summary of the book (at least 50 words)
- Create an eight box storyboard of the best part in the book
- Explain one theme from the book, taking examples from the book (at least 50 words)
- Create a poster advertising the movie **OR** write about which parts of the book **SHOULD NOT** be included in the movie
- Final copies of all written work

All written work should be completed in a workbook first and then proofread by two people (one should be your teacher) before a final copy is started.

You'll want this movie to have a big budget so make sure you put your best efforts into everything that you are going to be presenting to the movie studio.

DO NOT FORGET:

- To put your name on your work
- To use your class time effectively
- To hand your work in by due dates

HOVER CAR RACER: THE SOUNDTRACK

For this project you will be required to compile a set of songs that relate back to the book and a CD that includes a sleeve full of information about the book and the music.

You are required to do the following:

- Write a short summary of Hover Car Racer (for the first part of your sleeve) (50 words)
- Compile a list of songs¹ that you think would be appropriate for Hover Car Racer (no less than eight, no more than fifteen)
- Write out some details for each song that will then be placed onto the sleeve (include lyrics)
- Design a front cover for the soundtrack
- Put together a brochure to advertise the soundtrack

All written work should be completed in a workbook first and then proofread by two people (one should be your teacher) before a final copy is started.

The music should be based on some element of Hover Car Racer, eg. Speed by *Billy Idol* could be put to any one of the race scenes to demonstrate, not only how fast hover cars are, but to show the pace of the book.

DO NOT FORGET:

- To put your name on your work
- To use your class time effectively
- To hand your work in by due dates

¹ Music should not contain explicit language of any type and should not be considered offensive

HOVER CAR RACER: THE VIDEO GAME

Create a video game booklet of your own design including the following features:

- A) A FRONT COVER THAT WILL CATCH THE EYE OF ANY PASSER BY
- B) A CONTENTS PAGE THAT CHALLENGES ALL OTHER CONTENTS PAGES THAT HAVE COME BEFORE IT
- C) A MINI-STORY TO ACCOMPANY YOUR GAME THAT WILL LEAVE READERS SPELLBOUND (THIS WILL OBVIOUSLY BE A SUMMARY OF THE BOOK)
- D) A BLUE PRINT OF THE CONTROL PAD LAYOUT THAT IS INCREDIBLY EASY ON THE EYE
- E) A DESCRIPTION OF SPECIAL BUTTON CONFIGURATIONS
- F) A GENERAL GUIDE TO STAGES THAT PLAYERS WILL ENCOUNTER THROUGHOUT THE GAME
- G) DESCRIPTIONS OF THE GOOD AND BAD CHARACTERS THAT WILL SHOCK EVEN THE MOST SEASONED GAME PLAYER WITH THE AMOUNT OF DETAIL PROVIDED
- H) A HELPFUL HINTS SECTION THAT WILL TANTALISE THE TASTEBUDS OF THE PLAYER, BUT WILL NOT GIVE EVERYTHING AWAY
- I) A BACK COVER THAT WILL CONTAIN DETAILS OF THE COMPANY THAT MADE THE GAME

DO NOT FORGET:

- To put your name on your work
- To use your class time effectively
- To hand your work in by due dates



HOVER CAR RACER: TRACK DESIGN

For this project you are going to design at least five innovative and challenging hover car racing tracks; the likes of which have never been created before.

Take inspiration from the book for your designs but improve on them in any way you can. A bigger and better meat grinder, tracks that tunnel through Antarctica or perhaps a gate race that sees racers' magneto drives reduced if they fly through the wrong ones. Think about geographic features across the world that you could use (an atlas would be very handy for this part). Imagination and creativity are the keys to success with this project.

The following parts will be required:

- A summary of the book (50 words) to let the reader know why you are designing hover car tracks
- A 25 word proposal for each track
- Initial sketches of your tracks (including written information about various parts of the track)
- Final sketches of your tracks (isometric if possible)
- Final copies of all written work

All written work should be completed in a workbook first and then proofread by two people (one should be your teacher) before a final copy is started.

DO NOT FORGET:

- To put your name on your work
- To use your class time effectively
- To hand your work in by due dates

How to:

HOW TO: CREATE A BROCHURE

Brochures are used to advertise almost anything. They allow an advertiser to convey information through cleverly constructed words and images.

Brochures are usually made up of the following areas:

- A title
- An attractive image/s
- A brief summary of whatever is being advertised
- A list of dot points that reiterate certain points made in the summary OR for anything that may not have fitted into the summary
- Details of contact information for whoever is doing the advertising (including Internet addresses)
- Possibly some quotes from people who recommend whatever you are advertising

Example:

HoVeR CaR RaCeR by *Matthew Reilly*

‘The most vivid and realistic portrayal of futuristic racing I have had the pleasure of reading’ – *Mary Shelley*

The pace of reading just went supersonic. Join Jason Chaser and his little brother the Bug on an adventure that traverses the globe and sees them competing against the greatest racers on the planet in cars that defy gravity. Action, adventure, villains and cars that do over 800kph. Hover Car Racer has got it all!

- Available on the Internet **FREE** for a limited time only
- Comes with a limited edition dust cover
- Easy to read and short chapters
- Written by Matthew Reilly (author of Ice Station, Contest and Seven Ancient Wonders)

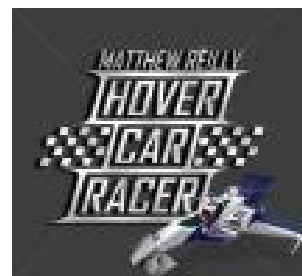
For further information (including where to get your hands on a copy of this amazing book) please contact:

Snail mail:
Pan Macmillan
1977 Sydney Road,
Melbourne 3000

Phone:
(03) 8118 6886

Fax:
(03) 8118 6446

Email:
panmac@millan.net



Internet:
www.matthewreilly.com

HOW TO: CREATE A POSTER

Posters are used for many purposes; two of the main purposes are advertising and picture display.

[Related word: Placard]

Here is an example of each:

Advertising poster

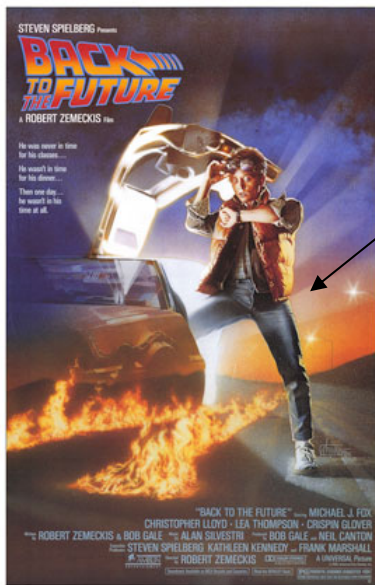
Picture poster

'Catchy' heading

Writing that is short and to the point

Interesting image

Extra details

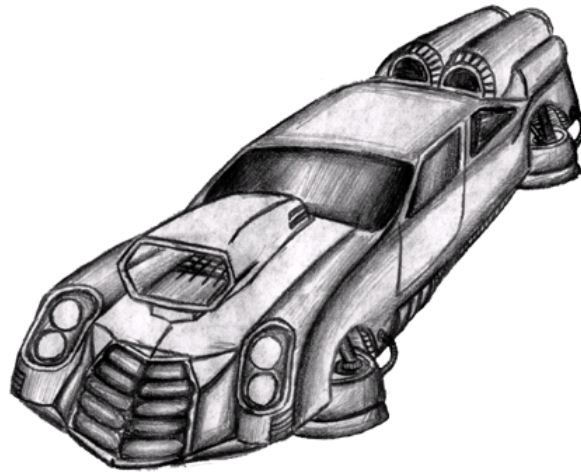


To construct an advertising poster:

1. Give the poster some sort of heading that is 'catchy.'
2. Place a picture on the poster that is pleasant to the eye and stands out. You can place more than one picture on the poster but be careful how you do this as sometimes too many pictures can cause confusion or make the poster look ugly.
3. When you add text make sure that it is fairly short and to the point, otherwise you will clutter the poster.
4. Do a final check making sure that:
 - a. Everything is neat
 - b. All writing is error free
 - c. You have achieved your purpose (you may need to find the meaning of the word 'purpose' in a dictionary if you do not already know what it means)

HOW TO: CREATE A SKETCH

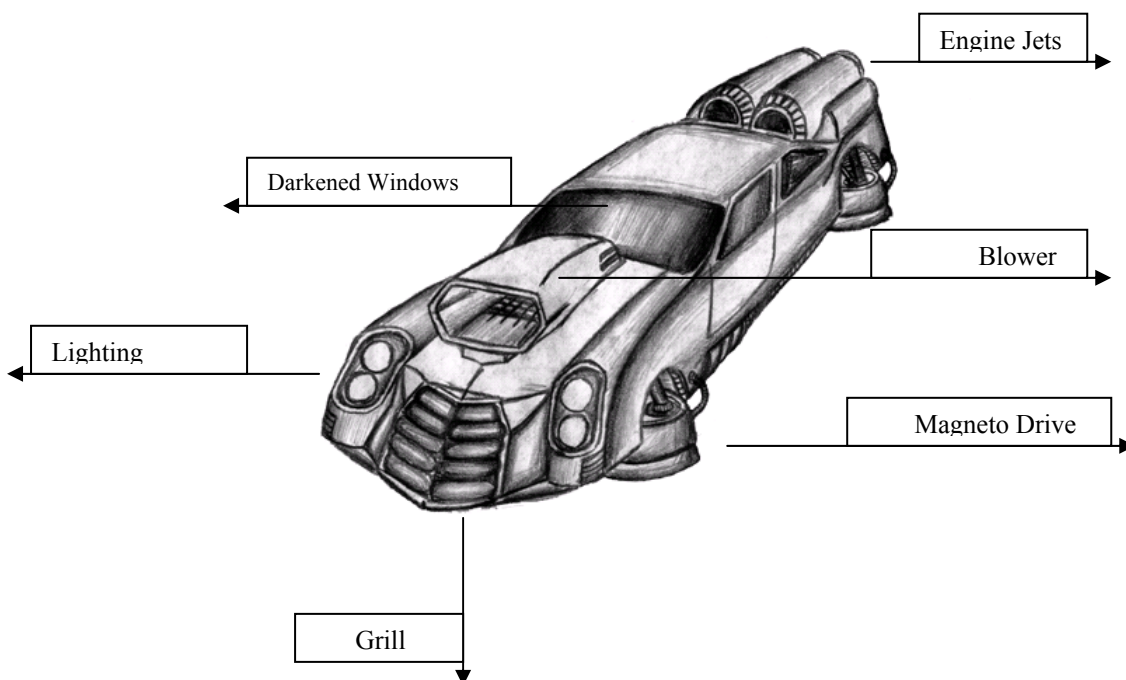
Example:



To the best of your ability a sketch should be isometric and, to a certain degree, in proportion. Look up the dictionary definitions of isometric and proportion and write out their meanings in your glossary.

A sketch should also be as detailed as possible. The sketch above shows a grill, lighting equipment, a blower, engine jets, darkened windows and cords and struts leading to the magneto drives. Make sure you include (AT LEAST) this much detail in your own sketches.

Point out which parts on your sketch are significant (as below).



HOW TO: CREATE A SLOGAN

A slogan is a catchy phrase used in advertising.

Some examples:

‘Just Do It’ – Nike

‘I’m Lovin’ It’ – McDonald’s

‘Whatever’ – Clueless

‘The Choice is Ezy’ – Video Ezy

Give it a try!

Write down a slogan you know:

Now create a slogan for yourself:

Helpful hints:

A good slogan:

- Sometimes contains humour
- Makes sense
- Catches the attention of the reader straight away
- Is fairly short
- Sometimes rhymes

And remember – do not just settle for one slogan; make up as many as you can then pick the best one out of the lot.

HOW TO: WRITE A JUSTIFICATION

Justification is the ability to show someone that you are correct by **proving** that you are correct.

Example:

Writing that DOES NOT justify itself:

Matthew Reilly has written many books.

Writing that DOES justify itself:

Matthew Reilly has written many books including Hover Car Racer, Hell Island and Ice Station. For a full list read the inlay of any number of his books or visit his website.

Explain why the second piece of writing justifies itself.

When you write something you should always do your best to justify it; this helps to make the writing believable.

The sentence ‘Matthew Reilly has written many books’ does not tell the reader where to gain additional information and does not speak of the books he has written. The second piece of writing is far more credible because it adds these two details.

Give it a try!

Justify the following sentence:

Dogs are good.

HOW TO: WRITE A PROPOSAL

A proposal is used to give someone a general idea of something that you would like to create. Proposals are usually written in future tense.

Example:

Fantastic Cake Bake

This will be the cake to end all cakes. Not only will it follow traditional baking ideas, it will build on and make them even better. Super Flour™ will make the mix rise higher, the consistency thicker and the taste richer. Mud Butter™, an experimental type of icing, will last longer on the tastebuds – leaving the eater with a pleasant taste in their mouths for the rest of the day. Additionally, Mud Butter™ comes in flavours the likes of which have never been tasted including Moondust, Bark and Lava.

This paragraph tells the reader about a cake mix that is supposedly better than others.

After reading the paragraph did you want to try the cake? YES or NO.

If yes, why?

If no, why not?

Give it a try!

Write a short creative proposal for something you would like invented.

HOW TO: WRITE A SUMMARY

Summary – brief account or abridgment.

In order to summarise a book you need to do the following:

1. **Brainstorm** the main story points; what happened in each?
2. Write out a list of what you consider to be the **most important points**.
3. Write some **details** about each point.
4. Put the points together in **chronological** order.
5. You should now have a decent sized paragraph.
6. Read through the paragraph and **add extra details** where you can.
7. Your summary should now be relatively complete (aside from being proofread).

Example:

[Summary of Chapter 1 of Hover Car Racer]

- Jason loses control of his steering rudder
- Race taking place at the Gulf of Carpentaria
- Jason shows determination “No way, Bug. I didn’t come here to bow out in the first ten minutes”
- Reader is introduced to some main characters, eg. Jean-Pierre LeClerq and Scott Syracuse
- The Race School is in Tasmania
- The Argonaut is introduced to the reader
- Jason is very young for being where he is (Regional Championships)
- Introduced to a ‘gate race.’
- Jason came last; Barnaby Becker first

To add further detail:

- Explain why Jason has lost control of his steering rudder
- Are there any other words that describe the Gulf of Carpentaria?
- How else does he show determination?
- Give a few details about LeClerq and Syracuse
- What else is explained about the Race School?
- Describe the Argonaut
- How old is Jason?
- Define what a ‘gate race’ is
- What did the reader find out about Barnaby Becker?

Use these sentences to increase the detail of the points written above; they will allow you to create a detailed paragraph.

HOW TO: WRITE DESCRIPTIVELY

Example one:

The sentence that is NOT descriptive:

The Argonaut passed the other hover car.

The sentence that IS descriptive:

The Argonaut screamed past the other hover car letting out a shriek of noise that sounded like a monster from a bad nightmare.

Question:

What makes the second sentence more descriptive than the first? (and you can't just say that it has more words).

HINT: To help you answer the above question you will need to know what an **adjective** is and what an **analogy** is.

Which sentence sounds better? Explain why.

Give it a try!

Sentence one:

Jason and the Bug are brothers.

Sentence two (your sentence):

If you have trouble writing descriptively, use of a thesaurus is recommended (this will help to expand your vocabulary).

HOW TO: WRITE INSTRUCTIONS

Instructional writing is a genre of writing that is intended to inform someone on how to do something. Be specific and to the point while making sure that you give all the main details required. Always assume that the reader knows absolutely nothing about whatever topic you are writing the instructions for.

Example:

You are about to participate in a gate race. Pay particular attention to the following instructions:

1. There is no _____ in a gate race, so do not follow the person in front of you.
2. A gate race takes place over a wide area of terrain, 600 km by _____, if you leave the area you will be disqualified.
3. There are 250 bridge-like arches, you are required to drive _____ these to get _____.

You will need to finish the instructions off on your own.

Make sure that once you have finished writing the instructions you give them to someone who knows nothing about 'gate races.' If they can understand what you have to do in a 'gate race' after they have finished reading your instructions, then you have succeeded at your task. If they can't understand your instructions then you will need to revise and edit them.

In addition:

- Wherever possible, list instructions from most important to least important
- Keep language simple and to the point
- Proofread your work throughout, and at the end of, the process

Assessment

Overall Assessment for Hover Car Racer - Question sheets

Student name:

Assessment based on question sheets:

1	Ability to conduct appropriate research and investigation					NS
2	Ability to answer closed questions	H	M	L		NS
3	Ability to answer open questions	H	M	L		NS
4	The student learnt how to use: Onomatopoeias	Yes	No	NS		
5	The student learnt how to use: Acronyms	Yes	No	NS		
6	The student learnt how to use: Quotes	Yes	No	NS		
7	The student learnt how to use: Justification	Yes	No	NS		
8	The student learnt how to use: Assumption	Yes	No	NS		
9	The student learnt about: Analogies	Yes	No	NS		
10	The student learnt about: Symbolism	Yes	No	NS		
11	The student learnt about: Speculation	Yes	No	NS		
12	The student learnt about: Allusions	Yes	No	NS		
13	Ability to maintain a comprehensive and up to date glossary	H	M	L		NS
14	Ability to summarise information	H	M	L		NS
15	Ability to make predictions	H	M	L		NS
16	Ability to comprehend the text	H	M	L		NS
17	Ability to learn about other places in the world	H	M	L		NS
<u>Advanced assessment based on question sheets:</u>						
1	Student has demonstrated an ability to interpret writing style	Yes	No	NS		
2	Student displays detailed reasoning in response to open questions	Yes	No	NS		
3	Student not only learnt about symbolism , but could also demonstrate through example	Yes	No	NS		
4	Student not only learnt about analogies , but could also demonstrate through example	Yes	No	NS		
5	Student excelled at completing and responding appropriately to all questions	Yes	No	NS		

Overall assessment for Hover Car Racer - Project assessment

Student name: _____

General assessment for projects:

- 1 Student followed all **instructions**
- 2 Student adhered to the **drafting process**
- 3 Student had two people read over and correct their **draft** (two signatures provided)
- 4 Student used class **time efficiently**
- 5 Student handed work in by **set dates**
- 6 Student has fully completed a **summary** of the text
- 7 Student included a **front cover** with necessary details
- 8 Student included a **contents page**
- 9 Overall **grammar and spelling**

Project specific assessment:

- 1 Ability to create a **sketch**
- 2 Ability to write **descriptively**
- 3 Ability to create a **storyboard**
- 4 Ability to create a **poster**
- 5 Ability to produce a **script**
- 6 Ability to produce an **editorial**
- 7 Ability to produce an **interview**
- 8 Ability to create a **review**
- 9 Ability to create an **advertisement**
- 10 Ability to explain a **theme**
- 11 Ability to create a comprehensive **blueprint**
- 12 Ability to create easy to follow **instructions**
- 13 Ability to **investigate** and accurately **report** findings
- 14 Ability to form and give an **opinion**
- 15 Ability to create a **brochure**
- 16 Ability to create a **proposal**

H	M	L	NS
Yes	No	NS	
Yes	No	NS	
H	M	L	NS
Yes	No	Usually	NS
H	M	L	NS
H	M	L	NS
H	M	L	NS
H	M	L	NS
H	M	L	NS
H	M	L	NS
H	M	L	NS
H	M	L	NS
H	M	L	NS
H	M	L	NS
H	M	L	NS
H	M	L	NS
H	M	L	NS
H	M	L	NS
H	M	L	NS