



Project Hail Mary

Andy Weir

A lone astronaut wakes up far from home with no memory and a mission to save humanity. It is heartfelt, funny, and surprisingly tender for a sci-fi survival story.

Reading level: Moderate

Best for: clubs that love big-hearted stories with brainy charm and a strong emotional payoff

Discussion

WARM-UP

1. Where did you do most of your reading, and did you find yourself sneaking in just one more chapter under a blanket?
2. What was the first scene that made you smile or laugh out loud? Share the moment that warmed you up to the book.

DIGGING IN

1. The book is full of small comforts (a familiar voice, a shared meal, a problem you can actually solve). Which little comfort in the story felt the most like home to you?
2. Curiosity is treated almost like an act of love in this book. When was a time in your own life that being curious about someone or something brought you closer to them?
3. How did the story's tone (warm, funny, hopeful even when scary) shape the way it felt to read? Did it comfort you during a stressful week, or change your mood in some way?
4. Food, language, and tiny rituals do a lot of emotional heavy lifting here. What gesture or moment of kindness in the book stuck with you after you closed the cover?

GOING DEEP

1. Without giving anything away, was there a moment that made you tear up or hold the book a little tighter? What about it touched you?
2. This is a story about showing up for someone you never expected to meet. Who in your own life is an unlikely person you are grateful you got to know?

On the table

Loaded baked potato bar

Humble, warm, and endlessly customizable, a nod to the simple comfort meals that ground the story's quieter moments.

Creamy tomato soup with grilled cheese soldiers

Schoolroom-era nostalgia for a book that gently revisits a teacher's heart and the joy of explaining things to a friend.

Warm chocolate chip cookies

A soft, familiar treat that feels like sharing something sweet with a buddy across the table.

To sip

Hot cocoa with marshmallows (no alcohol)

Cozy, nurturing, and easy to refill during long, happy conversations.

Vanilla chamomile tea (no alcohol)

Soft and soothing, perfect for the book's quieter, more tender beats.

Spiked spiced cider

Apple cider warmed with cinnamon and a splash of bourbon, a grown-up hug in a mug.

Run of show

7:00 **Soft landing**

Greet guests with mugs in hand, low lamplight, and the playlist already humming. No rush.

7:15 **Comfort food spread**

Open the potato bar and soup station. Let folks build plates and settle into couches before any structured talk.

7:35 **Warm-up questions**

Start with the two warm-ups while everyone eats. Keep it loose and storytelling-style.

8:00 **Theme talk**

Move through the theme questions, letting tangents about real life happen. Refill drinks halfway through.

8:40 **Deep but gentle**

Bring out the cookies, dim the lights a touch, and ease into the deeper questions while cozy snacking.

9:10 **Trivia and scorecards**

Wrap with playful trivia and pass out scorecards and bookmarks as a sweet goodbye.

HOST TIPS

- Have blankets or throws within reach so guests can literally get cozy on the couch.
- Print questions on small cards and pass them around instead of reading from a list, it keeps the pace gentle.
- Skip any pressure to 'cover everything', let the conversation wander where it wants to go.

Playlist

Gentle, hopeful, and a little starry-eyed, like a soft glow in the dark.

01 Saturn - Sleeping At Last

03 Holocene - Bon Iver

05 Cornfield Chase - Hans Zimmer

07 Float - Pacific Air

02 A Sky Full of Stars - Coldplay

04 Here Comes the Sun - The Beatles

06 To Build a Home - The Cinematic Orchestra

08 Such Great Heights - Iron and Wine

Trivia

1. Who wrote Project Hail Mary? (Andy Weir)
2. What earlier bestselling novel by the same author features a stranded astronaut on Mars? (The Martian)
3. In what year was Project Hail Mary first published? (2021)
4. What is the profession of the main human character before the mission? (A middle school science teacher)
5. What genre best describes this book? (Hard science fiction)
6. Andy Weir originally became known for self-publishing what novel online in serialized form? (The Martian)
7. Project Hail Mary is largely set in what setting? (Aboard a spaceship in deep space)
8. Before writing full time, what was Andy Weir's day job? (A computer programmer / software engineer)

Rate the book

Coziness factor ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Heartwarming moments ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Made me laugh ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Made me feel something ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Would re-read on a rainy day ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

One word for how this book made me feel: _____

The scene I will think about when I need a smile: _____

I would press this book into the hands of: _____

YOU'RE INVITED

Mugs, blankets, and a little bit of starlight

Come curl up for a cozy night of warm food, soft drinks, and big-hearted talk about Project Hail Mary. Wear your softest sweater.



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