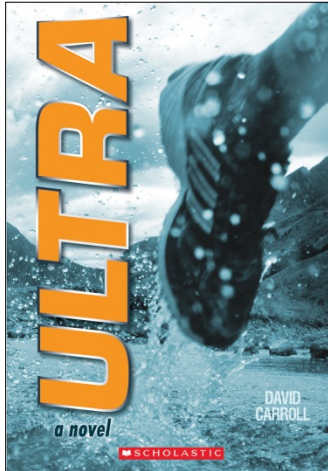


Discussion Questions



ULTRA By David Carroll

- 1) Why do you think the author chose to tell the story through a TV interview format? What are the pros and cons of telling Quinn's story in this way?
- 2) Many stories involve a hero who embarks on a long journey or "quest." Does Quinn's story remind you of any other books or movies?
- 3) Quinn is portrayed as a superhero, because of his oversized heart and his body's inability to produce much lactic acid. Why do you think the author included these details?
- 4) What's the difference between team sports and solo sports? Why do you think Quinn was attracted to a solo sport like running?
- 5) Why do you think the author named Quinn's best friend "*Kneecap?*"
- 6) Can you imagine doing any physical activity for 24 hours straight? If so, what activity would you choose? How might it make you a better person?

- 7) Quinn experiences several hallucinations during the race. At times, his hallucinations seem completely real. Why do you think the author described Quinn's hallucinations in such a realistic way?

- 8) *Ultra* is a work of fiction. But can you think of any *real-life superheroes* like Quinn — young people who have accomplished extraordinary physical feats? What do you think motivated them?

- 9) Why do you think the author chose to make Quinn's father a veteran of the war in Afghanistan?

- 10) Do you think Quinn realizes that he's running the race because of his father?

- 11) Do you think Quinn's mother knows? What does she say or do that gives it away?

- 12) What else, aside from grief, could motivate someone to take on a huge challenge like a 100-mile race?