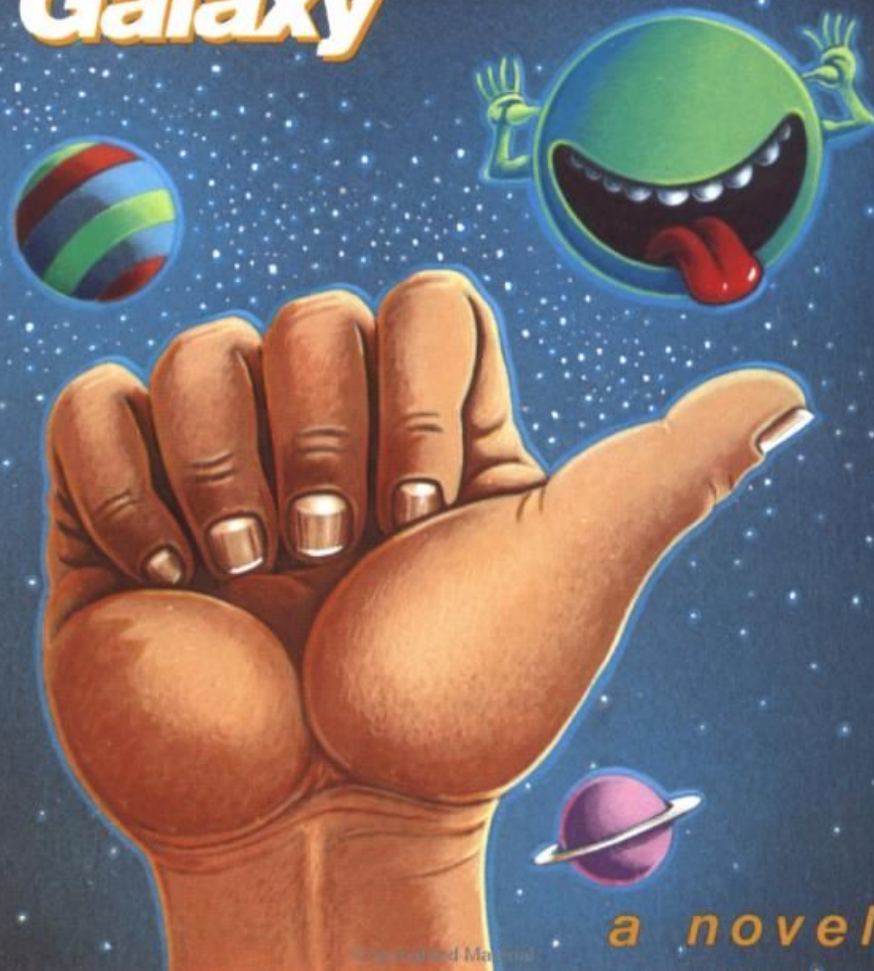


Emulation Handbook

DOUGLAS ADAMS

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy



The Hitchhiker's Guide to The Galaxy is about Ford Perfect and Arthur Dent who escape the destruction of Earth by hitchhiking on an alien spaceship. Ford is an alien who got stuck on Earth after he went there to write an article about it. Arthur is a human who has never seen any planet other than Earth. Shortly after escaping Earth, the characters find themselves stranded in space, where they get picked up by Ford's half cousin in his stolen spaceship. Together they fly to Magrathea, a planet thought to be abandoned, where they find out the surprising truth about Earth.

Component #1 Context

"Here's what the Encyclopedia Galactica has to say about alcohol. It says that alcohol is a colorless volatile liquid formed by the fermentation of sugars and also notes its intoxicating effect on certain carbon based life forms."

"The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy has a few things to say about towels. A towel, it says, is about the most massively useful thing that an interstellar hitchhiker can have."

"The Babel Fish,' said The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy quietly, 'is small, yellow and leech-like, and probably the oddest thing in the Universe. It feeds on brainwave energy received not from it's own carrier but from those around it. It absorbs all unconscious mental frequencies from this brainwave energy to nourish itself with. It then excretes into the mind of its carrier a telepathic matrix formed by combining the subconscious thought frequencies with nerve signals picked up from the speech centers of the brain which has supplied them.'" (page 58 to 59)

What's this element?

The author is referring to a book within his book to give the reader a better understanding into things that don't exist or exist in a different context than the reader is used to.

Why does it matter?

This is important to the book overall because it not only helps the reader understand, it helps the reader connect with the characters more. Author has never left Earth so he doesn't know anything about traveling in space. When using the book within a book element, the reader is learning along with Arthur about technology, words, planets, and species that he, and the reader, are not familiar with.

What's the impact on the reader?

It allows the reader to empathize with the characters. For instance, in the quote about the Babel Fish, Arthur, as well as the reader, have no idea what a Babel Fish is and what it does. The reader can relate to how Arthur must have been feeling-scared, confused, anxious-prior to learning about the Babel Fish in the book within the book. The reader can also share the sense of relief that Arthur felt when learning that the Babel Fish is harmless.

[Component #2 humor]

“All right,’ said the computer, and settled into silence again. The two men fidgeted. The tension was unbearable.

‘You’re really not going to like it,’ observed Deep Thought.

‘Tell us!’

‘All right,’ said Deep Thought. ‘The answer to the great question...’

‘Yes...!’

‘Of life, the universe and everything ...’ said Deep Thought.

‘Yes...!’

‘is...’ said Deep Thought, and paused.

‘Yes...!’

‘is...’

‘Yes...!!!!...?’ ‘Forty-two,’ said Deep thought, with infinite majesty and calm.” (pages 180 and 181)

What's this element?

The element the author uses throughout the book is humor to mask the dark plot.

Sometimes he uses sarcasm and other times he uses silliness. No matter what type of humor the author uses, it is always delivered in a very dry manner.

How does this is when...

Why does it matter?

The story has a primary and secondary plot. The primary plot involves the obliteration of Earth and the main character, Arthur Dent, dealing with his new reality. This plot line, by itself, would be too dark to really enjoy. The humor allows the reader to forget about the horror and death that occurred, and instead focus on the journey ahead. The plot about the journey through space is full of humor and compels the reader to continue.

What's the impact on the reader?

This element affects the reader by allowing him to laugh in the face of terror. The reader knows that millions of people died when Earth was destroyed, and yet the humor provides enough of a distraction to not focus on the doom and gloom.

On the other hand, it's not a straight comedy, either. Comedies usually lack depth and thoughtfulness. The element of humor the author uses makes the book a perfect combination of horror and comedy.

Component #3 Made up Words]

"Babel Fish"

"The infinite improbability drive"

"Door"

"Matter Transference Beams""Photon Drive"

What's this element?

The element the author uses within his sentences is to invent words, or use common words in a completely original way. The words usually give a hint at their meaning.

Why does it matter?

It is important to the book because the story would be too technical and complicated without the words. He's able to explain really complex technology and ideas without an explanation that would be boring.

What's the impact on the reader?

This is important to the reader because it makes it a lot easier to understand the story. By using words that hint at the actual meaning, it allows the reader to read fluently, and not have to refer back to complicated explanations. An example of this is "Matter Transference Beams." It's a pretty abstract idea, and a made-up word, but it is easy to understand and remember. Using this element also creates a fun challenge for the reader. The reader can make a game of trying to guess what the words mean before the author tells you.

My emulation: [Space Travel]

Jesse had been excited for this her entire life. It had been her dream since she could talk. Now she was strapping in, checking on the Hydrogen drive one more time, as it said she should do in the "Space Travel for Dummies" that she was holding in her hands. She opened it up to the page about Oxygen tanks, wondering if the tank was making that quiet hissing sound she kept hearing. The first line of the chapter was a slap in the face. It read, "If you are reading this chapter, it means that Earth is doomed." She bravely continued reading. "It is imperative that you take care of your Oxygen tank. Your life depends on it."

Knowing that this exploration was the last hope for Earth, because our planet's resources had been completely depleted, she didn't need the stress of the book telling her to be careful. "Oh great," she sarcastically said, as the book fell, bounced and landed on the the nearby spaceship, as it laid there helplessly. She knew that her only hope was to leap to the other spaceship. She closed her eyes, counted to three and jumped. She expected to feel and hear the hard thud of her boots landing on the ship's diamondonic plating. Instead, she felt herself floating. She instantly realised she was in space... hopelessly drifting...wondering about what she would see. "At least my Oxygen tank is okay," she thought to herself. Suddenly, she felt an uncontrollable urge to make a shadow puppet of an iTweet. It was one of her favorite birds growing up. She liked the way they'd dig their heads into a pile of leaves, leaving their butts out. Their back-sides have a marking that looks like a big eye, so when they're buried, it looks like a big eye is winking at you. She chuckled to herself, realizing for the first time that it was probably how the iTweet got its name. She continued to drift, pretending she was flying, waving her arms and and legs like an iTweet. She heard a hiss and turned around just as a Meow-Meow pounced on her. The double-headed, flying cats loved to prey on iTweets and must have mistaken her for one. The Meow-Meow quickly realized its mistake, and fled to join the other Meow-Meows in the distance. They danted around the sky, bobbing their heads and flapping their wings in a synchronised fashion. It reminded Jesse of a dance that was popular in the 2090s, when she was a little girl. She decided she wanted to join them in their Choomo dance, and drifted toward them. As she neared them, the hissing got louder and louder. She joyously danced in unison with the Meows-Meows, dancing the Choomo for the first time since she was about ten. The hissing became deafening. And then their was silence.

Annotation #1]

The first element I used was the book within a book strategy. By having the main character, Jesse, read from "Space Travel for Dummies," I instantly make it clear for the reader that the story is set in space, sometime in the future. The effect I hope this element has on the reader is to allow the story to be easier to understand. I also hope this element adds humor to the story, because the idea of the "Dummy" books still being around in the twenty-second century is meant to be funny.

Annotation #2]

The second element I used is to use humor to mask the dark nature of the story. In the story, the character is Earth's last hope, and she is slowly dying from suffocation, but doesn't realize it. The story uses silly actions and animals to distract the reader from the fact that these horrible things are happening. This allows the reader to have a light hearted story, or dig a little deeper and see the true meaning.

Annotation #3]

The last element I used is made-up names and words. Like Douglas Adams, I tried to use words that might give the reader a hint about its meaning. This impacts the story tremendously because, even though the words are ridiculous, they are easy to remember. This means the reader does not need to go back to reread the explanation. It also makes it fun for the reader to guess what the word might mean before it is defined.

About The Authors

Douglas Adams is an English author most known for writing "The Hitchhikers Guide to The Galaxy." He also wrote countless other books, including "The Life, the Universe and Everything" and "The Restaurant at The End of the Universe." He also had a lot of success writing for television, working on episodes for Doctor Who and other shows, before eventually returning back to novels. He died in 2001.

Chloe Hart is a sophomore in highschool who goes to Science Leadership Academy. She has always enjoyed reading. Her favorite genre is dystopian society books, such as "The Giver" and "The Hunger Games." Chloe believes the most important part of a book is its characters.

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