

## ***Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close Study Guide***

### **“What The?” (1 – 15)**

**narrator:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Oskar says that being with his father “made my brain quiet. I didn’t have to invent a thing” (12). Why does Oskar invent so much? Examine his inventions (pages 1, 3, 14, 38, 72, etc.). What significance do you find?
2. Analyze Oskar and his father’s conversation on pages 12 – 14. What do we learn about their relationship? What’s the purpose or effect of formatting the dialogue all in one paragraph, and doing away with dialogue tags (he said, I said, etc.)?
3. Examine the letters, article, and references to facts/research. How do these inter-textual elements add to our sense of Oskar’s character, or to the mood of the novel? Why are they included?
4. What questions does the chapter leave us with? What predictions can you make based on the last paragraphs of the chapter? How about from Oskar’s description of how he used to be and how he is now on page 4?

### **“Why I’m Not Where You Are” (16 – 34)**

**narrator:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. What are the main structural and syntactical features of this chapter, and why do you think Foer makes these choices? Why the run-on sentences, notebook pages, etc.?
2. What do you make of the photo on page 29? How is it different from the very first page of the book? Any guesses about what either one means, or why they’re here?
3. Use evidence to describe Thomas and the mother’s relationship and courtship. How does Thomas seem to view their interaction?
4. Analyze passages in which Thomas explains his silence. What do you find significant?

### **“Googolplex” (35 – 74)**

**narrator:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Describe the quest Oskar is now on, and what he’s learned so far (at the locksmith, art supply store, etc.).
2. Why all the pictures? Discuss the significance of individual images, and the purpose/effect of including them.
3. Discuss the significance of the answering machine messages (pages 68 – 69) and the foreshadowing/forecasting (page 52).
4. Examine Oskar and his mom’s conversation (pages 42 – 44). What do we learn about their relationship?

### **“My Feelings” (75 – 85)**

**narrator:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Analyze the letters within the letter (pages 75, 76, 77, 79, 80). What’s significant? Why are the letters included?
2. Examine and describe the grandmother’s voice and syntax. What distinguishes her voice from Thomas and Oskar’s? How do the features of her voice relate to her content/themes?
3. What is the grandmother’s perspective on her relationship with Thomas? How does her view overlap with or differ from his?
4. What’s the significance of Thomas’s sculpture?