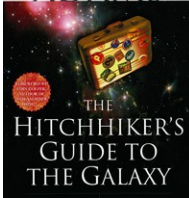


# Books by the Stack

## — New York Times Bestselling Author — *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams

DOUGLAS  
ADAMS



*Seconds before Earth is demolished to make way for a galactic freeway, Arthur Dent is plucked off the planet by his friend Ford Perfect, a researcher for the revised edition of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. Together, this dynamic pair begin a journey through space aided by a galaxyful of fellow travelers.*

**Why you'll like it:** *Irreverent, comedic science-fiction, the meaning of life.*

**About the Author:** Douglas Noel Adams (sometimes referred to Bop Ad because of his distinctive signature) was born in Cambridge, England, on March 11, 1952 and educated at St. John's College at Cambridge University. He graduated with honors in English Literature in 1974. In addition to being a writer/editor for radio, television, and stage, Adams has worked as a hospital reporter, barn builder, and radio producer. *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, 1979, one of his bestselling humor and science fiction novels, was originally a radio series. It was the first in a four-book series that includes *The Restaurant at the End of the Universe*; *Life, the Universe, and Everything*, and *So Long, and Thanks for All the Fish*. He once stated that the idea for his first novel came while he was "lying drunk in a field in Innsbruck and gazing at the stars." He pokes fun at humanity by mixing science fiction with humor. Adams's additional books include *The Meaning of Liff*; *The Deeper Meaning of Liff*; *Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency*; *The Long Dark Tea-time of the Soul*; and *Mostly Harmless*. He has also co-authored the book *Last Chance to See*, about endangered species. Douglas Adams died May 11, 2001 of a heart attack in Santa Barbara, California at the age of 49. (Bowker Author Biography)

### Questions for Discussion

1. What did you enjoy about *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*? What made you laugh?
2. *Hitchhiker* has been described as a parody of government, politics, and big business. You might want to talk about how it parodies those institutions? Or does that kind of question ruin the fun of a hilarious romp through space?
3. The two most famous icons from the series are the towel and the phrase, "don't panic." You want to comment on that?
4. Who is the protagonist in *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*? What makes you think that? What is the main conflict in the book?
5. How does Douglas Adams use imagery in *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*?

6. A more fruitful discussion might revolve around the way *Hitchhiker* series has permeated our popular culture. Some refer to its impact as "hitchhiker-mania," a phenomenon that has spun off a movie, TV series (with Stephen Hawkins, no less), and merchandise (towels and action figures). There are frequent references in rock, video games, websites, and even an online translation service called Babel Fish! What is it about the series that inspires that kind of following?

Questions by LitLovers.



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