

World Chase Discussion Guide:

Twenty Questions to get you Thinking about the World Chase.

1. At the beginning of the story, Keith was a bully. At what point did he change? Why? Would he have changed, had he not joined Kelly, Kevin, and Kirsten in the World Chase? Why? Do his teammates help him change? If so, which ones? Why?
2. Why did Mike betray his team in the Himalayas? Why was it only Mo who wanted to remain with *Team Williams*? Is it at all surprising that Cal is Mike's uncle? Later on, Mike's uncles forgive him? Why do they forgive him? How do they forgive him? What makes them forgive him?
3. When you first met Mike in the boathouse, he seemed to have a strange accent that slowly faded away as the segment moved on. Why do you think the tone of voice faded away? Do you think Mike had always talked like that before he got stranded on the boathouse?
4. In segment five, why do you think *Team Flamewheeler* helped *Team Williams* when the other teams didn't? What do you think made Cal turn away from his nasty brothers?
5. As you know, Kelly overcame her fear, Keith became a good friend and team leader, and Kirsten became less self-attached. Do you think Kevin changed at all, throughout the story? If so, at what point in the story did he change? Why did he change? What changed about him?
7. During the race across Africa, Mike was the last member of *Team Jenson* to put his trust in *Team Flamewheeler*. Why do you think this was so? What made him end up trusting them? Why did that make him trust them?

8. In ‘Chapter Nineteen: Kelly saves the day?’, Kirsten ends up getting over her cat’s death. What makes her do this? How did the instruction manual serve as a guide? Do you think Kelly actually meant for it to help Kirsten?
9. In segment three, the helicopter race, Kelly must overcome her fear of heights. How does she do this? Do her teammates help her? Do you think the storm distracts her from her fear? If so, how?
10. At the beginning of the book, Kirsten is convinced that she’ll use her prize money to buy herself a new phone. At the end of the book, she doesn’t. Why do you think she chooses this? What does she do with her money instead? If you were in Kirsten’s position, what would you choose?
11. In the Andes mountains, Kevin is lagging behind the group. How does he convince himself that he can do it? Does he do it? Which of the people with him helps him the most? Why do you think Kevin and Cal become such close friends towards the end of the book? Throughout the second half of the race, how does Cal help Kevin? How does Kevin help Cal?
12. In the final segment, *Team Williams* comes upon *Team PXL31*, their enemies, who are hurt. Does *Team Williams* help them? Who on their team is voting to help them? Why? Who isn’t? Why? What does this tell you about some of the characters on *Team Williams*? If *Team Flamewheeler* hadn’t have helped them when they needed it, would *Team Williams* have still helped *Team PXL3*? Why or why not?
13. At the end of segment two when they’re stuck on a platform in the ocean, how does Kirsten help them get back going? Why does Kirsten choose to do this, if it would be quicker to wait for a rescue team to save them? Why? If you were in their position, what would you do? Why? At the end, Kirsten denies that it was all her who did it. Why is this so? What does this tell you about Kirsten?

14. If Darren Williams hadn't signed up for the World Chase, what do you think would have happened to the members of *Team Williams*? Why? If he hadn't have gotten injured in New York City, what would have happened? Why?

15. In the helicopter race, the title says 'In which their friendship with *Team Jenson* is completed'. How is it completed? Is it different than how it is completed with *Team Flamewheeler*? Overall, are their relationships with these two teams similar? How are they alike? How are they different? Does their age have anything to do with this difference? How? Is there anything else that plays a role in this? If so, what? Is it at what point in the race they met at? How? If *Team Williams* had met up with *Team Flamewheeler* first, what would be different? How?

16. In segment eight, the balloon race, Kirsten decides to give up her Graphitablet. Why does she do this? Is it completely under the pressure of her teammates, or does she choose to do it completely on her own? Why do you think this? If her teammates hadn't asked her to give it up (but they were still losing), would she? Why? If you were in her position, would you give up the tablet? Why?

17. All throughout the story, you learn things about the characters. Do you think you stop learning more about their lives about halfway through the story, or later? Do you think you ever stop discovering more about them at all? Why? Do you think you learn anything about the characters in the epilogue? If so, for what characters? What do you discover about them? Why do you think that? What purpose does the epilogue serve for the story? Do you like the ending? If you were the author, what would you change about the ending? Why?

18. Back at the very beginning of the story, before the race even started, Keith told them to spend their money, instead of saving it for something they would never actually buy. Do you think Keith made a good decision, that helped his team? Why did Kelly decline? If Kelly had been offered this later in the story, what would she have said? Why? Would this be different than her initial response? Why? If you were offered the coats, would you have accepted, or declined? Why? Why do you

think Keith chose to bring the money he had stolen from kids on their trip? Do you think Keith was already living by his quote? Do you think this is a good idea? Why?

19. In segment one, Keith starts by helping out the *Antarctic Explorers Fund*. Why do you think he chooses this? What do you think happens to the members of that team? Why? Do you think Keith helped the losing team by doing this? If so, was the help more mental, or physical? Why?

20. Overall, what is the overarching theme of the story? Is it simply the race around the world, or is it something more than that? Why? What do you think of the story? If you were to write a summary, what parts would you include? What parts would you not include? Why? What do you think the most important part of the story is? Why? Do you think there is one most important part, or a general theme spread out over the pages? Why? Is this different from other books you've read? How? Why?