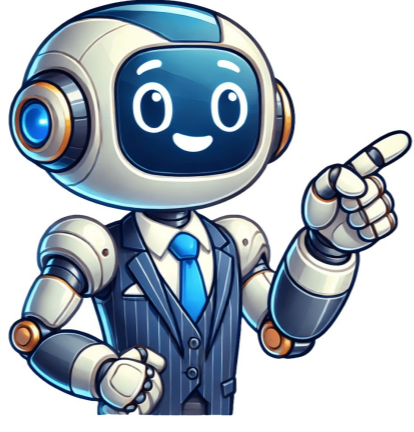


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the death of Harold Bloom, I am now beginning to question the sociopolitical factors affecting how we appreciate fiction and regard classic fiction. We are living in an age where educators are shunning classics and literary fiction as a genre for political/cultural reasons (#disrupttexts), leading to younger adults doing the same. I now have an all-time low of adults reading at all, and a declining number of people reading anything other than YA/fantasy/NA. Postmodern writers DFW might not be accessible, but it absolutely does not mean they are not relevant and important to the world, as that reading of this shortly before a marketing survey about brand advertisement for an academic journal made the interviewees HIGHLY interested in what I was saying. It was funny, I paraphrased E Unibus Pluram and they started focusing more on my comments than other interviewees, despite the fact I'd never used the service. — 2017 Reflection:Rating Breakdown & Summary1. Derivative Sport in Tornado Alley =5/5 #3. About DFW's tennis years.2. E Unibus Pluram =5/5* #1. "Highly recommended"About the psychological effects of TV and advertisement. 3. Getting Away from... =3/5 #7. About a (boring) town fair.4. Greatly Exaggerated =4/5 #6. About an academic perspective of the role of the author.5. David Lynch Keeps His Head = 4/5 #4. About visiting the set of Lost Highway.6. Tennis Player Michael Joyce's... = 4/5 #5. About interviewing a cool tennis guy.7. A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again =5/5 #2. About being on a cruise ship.Easier to read style to read than in Infinite Jest as these were journalistic pieces meant for magazines. The title is a bit silly, as DFW doesn't really ever make any arguments but he does write very well about what might at first seem to be non-noteworthy observations. 5/5 quality all-round, perhaps even better than his fiction quality. I've given this 4/5 as I would not recommend this to just any reader. DFW's personality is so deeply embedded in all the writing and I can see how this may be unenjoyable for some readers (especially in essay 3). DFW is so good at writing that you the parts you will dislike here are just the parts of him that you dislike. I found myself not enjoying the fair essay because he was scared or allergic to almost everything.E Unibus Pluram is probably the best essay I have ever read to date, and I would highly recommend picking up the collection just to read this essay to become consciously aware of the role of TV and advertising. There are quotes from it on GoodReads that will give you a good idea on why I am so heavily recommending it.July 2, 2016I've read one DFW book - The Broom of the System - and I didn't much care for it. (Though I recently read that the author himself didn't like that one, so - vindication!) Imagine my amazement at how much I enjoyed this collection of essays. There's some clever and insightful commentary here. Wallace even managed to make a subject I have zero interest in - tennis - fascinating. (Well, truthfully, by the second article on the sport, my fascination was dwindling.)Amid the forced joviality of a cruise ship vacation, Wallace notices There is something bovine about an American tourist in motion as part of a group. A certain greedy placidity to them. Us, rather, and that Men after a certain age simply should not wear shorts. I've decided; their legs are hairless in a way that's creepy; the skin seems denuded and practically crying out for hair, particularly in the calves. It's just about the only body-area where you actually want more hair on older men. Is this fibular hairlessness a result of years of chafing in pants and socks?My favorite essay detailed a visit to the Illinois State Fair where Wallace was less than impressed by the carry folk. Here he brings on the snark big time:The operator's 24 and from Bee Branch Arkansas, and has an earring and a huge tattoo of a motorcycle w/ naked lady on his triceps. He's been at this gig five years, touring with this one here same company here.And.All the carry-game barkers have headset microphones; some are saying "Testing" and reciting their pitches' lines in tentative warm-up ways. A lot of the pitches seem frankly sexual: "You got to get it up to get it in"; "Take it out and lay 'er down, only a dollar!"; "Make it stand up. Two dollars five chances. Make it stand up." In the booths, rows of stuffed animals hang by their feet like game put out to cure. One barker's testing his mike by saying "Testes." It smells like machine grease and hair tonic down here, and there's already a spoiled garbage smell.Hmm . . . some things are best experienced through the pages of a book. So very glad he's done these "fun" things so I won't ever have to do them. Though, I could actually go for a funnel cake right now.I may have to give this man's fiction another go.Displaying 1 - 30 of 4,354 reviewsGet help and learn more about the design. This Study Guide consists of approximately 30 pages of chapter summaries, quotes, character analysis, themes, and more - everything you need to sharpen your knowledge of A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again. This Study Guide consists of approximately 30 pages of chapter summaries, quotes, character analysis, themes, and more - everything you need to sharpen your knowledge of A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again. This section contains 676 words (approx. 2 pages at 400 words per page) David Foster Wallace is a native of Illinois, but Wallace left the Midwest to attend college at Amherst in Massachusetts. Wallace later receives a Master in Fine Arts in creative writing from the University of Arizona and studies briefly at Harvard. These travels leave Wallace feeling more like an Easterner than a Midwesterner, a theme which he explores when he returns to Illinois to cover the Illinois State Fair for Harper's Magazine. Wallace is by his own admission an agoraphobe and dislikes interaction with most people. In order to gather material for stories, Wallace must go through extensive psychological preparation and take multiple breaks from crowds. This social handicap frequently make Wallace's interactions with people in his articles awkward and even painful. Although Wallace dislikes people in general in the abstract, there are some groups of people and individuals that Wallace singles out for specific criticism. For instance... (read more) This section contains 676 words (approx. 2 pages at 400 words per page) Copyrights A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again: Essays and Arguments from BookRags. (c)2025 BookRags, Inc. All rights reserved. A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again is a 1997 essay collection by David Foster Wallace. The seven essays explore 1990s US social issues through subjects such as television, tennis, and (in the most famous essay) a Caribbean cruise. The essays have been referenced many times in popular culture, particularly the title essay, which recounts Wallace's experiences on a cruise.This guide references the 1998 Abacus edition of the collection.SummaryIn the first essay, "Derivative Sport in Tornado Alley," Wallace reflects on playing competitive junior tennis as a youth in Urbana, Illinois, when he discovered a talent for geometrically visualizing tennis court conditions and used it to his advantage. This tactic allowed him to execute a defensive style of play involving little more than returning volleys until his opponent made a mistake, became exhausted, or became frustrated. Wallace's approach served him well until puberty, at which point he developed much slower physically than other boys his age. Before long, his defensive mathematical approach failed as bigger, stronger opponents simply overpowered him.The next essay is titled "E Unibus Pluram: Television and U.S. Fiction." The first phrase in this title is a play on the Latin phrase "E Pluribus Unum" ("out of many, one"), a US motto printed on the country's currency condition, exploring themes such as consumerism, the search for authenticity, and the struggle to find meaning and connection in a hyperstimulated world. He questions the impact of modern entertainment and its ability to commodify and dilute genuine experiences. "A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again" is a witty and thought-provoking critique of contemporary culture's obsession with entertainment and the underlying existential emptiness that often accompanies it. Wallace's distinctive writing style combines humor, intellectual depth, and keen social commentary, making the collection a captivating and memorable read.About David Foster Wallace David Foster Wallace (1962-2008) was an American writer known for his distinctive and highly acclaimed literary works. He was born on February 21, 1962, in Ithaca, New York. Wallace displayed exceptional intellect and writing skills from an early age. He graduated summa cum laude from Amherst College in 1985, where he wrote his thesis on philosophy and mathematics. A Supposedly Fun Thing I 'l Never Do Again Summary-Wallace's writing style was characterized by its complexity, verbosity, and deep exploration of human experiences and emotions. He was often associated with the postmodernist movement, although his work defied easy categorization. His writing tackled a wide range of subjects, including addiction, mental health, philosophy, literature, popular culture, and the complexities of modern society. Wallace gained widespread recognition with the publication of his novel "Infinite Jest" in 1996. The novel is known for its sprawling narrative, intricate structure, and dark humor. It is often regarded as one of the most influential and significant works of American literature in recent decades. A Supposedly Fun Thing I 'l Never Do Again Summary-Apart from his novels, Wallace also wrote numerous essays, short stories, and non-fiction pieces. His essay collections, including "A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again" and "Consider the Lobster," showcased his talent for blending intellectual rigor, cultural critique, and personal introspection. A Supposedly Fun Thing I 'l Never Do Again Summary-Unfortunately, David Foster Wallace struggled with depression throughout his life. Tragically, he took his own life on September 12, 2008, at the age of 46. His untimely death deeply saddened the literary world and left a void in contemporary literature. Despite his personal struggles, Wallace's literary legacy continues to resonate with readers, and his works continue to be celebrated for their profound insights and literary prowess. A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again" is a collection of essays that delves into the contradictions and complexities of modern leisure and entertainment. David Foster Wallace takes readers on a satirical and introspective journey through his experiences on a luxury cruise ship, offering profound insights into the human condition and the search for meaning and authenticity in a hyperstimulated world. A Supposedly Fun Thing I 'l Never Do Again Summary-Through his witty and insightful observations, Wallace critiques the superficiality and commodification of pleasure, highlighting the paradoxical nature of seeking relaxation and escape in highly controlled and artificial environments. He raises important questions about the impact of consumer culture, the pursuit of constant entertainment, and the loss of genuine human connection. A Supposedly Fun Thing I 'l Never Do Again Summary-The collection invites readers to reflect on their own relationship with leisure and entertainment, urging them to consider the potential pitfalls of pursuing manufactured fun and the importance of seeking meaningful experiences and connections instead. "A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again" remains a significant and thought-provoking work, reminding us to question the societal norms surrounding leisure and to navigate the complexities of modern life with critical awareness and a desire for genuine human connection. FAQ. Q. Who is the author of "A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again?" Ans. The author is David Foster Wallace. Q. When was the book published? Ans. The book was first published in 1997. Q. What themes are explored in the book? Ans. The book touches upon various themes, including consumerism, the pursuit of pleasure, and the impact of modern entertainment on the human experience. Q. What is the writing style of the book? Ans. David Foster Wallace's writing style in this collection is characterized by a combination of humor, intellectual depth, and keen social commentary. His prose is often witty and insightful. Related Book by David Foster Wallace A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again First edition hardcoverAuthorDavid Foster WallaceCover artistElizabeth Van TallieLanguageEnglishGenreNon-fictionPublisherLittle, Brown and Co.Publication date1 February 1997Publication placeUnited StatesMedia typePrint (hardback, paperback)Pages353 pISBN0-316-91989-6OCLC35318437 A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again: Essays and Arguments is a 1997 collection of nonfiction writing by David Foster Wallace. 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In 2019, the collection was ranked in Slate as one of the 50 greatest nonfiction works of the past 25 years.[1] Essays collected in the book: "Derivative Sport in Tornado Alley" (Harper's, December 1991, under the title "Tennis, Trigonometry, Tornadoes"): An autobiographical essay about Wallace's youth in the Midwest, his involvement in competitive tennis, and his interest in mathematics. "E Unibus Pluram: Television and U.S. Fiction" (The Review of Contemporary Fiction, 1993) "Getting Away from Already Being Pretty Much Away from It All" (Harper's, 1994, under the title "Ticket to the Fair"): Foster Wallace. Q. When was the book published? Ans. The book was first published in 1997. Q. What themes are explored in the book? Ans. The book touches upon various themes, including consumerism, the pursuit of pleasure, and the impact of modern entertainment on the human experience. Q. What is the writing style of the book? Ans. 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Also known as "A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again", "Ticket to the Fair", Harper's Magazine. Also known as "Getting Away from Already Being Pretty Much Away from It All". "The String Theory", Esquire. Also known as "Tennis Player Michael Joyce's Professional Artistry as a Paradigm of Certain Stuff about Choice, Freedom, Discipline, Joy, Grotesquerie, and Human Completeness". (Esquire, 1996, under the title "The String Theory"): Wallace's reporting of the qualifying rounds for 1995 Canadian Open and the Open itself, with the author's thoughts on the nature of tennis and professional athletics. "A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again" (Harper's, 1996, under the title "Shipping Out"): Wallace's experiences and opinions on a seven-night luxury Caribbean cruise. In his 2011 book That Is All, John Hodgman titles a chapter about taking a cruise "A Totally Fun Thing I Would Do Again as Soon as Possible". The title of the 2012 Simpsons episode "A Totally Fun Thing That Bart Will Never Do Again" also references the title essay. Tina Fey's 2011 memoir Bossypants includes a chapter on her own cruise experience, titled "My Honeymoon: Or, A Supposedly Fun Thing That I'll Never Do Again Either," in which she jokingly suggests that those who've heard of Wallace's book should consider themselves members of the "cultural elite." In Charlie Kaufman's 2020 film I'm Thinking of Ending Things, the character Jake mentions the book, refers to "E Unibus Pluram," then recites a portion of the essay from the section "Image-Fiction" verbatim.[2] ^ Miller, Dan Kois, Laura (2019-11-18). "The 50 Best Nonfiction Books of the Past 25 Years". Slate Magazine. Retrieved 2020-12-03. {{cite web}}: CS1 maint: multiple names: authors list (link) Wallace, David Foster (June 1993). "E unibus pluram: television and U.S. fiction". The Review of Contemporary Fiction - via The Free Library. Wallace, D. F. (1997). A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again. Little, Brown. ISBN 0-316-92528-4 Wallace, D. F. (1996). "Shipping Out", Harper's Magazine, January 1996 (292:1748) "Shipping Out: On the (nearly lethal) comforts of a luxury cruise", Harper's Magazine. Also known as "A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again", "Ticket to the Fair", Harper's Magazine. Also known as "Getting Away from Already Being Pretty Much Away from It All". "The String Theory", Esquire. Also known as "Tennis Player Michael Joyce's Professional Artistry as a Paradigm of Certain Stuff about Choice, Freedom, Discipline, Joy, Grotesquerie, and Human Completeness". "David Lynch Keeps His Head" Premiere, 1996 "Derivative Sport in Tornado Alley", Harper's Magazine. Originally under the title "Tennis, Trigonometry, Tornadoes" Retrieved from " This Study Guide consists of approximately 30 pages of chapter summaries, quotes, character analysis, themes, and more - everything you need to sharpen your knowledge of A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again. This Study Guide consists of approximately 30 pages of chapter summaries, quotes, character analysis, themes, and more - everything you need to sharpen your knowledge of A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again. Take our free A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again quiz below, with 25 multiple choice questions that help you test your knowledge. Determine which chapters, themes and styles you already know and what you need to study for your upcoming essay, midterm, or final exam. Take the free quiz now! Directions: Click on the correct answer. Questions 1-5 of 25: Copyrights A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again: Essays and Arguments from BookRags. (c)2025 BookRags, Inc. All rights reserved. This book is a collection of essays by David Foster Wallace written between 1992 and 1996. These essays cover a wide range of topics from tennis to film and literature and even a luxury cruise in the lengthy titular essay. The first essay details Wallace's career as a junior tennis player. Wallace explains that he was a very good tennis player when he was young because he could take advantage of the geometry of the court and the strange irregularities of playing in Illinois. Wallace plays well by simply returning his opponent's volleys until the opponent makes a mistake or has an emotional breakdown on the court. Wallace finds this method of play successful until his opponents develop much faster than him physically and are able to simply overpower him. The second essay is a criticism of contemporary television and postmodern fiction. Wallace believes that television is not inherently bad, but people watch it too much, and it is too self-referential. Wallace relates television self-referential quality to the meta-fiction on the 1960s. Wallace argues that television relies heavily on an irony that forces viewers to watch continuously so they can always be in on the joke instead of the butt of it. It is nearly impossible to attack this irony because it can simply insult the attacker. Wallace thinks that the only way to unseat this irony is for artists to be willing to risk authentic feelings. In the third essay, Wallace is commissioned to attend the Illinois State Fair and write about the experience. Wallace argues that people in the rural areas like Illinois take vacations to be with other people while people in cities vacation to get away from people. Thus the fair is about the state as a kind of large community. However, Wallace discovers that the fair itself is divided into different sorts of communities such as the as the agriculture professionals and people who come for the carnival rides. Wallace further argues that ultimately the fair is all about food at some level or another, which is fitting for Illinois as its economy is based around agriculture. In the fourth essay, Wallace discusses the literary criticism of H. L. Hix, who tries to save the notion of the author from poststructuralist critics. The fifth essay previews David Lynch's new film "Lost Highway" and contextualizes it with Lynch's other work. Wallace summarizes "Lost Highway's" convoluted plot and describes the few scenes he saw being filmed. Wallace explains that what makes a work "Lynchian" is the constant presence of the macabre in the mundane. Wallace argues that Lynch's films are so emotionally effective because they implicate the audience in the evil that they witness on screen. The sixth essay is a biographical piece on professional tennis player Michael Joyce. Wallace goes to watch Joyce at the Canadian Open and is overwhelmed by how much better all the professionals are than he had imagined. Joyce himself plays a "power-baseline" style of tennis in the tradition of Andre Agassi. Wallace argues that like many other professional athletes, Joyce has forsaken all other paths in life to play a game that he loves. In many ways that choice was made long ago and it may have never been Joyce's choice at all. The last essay details Wallace's experience on a seven day luxury Caribbean cruise. Although the cruise is meant to be a form of relaxation, Wallace discovers that it fills him with despair. Wallace analogizes the pampering given to cruise passengers to the care given by a mother to her infant, so in many ways a cruise is a way for adults to revert to the status of children. Wallace also quickly grows accustomed to the level of luxury of the ship and finds that he only desires more because there is no way to satisfy the childish impulse to want everything. Wallace concludes that people go on cruises but do not feel that they deserve such treatment and so in some way resent the people who give it to them.

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