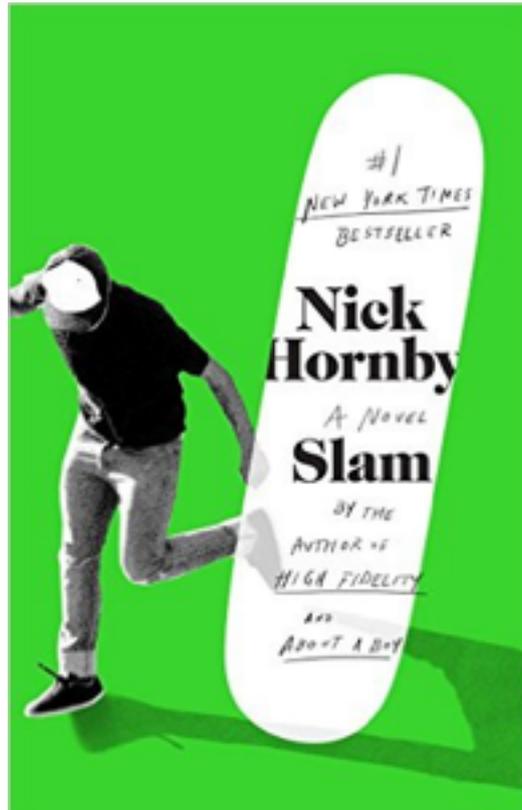


SLAM READER'S GUIDE

BY NICK HORNBY



Student's Name: _____

Commentaries: _____

Mark: _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does the author make legendary skateboarder Tony Hawk a character in this novel?
2. Sam says, "...telling a story is more difficult than it looks, because you don't know what to put where." How has Hornby decided what to put where?
3. Do you believe the "weird" parts; i.e., is Sam really transported into the future and why do you think the author uses this device?
4. Would you like to have Sam's experience of seeing the future?
5. How does Sam's experience with each of his own parents affect what kind of parent he hopes to be?
6. What does the story tell you about the British class system? Would the book have been dramatically different if it had been set in America?
7. What kind of person is Sam? He says, "I can't be bad." Is he being honest with himself? Does he change over the course of the novel? If so, how?
8. Does Alicia make the right decision in keeping her baby?
9. Will Sam still be in touch with Roof fifteen years from now?
10. What does this book tell you about the modern meanings of "family" and "home"?
11. What does Sam mean when he says, "I hate time. It never does what you want it to."
12. Sam thinks he might believe that "you have to live your life over and over again until you get it right." What do you think?

13. Twice Sam asks his mother to give him “marks out of ten” for “how he’s doing.” How many points would you give him? Why?
14. Sam says, “If you don’t know how something feels, then you don’t know anything.” Does Hornby let you know how things feel for Sam? How does he do this?
15. How did Alicia come up with the name “Rufus”?
16. Is this a hopeful and optimistic book? Should it be regarded as a work of humor or as something darker?
17. What would you have done in Sam’s shoes?
18. What would you have done in Alicia’s shoes?
19. Why has the novel be named “Slam”?
20. Which of the characters did you most empathize with? Why?

NB. This course work will be handed in by the 12th May. Presentation and language accuracy will be taken into account.