

NEW

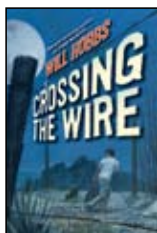


Go Big or Go Home

Tr 978-0-06-074141-9 • \$15.99 (\$18.99)

Lb 978-0-06-074142-6 • \$16.89 (\$19.89)

Fourteen-year-old Brady and his cousin Quinn love extreme sports, but nothing could prepare them for the aftermath of Brady's close encounter with a meteorite after it crashes into his Black Hills, South Dakota, bedroom.



Crossing the Wire

Tr 978-0-06-074138-9 • \$15.99 (\$18.99)

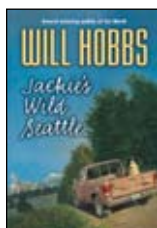
Lb 978-0-06-074139-6 • \$16.89 (\$19.89)

Pb 978-0-06-074140-2 • \$5.99 (\$7.50)

Victor is forced to leave Mexico to seek work in the United States in order to support his family. Victor makes the only decision he can—somehow he must go on his own and face all the dangers that come with “crossing the wire.”

• IRA Notable Book for a Global Society

- Junior Library Guild Selection
- New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age



Jackie's Wild Seattle

Tr 978-0-68-817474-3 • \$16.99 (\$19.99)

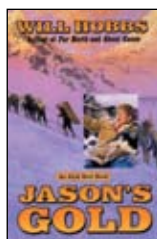
Lb 978-0-06-051631-4 • \$16.89 (\$25.89)

Pb 978-0-38-073311-8 • \$5.99 (\$7.50)

How do you rescue a wild coyote trapped in an elevator in a downtown Seattle office building? How do you save an injured baby seal at the bottom of a cliff with the tide coming in? Fourteen-year-old Shannon Young, visiting from New Jersey, is about to find out.

• NSTA-CBC Outstanding Science Trade Book for Children

- Junior Library Guild Selection
- New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age



Jason's Gold

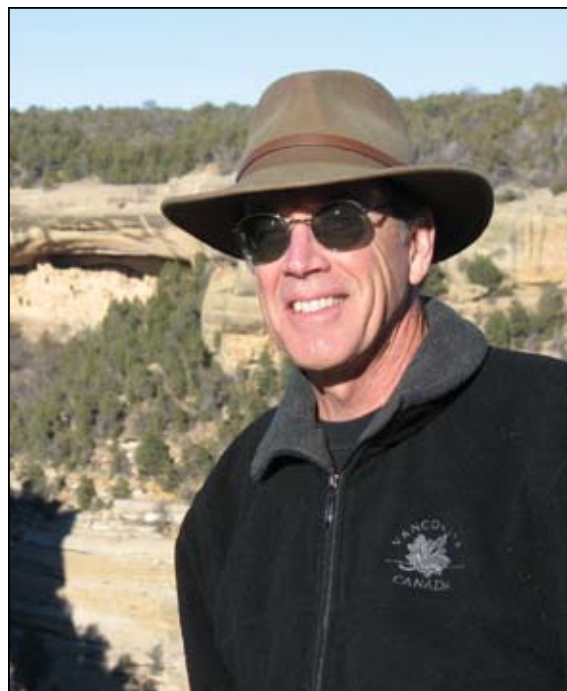
Tr 978-0-68-815093-8 • \$16.99 (\$21.50)

Pb 978-0-38-072914-2 • \$5.99 (\$7.99)

Fifteen-year-old Jason Hawthorn jumps a train for Seattle, stows away on a ship bound for the goldfields, and joins thousands of fellow prospectors attempting the difficult journey to the Klondike.

• American Bookseller Pick of the Lists
• ALA Best Book for Young Adults
• ALA Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Adult Readers

- Junior Library Guild Selection
- NCSS-CBC Notable Children's Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies
- New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age



Will Hobbs

About the Author

Will Hobbs is the award-winning author of seventeen novels for young readers, including *Far North*, *Jason's Gold*, and *Crossing the Wire*. Seven of his books have been chosen by the American Library Association as Best Books for Young Adults.

Although Will has never had a meteorite crash through his roof, he does have a longtime fascination with astronomy, extreme life-forms, and the Black Hills of South Dakota. A graduate of Stanford University, Will lives in Durango, Colorado, with his wife, Jean.

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Discussion questions prepared by Susan Geyer, Library Media Specialist,
Crowley Ninth Grade Campus, Ft. Worth, Texas.

Reading Group Guide



Go Big or Go Home

By Will Hobbs

About the Book

When a meteorite crashes through Brady's roof and into his bed, Brady feels lucky to be alive and even luckier to possess a treasure from space. Little does he know, it's extremely rare—it's from Mars. He falls asleep with the meteorite beside him and wakes up drooling all over it. Playing hoops with his cousin Quinn several days later, Brady notices he has amazing strength and can even slam-dunk the basketball, something he could never do before. When Brady and Quinn ride their bikes up the mountain, Brady doesn't even get winded as he pedals furiously to the top. He also begins to notice tingling sensations throughout his body, and at night he suffers from complete paralysis for nearly thirty minutes. The strange phenomenon can be caused by only one thing—the meteorite! The physical manifestations continue, and when Brady eventually crumbles in a heap, Quinn must do his best to keep his good friend alive.

Questions for Discussion

1. Brady risks his life to save a little boy from a charging buffalo. Why do the tourists ignore the signs warning them of the danger of getting too close? How do the tourists put lives at risk? Why does Brady refuse the reward for saving the little boy's life?
2. When Brady and Quinn visit with the professor to discuss the meteorite they name Fred, the professor comments, "There's a world of difference between the *improbable* and the *impossible*" (page 69). How does this statement prove to be correct in light of Fred's effect on Brady? Is what happens more improbable or impossible? Why?
3. Quinn's and Brady's fathers feel comfortable leaving their boys alone for several days. What does this say about their relationships? In what ways have Quinn and Brady acted to deserve this trust?

4. Brady and Quinn both love being outdoors and biking, fishing, and camping. How does their experience with these sports help them when they get into trouble? What skills do they have that help save Brady's life?
5. Brady's increased strength and athletic ability surprise both him and Quinn, but when the tingling and paralysis begin, Brady refuses to go to the doctor or to talk to Professor Ripley. Of what is he most afraid? Why doesn't he confide in his father or uncle?
6. When Brady slips and almost falls into the cavern, how does Quinn react? What does Quinn's reaction say about his character? How does Brady react when Attila saves his life? Why does Attila save Brady?
7. When Brady and Quinn take Fred to Professor Ripley, they are thrilled about what they learn. What information makes them the most excited? Why? Why does Professor Ripley discount any danger that Fred might cause Brady?
8. Google the word *astrobiology*. Does this new science described by Professor Ripley (page 108) really exist, and is NASA involved in its study?
9. On page 127, Brady reminds himself about the saying on Quinn's T-shirt: "Go big or go home." What does this saying mean to him? How does the book's title relate to the story?
10. Quinn does not want to leave the Black Hills to live in Wyoming, and his father gives him permission to stay with Brady. Why does Quinn refuse the offer and move to Wyoming with his father? How does this decision affect Brady?

Extension Activities

I. Letter to the Living

After explaining both the paralysis and his nightmare about having an autopsy performed on him while still alive, Brady makes Quinn promise that if Brady becomes dormant from the alien bacteria, Quinn will not allow Mr. Carver to perform an autopsy. Assuming the voice of Brady, write a letter to his parents explaining his theory of alien bacteria taking over his body and asking them to protect him from an autopsy.

2. Broadcast News

Professor Ripley wants the discovery of life on Mars to be kept secret. Assume that one of the Carver boys leaks the information to the press. Write a front page news story, videotape a news broadcast, or record a radio news report exposing the discovery and explaining the phenomenon of the long-dormant and disease-causing bacteria.

3. Missing Persons

The well-developed characters in *Go Big or Go Home* have some unusual characteristics. Create a missing persons poster focusing on one of these characters. Include information centering on the Perseid meteor shower as well as unusual characteristics of the missing person.

4. Web Page

Design a home page for a character in the novel. Based on information in the text, include appropriate facts about the character's personality and interests, as well as links and graphic images. Produce and display the web page on-line for others in the group to view.