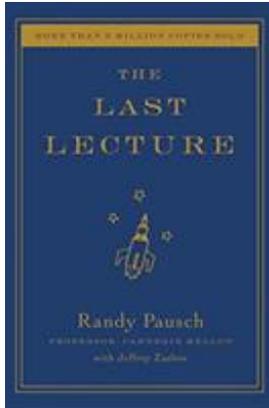


Lillie M. Evans Library District Book Club

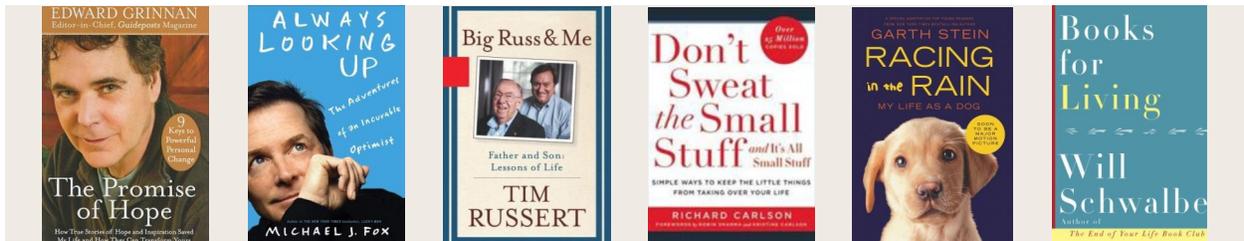
July 26, 2021

Biography:



Computer science professor, Randy Pausch, was born on October 23, 1960. He received his bachelor's degree in computer science from Brown University in 1982 and his Ph.D. in computer science from Carnegie Mellon University in 1988. He was a member of the computer science faculty at the University of Virginia from 1988 to 1997 and spent a 1995 sabbatical working at Walt Disney Imagineering's Virtual Reality Studio before joining the faculty of Carnegie Mellon University. He was the co-founder of the Entertainment Technology Center and created the innovative educational software tool known as Alice that enables novices to create 3-D computer animations using a drag-and-drop interface. In September 2007, he gave a lecture entitled Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams, which was videotaped, found success on the Internet, and led to a best-selling book entitled *The Last Lecture*. He died due to complications from pancreatic cancer at his family's home in Chesapeake, Virginia on July 25, 2008, having moved there so that his wife and children would be near family after his death. He is survived by his wife Jai, and their three children, Dylan, Logan and Chloe. (Bowker Author Biography)

Similar Resources:



Discussion Questions:

1. How did you feel about Jai's unhappiness over Pausch's decision to give a last lecture—her concern that its preparation would divert precious time away from his children? How would you have reacted as his wife?
2. Discuss Pausch's statement that "it's not about how to achieve your dreams. It's about how to lead your life. If you lead your life the right way ... the dreams will come to you."
3. Does *The Last Lecture* make you rethink your own priorities —what you want out of life, your work, your friendships, your marriage? Does it make you re-evaluate—or confirm—the things you thought were important?
4. If you had only 6 months to live (and adequate financial means), how would you spend the time left to you? Pausch said he gave his lecture (not knowing it would attain such worldwide acclaim) so his children would have some memory or knowledge of their father. If you were faced with 6 months to live, how would you go about creating lasting memories? Is that an important concern—or is it self-serving or self-indulgent?
5. Why is it that *The Last Lecture* has struck such a chord with people? Co-writer Zaslow says that "it's because we're all dying," and that Randy's fate is ours. Do you agree? Are there any other reasons?
6. What passages in particular resonated with you? Which struck you—personally—as most profound or meaningful for your own life? (*Questions by LitLovers.com*)