

My Book Report on The Quantum Squirrel

by Timothy J. Baxter, Grade 7

My teacher said we had to write a report on a book, so I picked one called *The Quantum Squirrel*, which I found on my cousin's old Kindle. I thought it was about science and squirrels, which are both cool. The book starts off kinda weird but I liked it. It had chapters and also footnotes sometimes. The main character is a squirrel named Quince who lives behind a school and seems normal but actually is very NOT normal.

Teacher: Here and below: Proper sentences please, not teenage slang!

At first, Quince just collects acorns and sometimes steals granola bars from the trash. But then it turns out he can kind of be in two places at once? The book says this is because he “exists in a probability cloud,” which I think means he's very fast or blurry or maybe just quantum. There is also a boy in the story named Nate who sees the squirrel do this and then tries to trap him with peanut butter but fails.

By chapter 3 Quince the squirrel starts talking, but only to Nate. At first it's just little stuff like, “Beware the axis of entanglement,” which Nate thinks is a joke.

But later he talks a lot more — like long monologues. One whole chapter is just Quince talking about the “folding of potential realities.” He says time is like a curled-up leaf and we only see one side unless we chew through.

Nate's dog gets scared and stops barking at Quince.

There is a part (chapter 5) where Quince takes Nate into the hole behind the school where he lives. But inside the hole is not dirt, it's a lab or a space tunnel, hard to say. There's a machine that keeps blinking and it says things like “Core Decoherence 87%” and “Observer Collapse Imminent.”

Teacher: *Imminent.*

Nate tries to touch a switch but gets zapped in the brain with a vision.

The vision is of a future where squirrels run the University of Helsinki. But also, they are not squirrels anymore, but “cognitively networked hunger forms.” One of them, maybe still Quince, explains to Nate that humanity failed not because of war but because of “insufficient attunement to the thrownness of their being.” I did not understand that part at first but then I read the glossary.

Teacher: What glossary? This book was not on my list.

Then there is a long chapter (Chapter 6: The Branching of Dasein) where Quince refers to a man called “Heidelburger” and explains that he's not *a* squirrel, but rather the manifestation of choice itself, fractalized across infinite outcomes. He says Nate has already made the choice to forget his mother's voice, and that this is the “price of stabilization.” Nate cries but also floats a little. Then they are both inside a coffee mug?

Teacher: Heidegger, NOT Heidelburger.

Later, Nate wakes up in his bed but the calendar says it is still the same day as before. He goes outside and there are no squirrels anymore. But there is a

large acorn on the ground with “YOU SAW” carved into it. The granola bar wrapper from chapter 1 is folded into a Mobius strip and humming.

In conclusion, *The Quantum Squirrel* was confusing but also interesting. I learned about quantum physics, squirrels, and feelings. I also learned that if you stare into the void of your own possibility too long, it might wink.

I give this book four acorns out of five. My mom says I need to read something “age appropriate” next time.

Teacher: *Timothy, a bit mundane choice but overall fine. Still, I'm not sure about the part with the dog — it doesn't seem to serve any purpose. Please come see me after class. Bring the Kindle.*