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1. At the start of *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, Albom says that "all endings are also beginnings." In general, what does this mean? How does it relate to this story in particular? Share something in your life that has begun as another thing ended, and the events that followed.
 - Life is a cycle and that is further enhanced by the events that happen at the very end of the book. Where his actions at the very beginning that caused life to end, put him on the path to save a lot of lives from ending at the beginning of his novel.
 - The transition from high school to college; college allowed a more honed in view on a skill rather than a general overview of education similar to how High school is run.
 - First work experience at a company out of college; transition into adulthood, making money, living your own life.
2. Consider the idea that "no story sits by itself. Sometimes stories meet at corners and sometimes they cover one another completely, like stones beneath a river." How does this statement relate to *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*?
 - People are connected, that's what we learn when reading the novel. Our actions matter and they have sometimes prominent and profound effects on those around us. The girl who died because of Eddie is an example. Both paths clashed at that fateful moment and Eddie was the one who had his path continue on. He overwrote that girl's life by ending it through his random action.
3. Discuss what it means that "That there are no random acts. That we are all connected. That you can no more separate one life from another than you can separate a breeze from the wind."
 - Nothing happens randomly, everything is connected somehow, as seen in the book when Eddie throws the ball into the road, resulting in the Blue Man dying after suffering a heart attack while driving. This may have seemed like a random act to any passerby or even the mortician, but from another viewpoint (from heaven) it was obvious that these two stories were connected and greatly affected each other.

4. Think about Eddie's war experiences and discuss your reactions to Albom's evocation of war. What did Eddie learn by being in a war? How did he "come home a different man"? Why did the captain shoot Eddie? Explore what it means when the captain tells Eddie, "I took your leg to save your life." Why does the captain tell Eddie that sacrifice is not really a loss, but a gain? Examine whether or not Eddie understands this, and the significance of this lesson.
 - By being in war, Eddie learned the importance of sacrifice and how it wasn't always the most courageous thing to save everyone. Eddie came home a different man, almost seeing himself as lesser than before. After his leg injury, he always saw his disability as a hindrance to being a productive worker. The captain shot Eddie specifically to save his life. Eddie was stubborn in the village and would not give up on trying to save the little girl. If he waited any longer, Eddie would have died along with her in the fire. The captain tells Eddie this because there was not only loss from his sacrifice. Since Eddie survived the fire, he was able to live on and change the lives of so many people at the pier. It is because Eddie was alive that Amy or Annie survived as well. Eddie fully understood this by the end when he finally met the 5th person, them being the girl from the fire.
5. Examine whether or not you agree with the old woman when she tells Eddie, "You have peace when you make it with yourself," and why. Consider what she means when she says, "things that happen before you are born still affect you. And people who come before your time affect you as well." How does this relate to Eddie's life? Who are some who have come before you that have affected your own life?
 - It is agreeable when the old woman said the statement to Eddie about only obtaining peace once you can accept it. Every person has their own mentality towards things and in reality, no matter what others say or do, the only actions and words that truly matter are what we say and do to ourselves. In regards to the second statement, it means that the environment you are born into or the actions of your parents will ultimately affect you even if you're just a newborn. Eddie's parents were affected by other people such as Mickey and Ruby since it inevitably affected Eddie's dad which impacted his own life.
6. Why does Eddie come upon the children in the river? What does Tala mean when she says "you make good for me"? Discuss whether or not Eddie's life is a penance, and why. What is the significance of Tala pulling Eddie to safety after he dies? Why is it Tala that pulls him to heaven and not one of the other four?
 - Tala saying "you make good for me" is a way of her stating that even though Eddie made a mistake by burning the barn with Tala inside, he devoted the rest of his life to making sure thousands of other children were safe due to his work at the pier. Eddie's life is penance for what he had done, but I believe that he doesn't

recognize it. In his mind he is just doing the job his dad did but deep down I believe he did this to right his mistakes at war. Tala pulling Eddie to safety represents the forgiveness that Tala has for Eddie. Eddie died pushing a child to safety so it is fitting that Tala, another child, is pulling Eddie to safety. It is fitting that Tala pulls Eddie to safety because all of Eddie's guilt is built upon not being able to save Tala and now Tala is the one to save Eddie.

7. What would you say to Eddie when he laments that he accomplished nothing with his life? Discuss what he has accomplished.
 - Eddie did accomplish many things. He has directly impacted, no matter how small or large, the lives of others. While he did suffer in war, he made the lives of the people of his country marginally better. Certain people feel better knowing there are others who will defend the country and its values. Furthermore, he was married and brought happiness and love to his wife. And lastly, the most obvious thing is he atoned for his sin by giving his own life to save the lives of others.
8. Briefly recall the five lessons Eddie learns. How might these be important for all of us? Share which five people might meet you in heaven, and what additional or different lessons might be important to your life. Discuss how Albom's *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* has provided you with a different perspective of your life.
 - Blue Man: all lives are interconnected; fairness does not govern life or death
 - Captain: no one dies for nothing; when you sacrifice something precious (e.g., leg), you always gain something...Eddie just doesn't know what he gained
 - Ruby: anger is self-destructive and he must forgive; Eddie tells his father he has forgiven him and is letting his resentment go
 - Marguerite: lost love is still love; it just takes a different form; although life has to end, love does not
 - Tala: she tells him he is where he is supposed to be, keeping kids safe; and that it was her hands he grabbed and her hands that lifted him into Heaven

Who we will meet in heaven (This is very hard to do so members will volunteer to give their guess)

Saaif:

-My Mom

My mother gave me my start. Taught me that life is for going out there, using what you have and making something bigger out of it. Going further than those before you.

-My Friend from High School

This friend specifically taught me how to act. Was my mentor and served an older brother role. Taught me that developing yourself outside of professional aspects is what makes a person worthwhile and that those interactions are what make life enjoyable.

-My Friend from RPI

This friend was there for me to debate with. We are on equal fields but different sides of the spectrum. Taught me that life is worldly and we are all global citizens. Our actions affect others and we are all connected.

-Future Partner

Don't have one but I'm hoping it's something about love is eternal.

-Boss From Work

Getting a professional opportunity is my main drive in life right now. This would be the person who oversees my first major goal in life. How I act when I achieve this goal will serve some lesson that I don't know yet because I'm talking about the future. But given that this is where my adult life will take off from I think it will be the 5th person.

Jason:

- Parents/Family
 - Core of my life, always there when you need them.
- The people at my monumental moments
 - Reminder of accomplishments and who were there to support you through the hardships.
- Loved ones
 - The new bonds and relationships you form throughout life, teaches you how to be the best person you can be.
- Childhood friend
 - An old bond that you can always kick it off with about anything