Feed by M. T. Anderson
Reading Guide

Part I: Slang (use context to guess at meaning)  Vocabulary (look up definition)

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Part I: moon (pgs. 3-40)
your face is not an organ:

1. Where on the moon does Titus and his friends plan to go and what do they plan to do there?

impact:

2. What do you think the feed is? What do you think its purpose is?

3. What do you think the lesions are? What details from the reading leads you to your opinion?

4. What might be the purpose of the italicized pieces at the end of this chapter?

juice:

5. What words does Titus use to describe the girl he’s observing? What does she do that captivates him?
6. The girls feel the need to change their hair in this chapter because the hairstyles had changed. What is the author satirizing about trends through the girls’ actions?

7. Describe how each of Titus’ friends react to the girl in grey wool.

8. Explain Titus’ comment that Quendy is an economy model of Calista. How does the word choice “economy model” relate to the author’s satire of consumerism?

9. What do the italicized pieces at the end of this chapter convey?

the moon is in the house of boring:

10. What do their purchases reveal about the characters?

11. Link and Marty consider going in “mal.” What do you think mal is, and what might going in “mal” today involve?

12. What happens with the man in a dirty old tweed jacket and long white hair?

Part II: eden (pgs. 43-72)

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<td>p. 54 smarm = _________________________________</td>
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awake:

13. What does Titus do before he opens his eyes? What does this action reveal about whom or what Titus (and perhaps most everyone else) relies on or trusts?

college try:

14. Why might Titus feel like it was “f….d” because he couldn’t see anything through the feed and everything in his head was quiet?

boring:

15. For what reasons does Titus think the picture of the boat is boring? What might the author be suggesting about imagination, creativity, and excessive technological stimuli?

still boring:

16. Why might Titus and the others who were “touched” be frightened that their heads suddenly felt real empty? What might the author be suggesting about intellect and technology?

missing the feed:

17. At the beginning of this chapter, Titus compares life before the feed to when they carried around computers outside the body: “like if you carried your lungs in a suitcase and opened it to breathe” (47). Explain what this comparison reveals about the strength of the relationship between the feed and people in Titus’ time.

18. What things in your life might become as important to you as the feed is to Titus and the others? How or why?
19. What does the title of the show “Oh? Wow! Thing!” (pg 48) reveal about the society in which Titus lives? What do we have in our society that is similar?


21. What do we have today that is similar to the Feed as Titus describes it in this chapter? How alike?

cache & carry:

22. What does cache mean? What had Titus cached before the hacker got to him?

23. What modern store does the author appear to be satirizing by calling one of the stores in his book Weatherbee and Crotch? Why might the author want to satirize it?

night. and boring:

24. Loga was not touched by the hacker and still has the feed. Describe her behavior during her visit and how the others react to it.

25. On pg. 53 Titus description of Violet and himself as they sit in his room is a bit confusing. What might the “green and bumpy,” “heartbeat on her tears,” and “cheek against my brainwaves” be referring to?
father:

26. Describe Titus’ father’s use of language. What was your reaction to his manner of speaking?

27. Why does Violet say her parents aren’t coming? Is her reason believable? What is your reaction to her parents not coming?

salad days. w/sneeze guard:

28. How do the kids amuse themselves as they wait for the doctor? What might be good about their behavior? What might be inconsiderate about their behavior?

the garden:

29. Toward the bottom of pg. 62 when Titus is describing the dead garden he says “it’s like a squid in love with the sky.” Violet is intrigued by his use of metaphor. Based on what you know of her so far, why might she be intrigued?

dead language:

30. What does Violet do that amazes Titus? What does he suggest she use instead?
31. The author seems to suggest that there is a meaningful difference between Violet’s ability to write and Titus’s reliance upon the Feed for things that might be written. What might the author be trying to communicate?

release:

32. Describe the reactions of Titus and Violet when their feeds are working again. What does their “feeling” the stuff on the feed suggest?

Part III: utopia (pgs. 75-203)

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<td>p 191 spink = _________________________________</td>
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normal:

33. What do we learn about the layout/structure of suburbia in this novel? What seems similar to today’s homes in suburbia?
34. As Titus and Violet prepare to go to a party, Violet (who hasn’t been to a typical teenage party) asks “Will it be like it is on the feed?” to which Titus replies “Yeah. I mean, dumber, but yeah.” Perhaps using your own experiences, explain how the media presentation of something (a party) measures up to the reality – how something can be like the media presentation but “dumber.”

undervalued truffle:

35. Describe the party Titus and Violet attend. In what ways did it live up to your idea of a party? In what ways did it not live up to your idea of a party?

36. What is the italicized bit of a “newscast” at the end of this chapter about? Why might the author have included it?

the others in mal:

37. Why might Titus feel that he has to “protect” Violet from knowing about Link and Marty going into mal?

nudging:

38. Do you think the nudging Titus experiences is really a dream or some external source like the police or the Coalition of Pity? What makes you think so?
39. What do you think the italicized portion at the end of this chapter reveals?

40. What is Violet's theory on how people are motivated to buy something? Do you think her theory is credible?

41. How is Violet trying to become “invisible”?

42. Violet’s saying she’s going to become invisible is somewhat of a paradox. How so?

43. What’s the black goo the salesman says he can see on the tops of the suburb domes? What might the author be trying to suggest with this information?

44. How does the feed and marketing seem to work? What do we experience now that is similar?

45. What makes things “new” for Titus?
the dimples of delglacey:

46. How is School™ different in Titus’ time than in his grandparents’ time?

47. What kinds of things does Violet read about?

48. How successful was DelGlacey as an actor? What does Titus’s mother say is the best part of Titus? Explain how the author’s use of this information supports the idea that people in Titus’ time are superficial.

49. What do Titus’s parents decide to do for him? Why?

lift:

50. How does the feed market the Swarp and the Gryphon to Titus? What does a car cost in this time period?

a question of moral:

51. Why was the park knocked down? Why is its being knocked down for that reason ironic?

52. What do Titus and his parents argue about?
53. The italicized portion at the end of this chapter contains song lyrics about “people allowed to get out of the same bed…” (pg. 131). How do these song lyrics compare to today’s love song lyrics?

**observe the remarkable verdure:**

54. Why might Clouds™ be trade marked?

55. Describe Violet’s neighborhood. How does it differ from others that Titus is more familiar with?

56. What does Violet’s father think about language? Does his observation seem to be accurate? How so or how not?

**a day in the country:**

57. Describe the farming Titus and Violet see (pgs. 142-144). Compare or contrast their experiences on the farm with those you have experienced or seen.

**nudging again:**

58. What evidence is there that Titus’ world is a nation of dreams and desires?
the real thing:

59. Who or what might have sent the images in Titus’ dream on pg. 151-153? What might the author be trying to convey to us about our consumerism through these images?

60. Describe the response Violet gets from FeedTech’s Customer Assistance (pgs. 154-155). Why do you think Nina responded with such little help?

61. In the italics section on pg. 57 there is a Biblical allusion – what is it? How does this italicized portion fit with the ideas of the Nudging Again chapter?

fight and flight:

62. About what do Titus and Violet argue? What is really bothering Violet?

63. Brainstorm how serious Violet’s situation could become.

so much to do:

64. Consider her circumstance and explain what Violet means by “you toss something up in the air, and you expect it to come back down again” (pg. 175).

65. Why do you suppose Titus doesn’t know what Violet means by her comment (above)?
66. How serious is Violet’s situation? What details lead you to your conclusion?

seashore:

67. Describe the sea as it’s described in this chapter. Why do you think it is as it is?

68. Brainstorm why the seashore setting is appropriate for this chapter.

limbo and prayer:

69. What does Violet initially think Link’s name refers to? What does Titus explain is the basis for Link’s name?

70. On pg. 187, what is Violet reading about? When does she say it was probably written?

71. How does this passage relate to or convey what the author seems to be saying throughout this novel (one of its overall themes)?

flat hope:

72. Describe the scene at the party. What’s interesting/funny/shocking?
73. Examine pgs. 194-195. What does Violet “get” about Titus’ story of being in the attic walking around and being alone but having more people thinking about you than before?

**our duty to the party:**

74. Several times throughout this novel but also here on pg. 198 a speaker makes a statement (not a question) but ends the statement with a question mark (and its inflection in voice). Why do you think the author uses this technique/what might its use convey about the character?

75. What is Violet’s point about Titus’ and the others’ party behavior vs reality?

76. How are Titus and the others “the feed” as Violet claims? How are they “eaten?” (pgs. 201-202)

77. What is the phrase “the party’s over” on pg. 203 really meant to convey?

**Part IV: slumberland (pgs. 207-299)**

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78. Most of the chapters in Part IV are percentages. To what do you think the percentages refer?

79. Examine pages 215-218. What kinds of things is Violet lamenting she will not get to experience?

80. On pg. 217 Violet asks “What am I, without the feed?” What is she questioning?

81. Why are Violet and her father having difficulty getting Violet’s feed link repaired?

82. Examine pgs. 224-226. Where did Violet’s mother and father meet? What kind of “education” did they get? How does that explain Violet’s intelligence?

83. **Dramatic irony** is when the audience/reader knows something that the character does not which puts a character’s actions, words, or thoughts into a perspective known by the audience/reader but not the character. Explain what we know or can guess about the pants hanging on the hook (top of pg. 240) that the characters don’t seem to be able to figure out.

84. Why does Violet create a list of wishes? What do the wishes say or reveal about her? Why do you think she sends the list to Titus?
85. Consider Violet’s and Titus’ relationship and Violet’s situation. Paying attention to pages 234-240, what does Titus’ not replying to Violet’s list or her requests to talk with him after she sends the list to him, and his suggesting to Marty and Link that they all go into mal reveal about Titus (what’s Titus having difficulty with?)?

86. According to Nina the FeedTech customer service representative, why has Violet’s request for complimentary feed repair and/or replacement been denied?

87. What specific evidence suggests that Titus is having difficulty dealing with Violet’s need for him in the crisis she’s facing.

88. Why do you think Violet wants to be “normal?” What is normal?

89. In Violet’s fight with Titus we learn some things about the Global Alliance and what seems to be happening to the Earth as well as people. What are some of those things?

summertime:

90. Describe Titus’ summer. What happens that concerns Titus and the others?
91. Why do you suppose the author had Titus’ father go whaling for a corporate adventure? What’s ironic about going whaling in Titus’ time, especially given what we’re learning about the state of the environment and people?

92. On pg. 290-91 when Titus and Violet’s father are “arguing,” Titus says he didn’t throw Violet away. Do you agree or disagree and why?

93. Violet’s father makes two allusions. The second is an allusion to H.G.Well’s *Time Machine* with the reference to “eloi.” The “Eloi” were descended from the leisure classes and became weak and childlike creatures unable to defend themselves against an opposing race, the Morlocks. For what purpose do you think the author included this allusion?

94. Summarize Titus’ “story of us” (pg. 297).

95. What does the feed message at the end of the book – The Final Sales Event – symbolize?
Short essay response:

90. This book was written in 2010 and dedicated “To all those who resist the feed” (those in our time and place who resist the feed). Brainstorm some current sources of “feed” that M.T. Anderson might be drawing our attention to. In what ways could (or do) you or people you know resist the feed?