THINK LIKE A ROCKET SCIENTIST

Simple Strategies You Can Use to Make Giant Leaps in Work and Life

by Ozan Varol

The Reading Group Guide

rocketsciencebook.com
General Questions about the book

- What did you expect from this book when you first began reading? How different were your expectations from what you found?

- How do you feel about Ozan’s tone and writing style? Is there a good balance of material between the personal narration and the anecdotal accounts?

- If there was one thing you could change about this book, what would it be?

- If you could ask the author one question, what would that be? (Please email that question to him at Ozan@OzanVarol.com).

- How often did you recognize yourself in the pages of Think Like a Rocket Scientist? Which chapter or section was most relevant to you?

- What’s your biggest takeaway from this book?

- Were there any ideas that you had difficulty accepting?

- What would you have liked to read more about?

- Who is the first person you would recommend Think Like a Rocket Scientist to, and why? (Please text or email them to recommend it to them!).
Chapter 1: Flying in the Face of Adversity

- Consider this quote: “Answers simply serve as a launch pad to discovery. They’re the beginning, not the end.” What does this mean to you? How does it relate to your life?

- How can you become “uncomfortably uncertain” instead of being “comfortably wrong”?

Chapter 2: Reasoning from First Principles

- What cultural myths are most in need of an update?

- What in your life is “constrained by what you’ve done in the past”? How can you go about releasing that constraint, based on what you read in the book?
Chapter 3: A Mind at Play

- Ozan writes: "Hustle and creativity are antithetical to each other." How does this manifest itself in your life?

- How can you regain the innocence and wonderment that allows you to learn and grow through play once again?

Chapter 4: Moonshot Thinking

- Where in your life could you employ moonshot thinking?

- Do you have ideas that seem too far-fetched to carry out, but you can’t stop thinking about them?

- What are the differences between "divergent" and "convergent" thinking? How does one feed into the other?
Chapter 5: What If We Sent Two Rovers Instead of One

- Do you see yourself, or someone you know, in this Ozan observation: “Over time, we become a hammer, and every problem looks like a nail”.

- Compare the difference between “strategies” and “tactics.” What are the functions they serve, and when is it appropriate to use one instead of the other?

- To further illustrate the separation of form and function, choose a commonplace object in the room and discuss how many uses it has beyond that which was originally intended.

Chapter 6: The Power of Flip-Flopping

- Why do we reward politicians for consistency?

- How do we separate facts from opinions in the news and social media today?

- How did you respond the last time someone challenged one of your convictions? Given what you read in the book, how would you change that response?

- What makes someone a good intellectual sparring partner for you?
Chapter 7: Test as You Fly, Fly as You Test

- Share an experience when you wish that you had used the “test as you fly” principle, and explain how you would have prepared differently.

Chapter 8: Nothing Succeeds Like Failure

- What is your personal relationship with failure? What changes (if any) will you make to that relationship given what you read in this chapter?

- What’s the best lesson you’ve taken away from a failure?

Chapter 9: Nothing Fails Like Success

- How has our fascination with success benefited society, and how has it proven detrimental?

- Do you agree that success “drives a wedge between appearance and reality”?

- How can you experience success without becoming complacent at the same time?