

# *The Last Lecture Questions*

*Answer on separate sheet of paper. NO credit earned for incomplete sentences.*

**1. Are there lessons in Randy's story for people who've had less-fulfilling childhoods, or absentee parents? What advice might you give to those who didn't win "the parent lottery"?**

In his talk, Randy encouraged parents to allow their children to paint on their bedroom walls. "As a favor to me," he said, "let 'em do it. Don't worry about the home's resale value." The real message he says he was trying to give was this: Find ways to help your kids be creative. Nurture those instincts in them.

**2. What would you paint on your bedroom walls if you were given permission to do so? What other creative outlet would you like to pursue, if your parents gave the OK?**

"If you can find an opening, you can probably find a way to float through it."

**3. What's the lesson to be learned from Randy's attempts to get onto that "Vomit Comet"?**

Randy loved using "head fakes."

**4. What are some other head fakes that teachers and parents have used?**

"Brick walls are there for a reason. They're not there to keep us out. The brick walls are there to give us a chance to show how badly we want something."

**5. What are the brick walls you've faced in your own life? How did you get over them?**

Randy credits his professor Andy van Dam with telling him the tough-love things he needed to hear.

**6. What was it about Dr. van Dam's delivery and message that resonated with Randy? Who in your own life has told you things about yourself that made you reconsider your actions or behavior?**

Randy believes the number one goal for educators should be helping students learn how to judge themselves.

**7. How crucial do you think this is in the learning process? Have you relied on feedback loops in your own life? Has anyone ever told you that you were being a jerk?**

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Randy missed the 1969 moonwalk because he was sent to bed by camp counselors.

**8. Have you ever wished adults in your life were less rigid? What advice would you give to adults about helping kids to dream big?**

Randy admired Sandy Blatt and Jackie Robinson because they didn't complain. As Randy put it: "Complaining is not a strategy."

**9. Do you agree? Why/Why not?**

**10. Have you ever had trouble working in groups? How might Randy's tips help you get along better with others in the future?**

Randy writes that "experience is what you get when you didn't get what you wanted."

**11. Randy gave a "First Penguin Award" to groups of students who tried new things but failed. How do you think his First Penguin Award was able to inspire his students?**

**12. What would you like to ask for that you haven't been able to find the courage to articulate? What do you think will happen if you "just ask"?**

*Make a Decision:*



*Tigger or Eeyore?*



**13. OK. So which one are you? Why? If you'd like to be more of a Tigger, how might you go about that?**