

# THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT

HOW YOUR LIFE MATTERS

*"Your actions  
have value far  
greater than silver  
or gold."*



*Is life just a  
lottery ticket, or  
are there choices  
one can make to  
direct his future?"*

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## ANDY ANDREWS Reader's Guide Questions

- 1 Why do you think it was so important for Andy to mention Jones in the opening author's note?
- 2 "With a little perspective," Jones said one day, "you can live a life of permanent purpose." What does this quote mean to you? Do you think it's possible to "live a life of permanent purpose?" Explain your answer.
- 3 Do you sometimes find yourself unconsciously judging your actions according to what you think is important?
- 4 "A butterfly could flap its wings and set molecules of air in motion, which would move other molecules of air, in turn moving more molecules of air—eventually capable of starting a hurricane on the other side of the planet." How does this physical law play a role in the lives of human beings around the world?
- 5 When you are faced with a decision to either do nothing or to act, do you always choose to act? Why or why not?
- 6 What does "the inability to do nothing" mean to you? Do you think it's possible to recondition yourself to act quickly no matter the circumstance? Explain your answer.
- 7 What qualities does Chamberlain possess that prompted him to make the important decision when he did? Do you share any of these same qualities?
- 8 Do you believe everything you do matters? Have you ever known someone personally who lived a life based on this principle? How does that belief change how you see yourself?

## Reader's Guide Questions (cont'd)

9 Can you think of people you've met throughout your life who have made a significant contribution to the person you've become today? How far can you go back? Whose life are you impacting at this very moment?

10 In today's society, children are often seen merely as "play things" or dreams living in tiny bodies. If George Washington Carver had not paid attention to young Henry Wallace when he did, do you think those two billion lives would have still been saved? Explain your answer.

11 How often do you take time out of your day to help inspire the children in your life? Why might this be important?

12 Moses Carver (the farmer from Diamond, Missouri), George Washington Carver, Henry Wallace, and Norman Borlaug each had the choice to do nothing or to do something great with their lives. While showing courage, tenacity, and selflessness, these great figures were part of the "effect" that saved two billion people—a number that continues to increase today. How would you have responded to each circumstance these individuals had to face?

13 Do you believe you matter? Do you believe you are important enough to change the world's future? Explain your answer.

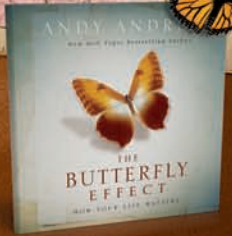
14 Was there a time in your life when you felt you had great impact on the world? Has there been a moment today when you changed something?

15 Do you have talents or quirks that separate you from your family and friends? Have you ever used these talents to benefit the life of someone else? How can you put these to practice in your daily life?

16 Which character in the book do you most identify with? Why? If you could meet this character face to face, what one question would you ask?

17 Challenge: In the next 24 hours, try to positively affect as many strangers as you can. This can be through a smile, a quick hello, opening a door, or listening to someone who needs to talk. "Flap your butterfly wings." Keep a tally and journal your thoughts about each and every experience. Read and review your journal at the end of the day.

18 Make a written list of people with whom you can share The Butterfly Effect. How many of the people on the list are already involved in a daily quest to "make a difference?" How many need to be shown evidence of the difference they already make? Whose life can you change by proving how important they really are?



*"Know that your actions cannot be hoarded, saved for later, or used selectively. By your hand, millions—billions—of lives will be altered, caught up in a chain of events begun by you this day."*



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