

*Jurassic Park* by Michael Crichton

🌀 Study Guide 🌀

**Main Characters**

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Alan Grant and Ellie Sattler—paleontologists and consultants  
Ian Malcolm—mathematician; consultant to Jurassic Park  
Dennis Nedry—systems analyst; consultant to J. Park  
Ed Regis—public relations executive; worker at J. Park  
John Arnold—computer technician; worker at J. Park  
Henry Wu—geneticist; worker at J. Park  
John Hammond—owner of J. Park  
Robert Muldoon—security expert; worker at J. Park  
Tim and Alexis Murphy—Hammond’s nephew and niece

**Specific Vocabulary** (define each word/term below)

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fractals

Euclidean geometry

fluctuations

recursion

chaos

linearity

**What Motivates Characters?**

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Hammond had many people working for him even though not all of them agreed with his ideas. In the table below, analyze the motivation that prompted each person to take the job with Hammond.

Characters	Motivations
Henry Wu	
Donald Gennaro	
Dennis Nedry	
John Arnold	
Ed Regis	
Robert Muldoon	

What do you think motivated Hammond?

## General Questions

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List at least four mistakes Hammond made in developing his dream park.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

When Hammond dies, he reflects upon the failure of Jurassic Park and attributes the chaos to factors beyond his control or responsibility. List his excuses or example of him putting the blame on someone else and then show how each is really his responsibility.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Grant forces Gennaro to face his responsibility when the two of them along with Ellie Satler investigate the raptor nest. Why and how does Grant do this? Did Grant have a right to do it? Explain fully.

How many years ago was the Jurassic Age? In terms of human lifetimes (approximately 80 years), how many grandfathers would you have had if you could trace them back to the Jurassic Age?

In Malcolm’s last “speech” he argues with Hammond over the danger to the planet, saying the planet is not in danger—only we are. Malcolm says we only see the earth from a human perspective.

1. Do you agree with Malcolm or Hammond and why? Give at least two reasons.
  
2. What percentage of earth time have humans existed?

The boat turns around literally in the “nick of time.” Look up the origin of this saying and give its history here. What was Crichton’s purpose for taking the boat so close to the mainland?

Could someone really clone prehistoric DNA? Explain.

Hammond says over and over that the park is for kids. Assume you have kids and you could afford to go. You have seen Hammond’s advertising for Jurassic Park. Would you have taken your kids there for a vacation? Why or why not?

The character of Lex seems flat and static, while the character of Tim is round and dynamic. Compare and contrast the two of them using the chart below.

	Likes	Talents	Fears	Interests	Problems
Lex					
Tim					

What do Tim and Lex learn about themselves through their experiences on the island?

How old is Tim? Is his character believable? Yes          No  
Give three reasons to support your choice.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Explain “chaos theory” in your own words.

What is a fractal? Summarize Malcolm’s definition. Why does Crichton use the visual image of fractals for his chapter division pages (the iterations)? List, in order, all the quotes from Malcolm here (also on those pages) and use them to help you draw some conclusions about Crichton’s intentions. Think about what happens to the images of the fractals.

Quote from Malcolm	Fractal changes
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

Explain the conclusion you reached from examining the information in the preceding table.

What was the most frightening part of the book, for you, and why? How do you think Crichton appealed to your sense of fear?

If great images appeal to the senses, which images were best at allowing you to virtually see, smell, hear, taste, touch or feel? Fill in the chart below with passages that appealed to particular senses.

Page #	sight	smell	hear	touch	taste

What events or circumstances in the novel presented problems for you in that they were inconsistent, incongruent, or problematic in some other way? Be specific in citing the event and explaining why it is problematic.