

Starship Troopers by Robert Heinlein pages 1-20

Day 1

1. What does the narrator mean by “drop”?
2. What does the narrator mean by “bought it” and “buy it”?
3. Why didn't Jenkins drop?
4. What is unique about chaplains & cooks in the Mobile Infantry?
5. What is the Rodger Young?
6. Who's Lieutenant Raszak?
7. The narrator is Johnnie. What is his condition before a drop?
8. What's so special about female pilots?
9. Describe the “natives” & tell the different names for them.
10. So far, what have you discovered about the capabilities of the suit-armor?

Starship Troopers by Robert Heinlein pages 21-40

Day 2

1. The mission went well, then there's trouble. Who's missing?
2. With the retrieval beacon calling Johnnie back, what does he decide to do?
3. Describe the tense situation in which Ace & Johnnie found themselves.
4. Who died?
5. Chapter 2 is a flashback. Who is Carl?
6. Who's Mr. Dubois?
7. What does Johnnie's father think his son should do after high school?
8. Who's Carmencita Ibañez?
9. How are Carl & Johnnie received at the recruiting station?
10. What advice does the doctor offer?

Starship Troopers by Robert Heinlein pages 41-60

Day 3

1. Johnnie has taken the oath & enrolled in the Federal Service of the Terran Federation. How long is the term of service? Quote the oath here:
2. Why is there a forty-eight hour leave immediately following the swearing-in?
3. Johnnie probably won't be a pilot. What does he list as his preferences?
4. Tell what you've learned about neodogs!
5. What do we know about Fleet Sergeant Ho?
6. Tell a little about Johnnie's basic training from the beginning of Chapter 3.
7. Who's Sergeant Zim? Describe.
8. Breckinridge – Describe.
9. Heinrich & Meyer – Describe.
10. Shujumi – Describe.

Starship Troopers by Robert Heinlein pages 61-80

Day 4

1. What does “on the bounce” mean?
2. Sergeants and their mothers. What is this mess tent talk about? What's the core meaning?
3. Sleep, eat, exercise – describe a bit of the routine at Camp Arthur Currie.
4. What is there to do with free time?
5. Explain Johnnie's metaphor: boot camp was surgery.
6. What's Johnnie's final judgment of Camp Currie?
7. The training is pretty tough. Describe a few of Johnnie's experiences.
8. Who died during training?
9. What does Zim teach them in the combat training?
10. List the various weapons used in the training.

Starship Troopers by Robert Heinlein pages 81-100

Day 5

1. What unique historical information does Johnnie learn about rifles?
2. Johnnie happened to be on light duty in the Captain's office to learn about Ted Hendrick. Tell the story briefly here (except the punishment).
3. What is Hendrick's punishment?

4. How did many of the men react to the flogging? Speculate. Why?
5. There are several things bothering & worrying Johnnie. List a few.

Starship Troopers by Robert Heinlein pages 101-120

Day 6

1. What does Johnnie overhear?
2. What does Johnnie seriously consider in this chapter? Explain. Johnnie gets two letters in Chapter 6.
3. Letter 1. Who is it from; what does it say?
4. Letter 2. Who is it from; what does it say?
5. Why is the phrase “over the hump” significant to Chapter 6?

Starship Troopers pages 121-140

Day 7

1. Describe the powered armor. The armored suits or powered suits are described throughout the novel, but in some detail in Chapters 1 and 7. How do the suits work; what can they do? And, what is Johnnie’s opinion of the armor?
2. Describe Major Malloy.
3. Describe Captain Frankel.
4. Why does Johnnie receive 5 lashes?
5. How does the Army handle deserters?

Starship Troopers pages 141-160

Day 8

1. Briefly describe Dillinger.
2. Briefly describe Barbara Anne Enthwaite.
3. How are people punished in this future world?
4. Johnnie thinks back to his high school History and Moral Philosophy class. What did Mr. Dubois teach his students about punishment?
5. What did Mr. Dubois have to say about juvenile crime?
6. Speculate – what year do you think the story is set?
7. Speculate – about the war involving Russia, England, America & China in 1987. What do you think? Fill in some numbers:
8. The Third Regiment started with over _____ men.
9. At the beginning of chapter 9, that number is down to _____ men.
10. The men get “liberty” in Vancouver. Where do Johnnie, “Kitten” Smith and Pat Leivy go?

Starship Troopers pages 161-180

Day 9

1. By the end there are _____ who graduate in Johnnie’s regiment.
2. What do they practice at Camp Sergeant Spooky Smith?
3. “Willie’s Wildcats” wear skull & bone earrings. Explain a bit.
4. While Johnnie’s been in training, a war has begun. Tell what we know.
5. How did Operation Bughouse fare? Tell about it.
6. What is Klendathu?
7. Briefly describe Dutch Bramburger.
8. Briefly describe General Diennes.
9. Briefly describe “Red” Greene.
10. Comment on Heinlein’s use of Thomas Jefferson at the beginning of Chapter 10. “The tree of Liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots.” Do you agree?

Starship Troopers pages 181-200

Day 10

1. “It was the happiest period of my life...” (p. 182) Describe this period.
2. What happened to make it the “worst time in all my life”? (p. 182)
3. What happened to Buenos Aires?
4. Who did Johnnie lose in Buenos Aires?
5. How did Lieutenant Raszak die?
6. How did the Roughnecks handle his death?

7. Why do Ace & Johnnie fight in the washroom?
8. Why was the Terran Federation losing the war? What were they up against?
9. Cherenkov drive, generators are mentioned. What is this?
10. Sanctuary – what is it?

Starship Troopers pages 201-220

Day 11

1. Why does Johnnie like Espiritu Santo, Sanctuary so much?
2. What does Ace get Johnnie thinking about in Chapter 11? What does Johnnie suddenly decide to do?
3. How do people in this society get suffrage? Who has the right to vote?
4. Johnnie runs into a very familiar corporal. Who is it? What's the news?
5. What do the following acronyms in the novel mean?
M.I.
O.C.S.

Starship Troopers pages 221-240

Day 12

1. Tell a little about Johnnie's experience in O.C.S. Officer Candidate School.
2. Tell a little about his instructors and coaches.
3. Ensign Carmencita Ibañez. Describe.
4. What happened to Johnnie's friend, Carl?
5. Best class – the only one worth mentioning, according to Johnnie: _____ Tell about it.
6. Major Reid is a tough, smart instructor. Describe.
7. What happened to San Francisco & the San Joaquin Valley?
8. Johnnie's class debates & discusses several heavy topics. What do they say about suffrage, franchise, the vote?
9. Reid argues for an all-volunteer force. Why?
10. What do the officer candidates do for their semifinal exam?

Starship Troopers pages 241-260

Day 13

1. The candidates are given temporary commissions of third lieutenant. According to Colonel Nielssen, why is the line of command so important? Summarize a bit of his speech here, and later, what advice does Colonel Nielssen give Hassan, Rico & Byrd as they prepare for their apprentice mission?
2. What information is unsettling to Rico? (p. 242-243)
3. What is required of all officers? The "unbreakable rule." (p. 245)
4. The "pips" are kind of a big deal. Tell about the Colonel issuing the pips to Hassan, Byrd & Rico.
5. Describe Byrd a bit. What happened to "Birdie"?

Starship Troopers pages 258-280

Day 14

1. A little bit of competition exists between Navy & Army. Explain.
2. What is special about having women on Navy transports?
3. Describe Captain Blackstone a bit. "Blackie."
4. Describe Captain Jorgenson a bit. "Skipper."
5. What is the root of the M.I. morale? How & Why does this work?
6. What percentage of M.I. are officers? What is the philosophy behind this?
7. Tell about Johnnie's experience with the Brumby situation.
8. With what academic subject does Johnnie still struggle?
9. Johnnie is very busy. Tell a bit about his experience.
10. Do you think Rico is shaping up to be a good officer? Explain.

Starship Troopers pages 281-300

Day 15

1. What is the schedule Captain Blackstone lays out for Johnnie? Why? (p. 281-282)
2. What's the situation at Planet P when Johnnie's transport makes rendezvous with it? (p. 282-283, 290)
3. (C in C = Commander in Chief.) What is the C-in-C's plan for Planet P? (p. 283-284)
4. What have they learned about the Bugs, the Skinnies, throughout the war so far? (p. 284-286, 291)
5. How is Operation Royalty going so far? Describe Johnnie's experience on the surface. (p. 287-300)

Starship Troopers pages 301-335

Day 16

1. A special unit is on the surface. Describe the “talent” or the “senser” and tell his purpose. (p. 300-302)
2. The frying bacon noise appears on pages 303, 310, 312, 314 and more. What is it?
3. What’s the plan? What is Johnnie’s job? What is the goal in this operation? (p. 304, 311)
4. Sleep? In an armored suit? How does that work? Tell about it. (p. 304-308)
5. “...everything happened at once.” (p. 314) Describe the “everything” and the engagement with the enemy. (p. 315-321)
6. Where does Johnnie go? Why? Is he successful? What are the results? (p. 321-328)
7. How does Johnnie feel about Operation Royalty? What does he do after his recovery? (p. 328-329)
8. At the end of Chapter 13, we learn that Juan Rico is Filipino when he says, “Tagalog. My native language.” The characters throughout the novel have very diverse names and backgrounds. What are we to assume has happened to Earth’s country borders, language differences, government variations and racial inequalities in this future “Terran Federation” Heinlein has imagined? Describe, comment, analyze.
9. Where is Johnnie’s home now? (p. 331-332)
10. What do you think will happen in Lieutenant Rico’s future?