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QUIN ACTIVE READING

LEVEL 3

# Logan's Run

William F. Nolan and George Clayton Johnson



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### 1.1 What's the book about?

- Look at the picture on the front cover of the book. Then read the information about the story on the back cover. Is this book (✓):
  - a detective story?
  - a love story?
  - a science fiction story?
- These words are important in the story. Check their meanings at the bottom of the pages in Chapters 1 and 2. Then match the words to the sentences.

chase	hell	maze	muscle	net
	palm	sanctuary	violence	

- You can lose your way in this. .....
- Dogs often do this to cats. .....
- You can catch fish in this. .....
- These are parts of your body. .....
- This is a part of your body. .....
- This isn't a good place. .....
- Guns or knives are often used for this. .....

### 1.2 What happens first?

- Read the chapter titles, and the words in *italics* on pages 2 and 4. Then look at the pictures on pages 3 and 11. What do you think? Discuss these questions.
  - Why is the girl afraid?
  - Who is the dead man? Who killed him and why?
  - What is Last Day?
- There are some words in the story, in *italics*, that you won't find in a dictionary. Look at these examples. Guess the meanings of the words.
  - Logan shot a *nitro* into the group and killed three of them.
  - A police *paravane* landed silently near the man.
  - He walked to the *communideck*, put the key in, and turned it. The screen lit up ...

*The problems started one hot summer in the 1960s. Angry young people around the world wanted older people and governments to know how they felt. In Washington D.C., and in other cities, there was **violence** in the streets and in colleges.*

*Young Americans wanted change.*

*By the 1970s, 75% of the people on Earth were less than twenty-one years old.*

*The number of young people continued to grow.*

*In the 1980s, they were 79.7% of the population.*

*In the 1990s, 82.4%.*

*In the year 2000, almost 100%.*

## The Chase

*In the moonlight she saw the face of a Sandman—his cold eyes, his hard mouth.  
His finger moved and she heard the gun explode.*

The girl's eyes were wild with fear. They shone out of her dirty face. Her knees were covered in blood from the fall. She had a sharp pain in her side from running. But she ran.

There was a high lovers' moon and the night was full of dark shadows. The shadows followed her. The shadows could kill her.

When did she cross the river? Was it last night or the night before? Where was she now? She didn't know. To her right she could see a high wall. A **Nursery**. Maybe her baby was there! She moved to the left, into the night-black between buildings. She came to another wall. She turned around. Should she go back across the river again? She had to continue but she wanted to rest. She *needed* to rest.

Wait! She heard a noise. Someone was there in the shadows.

It was a Sandman\*!

A silent scream went through her.

She tried to climb the wall. She tried to lift her tired body up. "Please! Please!" But she couldn't do it. The wall was too high. She fell onto the ground, crying.

She sat there and looked at the **palm** of her right hand. A black flower shone there. A few days ago, the light from the flower was a warm blood-red; seven years before that, it was sky-blue, and seven years before that it was sun-yellow. A different color for each seven years of her life. Now she was twenty-one and the flower was black. Sleep black. Death black.

The man moved toward her in the dark. She looked at her palm, because her future and her past were written there. All of her fears and hopes were there. In the past, **Sanctuary** was her hope—her dream. She didn't want to die like the others. She didn't want Sleep. She wanted to live. But that was impossible. There was no hope now.

The man stood over her. She didn't look up. She knew that it was the end. And so she dreamed. She was not there—a criminal, hated and **terrified**. She

\* Sandman: a man in children's stories who brings sleep and happy dreams. In this story, Sandmen bring death.

**nursery** /'nɜːsəri/ (n) a place where young children are looked after by adults

**palm** /pɑːm/ (n) the inside part of your hand

**sanctuary** /'sæŋktʃuəri/ (n) a safe place that protects people from danger

**terrified** /'terəfaɪd/ (adj) very afraid

was in Sanctuary. It was a warm summer's afternoon. She was lying in the long grass, looking up at the clear blue sky. She wasn't thinking about time. There was no time in this world. No worry.

So why did her hand move to the knife under her clothes? Why did she want to push that knife into her heart? Why?

The man pointed a gun at her.

The *homer!*

In the moonlight she saw the face of the Sandman—his cold eyes, his hard mouth. His finger moved and she heard the gun **explode**. That was the last sound that she heard. Then there was only pain—terrible, unimaginable pain.

It was *the end*.



**explode** /ɪk'spləʊd/ (v) to make a sudden, loud noise before something breaks into pieces. A gas *explosion* can destroy a house.



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# an's Run

William F. Nolan and George Clayton Johnson

American English

*Contemporary*

Logan has to die. That is the law in this world of the future. Young people enjoy themselves in ways that will shock some readers now. But at the age of 21 their lives must end. Logan has always policed this law—but is there any other way?

*Number of words (excluding activities): 17,291*

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