

## ***Omnivore's Dilemma* Part IV Discussion Questions.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Many of the following questions ask you to combine details from the book with your own opinions and insights. In answering these questions you should use details from the text. Some of the questions will ask you to compare the author's opinion with your own.

K. p239-240. What is the difference between being a "passive consumer" and an "active eater"? How does the author become more of an active eater? What could you do to become a more active eater?

L. p245. Explain what the phrase "nature is an enormous restaurant" means. How does looking for food change the way the author views the forest? Describe a time when you saw nature or the forest differently.

M. p253. Look at the side bar. If you had to alter your diet, which one of these eating habits would you adopt? Why? Which one of these seems the least appealing?

N. p256-257. Explain the title of this section. List three things that business is blind to. Identify one thing that it is NOT blind to. Explain the sentence "Morality just doesn't enter into a spreadsheet." What can young people do today to become less "blind"?

O. p257. For the section "Animal Happiness," someone suggested an alternative title, "Let's Make a Deal." Why might this be a good alternative? What does "domesticated animal" mean?

P. p260. The title of this section is actually a question. How does the author answer the question? How did becoming a vegetarian change his outlook? Now compare this with the heading on p264. Explain the title. Why do you have to *look* (265)? What do you see when you *look* (266)? Do you think you could become a vegetarian?

Q. p267, "A Walk in the Woods" and p272, "Hunter's Eye." How does hunting change your perceptions? Complete this analogy – hiking : hunting :: spectator : \_\_\_\_\_ :: \_\_\_\_\_ : native.

R. p279. The author sees the dead pig "lying on the dirt in a widening circle of blood." Describe three emotions the author feels. Which one of these is the most surprising? What emotion did the author NOT feel? p283-284.

How do the author's feelings change in this section? What does he learn on p284. Could you kill a pig the way the author did, and if so, what emotions would you probably feel?

S. p298-299. Explain the title "Down in the Mud." What is the "pop-out effect"? Have you ever experienced something similar?

p300. List three differences between a forest and a garden. If you could own a forest or a large garden, which would you choose?

T. p303. Why does the author lie "through [his] teeth"? Should he have lied? Have you ever lied when you did not really have to? If so, why do you suppose you did that?

U. \*p304-305. Pollan made rules for himself for the "perfect meal." I can understand having to follow someone else's rules. Why would you impose rules upon yourself? If no one else is forcing you to follow a rule, why limit yourself to *any* rules? Why not do whatever you want and be more spontaneous and creative? (Think of other examples in the book where someone is creating a rule for himself.) Think of this again in high school when you read *The Great Gatsby*.

V. p312-314. Look at Pollan's schedule. On p313 he says, "Why in the world was I going to quite this much trouble?" In answer to his own question, he gives two reasons. Have you ever taken a great deal of trouble and effort to accomplish something when you did not really have to? Have you ever done more work on a task even when no one was forcing you to? If so, what were your reasons?

W. p304, 316-318. Pollan begins chapter 22 by admitting that the meal did not turn out as he hoped. Later, he explains that despite these shortcomings, it really was the perfect meal. If the meal wasn't perfect, then how can it be "the perfect meal"? Explain this paradox by giving Pollan's three reasons for describing it as the perfect meal. What is *your* idea of a perfect meal?

X. p319-320. Reread the last paragraph on p319 and p320. What does Pollan mean by, "Every meal would be like saying grace"?