Algernon's Chase Study guide

Intro

Algernon's Chase aims to introduce a literary dimension that is both intellectually stimulating and creatively engaging. This category aims to assess participants' literary analysis skills and strategic thinking through two distinct elimination rounds, with the first one being a written literary analysis challenge and the second being an interactive escape-the-room. In the first round, fifty percent of the teams will be eliminated; while in the second round, the winner takes all.

Round 1

Time- 1 hour 30 minutes
Delegate cap- 1 or 2 per team

For Round 1 of Algernon's Chase, participants will engage in a literary analysis challenge. Teams will be presented with a passage from the designated book, common for all participants. This will be accompanied by a prompt, upon which they will build their analysis. This will be an elimination round to gauge each team's analytical prowess and argumentative finesse.

Judging Criteria:
1. Analytical skill
2. Clarity of argument
3. Relevance to provided passage
4. Adherence to prompt
5. Originality and insight
6. Evidence and support
7. Quality of writing

Round 2

Time- 4 hours
Delegate cap- 2 to 4 per team

For Round 2, the category transitions into an interactive escape room. Throughout the round, team members will encounter Trolley Problem-esque decision points or puzzles. They will be presented with distinct strategic choices, and to navigate through the challenges by carefully selecting their course of action. For instance, they may opt for an easy question, restricting participation to one team member, or face a more challenging question with the entire team engaged. Delegates will be given, roughly, a 40 minutes time

limit to complete the escape-the-room.The team that manages to complete it in the shortest amount of time wins.

Judging Criteria:
1. Difficulty selected for questions
2. Time taken to finish
3. Number of questions answered correctly