

# THINK LIKE A ROCKET SCIENTIST

*Simple Strategies You Can Use to Make  
Giant Leaps in Work and Life*

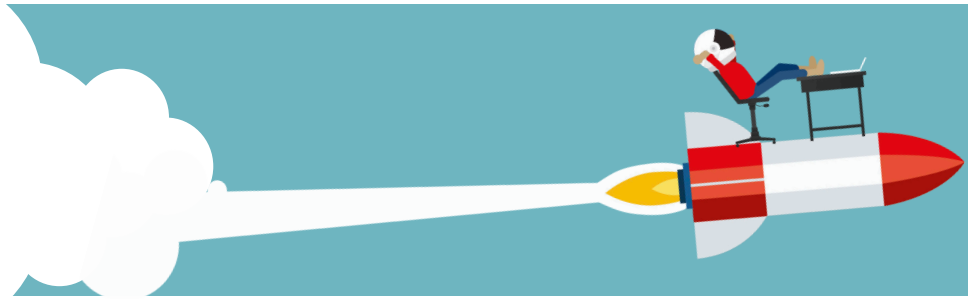
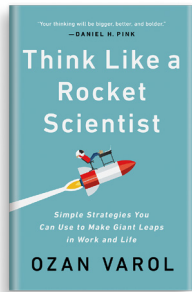
by Ozan Varol

**The  
Reading  
Group Guide**



[rocketsciencebook.com](http://rocketsciencebook.com)

# READING GROUP GUIDE



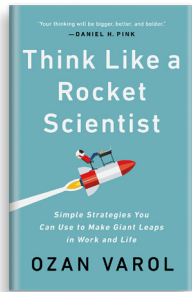
---

## General Questions about the book

---

- What did you expect from this book when you first began reading? How different were your expectations from what you found?
- How do you feel about Ozan's tone and writing style? Is there a good balance of material between the personal narration and the anecdotal accounts?
- If there was one thing you could change about this book, what would it be?
- If you could ask the author one question, what would that be? (Please email that question to him at [Ozan@OzanVarol.com](mailto:Ozan@OzanVarol.com)).
- How often did you recognize yourself in the pages of *Think Like a Rocket Scientist*? Which chapter or section was most relevant to you?
- What's your biggest takeaway from this book?
- Were there any ideas that you had difficulty accepting?
- What would you have liked to read more about?
- Who is the first person you would recommend *Think Like a Rocket Scientist* to, and why? (Please text or email them to recommend it to them!).

# READING GROUP GUIDE



---

## Chapter 1: Flying in the Face of Adversity

---

- Consider this quote: “Answers simply serve as a launch pad to discovery. They’re the beginning, not the end.” What does this mean to you? How does it relate to your life?
- How can you become “uncomfortably uncertain” instead of being “comfortably wrong”?

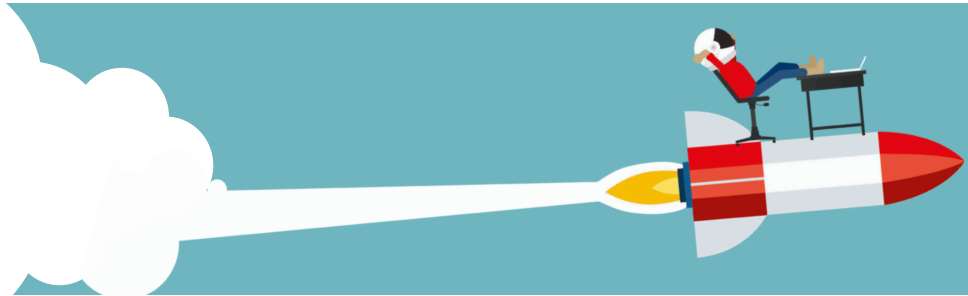
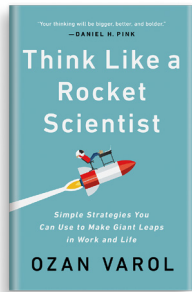
---

## Chapter 2: Reasoning from First Principles

---

- What cultural myths are most in need of an update?
- What in your life is “constrained by what you’ve done in the past”? How can you go about releasing that constraint, based on what you read in the book?

# READING GROUP GUIDE



---

## Chapter 3: A Mind at Play

---

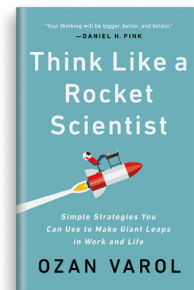
- Ozan writes: “Hustle and creativity are antithetical to each other.” How does this manifest itself in your life?
- How can you regain the innocence and wonderment that allows you to learn and grow through play once again?

---

## Chapter 4: Moonshot Thinking

---

- Where in your life could you employ moonshot thinking?
- Do you have ideas that seem too far-fetched to carry out, but you can’t stop thinking about them?
- What are the differences between “divergent” and “convergent” thinking? How does one feed into the other?



# READING GROUP GUIDE



---

## Chapter 5: What If We Sent Two Rovers Instead of One

---

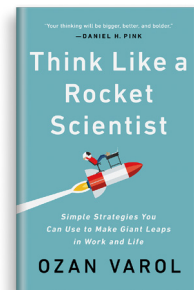
- Do you see yourself, or someone you know, in this Ozan observation: “Over time, we become a hammer, and every problem looks like a nail”.
- Compare the difference between “strategies” and “tactics.” What are the functions they serve, and when is it appropriate to use one instead of the other?
- To further illustrate the separation of form and function, choose a commonplace object in the room and discuss how many uses it has beyond that which was originally intended.

---

## Chapter 6: The Power of Flip-Flopping

---

- Why do we reward politicians for consistency?
- How do we separate facts from opinions in the news and social media today?
- How did you respond the last time someone challenged one of your convictions? Given what you read in the book, how would you change that response?
- What makes someone a good intellectual sparring partner for you?



# READING GROUP GUIDE



---

## Chapter 7: Test as You Fly, Fly as You Test

---

- Share an experience when you wish that you had used the “test as you fly” principle, and explain how you would have prepared differently.

---

## Chapter 8: Nothing Succeeds Like Failure

---

- What is your personal relationship with failure? What changes (if any) will you make to that relationship given what you read in this chapter?
- What’s the best lesson you’ve taken away from a failure?

---

## Chapter 9: Nothing Succeeds Like Failure

---

- How has our fascination with success benefited society, and how has it proven detrimental?
- Do you agree that success “drives a wedge between appearance and reality”?
- How can you experience success without becoming complacent at the same time?