## About the Author: L. Ron Hubbard



With 19 *New York Times* bestsellers and more than 325 million copies of his works in circulation, L. Ron Hubbard is among the most acclaimed and widely read authors of our time. As a leading light of American Pulp Fiction through the 1930s and '40s, he is further among the most influential authors of the modern age. Indeed, from Ray Bradbury to Stephen King, there is scarcely a master of imaginative tales who has not paid tribute to L. Ron Hubbard.

# About the Story

Mars, long since colonized by the more adventurous free-spirited peoples of Earth, is threatened with extinction due to an ongoing brutal crackdown engineered by the tyrannical government of Earth.

In an attempt to avoid complete annihilation of his fellow colonists, Firstin Guide sets out on a death-defying mission into outerspace to locate a star with a planet that will sustain human

life. Unfortunately, the success of the mission does not quench Guide's thirst for revenge, which sends him crashing headlong into the laws of physics.

But in breaking the laws of physics will the tough, fearless Captain Guide get burned?



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# **Reading Discussion Guide**

# **Beyond All Weapons** by L. Ron Hubbard

### **Questions for Discussion**

- **1.** The person in charge has the group read the glossary, a word at a time, encouraging anyone who wished to discuss any of the words to raise their hand. Once the glossary has been completed and all have been given the opportunity to discuss any definition they wish, the group is advised to note down any word he or she does not understand so they can be looked up in a dictionary at the end of the reading.
- **2.** The opening paragraphs of *Beyond All Weapons* describe a situation well into the future, where Mars has been colonized and has revolted due to taxes and embargoes. Can you think of similar situations which have occurred in past history and what human traits do you think are at work here?
- **3.** The newly-formed Mars colony was said to have been "braver than she was sensible." Explain this statement and give some specific examples of times you have seen, heard or read about similar situations.
- 4. Knowing what you know of Mars today (which was not known when this story was written), how hard do you think it would be to colonize it and do you feel it could be done in the near or far future?
- **5.** Captain Guide's "attitude, his casualness, drove away the terrible question marks posed by the plan." Do you think this calm and casual attitude was a good thing or a bad thing and why?
- 6. Captain Guide confessed to knowing no more than the others, whether they could break "the wall" or know what lays ahead of them en route to Alpha Centauri, then adds, "An unknown and even dangerous adventure is preferable to a sordid certainty." Do you agree or disagree? Explain why?

- 7. Do you think that it is possible to go faster than the speed of light (186,000 miles per second), which would be necessary to reach another galaxy? Give your reasoning.
- 8. How do you think the average person reading this story in the 1940s would have reacted to the concept of other habitable planets existing in other galaxies?
- **9.** After accepting Captain Guide's plan, it states that "High purpose and higher resolve stirred them." Give some examples of times when you have either experienced this phenomenon yourself or seen it demonstrated in others.
- **10.** What would cause the planet they had landed on and were working on to have a twenty-six hour day?
- 11. What did you first think had happened when they reached New York and read the plaque seeing it was not written in Nordic or any other American script, also not European or English?
- **12.** While reading the story did you ever predict the outcome of what they would find when they returned to Earth?
- **13.** Can you get the concept of looking out at a star in the far-off universe and know that even though you can see it in the present, the star may no longer exist?
- **14.** What part of *Beyond All Weapons* left the biggest impression with you?

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