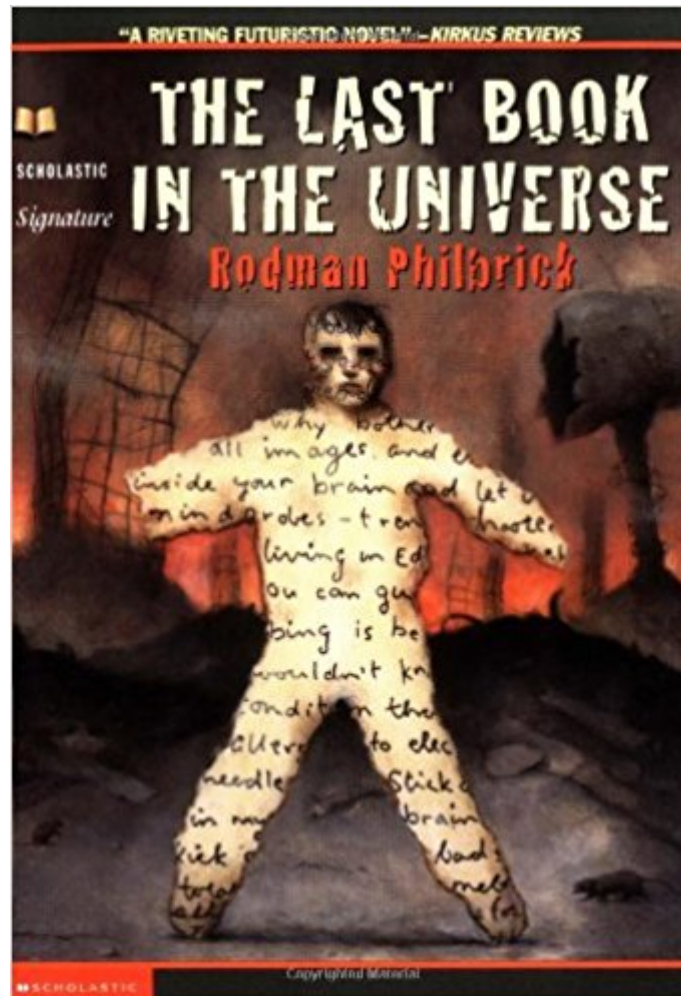




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# The Last Book In The Universe



## Synopsis

This fast-paced action novel is set in a future where the world has been almost destroyed. Like the award-winning novel *Freak the Mighty*, this is Philbrick at his very best. It's the story of an epileptic teenager nicknamed Spaz, who begins the heroic fight to bring human intelligence back to the planet. In a world where most people are plugged into brain-drain entertainment systems, Spaz is the rare human being who can see life as it really is. When he meets an old man called Ryter, he begins to learn about Earth and its past. With Ryter as his companion, Spaz sets off an unlikely quest to save his dying sister -- and in the process, perhaps the world.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 740 (What's this?)

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Blue Sky Press (March 1, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0439087597

ISBN-13: 978-0439087599

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 5.2 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 203 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #17,923 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Diseases & Physical Ailments > Epilepsy](#) #154 in [Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction](#) #528 in [Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

"Philbrick's latest misfit protagonist embarks on an adventure in a fantastic and often frightening alternative world," said PW. "The creation of a futuristic dialect, combined with striking descriptions of a postmodern civilization, will convincingly transport readers." Ages 10-14. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Grade 6-9-Following the Big Shake, which destroyed most of civilization, a small group of individuals (the "proofs") retreated to Eden, learned how to improve themselves genetically, and

sealed their environment off from the sprawling ruins inhabited by the remaining normals. Plagued by genetic defects, a toxic environment, and illnesses, normals like Spaz live in the Urb at the mercy of latch-bosses and their gangs. Spaz knows that his survival depends on Billy Bizmo and the Bully Bangers, so when they send him to rob an old man, he obeys. Ryter willingly surrenders his few possessions except for the pages of the book he is writing-the first time Spaz has seen anything like this. And when the boy sets out to find Bean, his dying foster sister, Ryter insists on accompanying him. Along the way, they are joined by Lanaya, a proov, and Little Face, an orphan. Finding Bean is hard enough; helping her appears to be impossible, until Lanaya takes the motley group back to Eden and confronts the rulers with the truth about the outside world. This is science fiction, not a fairy tale, and everyone does not live happily ever after... Also, the science part of this sci-fi is vague. However, readers who don't examine it too closely will be caught up in the novel. There is definitely room for a sequel...Susan L. Rogers, Chestnut Hill Academy, PA Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Purchased this book for my daughter as it was a required book for her class at school. My review will be on the book itself, as I have not read it, but will update this review with her perspective of the book's story when she has completed it. We decided to go with the paperback version and it is great quality and if taken care of, should last a good while. I am not sure what the library binding version does or looks like but it was cheaper but in the end, we decided to go with paperback. Got this book quick and in perfect condition.

I bought this for my students to use in a read along in class. The kids loved it. There was much to discuss and the journey of the main character was fun to follow. I wish there was a sequel to this book because I know my students would love to read it as a class. This was the first book I've ever used as a read along in class and it was a fantastic experience. Many of them read ahead because they were hooked and then they fidgeted in their seats knowing what was ahead. That was funny to watch!

Our granddaughter has to read this for school, nearly done and has really enjoyed it.

Most of the popular dystopian novels for younger readers that I have read recently rely most heavily on adventure/action. Think Hunger Games or Maze Runner and the like. And, they are fine books. This one is different. It is much more like a quest novel, with a thoughtful calm overriding everything

else. Sure, there are dangers, and escapes, and close calls, and villainous enemies, but no attempt is made to make any of that feel truly threatening. And there is no heroic derring-do; not a single hero ever lays a hand on a single bad guy. The good guys talk, they reason, they argue, they convince, they show the other guys a "better way", and so they win out. This is a slim book. The alt-world is just sketched in. The plot is sort of obvious. The characters don't exactly break new ground. But, you know, you could almost say the same thing about "1984" or "Brave New World". So, a young reader's book of ideas, (equality, planning for the future, caring for others, individuality, sacrifice, nobility, loyalty, respect, dignity), wrapped up as an adventure story. Not bad. (By the way, if you sample the first chapter, bear in mind that this book takes a little time to get going, so the sample will give you a good idea of the writing style and the vocabulary, but not so much the eventual story.)

For my son. For his Gate class reading for Summer.

love this book

I read this book when i was just a boy. I had to buy it and read it again. Fast paced. Interesting read

This book is used in our sixth grade reading class. It is perfect for discussions, symbolism, characterization, and for "hooking" every student!Awesome plot set in the future and well worth reading, even for an adult!

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