

Where Am I?

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Daniel Dennett currently teaches philosophy at Tufts University and serves as the director of the Center for Cognitive Studies. He has published numerous articles, anthologies, and books on the philosophy of mind.

This essay is from a collection of his essays entitled *Brainstorms: Philosophical Essays on Mind and Psychology*. In it he explores a landscape of thought experiments regarding the self and mind in a science-fiction setting. In doing so, he carefully examines notions of the self in regards to both space (location) and time, further illuminating just what it means to locate the "I," or self.

Reading Questions

1. What problem arises for Dennett when his brain is taken from his body? What are the pros and cons he gives regarding the three scenarios with Hamlet and Yorick?
2. What happens that causes Dennett to change his point of view from his no longer being buried alive in Oklahoma to his actually *being* in Houston? How does this lead him to believing to have proved the existence of an immaterial soul?
3. Explain what happens in the end when he flips the switch for the last time.