

Reading Guide

Newearth: A Hero's Crime

Secondary

- 1.** There are three main plot lines developed throughout *Newearth: A Hero's Crime* which are anchored by their settings. What are the three main settings, and how does each plot tie in to each place? How do the characters reflect their environments in each of the three threads woven through the story?
- 2.** Taug and Faye are different species of beings yet they have a close relationship. That is true for many of the characters in the novel. What kind of personal traits do they show to help them overcome their innate differences, allowing for healthy interactions and the ability to challenge each other's weaknesses?
- 3.** Cerulean is not the hero of the story, though he acts in a heroic manner. Are there any heroes in the novel? Can the hero role be shared?
- 4.** Though the idea of a planet eating monster seems far-fetched, are there equivalent horrors in real life that could threaten our entire planetary population? What other threats are being faced in the novel? Even if a problem does not endanger an entire planet, can it seem just as important on the personal level?
- 5.** Who was Dr. Jazzmarie? Was she a complex character or just a deceitful one? What was her relationships with the others on board like? Who were some other complex characters in the novel?

Adult/Book Clubs

- 1.** Theoretically, Max is not human, yet he develops a human personality. Could a human being grow inside a mechanical armature? Would he or she be truly human?
- 2.** Abbas took responsibility for his son's actions by taking over Mirage Reborn. How do you see Abbas? Should parents deal with the fall out of their child's behavior? Who are the other "parental" figures in the novel, and how are they taking responsibility for situations they did not cause?
- 3.** When Justine interfered with the mean girl on the playground, how did you feel? Was she right? Are there other occasions when a "bully" needs to be stopped? How does that play out in the novel as compared to real life?

4. Riko deals with several complicated relationships that he manages to balance gracefully. How does he do it? What is your reaction to Riko? Who else is managing delicate relationships?

5. Gary Nelson and Quinn are antagonists, yet they are quite different characters. Do either of them have redeeming factors? Can a character do evil yet still be considered “good?” Any examples in the novel?

Paperback/Journal Reflections

- Who is the most heroic character in a *Newearth A Hero's Crime*? Why do I think so? Or are the heroic figures all equal in the story? Could they be heroic without each other?
- What character did I dislike the most? Did he or she remind me of someone?
- Several characters seem to be developing toward their full potential. Am I becoming a fuller human being as I grow older?
- What part of the novel struck me the most vividly? Why?
- Wendell is an innocent character, yet he seems to be wise in a way few understand. Have I ever known anyone like that? How do I account for their perceptive wisdom?
- Zara is a child, yet she can be very dangerous. What makes her so dangerous beyond her physical strength? Is there anyone in real life she reminds me of? Why?
- There are several unfolding mysteries in the story. What does the idea of mystery mean to me? What images come to mind? Are they pleasant or unpleasant? Why?
- Chas is unique on many levels, not the least being his size. Have I ever known someone who struck me as completely original? Or have I known several people who stood out from the crowd? Did I wish I was like them or not?
- What character do I feel I understand the best? Why? Do certain characters help me discern the best in myself?
- Vera's life has been severely affected by judgements based on exterior qualities. Have I been judged unfairly? Are blanket judgements blocking me from really getting to know anyone authentically?