

Reading Guide

Newearth Justine Awakens

Secondary

1. *Newearth Justine's Awakens* main plot centers on the developing humanity of Justine; an android embedded with a human embryo by a mysterious alien with an exaggerated sense of his own importance. With medical technology developing at a rate nearly beyond comprehension, is the possibility of a human being housed in a mechanical armature something to seriously consider? What might be the ramifications for the future of the human race?
2. There have been many theories throughout the ages suggesting where higher sensibilities such as love, devotion, and a sense of right and wrong actually develop in the human person. Are these manifestations of the human experience located in the human body? Or could they develop from a hidden soul? Could a mechanical body have a soul?
3. Cerulean and Justine have a precariously balanced relationship. Why is it so complicated? Have they found a productive way to manage their interactions or is something missing?
4. Clare expresses unguarded animosity toward Justine. What might be the deeper reasons than her excuse that Justine is a mere "robot?"
5. The *Newearth* world reflects the complexities of various beings interacting on a planet that once belonged to the human race. Does the creation of such a varied population increase the likelihood of fracturing or hold the possibility of a unique development among sentient beings?

Adult/Book Clubs

1. Love relationships abound throughout *Newearth Justine Awakens*. What are a few that resonated with you? Why did they stand out? Were they reflecting relationships in real life or dreams of a particular kind of love relationship?
2. One character that readers follow and get to know, even care about, dies in the story. Was it necessary? Why might the author have allowed this character to die?
3. Omega considers himself to be Justine's father. In his developing self-reflection, he comes to understand that he might have done an injustice to

Justine when he sent her out into the world as he did. He tries to make up for what could be perceived as callous cruelty by giving Justine a child. What is wrong with his reasoning? Could an advanced, intelligent being be so unwise?

4. Who are some of your favorite characters in the novel? Why? Do they remind you of someone or do you wish you could meet someone like them?

5. The novel ends with Cerulean circling back to his lost love from the previous novel, but also sets up the next crisis. Does life reflect that cycle of endings, reflecting back on them on deeper levels, and then new adventures calling us forward? What real life endings and beginnings does this remind you of?

Paperback/Journal Reflections

- What character did you sympathize with the most? Why?
- What character did you dislike the most? Did he or she remind you of someone?
- Can the notion of identifying who is truly human be applied in our world today?
- What part of the novel struck you the most vividly? Why?
- Bala and his wife contrast sharply with most of the other characters. Were they believable? Did their relationship seem possible?
- Considering the loss of fertility in *Last of Her Kind*, does the idea of large families in the future seem plausible? Considering the planetary situation with humans in the minority, would large families be desirable?
- There are several mysteries in the story. Did you enjoy that experience of being as in the dark as the characters? Or did you want to know what had happened before they did?
- Taug, as a Cresta scientist, changes dramatically through the novel. His relationship with Faye calls forth a level of compassion that he may never have realized that he possessed. Has this kind of dramatic change ever happened to someone you know?
- There is a pervading theme of past issues keeping characters from flourishing. Are there any issues from the past that hold you back today?
- Judging others and ourselves based on exterior qualities and expectations set up many of the conflicts. Are your judgements blocking you from really getting to know certain people authentically?