

Reading Guide

OldEarth Georgios Encounter

Elementary

- 1** The novel, *OldEarth Georgios Encounter*, is set on the island of Patmos. Where is Patmos, and why was it significant in history?
- 2** Georgios had a mixed heritage, Greek, Roman, and Jewish. Would that have been common in the first century? Why or why not?
- 3** As a Celtic trader, Seanan has no reason to care about Georgios, yet he does. When learning Seanan's back story, are plausible reasons for his interest in Georgios revealed? What is one reason?
- 4** Gutun is a Celtic priest who uses faith in the occult to control his clan. Why did people listen to him? Where did his true power come from?
- 5** Aliens observing Georgios have their own thoughts on human behavior. Could their judgments be fair, considering they don't really understand what it is to be human? Might they see what humanity cannot?

Secondary

- 1** Why does Georgios run away from his grandparents' home? How do the trials and adventures he goes on change him? Is he a better person for them? How so?
- 2** Why is Georgios' relationship with his father so complicated? Several other men shape Georgios' future. Who are they, and what influence do they have over him?
- 3** Who is one of the most significant female characters in the novel? Why do you think so?
- 4** How does faith in God and faith in the occult play out in the novel? Do the different relationships lead to logical ends?
- 5** Who is your favorite alien character? Why? What sets him or her apart from the rest?

Adult/Book Clubs

- 1** There are several complicated relationships in the novel. They all change in some way. What relationship appealed to you the most?
- 2** Identify some of the greatest dangers facing Georgios. Are they all physical? Can emotional, psychological, or spiritual crises be just as dangerous as physical danger? How?
- 3** Though father and sons are focused on throughout the novel, do mothers and daughters face the same challenges, or is there an inherent difference in how feminine relationships are portrayed?
- 4** Does faith in God or the occult change the trajectory of the story? Does faith in either seem realistic?
- 5** Who were the most significant alien characters? Did they reveal anything about the human race that humanity might want to seriously consider?

Paperback/Journal Reflections

- 1** Is there a character in the story you wish you could meet in real life? Who and why?
- 2** How would I have handled a surprise revelation about my ancestry? Would it make a difference in how I see myself? Do I wish I had a different ancestry? Why?
- 3** Did any of Georgios' struggles with his father or father figures in the novel seem especially real to me? Did I relate to the parent-child relationships as the parent or the child? Both?
- 4** How did the occult aspects of the novel hit me? Did it seem funny, scary, or impossible to take seriously? How does Georgios' developing faith in God tie into his understanding of fatherhood?
- 5** Do I ever feel that I am being judged by an alien race and found wanting? How about supernatural assistance? What does faith in the supernatural realm mean to me? Is my faith centered on a particular religion, or is there more to supernatural reality than I can explain or define?