

Reading Guide

Homestead

Secondary

- 1 There are several crises happening at once in *Homestead*. Which one is the most serious? Why do you think so?
- 2 Rosie's neighbors have different reactions than she does at several points. What are some of their differences? What accounts for the different reactions?
- 3 The idea that aliens have existed on earth for a long time is not a new one. What do you make of that concept? Is it an attractive thought that explains some of the mysteries around humanity or is a deplorable possibility that could rip society apart?
- 4 Who is your favorite character? Why?
- 5 If there were a technological breakdown in the world today, how differently do you imagine that your family, neighbors, and community would respond?

Adult/Book Clubs

- 1 Part of the story flows around Rosie's internal development as a human being. Do you think she becomes a better person by the end? Why or why not?
- 2 What mistakes does Rosie make throughout the course of events? What could she have done differently?
- 3 If aliens, or even half aliens, showed up claiming that they had the same rights as human beings, would you agree? Why or why not?
- 4 Who from the story would you like to meet in person? What would you do with him or her?
- 5 Though events turn out better than they could have, there are several unfixable situations. Does it seem fair and just that the characters move on with their lives as they do?

Paperback/Journal Reflections

- 1 Throughout the story, Rosie must contend with situations outside her control. Does she handle them well? How would I have handled it if I were in a similar situation?
- 2 Was there any part of the story I could visualize very well? Why is that? What does it tell me about my life?

3 If I could spend time with one of the characters and be truly honest with him or her, who would it be? Why? Do I have anyone in my life I feel I could share my thoughts with in the same way? Who? Do I need to find someone who can play that role with me? Can I be that person for someone else?

4 Rosie has to face some of the mistakes she has made in life, things she feels she could have done better. It is part of her healing to come to terms with that part of herself. Could I ever do something similar?

5 Contrary to some science fiction, could I entertain the idea that alien life wants to see humanity succeed? Do I believe that humanity deserves to succeed? What do I wish for the human race, no matter what it might deserve?