

Reading Guide

Newearth Progeny

Elementary (Junior High)

- 1** Why does Bala ask for Clare's help? What upsets him? Is his reaction to the Spare Parts Shop reasonable?
- 2** What does Clare long to have? How does Taug offer to help? Does their "arrangement" seem reasonable?
- 3** What does Taug do that upsets Clare? Why is she bothered by a second baby? Did Taug have a right to do what he did?
- 4** Why is the Ingot race so interested in the biomb technology? What part does Gavin, as a Tabunite, play in the unfolding plot?
- 5** What characters do you enjoy getting to know? Why? Who do you dislike? Why?

Secondary (High School)

- 1** What is the main plot of the story? How does Clare's work partner, Bala, play into the unfolding drama?
- 2** Why does Cerulean care about the situation? Who are two other side characters who play major roles in the conflict? Why are they important?
- 3** How do the Ingots view the biomb technology? Why do they care about it?
- 4** What do the Tabunites have to do with the situation? Is Gavin's reaction reasonable?
- 5** Who are your favorite characters? Why? If you were to write the next part, what would happen in the immediate future?

Adult/Book Clubs

- 1** Having a child changes a person in countless ways. Does Clare react to her situation reasonably? How does her relationship with Kendra affect her? How does Kendra really feel about Clare?
- 2** Bala and Kendra's relationship with their children is set against Clare's relationship with her sons. How do they compare?

3 Who are the upstanding characters in the story? Why do you think so? Are those characters who make bad choices true villains? Do real villains actually exist? Or are villains just mixed-up and misunderstood human beings?

4 The Inter-Alien Alliance struggles to make laws to adequately deal with the volatile medical technology landscape. Who bears responsibility for Newearth society ills? Can any “person,” be it a politician or a high-ranking alien, take that role and be successful?

5 If you could have lunch with some of the characters at the café, who would you invite? Why?

Paperback/Journal Reflections

1 Reflecting on Clare’s confusion over her relationship with her parents and sons, how do I feel about my relationship with my parents and/or children? Is it possible to truly understand each other?

2 Considering several of the confused adult children in the story, when a child makes a terrible decision, are the parents partially to blame? How do I feel about shared guilt when a family member gets into trouble?

3 Bala and his wife must deal with loss on many levels. Do they handle it well? Who or what supports them? Are they able to support others in turn? Who is my support in troubled times?

4 Which characters offered hope in humanity? How did they do that? Who was scary? Why did he or she scare me?

5 If I lived in this story, who would I hang around with? What would we do together? What would the day after the book ends look like?