

Reading Guide

Newearth Relevance

Elementary (Junior High)

- 1** Who was Relevance, and what was his passion in life?
- 2** Relevance was created as part of a laboratory experiment. How does that affect his decisions in life?
- 3** Who is your favorite Animant character in the story? Why?
- 4** Poor choices can lead to bad outcomes. How is this illustrated in the novel? Do you think this is always true? Why or why not?
- 5** Which characters changed the most? Who did you trust? Why?

Secondary (High School)

- 1** Was Relevance a conflicted soul? If so, about what?
- 2** How does Relevance's relationships with his mother, brother, and humanity, in general, affect his life?
- 3** Are Animants possible in today's world? What should people do to regulate such experimentation, if any?
- 4** What happens to the people involved in the creation of Animants? Detail some of the variations of reactions and outcomes that result from the secret research.
- 5** Bala's family is directly affected by the experiments. Who helps him? Are all the outcomes for his family bad?

Adult/Book Clubs

- 1** How did Relevance's relationship with his mother influence his life?
- 2** Which characters do you trust the most in the novel? Why?
- 3** If Animants actually were created, should they have full legal rights as humans do? If not, how should they be treated?

4 The people who worked at LEAP Laboratory didn't all feel the same about the experiments. Who changed the most? How?

5 Family identity is a core issue in the novel. How is that illustrated in Bala's family?

Paperback/Journal Reflections

1 How did my relationship with my mother compare to Relevance's? Are there healing issues that need to be addressed?

2 What role does Cerulean play in Clare's life? Do I have anyone in my life like that? Am I that person for anyone else?

3 The creation of Animans brings up the legal issue of who gets to decide who is human and how human rights are defined. How do I feel about a sub-creation getting human rights? How does the novel enlighten or conflict with my feelings on the subject?

4 Bala has to deal with his children's involvement in LEAP Laboratory, which creates a family crisis. Are any resolved? Which family member interests you the most? Why?

5 Which characters do I relate to the most? Why? How do I feel about their lives?