



We're Not From Here

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Tome Society It List Discussion Guide



Pre-reading questions

1. This book is set in space in the future. Do you like reading science fiction books or books that deal with space travel?
2. The back of the book says the Zhuri are “not big fans of: singing, jokes, emotions, and us.” What are your predictions about why the Zhuri do not like those things?
3. Lan’s family and all the other humans have to leave Earth because it was destroyed. They went to Mars and are now trying to go to Planet Choom. If you couldn’t leave Earth, what would your ideal planet be like?

Post-reading questions

1. The author specifically chose not to reveal if Lan is a boy or a girl. Did you picture a boy or a girl while you were reading the book? Why do you think the author chose to write the character this way?
2. Who were your favorite and least favorite characters? Why?
3. The Zhuri were very afraid of emotion and afraid of anyone disagreeing with each other. Do you think they were justified in their feelings based on the information they had about humans and their experiences with other alien races?
4. While on the spaceship, Ila just wants to hang out in her room and be alone. What feelings do you think she was experiencing? How do you think you would feel if you had to move to another planet?
5. Lan’s family is chosen to represent all of humanity to the aliens on Planet Choom. How would you feel if you and your family were chosen to do this job?
6. The Zhuri had really only seen the bad side of humanity through videos so they were scared. What are some awesome things humans do that you would make sure aliens knew about if you met them?
7. This book really takes a look at why different people may be afraid of each other - which really boils down to not knowing each other. What are some ways you can try to get to know people who are different from you in your community?

Post-reading activities

1. One of the major themes of this book is immigration and refugees. Do some research on this topic regarding how many people immigrate to the US, why people may be refugees, etc. Compile your research and create a Current Issues portfolio. Follow the guidelines at tomesociety.org/competitions to enter it into the Tome competition.
2. There are some really interesting descriptions of the aliens in the book. Choose one of the aliens and create a piece of art showing what you picture them to look like! Follow the competition guidelines and enter your creation into the Tome Fan Art competition.

More About This Book

Author’s Website: www.geoffrodkey.com

Publisher’s Discussion Guide:

https://images.randomhouse.com/promo_image/9781524773045_5544.pdf