

1. What would you miss first if you were to take shelter underground for the next six months? What would you miss most?
2. What would be the most important part of normal life or routine to preserve while living underground?
3. Wynter is at first entranced with the large LED screen in the “atrium” but later comes to nearly resent it. What do you think it represents in the story?
4. How do you think the other “Denizens” perceptions of Wynter change throughout the six months that they are sheltered underground?
5. The first third of the story contains a revelation about Chase. Do you think Wynter would have trusted or accepted him had he told her the truth earlier?
6. Many of the members of Noah’s “ark” are changed by the time the silo opens. Who seems the most so?
7. Wynter and Chase rescue a young man named Otto. What does Otto represent to this story?
8. Wynter reveals that she has never ridden a bike before. What have you never learned to do in your life that others seem to take for granted? Would you want to learn?
9. Wynter is ultimately forced to make a decision between trying to save Julie, uncertain if she’ll see the girls again, and staying with the girls at the cost of Julie’s life. Do you agree with her decision?
10. There are several images of “light” throughout the book. Can you pinpoint them, and what they meant at the points in the story where they appear?
11. How do the sick quarantined inside the hospital asylum represent a microcosm of those living in the world outside?
12. At one point in the story, Wynter worries that all the good is gone from the world and that it has become irredeemable. What “light” is she failing to take into account?
13. Once again, Wynter is called upon to help save humanity. How is this time different?
14. When Wynter arrives at the New Earth enclave she grew up in, it is markedly different. How do these differences represent a change from the New Earth of the beginning of the series? Are these changes sustainable?

Group activities:

- Order and share a MRE online or a package of pasta or another meal from a company such as Wise Food Storage to sample during your meeting.
- This book released two months before the first known cases of COVID-19, which was declared a pandemic short months later. How are events in the series similar to or different from how the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded?
- How do you believe an event such as a pandemic changes individuals, society, and countries in the aftermath?
- The silo bunker is based on similar luxury “doomsday bunkers” available for sale—some of which include LED “windows.” Print and share an article about these bunkers or the decommissioned silo home in Kendal, Nebraska.
- Please be sure to review the book online! Reviews are not only helpful to readers, but one of the best gifts you can give an author whose work you’ve enjoyed. And please be sure to check out Tosca Lee’s other books!