

Discussion Guide: Free Chocolate by Amber Royer

1. How is the future Bo lives in different from what you expected? Is there anything about her world you think would be fun to experience? Bo says that in her world, she didn't get the future Star Trek promised us. What does she mean by that?

2. In this book, chocolate is one of the most important commodities in the world. Is that true today? How has chocolate been important in the past? It was used as currency by the Aztecs and the Incas. How does it serve as a sort of currency in the Chocoverse?



3. How has first contact changed the world? What do you think it would be like to meet an alien for the first time? Would there be the potential for misunderstandings?

4. What is this book saying about monstrous aliens and monstrous elements inside humanity? Can you start to understand the Zantite code of honor, even though it doesn't match up with modern human values?

5. Do you think the way the different alien species speak make them feel even more alien? Despite that, in what ways do they still "feel" human? Which of the alien characters did you most identify with?

6. What are ethical ramifications of Bo taking that cacao pod? What would you have done in her place? What other moral gray areas exist in this book?

7. Why do you think there is so much miscommunication between Bo and Brill? What challenges does the fact that neither had a frame of reference for the others' culture present?

8. How are Jeska and Brill both unusual for their culture? How does Bo connect to hers?

9. What does Bo mean when she talks about being off script? She's relating her life to things that might happen in a telenovela. Do you think there are elements of storytelling common to different story traditions? Were you surprised at the choice Bo made here?

10. Would you try any of the alien foods described in this book? Which ones? Why?