

ALIENATED CLASSROOM CONNECTION

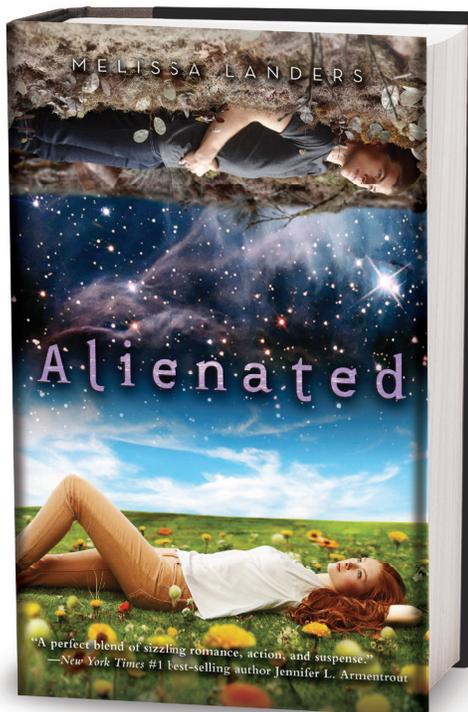
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In chapter one, we learn that Cara Sweeney has been selected to host an interplanetary exchange student named Aelyx. What differences can you distinguish between their societies based on the clues provided in the opening chapter?
2. Xenophobia (the fear and mistrust of foreigners) is a common theme in ALIENATED. What examples of xenophobia can you identify in chapter two? Why do you think humans mistrust L'eihrs, even after the aliens provided a universal cure for cancer?
3. The first televised interview takes place in chapter seven, but the journalist seems more interested in scandal than facts. If you were a journalist, what questions would you ask an alien exchange student?
4. How do L'eihrs deal with issues like violence and unplanned pregnancy? Why does Aelyx prefer this regimented lifestyle to the freedom that Cara cherishes?
5. In chapter nineteen, Aelyx argues that American democracy is an inefficient form of government. Do you agree or disagree? List five pros and cons for the democratic method.
6. In that same chapter, Aelyx claims, "Most people can't manage total freedom. They make poor use of it." Do you believe that Americans have too much freedom today? Not enough? Give one example from current events that supports your argument.
7. In what ways do L'eihrs and humans become more alike as the story progresses? Cite three examples.
8. What elements of L'eihr society do you find admirable? Do you think you would enjoy living there?
9. At the beginning of the story, Aelyx describes humans as "savage aliens," but his opinion changes drastically by the last chapter. What specific events cause his change of heart?
10. If you were given the opportunity, would you agree to participate in an interplanetary exchange? Why or why not?

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POST-READING ACTIVITIES

- During the hearing with L'eihr officials, Cara tells them, "Violent extremists have robbed mankind of some truly gifted and passionate visionaries: Mahatma Gandhi, Medgar Evers, Martin Luther King, Jr., John Lennon. But in the end, peace and logic prevail because, at their core, most humans are good." Research one of these historical figures and explain how they fought to overcome prejudice and violence.
- Cara uses her blog to relay information about L'eihr, doing her best to put a positive spin on events as they unfold. Write a blog entry from Marcus Johnson's point of view, or that of his father.
- HALO members distribute propaganda to students in the form of leaflets. Research the use of propaganda during the Civil Rights movement, and present the findings to your class.



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