

BLASTAWAY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

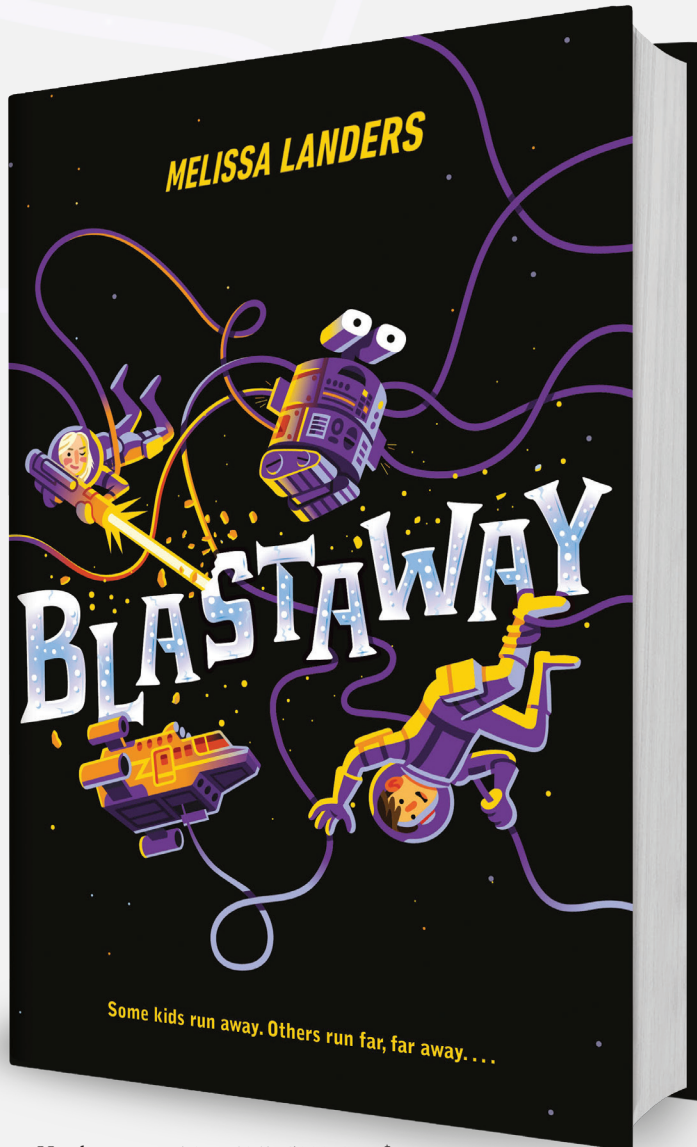
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. At the beginning of the book, Kyler and Fig have one thing in common: They both believe they don't fit in. Why do they feel that way?
2. Science teaches us that organisms can adapt to survive in harsh environments. Explain how Fig's mutations allow her to thrive in space.
3. In chapter four, Fig claims she wants "to be completely free ... and all alone." But she seems to envy Kyler's life. What do you think Fig really wants?
4. We know that heat is a form of energy. In chapter five, Kyler makes "pasta rockets" out of gummy bears and dried macaroni noodles. Do you think that could really work? Why or why not? (Author's note: Don't try this at home!)
5. Gravity doesn't exist in space, but Kyler and Fig are able to walk around on the floors of their spaceship. What allows them to do that?
6. Cabe is programmed to call the Centaurus family by their nicknames. What nicknames have you been given by your family?
7. What are Kyler's and Fig's greatest talents? In what ways do they make a good team?
8. Kyler and Fig have negative first impressions of each other, but by the end of the book, they're best friends. Can you think of a time when your opinion of someone changed after you spent time with them?
9. In chapter ten, Kyler says science fixes everything. Do you agree with him?
10. Friendship is a major theme in the story. What do you think the author wants you to understand about making friends with people who are different from you?
11. Fig doesn't trust robots when she meets Cabe. What changes her mind?
12. How are new solar systems created in *Blastaway*? Do you think that could ever be possible?
13. Kyler and Fig have many adventures in *Blastaway*. Which one stands out to you the most?



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ABOUT THE BOOK

Kyler Centaurus isn't your typical run-away. All he wanted was a quick trip to the legendary Fasti Sun Festival. Who *wouldn't* want to see new stars being born? Um, try Kyler's entire family. They couldn't care less about mind-blowing wonders of science. When an accidental launch sequence ends with Kyler hurtling through space on the family cruiser, the thrill of freedom is cut short by two space pirates determined to steal his ship. Not happening! Luckily, Kyler bumps into Fig, a savvy young Wanderer who makes a living by blowing up asteroids. She could really use a ride to Earth and Kyler could really use a hand with the pirates. But when Kyler learns the truth about Fig's mission, the two must put aside their differences long enough to stop the threat of astronomical proportions racing toward Earth...



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Melissa Landers is a former teacher who left the classroom to pursue other worlds. A proud sci-fi geek, she isn't afraid to wear her Princess Leia costume in public—just ask her embarrassed kids. She lives outside Cincinnati in the small town of Milford, Ohio, where she writes romantic space adventures for teens and the young at heart.