

Discussion Questions

Part of a Book Club? Reading *The 716* for school? Here's some questions to get your discussions started. Grab your favorite drink or some delicious snacks and let's get to it!

General

1. What was your favorite part of the novel and why?
2. How about least favorite? Why?
3. Which scene stuck with you the most and why?
4. Did your opinion of the book change as you read more? If so, how?
5. How did this book impact you? Do you think you'll remember it in a few months?
6. What do you think could happen in the sequel?
7. What do you think of the book's title? How does it relate to the story and/or characters?
8. If there's one way you could help move the world towards equality and gender identity acceptance, what would it be?

Themes

1. What are the prominent themes in this book? How did the author bring them to life?
2. How would you describe the power dynamics between Olivia and Andy? How did that affect their interactions and relationship? Did these change throughout the book?
3. What do you think of the power dynamics Meliora as a whole? How are they related to the issue of sexism and prejudice?
4. What is feminism? And how is handled in this novel?
5. In Meliora, the sexism is "flipped" from our own world. How did you feel reading about such a world? What aspects of our world did you see in there?
6. There is a famous saying about death by a thousand cuts. Discuss the small scale, everyday type sexism and cruelty that men and non-binary folks in Meliora have to endure (preferably with a smile!).
7. Explore the concepts of body image and fashion in *The 716* and the influence that societal norms can have on one's confidence in one's own skin and the expression of one's identity.
8. Andy and Olivia become aware that the blue and pink options for Identifeye lights do not cover the gender spectrum and that some people do not identify as cisgender. Discuss how a binary outlook on gender is harmful and how we can work towards equality and acceptance for everyone.
9. The author has chosen to highlight sexism through showing both modern day sexist experiences and by drawing on events the past (e.g., that women can now attend university in New Zealand and the US but could not in the past). What do you think of this approach?

Characters

1. Which characters did you like best?
2. And which did you like the least?
3. Would you want to be a character in this book? Why/why not?
4. Olivia starts our story obviously privileged and prejudiced, but this starts to change over the course of the novel. What do you think of Olivia's journey? Did your opinion of her change throughout the novel?

Setting

1. The novel takes place in a future version of earth after the Wars of Men where women are in control. In what ways does this facilitate the author writing a story about flipped sexism, gender and class inequality?

Writing Style

1. Pratt has chosen to tell this story in third person. We cycle from Olivia and Andy's perspectives throughout the novel, and occasionally the author introduces a new POV for a chapter. What is the effect of writing in this style? Does this influence how you feel about and relate to the characters?