

HANDOUT

Exploring Contemporary Social Issues

Directions: Choose a social issue in the text to focus on for this discussion. Examples of social issues include racial injustice, gender discrimination, disability rights, voting rights, refugee crisis, LGBTQ+ rights, gun violence, income inequality, housing and food insecurity, and the ethics of science and technology. Then discuss the following questions, supporting your thinking with evidence from the text and your own experiences.

Social Issue: _____

1. Identify two or three key scenes where the author explores this social issue, perhaps through characterization, setting, thematic development, or the central conflict. What are the characters feeling or learning in these scenes? What are you feeling or learning?
2. Why does this issue matter to a character or group in the text? What makes you say that?
3. How does this issue impact you or others in your school, community, or world today?
4. What do you think the author wants you, the reader, to think about or learn in regard to the issue you examined?