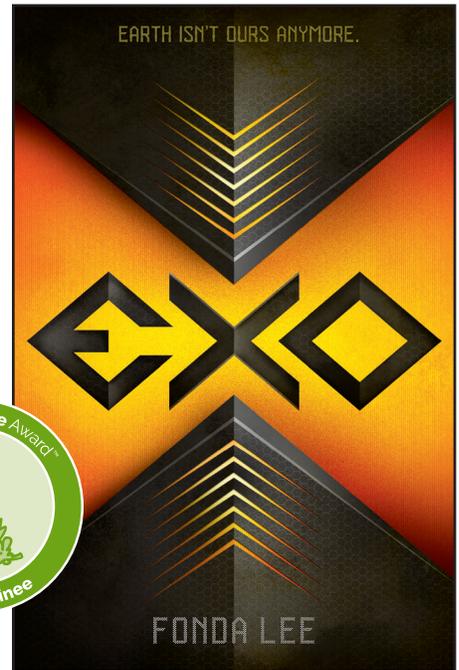




BY FONDA LEE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Would you want to be an exo? Why or why not?
2. How do Donovan and Anya change each other's perceptions about people on the other side of the conflict? Have you ever met someone who changed your perceptions about something?
3. Do you agree with Anya when she says, "Freedom is worth any cost"? How do Sapience and the cooperationists define freedom differently? How do *you* define freedom?
4. Donovan's mother and father have opposing views. Have you experienced a situation in which people close to you disagreed strongly about something important? How do you decide your own views when your family members or friends can't agree?
5. Donovan considers himself loyal to SecPac and to his fellow soldiers, yet he acts against orders. Can a person be both loyal and disobedient? Do you agree with the decisions Donovan makes?
6. SecPac considers Sapience to be terrorists, but Sapience consider themselves freedom fighters. What is the difference? Who do you think is correct?
7. Are humans generally better or worse off with the zhree in charge? Why?
8. Both Donovan and Anya believe the other is a "good person on the wrong side"; however, Donovan's father says that if a group does bad things, "each individual is personally responsible." How do you reconcile these statements?
9. The zhree are very different from humans, yet in some ways they are similar. In what ways do the zhree behave that seem human or unhuman? Do you find them to be sympathetic or unsympathetic characters?
10. Donovan's mother says that "exos are a terrible thing," and "we're being remade into a servant species." His father argues that "exos are the key," because they "have the same advantages as the zhree" and are "the future of humanity." Which of these arguments do you find more convincing? Why?



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