



## DISCUSSION & WRITING TOPICS

1. Almost everyone in Lode is a worker. Imagine a day in the life of someone who lives there. Are they a miner, a clefter, a crafter, a cogger, a grower, a Crumb Alley trader, or something else? (Go to p.67 of the book for a reminder of some of Lode's trades.)
2. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming part of everyday life for us all. In Lode, the machines don't always help people in the way they're supposed to. Think about the ways we use machines and computers. What are the good things they do? How would your life be different without things like computers or phones?
3. Evin isn't lucky enough to go to school, but her mother teaches her reading, writing, and other skills for making and fixing things. What skills would you like to learn?
4. Lode is an imagined underground city. But people have built real places underground, all over the world. Find some facts about a real underground place from the past or present.
5. Evin finds out she has mechanical lungs, Uncle Oren has a mechanical arm, while Trym and Trace use wheelchairs to move around. These are just some of the differences in Lode. Not every difference is visible. Think about how people's differences might give them different abilities.
6. In the story, Lode was set up to protect people from a global disaster. How can we look after our world? Make a poster to share your ideas with your friends or class.

## CREATIVE PROJECT IDEAS

1. Lode is an underground city that's falling apart. Can you think of a better design? Draw your ideal underground place to live. Would it be large or small? Think about how people living there would eat, sleep, and stay healthy.
2. Draw or model your own mech design. Think about its purpose, features, and colours. Will it be a tiny service mech, a human-sized android, an industrial mech, or even a pet, like Jet?
3. Evin relies on her toolbelt, and many people in Lode use tools or machines in their daily lives. Draw or make a futuristic tool or object. Would you hold it in your hand, wear it on your body, or sit in it, like Trym and Trace's special chairs?
4. The cover of this book shows you Evin, Kodi, and Jet. Choose another character from the story and draw them, or make up your own character. Would part of them be mechanical?
5. When Evin and Kodi visit the Stampers, they find everything labelled with a code (hexadecimal code). Codes are really just other languages — sometimes used for secret messages, or just as a way of communicating. For example: Morse code, Braille, computer code. Research a code or language and try writing your name in that code.

