



DISCUSSION & WRITING TOPICS

1. Almost everyone in Lode is a worker. Imagine a day in the life of an inhabitant. Are they a miner, a clefter, a crafter, a cogger, a grower, a scrapper, a Crumb Alley trader or something else? (Hint - flick to p.67 of the book for a reminder of some of Lode's trades.)
2. Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) 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? What are the bad things they might do?
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 other skills would you like to learn?
4. Lode is an imagined underground habitat. Have any people really lived underground, or built underground environments? If so, why?
5. Evin finds out she has mechanical lungs, uncle Oren has a mechanical arm, while Trym and Trace need wheelchairs to move around. These are just some of the differences in Lode, Not every difference is visible. Think about and discuss different abilities.
6. In the story, Lode was set up to protect people from the poisoned planet. Discuss or write about our environment and what we can do to improve or protect it.

CREATIVE PROJECT IDEAS

1. Lode is an underground city that's falling apart. Can you think of a better design? Draw your ideal underground environment. Would it be large or small? Consider how its inhabitants would eat, sleep and stay healthy.
2. Draw or model your own mech design. Think about its colours and functions. 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, but 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 stand/sit on or 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. Perhaps make part of them mechanical.
5. When Evin and Kodi visit the Stampers, they find everything labelled with a code (hexidecimal code). Codes are really just other languages - sometimes used for secret messages, or just as a way of communicating. For example: Morse code, braille, HTML. Research a code or language and translate your name into that code if you can.

