

## STATION FOSAAN Discussion Guide

1. Science fiction writers setting their stories in the future usually choose one of two ways to explain how the galaxy is populated. The first is to assume that intelligent beings developed independently on different planets, leading to what humans consider “alien” races. The second is to assume humans set out from Earth, colonized inhabitable planets, and then developed different cultures as they did so. Which do you think is a more likely assumption?
2. While there have been great leaps in artificial intelligence in the last 30 years, how long do you think it will be before the development of the kind of artificial intelligence in Station Fosaan, the idea of multiple intelligences, in which robots can use all five of what are typically called human senses in their interactions?
3. The Fosaanian apocalypse destroyed most of Fosaanian culture and forced the survivors into concentrating on day-to-day existence. Mira and her grandfather regret they have so little left of their past culture. Imagine if virtually every part of our culture, including the storage of ideas, instructions, research, music, visual and performance arts and people who were experts in certain fields were lost. If this happened to our society, how should the survivors prioritize their limited time and resources?
4. There is an old saying that history is written by the victors (or conquerors depending on which version you read.) Mira gets angry at Quinn when he assumes he knows the history of Fosaan. She points out that the history he learned was written from Earth’s point of view. How can you know the history you learn is accurate?
5. Would you want to spend two years on a distant planet with only a small group of people? How would you cope? What would you want to bring with you?
6. How would you describe Quinn’s character arc? What does he want at the beginning of the book? Does he change over the course of the story?
7. Throughout history there have been leaders driven by the desire for power, though they often have other motivations as well. What is motivating Ansun? How does he see himself?
8. Quinn is trying to deal with his grandfather’s expectation that he go into officer training as part of his mandatory military service. In our current world other countries do require mandatory service, the U.S. does not, though it has been proposed. What do you think of this idea? Do you think it will be required in the future?

If you have any questions about the book, contact Dee at [deegarretson@gmail.com](mailto:deegarretson@gmail.com) She is also happy to do free 20 minute Skype visits with book clubs discussing her book. You can also check out her website: <http://deegarretson.com>.