



HC: 9780823438556 • Ages 14 up • E-book available

SPliced

Jon McGoran

“This . . . study in manufactured prejudice will resonate with many teens who see themselves as part of a marginalized group . . .

Timely, thrilling, and more than a little scary.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

In this gripping sci-fi thriller, genetically altered teens fight for survival in a near-future society that is redefining what it means to be human. This debut YA explores what it means to be different in a changing world—a world in which climate, technology, society, and humanity itself are becoming more unpredictable every day.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What scene was the most pivotal in the book? How do you think the story would have changed had that scene not taken place? What scene resonated most with you personally in either a positive or negative way? Why?
2. What are the notable racial, cultural, gender, and socioeconomic factors at play in the book? How did they affect the characters?
3. How important are the setting and time period to the story? Describe the atmosphere, state of mind, and prevailing feeling of *Spliced*?
4. Although *Spliced* is fiction, how do the themes relate realistically to the past, present, and future of our society? In *Spliced*, how does the author show exaggerated scenarios of our current use of natural resources? Technology? Caste systems, government, and political systems?
5. What motivates the actions of the characters Del, Jimi, Rex, Stan, Officer Cantrel, and Dr. Guzman in the story? What do the minor characters want from the main character, and what does the main character want with them? How did the roles of the various characters influence their interactions? Did any of the characters remind you of yourself or someone you know? How?
6. Discuss the dynamics of power between Del and his father and other government or political agencies and individuals. How and why was propaganda used in the story?



7. How does Jimi see herself as the plot develops? How does this differ from the way others see her? Describe your take on her as a person, including her strength to survive, family values, and resilience. Did you empathize with her? How did she change throughout the book?
8. What past influences are shaping the actions of the characters in the story? Were there any moments where you disagreed with the choices of any of the characters? What would you have done differently?
9. Have any of your views or thoughts changed after reading *Spliced*? What did you learn from, take away from, or get out of this book? What do you think Jon McGoran wants you to take away from this book? Discuss the importance of taking care of what we have in this world and being proactive in thinking about the future, as well as what it means to be “human.”
10. What surprised you as you read the book? How did your opinion of the book change as you read it? Were you surprised by the ending? Would you have ended the book differently? How?
11. If *Spliced* were to become a major motion picture, who would you cast as the role of Jimi, Del, Rex, Stan, Trudy, Jasper, and Mayor Randolph?
12. If you were to become a chimera, what animal would you choose to be spliced with? Why?
13. What do you think will happen next to Jimi, Rex, and the rest of the chimeras?

MORE TO THINK ABOUT:

- What kind of person is each character?
- What function/significance does each character have in the story?
- Would these characters function differently in another society?
- Summarize what society is like in *Spliced*.
- What are the major characteristics of this society? Are people in this society happy?
- What is the government like?
- What is a day in the life of an average person in this society like?
- How do people in the novel experience life in this society differently?
- How is this society like our own? How is it different?
- Would you change anything about the way this society is set up or the ways in which it functions?



Guide written by Marla Conn, reading/literacy specialist and educational consultant
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JON MCGORAN has written six thrillers for adults, including the D. H. Dublin series, and is a founding member of The Liars Club for writers (liarsclubphilly.com). This is his first book for young readers. Visit him online at www.Jonmcgoran.com.

