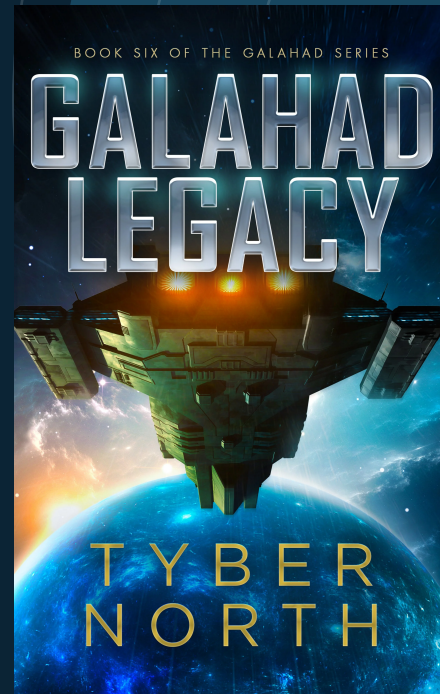


THE GALAHAD SERIES / BOOK SIX

Galahad Legacy

STUDY GUIDE

Writing activities,
research projects, and
discussion questions for
teachers and students.



WRITING + RESEARCH

Activities

These projects are designed to deepen comprehension while inviting students to imagine themselves aboard Galahad.

I. ALTERNATIVE MINDS

A

Supercomputers and artificial intelligence are rapidly becoming a daily part of our lives. At the library or using online resources, look up notable examples of super-brains, such as Watson, the computer that won the television game show Jeopardy! Watch the classic sci-fi film 2001: A Space Odyssey to see the supercomputer called HAL. Then make a list of the benefits and potential dangers that artificial intelligence may present to human life.

B

You're a crew member aboard Galahad, and Triana has requested that you put together a presentation on the different types of intelligent beings you've encountered since the launch. Share your presentation with friends or classmates.

C

Consider the following sentence: "The crew of Galahad should/ should not trust Roc because . . ." Have your friends or classmates complete the sentence, then post all the answers on a wall. Did most people offer similar answers? What answers were most surprising? What conclusion can you draw from this exercise?

D

Repeat the exercise from C, above, only now substitute "Roc" with "the Cassini" or "the Dollovit." Do you find your friends or classmates reaching similar conclusions? How do they differ?

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II. THE QUESTION OF CONNECTIONS

- A** Galahad Legacy depicts a variety of connections. Some are between human individuals, some are between humans and other beings (such as Bon and the Cassini), and others are between those alive and those remembers (such as Triana and her father, or crew members and Alexa). Using craft materials such as colored pencils, paint, magazine clippings, or other materials of your choosing, create a collage that demonstrates your understanding of some or all of these connections.

- B** In the character of Bon, compose a journal entry in which you describe your unusual relationship with the Cassini and how it may evolve in the future.

- C** Imagine that you're a crew member working in Sick House. Write a brief report defining the term "ventet" as you understand it from examining the ventet of Alexa.

- D** Imagine that you're the character of Torrec. Write an essay explaining your observations of human behavior and how it differs from that of the Dollovit.

- E** Assume the role of your favorite character in the book. In their voice, write a dialogue in which they explain to the Dollovit—or to Roc —how humans deal with death and remember those who've been lost. Invite friends or classmates to perform the dialogue with you.

III. CHOICES

- A** Galahad Legacy has several instances of crew members forced to make important decisions. Create three separate sign-up sheets to post on the wall of your classroom: "Go to Eos Three", "Go to Eos Four," and "Go with the Dollovit." Invite friends or classmates to sign up for the destination of their choice. Then, allow each student an opportunity to explain his or her choice.

- B** Write an essay highlighting a difficult choice you've had to make in your life. Describe the outcome of that choice.

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C

Imagine that you're Merit Simms. Write a speech defending your actions and explaining why you believe it's critical to offer the crew of Galahad an alternative to the Council's plans.

D

In the Galahad series, 251 teenagers board a spacecraft in hopes of preserving the human race far from disease-contaminated Earth. From the moment each teen joined the program, they began making painful, life-altering choices. Using examples from this book as well as others in the Galahad series, and using examples from your own life, write a twopage essay entitled, "The Challenge of Choices."

READ + REFLECT

Questions for Discussion

Use these questions for classroom discussion, small-group work, written responses, or independent study.

1

When Triana returns to the ship after her adventure through the wormhole, she defends her actions to her fellow Council members by saying, "Making a popular choice wasn't as important to me as doing what I felt was best for this crew." Do you agree with her judgment? How might the concept of choice be considered an important theme throughout the novel? List examples from the book in your answer.

2

How would you have reacted to Torrec? Do you believe Triana is right to trust him? What do you think motivates her attitude toward him?

3

In Chapter 8, Roc poses this question: "How would you describe where YOUR personality exists? Is it in your brain? Your heart? A little of both? Somewhere else . . .?" Write a brief essay answering Roc.

4

By Chapter 9, Triana has begun to worry about the power of supercomputers, and is even for the first time questioning Roc's loyalty. In Triana's place, would you rely on Roc at this point? Explain your answer.

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5

Also in Chapter 9, Triana wonders: Was she the same Triana who had plunged through the jagged rip in space? How might this question be interpreted in at least two different ways? Do you believe all major experiences in life, such as loss, trauma, or even great joy, alter us in some way? Does it ultimately matter if we are “real”?

6

Describe the bizarre “gift” the Dollovit give to the crew of Galahad in Chapter 10. What does Lita reveal about this gift? If you were a crew member aboard Galahad, would you want to interact with this gift? How would you have handled the situation, bearing in mind that you might be dependent upon the Dollovit?

7

In Chapter 14, Lita tries explaining to Torrec the concepts of “honoring the dead” and “closure.” What does this conversation teach Lita about the Dollovit?

8

At the end of Chapter 18, Triana and Bon discuss the possibility that human beings are nothing more than computer simulations created by some greater intelligence. Do you believe this could be a possibility? Explain your answer.

9

Do you agree with Triana’s decision to allow Merit and his group to disembark at Eos Four? Given everything you know about Merit, do you think he could be a good leader? Explain your answers.

10

What do you make of Dr. Zimmer’s decision to store human embryos in Galahad’s Storage Section? Do you think it was a good idea? What about Merit’s theft of some of these embryos; was that an equally valid choice? Why or why not?

11

Bon suggests that perhaps the Dollovit are students of the universe while the Cassini play the role of peacekeepers. Do you agree with his assessment? What role do you think humans might play in this universal dynamic?

12

In the end, why do you think Triana chose to let Roc “go” and trust the Cassini?

13

What do you believe will happen to the settlers on Eos Three and Eos Four? What do you imagine you’d see if you visited each of those planets in 50 years?

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14

Has reading Galahad Legacy changed the way you think about your own sense of the future? Are you hopeful and optimistic about the future, or do you dread it? Explain your answers?
