

# THE SILVER ARROW BOOK CLUB GUIDE

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you could have any birthday present in the world, what would you wish for? Why?
2. Do you think technology makes it easier or harder for people to stay connected, both to other people and the world around them?
3. Grace Hopper, the famous inventor and computer programmer, is one of Kate's biggest role models. Who are some of your role models? Why do they inspire you?
4. If you were the conductor of a magical train like the Silver Arrow, which train cars would you choose to add? Why?
5. Which animal did you most enjoy learning about? What was your favorite fact about them?
6. Over the course of the book, Kate learns about invasive species from the animals. How do invasive species impact other animals and their environments? How are humans an invasive species?
7. What examples of changing habitats are shown or described throughout the book? How do these changes affect the animals who live there?
8. Kate and Tom spend time as trees in exchange for wood to fuel the Silver Arrow. How does being a tree feel to them? How do you think being another form of life would feel?
9. Kate notes that, "People looked down on animals, but animals never made excuses or felt sorry for themselves" (p.183). What other differences between animals and humans do Kate and Tom notice? How are Kate and Tom's interactions with the animals in the book different from other classic children's books? Do you think our relationship with the natural world has changed? How?
10. When describing the plight of the baby pangolin Kate says, "Some problems in this world just don't have answers. Not yet" (p. 216). How can we work to find answers for those problems? What can you do personally to make our world a better place?

