

Name: _____ Date: _____

Close-Reading Questions

"The Mission"

1. What questions do the first two paragraphs raise in your mind? (author's craft, page 19)
2. What does this line help you understand about the narrator? (character, page 19)
3. When does this story take place? How do you know? (setting, page 19)
4. In what way is this line a hint about what Philip later reveals to Blythe? (text structure, page 21)
5. How do the ways Blythe and Philip sit help you understand their characters? (character, page 21)

6. Explain what Blythe means. (inference, page 21)

7. What does the scene with the fire alarm reveal about Philip? (text structure, page 23)

8. What is VidHub? (inference, page 23)

9. How does the idea of not living in fear apply to both Philip and Blythe? (theme, page 23)

10. What are Philip's reasons for wanting to join the mission to Mars? (character, page 23)

11. How has Philip changed over the course of the story? What caused this change?
(character, page 24)

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Critical-Thinking Questions

"The Mission" and "Could You Be a Mars Colonist?"

1. Did Lauren and the other committee members treat Philip fairly?
2. What effects do you think the decision to speak to viewers on VidHub will have—on others and on Philip himself? Why?
3. Do you think Philip has good reasons for wanting to go to Mars? What about Blythe? Explain.
4. Choose one of the traits on page 25. Explain how author Kass Morgan shows in "The Mission" that this trait is important.
5. Based on what you read in the informational text and the story, would you apply for a mission to Mars? Explain.