

## Discussion Questions for *The Neptune Promise*

1. My Neptune books are set in a future where climate change and global warming are out of control. What are some indications in this book that climate change is having a strong effect on both the land and the sea?
2. Rescuing a humpback whale calf was dangerous for Nere and her friends. Her job on patrol is to watch out for dangers to Safety Harbor. Do you think she was right to risk her life to help the calf? Do some species deserve humans' help more than others? Why or why not?
3. Would you want to be a Neptune kid at Safety Harbor? What parts of life there would appeal to you? What parts might not be so appealing to you?
4. Nere is devastated when she learns that she and her team brought back the wrong strain of c-plankton from Atlantea and angry because her father didn't tell her the truth earlier. Are there times it might be right for parents to keep the truth from their children? Should Nere have told Dai the truth about his breaking her arm? Are there ever times it might be right to lie to a friend?
5. What are some of the dangers that Nere and her friends face when they dive deep into the Twilight Zone? If you were a Neptune kid, would you have volunteered to be a part of the team going to salvage the *Storm Petrel*?
6. I winced every time my Neptune kids kill a shark in *The Neptune Project*. You'll notice in *The Neptune Challenge* and *The Neptune Promise*, not a single shark was killed. Why do the oceans need sharks? What role do they play in their eco-system?
7. Kuron's kids all have special powers because he mixed DNA from sea creatures like electric eels and octopuses into their genes. Which of Kuron's kids have the "coolest" powers? Would you truly want to be a telepath? Why or why not?
8. When Nere is practicing diving deep in strong currents, her harness breaks, and she ends up with a concussion and hypothermia. What is hypothermia? What are some its signs? What is the proper treatment for a person suffering from hypothermia?
9. In my earlier Neptune books, I establish that the Western Collective is a corrupt, inefficient, totalitarian and cruel government. Thom's former companions risk their lives every day to

fight the Western Collective. Would you have the courage to fight such a government? In what way could you see yourself resisting an evil government?

10. James, Nere's brother, is a Controller. Would you want to be friends with a Controller? Was James right to use his powers to control and alter the thoughts of several government soldiers near the end of the book?
11. During their trip back to the Southern Sector, Nere and her companions witness Vancouver being shelled. Why does the Western Collective want to invade Canada? What resources will be of key importance to countries around the globe as our climate heats up?
12. Why do you suppose Whitey, Sham and Wasp stayed with Ran Kuron after Atlantea was destroyed?
13. Throughout all three books, Dai fights to control his temper and his actions to become a better person. Do you think people can change?
14. Were you surprised to learn that some of Kuron's investors wanted to prevent the spread of c-plankton? Can you think of some businesses that might profit from the world heating up and people fighting over food and water? Can you think of some businesses today that resist the development of renewable energy sources like solar and wind power?
15. Why do you think Ree joined a gang after her parents died? What advantages might a gang offer a desperate teen? What might be the dangers of being part of a gang?
16. Was Kuron wrong to mix the DNA from marine creatures with the genes in the kids he created? Were the Neptune Project scientists equally wrong to mix fish genes into Nere's DNA? For years we have mixed the DNA from different plants to create stronger, more pest-resistant corn and strawberries. Some bio-tech companies are currently mixing pig and human DNA in an effort to create new organs that can be transplanted into sick humans. Should we continue with these kinds of experiments? Why or why not?
17. I wrote my Neptune books in large part because I wanted to make young people think about the dangers inherent in climate change. 99% of the world's climate scientists are sure the Earth is heating up and human activity is the primary cause. What can people do to fight climate change? What is one thing you can start doing today?