

# THE WARNING

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## DISCUSSION GUIDE



1. The novel follows three teenagers—Alex, Dominick, and Rita—and their choices to stay or leave through a vertex. Discuss how their families differ in making the decision.
2. Anxiety and other mental health issues are a major theme in the story. Trace its depiction in the novel through Alex, her dad, the strange lady with the quote, and the effect of the holograms' warning.
3. Another theme throughout the novel is how science, religion, the media, family, and friends influence our decisions. How do you make important decisions?
4. Alex isn't sure how to spend her last months on Earth. What do you think matters most when the world is ending? How would you spend your time?
5. At what point in the story would you have left through a vertex? Why?
6. If you were traveling through a vertex, what would you bring in your backpack?
7. Discuss the complex sibling relationship between Alex and Benji. Why do you think their relationship is antagonistic?
8. Why do you think Alex feels responsible to monitor her father's behavior? Do you think Alex's mother is fully aware of the situation, or avoiding it?
9. Debate: Should prisoners get the choice to leave through a vertex? Why or why not?
10. Debate: Should people have to pay off all debt before leaving through a vertex? Why or why not?
11. The novel begins and ends at the same vertex location. How has Alex changed?