

# Discussion Questions

## *The Future* by Naomi Alderman

1. In *The Future*, the heads of tech companies are portrayed as having an overwhelming influence on the world. How does this reflect current real-world concerns about the power of tech companies? Do you think this portrayal is exaggerated, or is it a plausible future scenario?
2. Martha and Zhen come from very different backgrounds and find themselves in the middle of a world-changing conspiracy. How do their personal histories and motivations shape their actions throughout the story? What do they represent in the broader narrative?
3. The book explores the idea of predictive analytics and artificial intelligence—how do you think these technologies might impact society if they were only in the hands of a few powerful individuals or corporations?
4. The novel raises questions about the ethics of technological advancements and their potential for both good and harm. What are some ethical dilemmas faced by the characters in the story, and how do they grapple with them?
5. The book suggests that power can corrupt those who possess it. Discuss how the billionaire characters in the story wield their influence and how it changes them.
6. Which aspects of the book did you find most thrilling or thought-provoking?
7. The characters in the story are confronted with the possibility of a cataclysmic end of civilization. What do you think the book is trying to convey about the fragility of our modern society and the potential threats it faces?
8. Throughout the novel, technology plays a central role in both the problems and potential solutions. How does the author balance the portrayal of technology as a source of danger and a source of hope? What do you think is the book's overall message about the role of technology in our lives? Do you agree with this message?
9. *The Future* touches on themes of resistance and standing up to the few in power. What strategies do Martha and Zhen employ to challenge the status quo, and how do they inspire others to join their cause?

10. The novel's title, *The Future*, suggests a sense of inevitability and anticipation. What do you think the author is trying to convey about the future and our role in shaping it? How does the book leave you thinking about the future of technology and society?

Source: Simon & Schuster Reading Group Guide

