



Hilo

by Judd Winick

TIPS FOR FAMILY BOOK CLUB:

Hilo: The Boy Who Crashed to Earth is a lot more than just the story of a boy robot on the run. When you read *Hilo*, you will find yourself confronted with questions about self-identity, insecurity, and those awful adolescent feelings where you're just not sure what makes you special or who you really are. It also raises a few interesting notions about the nature of free will. If you want to get your family talking about *Hilo*, these questions can help get you started:

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. D.J. feels that "there's just nothing that I'm super good at" (page 9). Do you ever feel that way? Go around the room and take turns telling the people in your book club one thing that you think they do really well.
2. How are Hilo and D.J. similar? How are they different? Name one thing that Hilo helps D.J. with and vice versa.
3. Hilo comes to Earth with a blank slate; he doesn't understand language, food, or normal customs. If your memory was erased like Hilo, what about the world would seem strange to you?
4. At what point in the story did you realize that Hilo was a robot? Was it a surprise to you?
5. Why does D.J. act awkward when Gina returns to Berke County?
6. The book opens with a flash-forward, where we see D.J. and Hilo fighting a robot. Do you like it when stories jump around in time? Why do you think the author flashes back and flashes forward during the story?
7. Hilo, D.J., and Gina all express that they sometimes feel out of place or alone during the story. Do you think many children feel that way? Why?
8. Razorwark and the other "evil" robots consider humans to be "monsters" because of the way humans treat robotic beings. If you were a robot, would you like humans? Should robots be allowed to operate on their own, without the help of humans?
9. The Obliteratron tells Hilo, "To get to you ... Razorwark would lay waste to hundreds of planets." Why do you think Razorwark wants Hilo so badly?
10. *Hilo* ends on a cliffhanger. What do you think will happen in the next volume of the story?