



# FUTURELAND

BATTLE FOR THE PARK

DISCUSSION  
GUIDE

## ABOUT THE BOOK



When an extraordinary flying theme park arrives above Atlanta, one boy must stop a sinister force from stealing the park's tech and taking over the world.

Welcome to the most spectacular theme park in the world.

Everyone wants a ticket to Futureland, where you can *literally* live out your wildest dreams. Want to step inside your favorite video game? Go pro in a sports arena? Perform at a real live concert? Grab your ticket and come right in.

Yet with all its attractions, Futureland has always just been home to Cam Walker, the son of the park's famous creators. And when Futureland arrives at its latest stop, Atlanta, Cam is thrilled for what promises to be the biggest opening ever...

But things aren't quite right with the Atlanta opening. Park attractions are glitching. Kids go missing. And when his parents are blamed, Cam must find the missing kids and whoever's trying to take down his family . . . before it's too late.

## ABOUT THE CREATORS

**Hugh "H.D." Hunter** is a storyteller, teaching artist, and community organizer from Atlanta. He's also the winner of several indie book awards for multicultural fiction. Hugh is committed to stories about Black kids and their many expansive worlds. He loves vegan snacks, basketball, and stories that make you cry—but make you smile afterward. Check out Hugh's work at [thesoutherndistrict.com](http://thesoutherndistrict.com) and follow him at @hd\_tsd.

**Khadijah Khatib** is a Malaysian illustrator and concept artist who is passionate in movies, games, and fashion. She spends most of her time drawing with her cats and playing her guitar. Khadijah has illustrated book covers for publishers such as Penguin Random House, Simon & Schuster, Macmillan Publishers, and James Patterson, to name a few. A notable cover that she has illustrated for is Rick Riordan's 'Daughter of the Deep'. She has also had the opportunity to illustrate an album cover for K-pop's AleXa. Other than book and album covers, Khadijah has also worked on concept art for films and games.

# ABOUT THIS GUIDE

The Common Core Standards push readers to look closer when reading a text including examining author's craft, analyzing word choice, and exploring narrative elements. Hunter's novel *Futureland: Battle for the Park*, includes opportunities to look at text structure, point of view, character development, and more which allows the reader to deeply delve into the text. This guide includes discussion questions to be used in grades 4 through 7 as this text is read as a whole class, small group, or a combination. This guide could also be modified to be used with a student who is reading the novel independently.

The Common Core Anchor Standards in English Language Arts, Standards for Technological and Engineering Literacy, and National Standards of Civics & Government that can be addressed using the discussion questions in this guide are:

## English Language Arts

### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.1

Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.2

Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.3

Analyze how and why individuals, events, or ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.4

Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.

### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.10

Read and comprehend complex literary texts independently and proficiently.

## Standards for Technological and Engineering Literacy (Grades 6-8)

### STEL-1L

Explain how technology and engineering are closely linked to creativity, which can result in both intended and unintended innovations.

### STEL-4K

Examine the ways that technology can have both positive and negative effects at the same time.

## National Standards for Civics and Government

II. What are the Foundations of the American Political System?

D. What values and principles are basic to American constitutional democracy?



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Use these questions as reading check-ins, writing prompts, or classroom discussions throughout *Futureland: Battle for the Park*.

1. The book is written in first person. Why do you think the author chose this as the point of view? How does first person affect your reading experience?
2. What is something touristy in your town or near where you live that is normal to you, like Futureland is normal to Cameron, but others get excited about? Why do you think you and others have a different reaction?
3. Cameron mentions a new version of Sherlock Holmes, *Watson & Holmes*, that takes place in Harlem. How do you think that change of setting would change the story? If you were going to rewrite Sherlock Holmes, what changes would you make?
4. Why do you think the author included multiple formats in the book, such as lab logs, lists, comics, texting, interviews, emails, and transcripts?
  - **Follow up:** How did the addition of these formats affect your reading experience?
5. If you had your own 10 Ways of Living list, what would you include on it?
  - **Follow up:** If you created this list with your family, would the list change? How so?
6. Cameron has trouble explaining intuition to Dooley. How would you explain what intuition is to a robot?
7. How is going to public school different from homeschool? What do you think will be the hardest for Cameron as he transitions from homeschool to public school?
  - **Follow up:** Did Cameron struggle as much as you had predicted?
8. Why is it so tough for adults when things start changing? For example, why does Grandma Ava struggle with Futureland and the revs? What are some things that adults nowadays struggle with that are just a part of your life?
9. The tinkering with Futureland may have started even earlier than Cameron realized. What is the first clue in the book that someone is trying to mess with Futureland?
10. Cameron's parents assume he is going to run Futureland when he grows up, but he has a secret dream of being a detective. Can you relate? Do you have a secret dream? How is your situation different from/the same as Cameron's?
  - **Follow up:** When Cameron goes to the Obsidian Imaginarium, he sees himself as a detective. What would you see yourself as?
11. Cameron's parents definitely start acting differently once Futureland is in Atlanta. How were they different in the beginning of the book from later, Chapter 9 on?
  - **Follow up:** On page 179, Cameron says that he thinks his parents have been replaced by revs. Do you agree? Do you think the clues fit this assessment?

12. In the September 7th Maintenance Report on page 132, Dr. Abrams finds that the Bright Futures data collection is not deleting after the experience is over. How could this data be used maliciously?
13. On page 134, Yusuf says, “Kids go missing here...probably more than people want to talk about. And when you’re from this neighborhood? Good luck trying to find any help.” What does this statement mean? What does this tell you about the inequity of our police and law system?
14. On page 140, Dooley defines FRIENDS, but friends are a lot more than what the definition states. How would you define FRIENDS to truly encompass all of what a friend is?
15. On page 164, Cameron mentions that his parents, for years, didn’t want investors and other people digging around in the business of Futureland. Why would they be hesitant to have investors become part of the Futureland family?
16. Gentrification is defined as “a process in which a poor area (as of a city) experiences an influx of middle-class or wealthy people who renovate and rebuild homes and businesses, and which often results in an increase in property values and the displacement of earlier, usually poorer residents.” How is what ADRC is doing (page 230) fit the definition of gentrification? What does this tell you about the people running ADRC?
  - **Follow up:** Knowing this about ADRC, what do you think ADRC would do with Futureland?
17. In the Tree Tower, guests can open up a favorite book and be transported to a virtual-reality version of it. What book would you choose to be transported to and why?
18. On page 215, we are left with a cliffhanger. How do you think Cameron escaped?
19. How does protesting or rallying bring attention to a situation that may be getting ignored?
  - **Follow up:** How is what the police did on page 223 not legal based on the First Amendment?
20. Cameron is used to figuring out things alone or with his parents. How hard do you think it was for him to ask his new friends for help? Do you think he would have succeeded without their help?
21. Do you agree with Cameron’s idea, on page 256, to go back into the mines? Why or why not?
22. How does Cameron’s dad’s creation of the Hourglass House save everyone?
23. Dooley is the character that may change the most in the book, even though she is a robot. How does she change throughout? Do you believe that, by the end, she was sentient?
  - **Follow up:** The idea of a robot reaching “independence – humanness – through a series of their own experiences” (p. 291) sounds both fascinating and terrifying. How does the idea of an omni-rev fit both of those adjectives?
24. Now that you have finished the book, what rev do you think was getting interviewed throughout the book (page 1, 46, 89, & 167)?
25. If you could create your own Futureland, what would it include? What ten destinies would you make?
26. What do you think the author will tackle in book two?

This guide was created by Kellee Moyer, a middle school teacher-librarian in Orlando, FL. Kellee is the author of various teaching guides for all levels; the co-author of the blog [Unleashing Readers](#); a past committee member & chair of the Schneider Family Book Award and Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award; on the 2016-2018 ALAN Board of Directors; and a member of NCTE, ALAN, and ALA. Kellee can be reached at [Kellee.Moyer@gmail.com](mailto:Kellee.Moyer@gmail.com).