

The Bar-Code Tattoo by Suzanne Weyn

GT Novel Guide

Four Big Essential Questions:

(We'll always talk about these during class discussions! Come to class with ideas for answers!)



How much should your DNA determine your worth or value?



How does technology control our lives and how much do we control technology?



How do you know when to conform or when to be an individual?

 **Thinking like a writer:** Suzanne Weyn uses excerpts from publications and dreams to aid in telling Kayla's story. How do these epistolary type items enhance or detract from the overall narrative?



High-Level Vocabulary Challenges



endurance

elitism

conformity

dominion

regimentation

morality

logos

ethos

pathos

indoctrinate



Academic Vocabulary



(be able to apply these vocabulary words to this novel)

first person narrator

epistolary

antagonist

protagonist

mood

character

theme

tone

Quotes to apply to this story:



We've arranged a civilization in which most crucial elements profoundly depend on science and technology. We have also arranged things so that almost no one understands science and technology. This is a prescription for disaster. We might get away with it for a while, but sooner or later this combustible mixture of ignorance and power is going to blow up in our faces.

-Carl Sagan



Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. If we continue to develop our technology without wisdom or prudence, our servant may prove to be our executioner.

-Omar Bradley



A little rebellion now and then... is a medicine necessary for the sound health of government.

-Thomas Jefferson

Part 1

1. Why would attitude be important to freedom?

Chapter 1

1. Why was Kayla talking to her guidance counselor?
2. What could the bold section on page 4 foreshadow?
3. Describe why Kayla's poor grades will affect her hopes for college.
4. What evidence is presented that places this story in the future.

Chapter 2

1. Describe the purpose of the bar code tattoo.
2. What are Kayla's inferences about the potential problems with the data banks and discuss their validity.
3. Hypothesize what Kayla's mom meant when she said "the bar code did this to him."
4. Describe what is wrong with Kayla's father's obituary.
5. Describe how Kayla's father's death is her "rabbit hole and pool of tears"?

Chapter 3

1. Describe why having no direct details about Kayla's father's death causes the suspicion about it to be greater.
2. A second episode is described on page 23/24. Kayla refers to it as a "waking vision," how could these tie into Alice eating the cakes
3. Create a Venn diagram to illustrate how Kayla's mom actions and statements about the tattoo similar to Gene's statements about the tattoo.
4. Why does Amber look down on Mfumbe and his friends?

Chapter 4

1. Define civil liberties and civil rights.
2. Describe Mfumbe's argument against the tattoo?
3. From what you've read so far, define what is Global-1 and what it does?
4. What US Constitutional amendment allows Zekeal, Mfumbe, and the rest of the group to write, print and pass out *KnotU2*? How is this amendment violated by the Coach Duggan?
5. Why is it important that we, the readers, get to read *KnotU2* and are we meant to believe or not?

Chapter 5

1. Why does Kayla try to ignore her family problems and other issues at the beginning of the chapter?
2. What do the problems with Amber's family foreshadow?
3. How does the "waking vision" protect Kayla?
4. Discuss if you believe the article about the incident at the post office or not.

Chapter 6

1. Explain how Kayla's "tears were filled with loneliness, frustration, and fear"?
2. Describe five things you can infer from Kayla and Amber's conversation at the motel.
3. Why is it difficult for Kayla to get a job? Why when she does get one at the art shop do they give her more money for not having the "too"?

Chapter 7

1. Kayla asks herself, “[h]ow had all this happened to them?” Explain what you believe is the answer to her question.
2. Define lobotomy. Why would a club be called Lobo2MeClub? How does this connect to the bar code tattoo?

Chapter 8

1. How does changing the changing of the slang -final level, banged out, astral- help perpetuate the setting in the future? How do we know what they are saying if we don’t use these words in this way?
2. Compare and contrast the song playing at the club to Kayla’s waking visions.

Chapter 9

1. Explain how the plot of the story has gotten Kayla to the point that she attends this secret meeting.
2. Who is Dave Young? Why is he important to our story? Where have we heard of him before?
3. “That’s because we’ve all gotten used to being tracked through the Internet. It really started in the 1970’s when credit cards were first linked to computers. By the 1990’s somebody knew every move you made with that card.” Using this quote and Kayla’s response, imagine and explain if you think we are going to be the 2025 of the story.
4. Who appears to be Kayla’s “caterpillar” and who appears to be Kayla’s “Cheshire Cat”?

Chapter 10

1. Describe where Kayla’s goes using the virtual reality helmet. Who does she talk to?
2. Create a table with everyone in the warehouse and their beliefs about the bar code tattoo. Use the information we’ve already read by each one and what they say in this conversation. Leave room to expand as you read further.
3. How does the use of the virtual reality helmet compare to Alice use of the different drinks and cakes?
4. With the article “New Phenomenon of Self-Immolation Puzzles Psychiatrists”, we’ve now been given three “news articles” to read. Why does the author present the information in this way and not in the narrative?
5. Make three inferences about the connections between Kayla’s father’s death and the information in the article.
6. Describe what information we get from Kayla and Amber’s emails. What could be foreshadowed from them?

Chapter 11

1. Add additional information about the anti-tattoo group from this chapter.
2. Describe what Alyson is hoping to study. What could this foreshadow about the tattoo?
3. What emotions and feelings does the news article play on to convince people of its validity?

Chapter 12

1. Describe what Mrs. Reed finds in her husband’s FBI files and how this may explain the issues with the tattoo.
2. What subterfuge and lying is the Tattoo Generation employing?
3. Explain Nedra’s change, what does it mean?

Chapter 13

1. How does the departure of Nedra and Zekeal, Zekeal's reappearance and betrayal change Kayla?
2. What persuasive techniques does Dave Young use in his resignation letter?

Chapter 14

1. Describe how Kayla's mom has deteriorated both mentally and physically because of her knowledge.
2. What prompts the fire?

Chapter 15

1. Where is Kayla and what is happening to her?

Part 2

1. Create graphic organizer showing how the I Ching quote relates to Alice and Kayla.
2. Why does Part 1 end? Hypothesize what the remainder of the book will focus on? What will Kayla do?

Chapter 16

1. What part of Kayla's character gives her the strength to fight and resist her injuries and the drugs to escape?
2. How does Kayla defend her theft of the clothes? Discuss if you agree or disagree with her actions.
3. Why does Kayla flashback to her eight year old self when she passes out? What does this give to Kayla?
4. Describe all the things that Kayla is running from as she heads to the Superlink.
5. How does the newspaper article misrepresent Kayla's character?

Chapter 17

1. What have all the changes done to the character that Kayla represents?
2. Define propaganda. Describe how the news Kayla watches at the eatery is full of propaganda.

Chapter 18

1. How does hiding in the green car prove to be both positive and negative for Kayla?
2. How do the emails that Kayla writes seem like the notes that Alice reads?

Chapter 19

1. Why is it important to show that avoiding the Global1 officers isn't age specific with Toz and Mava?
2. Why does Toz die?

Chapter 20

1. How is Kayla's wandering the woods like Alice's adventures in Wonderland?

Chapter 21

1. Who is in the cellar? Why is this good news for Kayla?
2. What advantages does Mfumbe's father see with the tattoo?
3. What ability does Kayla have that may be tied to her visions? How is this good or bad for her?

Chapter 22

1. Why must Kayla and Mfumbe go on the run?
2. How are the Globalofficers like the Queen of Hearts?
3. Describe what Kayla's abilities let her do.

Chapter 23

1. Discuss what precipitates the incident at the drugstore and what are the results?
2. How is Nedra fulfilling the job described in the Tattoo Generation book?

Chapter 24

1. How does Kayla survive without Mfumbe? Who helps her now?
2. How does finding August prove that Kayla's journey was justified?

Chapter 25

1. What are the resistant groups trying to do?
2. Describe the idea of freedom that Kayla has and the idea of freedom that Zekeal has.
3. Why do we have another showdown between Kayla and Nedra? How is this similar to Alice and the Queen of Hearts show down?

Chapter 26

1. Discuss what Eutonah is doing with Kayla.
2. How does Kayla's email to Amber give us insight into how she is feeling?

Chapter 27

1. How was security breached and what does it do to the compound?
2. How is Kayla able to save Mfumbe with just her mind?

Chapter 28

1. How must Kayla try to communicate with Amber now?
2. What has happened to the resisters and should they attend the rally?
3. Have they "woken" up from their dream like Alice?
4. Go back the very first question. Answer again, how does attitude play into being free?