

Discussion Questions for *Exit Velocity*, by Barbara Gregorich

1. Who is your favorite major character? Why?
2. Did you expect that Rowan's mother would return? Why? Before you met Rowan's mother, what was your opinion of her? Did this opinion change after you met her? Did your sympathy for (or against) her shift? How or why?
3. In what ways is Rowan like other literary characters you've met? In what ways is she different?
4. What do you think of Jake? In what ways did he change? Were these ways believable?
5. Most readers love Deeply. Why do you think that is? Do you like him? Why or why not?
6. *Exit Velocity* was published in June 2024. Do you think its message is even more important today than it was in 2024? If so, how and why? If not, why not?
7. In what ways is crocheting important to Rowan? What does this skill offer her?
8. What is grief? How have societies handled grief in the past? In the present? Has our society made grief easier to bear or harder to bear? How are Rowan and her mother different in the ways they handle their grief?
9. How do Rowan's political beliefs make her different? How do they help shape her character?
10. Rowan says that she can tell from MaryEllen's body language that MaryEllen is uncomfortable around Black people. What might that body language be? Have you ever observed such body language from people who feel uncomfortable around others? How does such body language change as people begin to accept others as fellow human beings?
11. Friendship plays a major role in *Exit Velocity*. Discuss the various friendships in the novel. Which did you like best?
12. Is Deeply vulnerable? If so, how? What does it mean to be vulnerable? Would you expect a being from another planet to be vulnerable?
13. What did you think of the author's writing style? Was it appropriate for this book?
14. How does Deeply change while on Earth? Do you think he is accomplishing his Duty to the Universe? If so, how? If not, why not?
15. What are a few of your favorite scenes from the novel?
16. What do you think the title means?
17. Does this book give you hope? If so, how? If not, why not?