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Green Eyes in the Amazon Discussion Topics:

- ✦ Evolution is a flashpoint for the conflict between religion and science. Readers of speculative fiction and the general public will find the ideas in this book challenging and the story gripping.
- ✦ Current social and political events—As with Fischer's prior book *Julia and the Dream Maker*, the plot turns on issues prominent in the news: bio-research, scientific ethics, the role of religion in political discourse.
- ✦ World environmental affairs—Set largely in the Amazon rain forest, the novel compels consideration of humanity's place in Earth's ecosystem.
- ✦ Human evolution—Characters—and readers—come face to face with the consequences of changes in the human genotype.
- ✦ Technological advancement—The novel introduces a wide range of fascinating technologies: quantum computers, nutritionally enhanced fruit, organic "DNA antennas", and many more.
- ✦ Self-awareness and identity—Virtually every major character re-examines his or her relationships to friends, family, and their own ideals.

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Green Eyes in the Amazon Discussion Questions:

1. What major political, legal and/or social changes are needed to handle significant technological advances? Would you favor government restrictions on science?
2. Can science and religion co-exist? Can they ever compromise, or is compromise inherently incompatible with both?
3. Do you think scientists will actually create artificial “life”? How would you define “life”?
4. Does scientific intervention as extensive as portrayed in this novel qualify as evolution? Or does evolution have to be a purely natural process?
5. Do you see any benefits from the type of research Steven is doing? If so, what are they?
6. Do you agree with Eli’s choices during her pregnancy?
7. How and why does the relationship between Steven and his father change during the course of the novel?
8. What future do you see for Julia? Can—or should—she participate in society in a “normal” way?
9. Why is the novel titled *Green Eyes in the Amazon*?
10. Was the role of the government in this novel appropriate? Should the government have protected Steven and his family better?

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