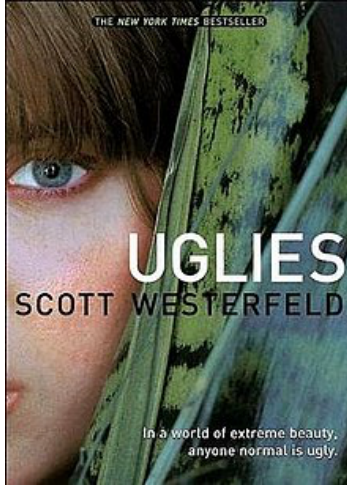




Uglies

By Scott Westerfeld



Set in a near dystopian future, *Uglies* presents a world where everyone is considered unattractive until they are forced to perform extreme cosmetic surgery to turn them “pretty”. But Tally, just a few weeks from her surgery, decides to rebel against the standards society has set. Along with her friends, David, and Shay, she seeks to challenge the system and reveal the true nature of being “Pretty” and all the downfalls that come with it. The book shows the sinister side of material beauty, and as the novel progresses and the reasoning behind becoming pretty becomes clearer, the concept becomes even more plausible.

Discussion Questions

1. *Uglies* shows a lot of new technology, including toothbrush pills, hoverboards, dehydrated food and interface rings to track the uglies. Does this book show that technology is positive, or negative, or a little of both? Are there certain types of technology that are more positive than others in this book?
2. To what extent did Tally decide her own fate, and how much did other people decide it for her?
3. Tally has three important guys in her life: Peris, David and Zane. How does her relationship with each of the three effect her decisions at different points in the story? Which of the three do you think made the greatest impact on Tally?
4. Is Dr Cable a protagonist or an antagonist? At what points in the series does she seem more good than evil or more evil than good? Does she have the best interests of the people of Pretty Town at heart or is she simply trying to gain power and prestige?

5. Just as Tally and her friends were brought up learning about the failure of the Rusties' society, what lessons can be learned from the future portrayed in the series?
6. What does beauty mean to Tally?
7. What effect does mandatory body modification have on people's self-esteem in the world of *Uglies*?
8. How do the characters in the book change their identity throughout the story?
9. Is Tally's betrayal of the Smoke worse than her getting in-between David and Shay's relationship?
10. If you had the chance to be made pretty, would you take it?