

WHEN YOU'RE INSIDE,
THE WORLD IS WATCHING.

스노볼

SNOW GLOBE

TRANSLATED BY JOUNGMIN LEE COMFORT

SOYOUNG PARK

EDUCATORS' GUIDE

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ABOUT THE BOOK

Enclosed under a vast dome, Snowglobe is the last place on Earth that's warm. Outside Snowglobe is a frozen wasteland, and every day, citizens face the icy world to get to their jobs at the power plant, where they produce the energy Snowglobe needs. Their only solace comes in the form of twenty-four-hour television programming streamed directly from the domed city.

The residents of Snowglobe have everything: fame, fortune, and above all, safety from the desolation outside their walls. In exchange, their lives are broadcast to the less fortunate outside, who watch eagerly, hoping for the chance to one day become actors themselves.

Chobahm lives for the time she spends watching the shows produced inside Snowglobe. Her favorite? *Goh Around*, starring Goh Haeri, Snowglobe's biggest star—and, it turns out, the key to getting Chobahm her dream life.

Because Haeri is dead, and Chobahm has been chosen to take her place. Only, life inside Snowglobe is nothing like what you see on television. Reality is a lie, and truth seems to be forever out of reach.

Translated for the first time into English from the original Korean, *Snowglobe* is a groundbreaking exploration of personal identity, and the future of the world as we know it. It is the winner of the Changbi X Kakaopage Young Adult Novel Award.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Soyoung Park majored in communication and media at university. She is a winner of the Original Story Award and the Changbi X Kakaopage Young Adult Novel Award. She is the author of the Snowglobe duology.



ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

Joungmin Lee Comfort is a Korean-English translator. Her translations have appeared in *Clarkesworld Magazine* and *Best of World SF*. Her recent cotranslation of Kim Bo-young's *On the Origin of Species and Other Stories* was longlisted for the National Book Award for translated literature.

PRE-READING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you had the chance to star in a reality show, but in exchange, you would need to give up your right to privacy, would you do it? Why or why not?
2. Research the rate of climate change. What are some predictions experts have made about the rate of climate change?
3. What are the ethics of cloning? Are there situations in which it is deemed appropriate, ethical, or necessary?
4. What are our privacy rights? How do you see people and institutions safeguarding our rights to privacy? Do you see any violations? What can we do to advocate for our right to privacy?
5. Interview an older person about how technology has changed throughout their lifetime. How has their personal use of technology changed?

OTHER RELEVANT RESOURCES

Books

- *Aurora Rising*
by Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff
- *The Gilded Ones*
by Namina Forna
- *The Magic Fish*
by Trung Le Nguyen

Online Resources

- [The War Memorial of Korea](#)
- [Korean War Veterans Memorial](#)
- [UC Center for Climate Justice](#)
- [Environment/Climate Justice | Teaching for Change](#)
- [War and Anti-War | Teaching for Change](#)
- Colón, Cristina. "[What is Climate Justice and What Can We Do to Achieve It?](#)" UNICEF
- [The Eyemonger: Privacy Resources for Educators and Parents](#)

PROJECT IDEAS

These activities are designed to encourage readers to learn more about issues prominent in the text.

1. What have you learned about the Korean War?
 - a. Why did it happen, and what are some of its consequences?
 - b. Why is it called the Forgotten War?
 - c. How did weather play a role in shaping the conflict?
 - d. Create a timeline of events and a map showing which nations played major roles in the conflict.
2. In the course of history, people have conducted medical experiments without the consent of those involved. Some recent examples include the USPHS Untreated Syphilis Study at Tuskegee; Henrietta Lacks's HeLa cells; the *Pernkopf Atlas* produced by the University of Vienna's Anatomical Institute. Research one of those situations to learn more about what occurred and the ways in which institutions have responded. Play the role of an investigative journalist and write an article about your findings.
3. What kinds of technology do you regularly use (smartphone, tablet, etc.)? Do you know of any recording or tracking software that is installed and in use? Do you know how to control certain functions? Create a guide for your peers about what software and apps may be tracking their actions both online and in the real world, along with instructions for how to manipulate or customize those functions.
4. What are the pros, cons, complexities, and ethics of having technology that can surveil entire communities?
 - a. As you read *Snowglobe* and move through your world, observe the areas in which you see some kind of surveillance. Are there cameras at the shopping mall? Have you gone through a TSA line? What about on the street? To what extent do you think these are necessary?
5. What is the impact of human behavior on our climate and natural resources? What can you do to reduce the effects of climate change? Strategize with your peers about the steps you can take to fight climate change, and start implementing those steps. Give yourself a timeline, and at the end, evaluate what you were able to accomplish and what your next steps will be.
6. Which communities suffer disproportionately from the effects of climate change? Who is responsible for those communities? Write a letter to your representatives asking them to take specific steps to support those communities.

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

PART 1: ME (pp. 1–64)

Science and Surveillance

“About Snowglobe. With the world now at an average annual temperature of -50°F, Snowglobe is the only place with a temperate climate—the only location with warmth and color—in the whole world. It’s a special settlement that was built atop a geothermal vent and is enclosed in a gigantic weatherproof glass dome. . . . Its lucky residents are actors, whose unscripted lives are recorded in real time and edited into shows, which are then broadcast to the open world for entertainment” (p. 4).

“Simply put, power production depends entirely on human physical labor” (p. 16).

- At the book’s opening, Chobahm tells the reader that the electricity they produce at the plant powers the lives of those who live in Snowglobe, and in exchange, Snowglobe residents “share their lives” (p. 17). What do you think of this exchange?
- Chobahm wonders what decisions she would have made if she were various people in Snowglobe (p. 20): the director of the Jo Miryu show, Jo Miryu herself, Goh Haeri. Pick one character and explain how you think Chobahm would have behaved differently, and why.
- When Chobahm asks Director Cha whether or not Haeri left a suicide note, Director Cha responds that the question is intrusive. To what extent should celebrities—even ones whose lives are laid bare in a reality show—be expected to share every detail of their lives? Is there any topic or situation that is off limits? Should there be protections in place when the celebrity is a young person?
- What kinds of privacy can the people in this story expect? What kinds of privacy should all people reasonably expect?

Climate Change

Chobahm explains that “civilizations around the globe clashed brutally as the climate shift became more and more dramatic” (p. 58).

- Why would climate change make civilizations fight with one another? How do you see this playing out in our own lives? What can we do about it?

Agency and Violence

- If you were in Chobahm’s position, would you have accepted Director Cha’s offer? What were Chobahm’s options?

Connections and Reflections

- Chobahm is devastated when she learns that Haeri has died by suicide. Was there a person—an actor, politician, or someone else—whose death was difficult for you? Why do you think the deaths of famous people—who we know only from afar—impact us so much?

PART 2: YOU (pp. 67–227)

Science and Surveillance

- Chobahm had started the story by telling the reader how desperately she wanted to meet Goh Haeri and maybe even live a similar life. At what point does this fantasy begin to unravel? What are some of the shocking truths that Chobahm learns as her dream becomes a nightmare?
- Chobahm becomes sick almost immediately after she arrives in Snowglobe. She explains that the extreme cold weather outside Snowglobe killed off viruses, but they still survive inside because of the climate. How does the immune system work? What are the optimal conditions for viruses to take hold? What are vaccines, how are they made, and how effective are they? How can we protect ourselves from becoming infected and seriously ill?

- Fran’s “face bears the ravages of cancer, a disease that, despite all the advances in medical technology, continues to evade us” (p. 173). Research the following: Where does cancer research stand today? What are some of the most important advances that have been made in the last few decades? How does funding and policy for cancer research work? Do you see any barriers to progress? What should be done about them?

Climate Change

- Chobahm is shocked when she discovers the prison camp where the incarcerated are forced to run on hamster wheels to generate energy. What does incarceration and punishment look like where you live? Research what is permissible treatment of prisoners in your state with regards to labor. What is the history of using prisoners for labor? Do you think this is fair?

Agency and Violence

- Is living in Snowglobe a privilege, as Director Cha tells Chobahm (p. 126)? Why do you think people think it is? What does this tell you about perception and reality? Does this have any bearing on your own life?
- Chobahm shares that “Every once in a while the opinion gets resurrected . . . that nuclear energy should be readopted to free up the masses from the oppression of the hamster wheels. But humanity is not willing to take that risk” (p. 141). She asks, “And why should we when the world teems with people capable of producing safe and clean energy just by the sweat on their brows?” Are those the only two options? What do you think the people inside and outside of Snowglobe should do?
- While discussing Haeri’s potential romance with Bonwhe, Chobahm asks Director Cha “Did you *create* Haeri’s secret?” (p. 199) What do you think? To what extent do you think Director Cha “created” the familial problems in Haeri’s life?

PART 3: US (pp. 231–372)

Science and Surveillance

- Presumably the inhabitants of Snowglobe consent to having their lives constantly recorded. What are the ethics of nonstop surveillance? Do you think there are sufficient policies to protect Snowglobe citizens?
- Chobahm connects and teams up with several important girls in Part 3. Are they victims or villains? How would you have handled the fan mail and complaints?

Agency and Violence

- Chobahm wonders if she could consider Hyang a “conscientious objector” (p. 248). What is a “conscientious objector,” and how is that different from quitting? Who are some other conscientious objectors you admire, and why? What was the impact of their actions?
- As Chobahm and Hyang discuss plans to return to Snowglobe, Chobahm says, “Returning to Snowglobe to kill off Haeri and reclaim Chobahm is not an act of murder, but an affirmation of life” (p. 254). Do you agree or disagree? Why?

Connections and Reflections

- If you had a chance to live Goh Haeri’s life, would you take it? Why or why not?
- Chobahm faces some seemingly impossible situations. Write about a difficult time in your life, what happened, and who, if anyone, helped you.

POST-READING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Earlier in the story, Yujin met Chobahm/Haeri at the Yibonn party. Yujin tells her, “One person has to die if you run into your clone—did you know that? . . . It’s said that there are a total of three clones for each of us, including ourselves” (pp. 89–90). What other instances of foreshadowing has the author sprinkled throughout the story?
- How has reading *Snowglobe* impacted your thoughts about surveillance, war, and climate change?
- What do you think about the ability to clone people? Do you think it should be allowed under any circumstances? Why?
- What do you think of the cover? Look up the original Korean cover. Why do you think the American publisher decided on this cover?
- What are some other translated books you’ve read? What do you think are some of the challenges in translating a book like *Snowglobe*? What do you think might have been easy to translate about this story?

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