

*"The Hunger Games meets Squid Game."*

—ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY on the New York Times bestseller *Snowglobe*



# SNOWGLOBE

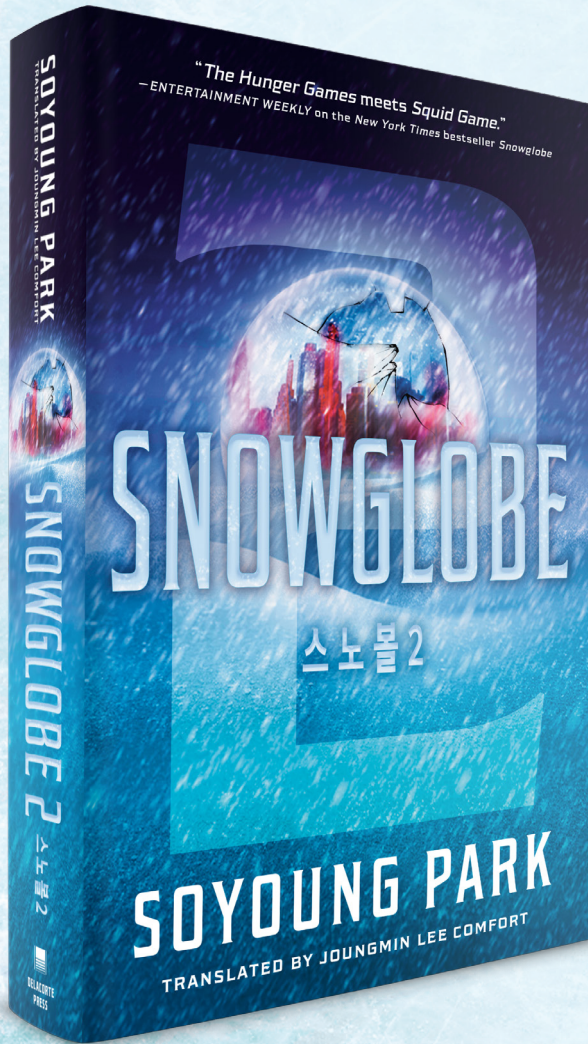
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## SOYOUNG PARK

TRANSLATED BY JOUNGMIN LEE COMFORT

**EDUCATORS' GUIDE**  
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## ABOUT THE BOOK

The groundbreaking Korean phenomenon that *Entertainment Weekly* called “*The Hunger Games* meets *Squid Game*” continues with even more dark secrets and shocking surprises. The temperature is rising and the truth at the center of Chobahm’s frozen world will be revealed in the final installment of this epic dystopian saga.

Chobahm’s perfect life in Snowglobe came crashing down when she discovered the truth about Haeri. The girl she watched faithfully on television was far from perfect. And the TV family revered by millions was nothing more than an illusion created by the sinister Director Cha. But revealing the lies was only the first crack in the domed utopia.

Director Cha may be behind bars, but the Yibonn Media corporation, the corrupt entity that runs Snowglobe, is still in power. They’ll do anything to hide their own secret—the dark truth behind the domed city’s signature warmth—and when footage emerges of Chobahm committing a murder, she knows they’re not finished with her yet.

The only person who can help to clear her name is none other than the disgraced Yibonn heir, Bonwhe—who knows better than anyone that enemies exist everywhere. Sometimes you can’t even trust yourself.

The heat is rising—and with the soaring temperatures come new secrets. And new lies.



Nana Shin

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Soyoung Park** majored in 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.



## PRE-READING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Reading and Knowing

1. What are some of your favorite portal fantasy stories? What is it about portal fantasies that make for an intriguing story?
2. When someone creates major change in society, does it matter whether or not they get credit, since society overall will improve due to their actions? Does your response change if that person is a woman? A woman of color? Someone who is typically underrepresented in media and stories?
3. Think of a name you like. What do you like about it? Do you know the history or meaning behind your name? What does your name mean to you?

### Governance

4. How does the use of propaganda influence the characters' beliefs and decisions, and what impact does it have on the society depicted in the story?
5. Look up the word *nepotism*. What are some instances of nepotism you see in government, Hollywood, or other spaces? Why is nepotism dangerous or unfair, and what should be done to protect against it?
6. What is a human rights violation? Google the term to learn about some recent human rights violations, especially but not only in relation to where this story was originally published—the Republic of Korea. What kinds of human rights violations have occurred there? What is being done in terms of reparations and to protect against future violations? To what extent can a government or responsible party truly make up for human rights violations?
7. Look up the 2021 Texas Power Crisis. What happened, what might have prevented it, and what is being done to prevent future power crises?

### Rights and Rightlessness

8. What are the rights of people who are disabled? What is the history of disability activism where you live? How has your city, state, or country supported disability rights?
9. Michelle Alexander coined the phrase “the New Jim Crow” when she wrote about how people who are incarcerated are forced to work in near slave-like conditions. What are your thoughts on using the labor of people who are incarcerated? Should those who are incarcerated have the same rights in terms of labor protections as those who are not?

### Science

10. What is a genetic code and how does it work? How can it be replicated? Why might one want to replicate a genetic code?
11. How does the process of cloning challenge the characters' understanding of identity and individuality?
12. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared that COVID-19 was a pandemic. Governments announced shutdown orders, schools closed, and people were told to stay home. How did this behavior mitigate the spread of the virus?

## OTHER RELEVANT RESOURCES

- *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
- *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle
- *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins
- *In the Tunnel* by Julie Lee
- *Brother's Keeper* by Julie Lee
- *The Marrow Thieves* by Cherie Dimaline
- *The Girl I Am, Was, and Never Will Be* by Shannon Gibney
- *The Last Cuentista* by Donna Barba Higuera



## 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.
- [Seeding Sovereignty: Redefining “Expertise” in the Environmental Movement](#)
- [The Eyemonger: Privacy Resources for Educators and Parents](#)
- [Know Your Rights: Disability Rights](#), American Civil Liberties Union
- [DNA Day Activity Ideas](#), National Human Genome Research Institute
- [Disability Language Style Guide](#), National Center on Disability and Journalism
- Wong, Alice. 2023. [Why Palestinian Liberation Is Disability Justice](#). Disability Visibility Project.

## PROJECT IDEAS

These activities encourage readers to learn more about places and issues prominent in the text.

1. Design a flyer advertising both *Snowglobe* and *Snowglobe 2*. What images or symbols do you think encapsulate the themes of both books?
2. Draw what you think the underground power plant looks like.
3. Using software on a computer or tablet, create a webtoon of a scene that takes place in the clinic.
4. As you were reading, did you have trouble keeping the characters and their backstories straight? Make a character map of the major (and minor) characters and the actions they took to move the story forward.
5. Climate policy changes according to a leader’s priorities and beliefs. Research how the US government’s climate policies have changed over the past twenty years. Create a timeline and explain actions and legislation, and their consequences.
6. Design an advertisement for the cardioverter.

7. With friends who have also read *Snowglobe* and *Snowglobe 2*, stage a press conference announcing the Yibonns’ downfall.
8. *Snowglobe 2* includes some chapters told from other characters’ perspectives. Write a short chapter from Ongi’s perspective.

## DISCUSSION PROMPTS

### PART I

#### On Being Human

1. Chobahm and Serin have had a contentious relationship from the start. However, Chobahm wonders, “Though it’s entirely possible that it’s purely play-acting for the camera, what if she’s indeed sad, lonely, and struggling to reach out . . . ?” (p. 7) What do you think? If you were in Serin’s situation, how would you feel and behave?
2. After Chobahm overhears how tenderly Ongi speaks to Serin, she thinks, “I remind myself that Ongi is no longer blood. We never have been. Like with the other clones, my parents were only surrogates, meant to foster me until Director Cha had need of me in *Snowglobe*.” (p. 9) To what extent do you think biological relations are the determining factor in kinship?
3. Chobahm is taken aback when Serin asks her, “How come . . . you alone are whole?” (p. 22) What does she mean by “whole”? What factors do you think make someone feel “whole”? Does anyone ever feel truly “whole”? What can we do to support one another in this ideal?
4. How does the distinction between being a Snowglobian by birth and a transplant affect the characters’ sense of belonging and identity, and what tensions arise from these in-group and out-group dynamics?
5. Part I includes a chapter that is told from Cha Seol’s perspective. What do you think of this inclusion? How does hearing the story from her perspective impact your perception of her and her actions?



## The Environment

6. Hyang reminds everyone that “the blackout is a direct consequence of our being wasteful and irresponsible with the electricity imported from the open world.” (p. 11) Look up the term *scarcity mindset*. Why does this exist, and what is our responsibility in managing our land and resources?
7. Climate disasters are becoming more common in both the world of *Snowglobe* and the real world, in the United States and beyond. What is causing this increase? What should we be doing to slow it down or to try to reverse its effects? (p. 12)
8. How do the characters’ adaptations to extreme cold environments outside of Snowglobe reflect their resilience and ingenuity, and what does this suggest about human capacity to thrive in challenging conditions?

## Agency and Accessibility

9. How does the trade-off between living in Snowglobe with access to amenities like swimming pools, but at the cost of privacy, affect the characters’ perceptions of freedom and autonomy, and what does this reveal about the societal values within the Snowglobe community?
10. Chobahm says, “The pattern was that when an individual worker rose up against power, they ended up being disciplined—reeducated—before ultimately getting fired. So, would it have been worth the trouble for me?” (p. 63) Do you agree with Chobahm? What are the dangers of a single person speaking up, versus staying silent? How can ordinary people fight powerful systems?
11. When Chobahm visits Cha Seol, something Cha Seol says makes Chobahm think: “A breach in this trust would swiftly undermine the current social contract.” (p. 126) What “trust” is she talking about? What is a social contract? What does she mean by this? Do you think she is correct?

12. In the chapter titled “How to Change the World,” Cha Seol tells Chobahm, “Heroes change the world to save others . . . but ordinary people change the world to save themselves.” What does this mean? What constitutes a hero?
13. In sharing about Miryu’s journey back to Snowglobe, Chobahm references that Miryu found herself at “Snowglobe’s Customs and Border Control.” (p. 133) What is customs and border control, and what is their charge? In what ways might this charge be abused? Can you think of any current examples?
14. How does Chobahm’s approach to confronting her triggers to break the hypnotic spell illustrate the effectiveness of facing one’s fears, and what does this reveal about her character development and the broader theme of overcoming psychological barriers?

## Dis/ability and Abuse

15. Chairman Shin tells Chobahm, “I heard that people like me are of little use in the open world . . . and that whatever job we’re lucky to secure, it pays peanuts.” (p. 56) People around the world, in every climate, live with varying disabilities, and they carry out many different jobs. Who are some famous people you know who have disabilities, and what kinds of jobs do they hold? How can we better include them in all aspects of human life? What steps can we take to mitigate any difficulties they may face?
16. Wednesday mentions that she and Thursday met when they were both placed into an orphanage, but unfortunately, the people who adopted Thursday abused him. (pp. 147–148) What protections are in place to guard against adoptees being abused by their parents? What protections *should* be in place?



## PART 2

### Art, Agency, and Activism

1. Wednesday explains to Chobahm that she followed Thursday to film school. She said, “He persuaded me to join him there to do my part in possibly changing the world.” (p. 163) Can art change the world? What do you think Thursday wanted to accomplish?
2. Chobahm’s journey to visit Chairman Shin is filled with unexpected twists that the book makes clear are illusions. How does her experience challenge the perception of reality, and what does this imply about the power of the mind to overcome such illusions?
3. Chairman Shin tells Chobahm that what the Yi family envisioned for Snowglobe is “a feat of imagination, for sure,” but she also says that “imagination alone doesn’t get you very far. You have to have the brainpower to actualize the vision.” (p. 183) People rarely accomplish big projects on their own. Can you think of other situations or teams where people worked together to pull off a huge accomplishment? What are some fictional stories where teams worked well together to accomplish something really big?
4. When reflecting about her life back home, Chobahm says that after working at the plant and then looking at her notes for becoming a director, she sometimes fell “into a pit of despair.” (p. 221) She wondered, “What does it matter, anyway? I’ll never get it.” Have you ever felt this way about your dreams? How do we persevere in the face of uncertainty?
5. Chobahm says, “That’s how ordinary people change the world.” (p. 222) This is actually a common quote and belief among people. A lot of ordinary people can work together to make extraordinary changes. What is a situation you care about, and what changes could you make?
6. Were you surprised when you (and Chobahm!) realized that Ongi knew her secret? (p. 238) Do you believe it’s possible that because he’s known her since birth, he could see through her scheme?

### Dis/ability and the Body

7. Chairman Shin tells Chobahm that President Yi Bonyung instructed her to delete all of Chobahm’s biometric data. (p. 183) What is biometric data, and how is it used for security purposes? What are the risks in using biometric data for identification purposes?

### Science and Technology

8. How do the underground power plant and cardioverters, which rely on human power, highlight the ethical dilemmas and human costs associated with technological advancements, and what does this suggest about the societal values and priorities within the Snowglobe community?
9. Chobahm and Serin embark on what they call Operation Identity Swap. (p. 225) Have you seen movies such as *The Parent Trap*, *Freaky Friday*, and *Face/Off*? How might someone give themselves away if they look identical to the person they are swapping with?
10. When Chobahm finally gets to the plant, she learns that people are being held captive there with the lie that aboveground, a deadly virus is raging all over the world. (p. 253) How do lies trap people into gratitude and obedience?
11. Chobahm observes that the underground power plant is running quite efficiently. She says, “They appear to range the full spectrum of a vibrant and self-sustained community, from small-scale agriculture, gardening, and kitchen to cafeteria, recreation, and so on.” (p. 258) The use of propaganda is a critical tool for maintaining the societal structure where the majority can live well at the expense of a few. The book illustrates how the illusion of freedom and autonomy is perpetuated through controlled narratives and technological advancements that appear beneficial but ultimately trap individuals in a cycle of sacrifice. This raises important ethical questions about the fairness of such a system, where the prosperity of the majority is built on the exploitation of a minority. The narrative encourages readers to reflect on the moral implications of progress and the true cost of societal comfort and efficiency. Given the observations about the underground power plant and the societal structure described, how do you think individuals can recognize and challenge the narratives that perpetuate inequality and exploitation in their own communities?



## Agency and Change

1. Chobahm tells Bonwhe the truth about why she came to the power plant: “What I’m about to do will destroy your life—your present, past, and the future. Everyone will curse you and your family, and you’ll have to live with it. And do you know what else? I don’t even feel bad about it. I’m doing what must be done.” (p. 296) *Should* Chobahm feel bad? Why or why not?
2. Chobahm used to think there was no right or wrong, but now she thinks “there is a right and a wrong.” (p. 297) Moreover, she thinks, “Some people have been dealt impossible cards to play.” (p. 297) What do you think? In the face of impossible options, how should people behave?
3. Chairman Shin tells Chobahm that the Yibonns banned cell phones because they thought failure of communication made for better entertainment. (p. 361) At the time this book was published, some school districts and entire states were moving to ban cell phones from schools. What do you think of young people’s use of cell phones? Should they be allowed to use them during school hours? Do some research on the impact of cell phones and social media use on young people, as well as on adults. What do you think now?

## On Being Human

4. What do you think of Miryu’s conversation with Chobahm and Somyung regarding selfish humans? (p. 346) Do you think what she says is true? Can you think of people throughout history who performed selfless acts? How are they remembered?
5. Miryu shares some advice with Hyang before she leaves. (p. 348) If you thought you might not see someone again, what would you say to them?
6. Chobahm is shocked to hear Chairman Shin say, “Because the invalids, the useless, the dumb, and so on . . . those people will create the energy we need—for us, so people like us can focus our brains and energy on further advancing the world through technological innovations.” (p. 365) What is wrong with this line of thinking?

## Violence and Resistance

7. Chobahm realizes that the well is not just a well, but that it is meant to efficiently kill many people at once—a “mass grave,” she calls it. (p. 327) Look up the word *genocide*. What is the definition? When have people in history—and even today—tried to kill whole populations at once? How were they stopped?
8. Chairman Shin says, “Those in power instinctively fear citizen organizations.” (p. 361) Can you think of other times throughout history when this has been true? What have those in power done to prevent people from organizing? What protections are in place for people to organize? Does it differ from country to country, culture to culture?
9. Somyung tells the others, “The Yibonn have silenced the media. Remember—despite everything, the corporation is still in control for now.” (p. 377) What is the purpose of the media in any democracy? What is the idea behind “freedom of the press”?
10. Chobahm shares the structural changes society is enjoying in the aftermath of the Yibonns’ downfall. She says, “It’s going to take some getting used to, and perhaps practice, but we’re doing it—each and every one of us.” (p. 395) When is sacrifice worth it? How can we balance the needs of the few with the needs of the many?
11. “I know that the same abuse of power could repeat at any time, if we’re not careful, if we unwittingly hand over our freedom and rights to privacy—our lives—again to someone or something that claims to have our best interest at heart. We could run straight into the hands of the next Yibonn family, if we fall back asleep.” (p. 399) How can society balance enjoying one’s hard-won freedom with remaining careful and vigilant about falling into another trap?



## EPILOGUE

### Love and Sacrifice

1. One of the saddest things about the way *Snowglobe 2* ends is how Miryu's and Hyang's lives turn out. And yet, there may be some mercy too. What do you think of the way their story ended?

### POST-READING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Some of the chapter titles include phrases such as "A Rat in a Trap" (p. 94) and "In the Lion's Den." (p. 103) Look over the other titles. Where do these phrases come from, and what do they mean in relation to the story?
2. How did reading the story make you feel about 1) entertainment, 2) privacy, 3) media versus reality, 4) forgiveness, and 5) sacrifice?
3. Think back to the pre-reading question about portal fantasies. What kinds of portals exist in the Snowglobe universe? What are some of the fantasy genre's rules about portals, and how do the portals in this novel meet or subvert them?
4. Think back to the pre-reading question about nepotism. What role does nepotism play in Snowglobe? Which characters take advantage, and which try to break that cycle?
5. Having finished the story, think back to when Cha Seol asks, "Why does everyone so worship the Yibonns? How come they continue to sit on top of the world, and no one ever questions the legitimacy of their power?" (p. 154) Why do you think the Yibonns got away with so much for so long?
6. What are defamation and libel, and what is the difference? President Yi has accused others of both, but who are the real victims of defamation and libel in Snowglobe (and beyond)?

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