Close-Reading Questions

“The Message”

1. Einstein lived from 1879 to 1955. So when does this story take place? (setting, page 25)

2. Why might the author have put the first three paragraphs in italics? (text structure, page 25)

3. What do you think a holo is? (inference, page 25)

4. Explain why these lines are important. What do they help you understand? (text structure, page 27)
5. How does Astra see herself? Use these lines and other lines in the story to support your answer. (character, page 27)

6. Why does Astra want to talk to Oma rather than to her parents? (character, page 27)

7. What does Astra realize when she opens her mom’s gift? Explain. (inference, page 29)

8. Why does Astra think of Oma in this moment? (text structure, page 29)
Critical-Thinking Questions

“The Message”

1. Do you think Astra will see herself differently after the events in the story? Will others see her differently? Explain.

2. What would be exciting or rewarding about being a colonist on the Vida? What would be challenging?

3. If you had the ability to send a message to yourself at a younger age, would you? What would you tell yourself?

4. Vida means “life” in Spanish. Why might the colonists have called the ship Vida?

5. Should humans work toward colonizing another planet? Why?