

Unpacking *Boxes*

Social Issues Discussion Guide

1. Consider the issues addressed in *Boxes*, and their past and present impact.

Social Issue	How has it changed since the novel's setting in 1998?
Corporate Corruption	
Homelessness	
Racism	
Poverty	
Police Brutality	
Urban Decay	
Environmental Pollution	
Discrimination	
Inequality and Inequity	
Disability	
Immigration	
Native Peoples	
Addiction	
Bullying and Abuse	

2. Tim is deeply disturbed by the social issues he encounters. How much, if any, do you feel despair or hopelessness around social issues? Which trouble you most?

3. How do social issues impact the relationships between characters in *Boxes*?

4. How do you believe each of the issues listed in the grid above affect the quality of our lives today? How do they affect your life?

5. How do social issues influence the health and aspirations of our citizens?

6. Why haven't we made more progress in mitigating or solving social issues?

7. What do you believe can be accomplished successfully to make more progress toward a more equitable society? What can you do?

8. How much do you agree or disagree with the following quote from *Boxes*? (stated in present tense) "In the corporate rat race, executive suites are Skinner Boxes where power brokers pound pleasure buttons until they lose touch with reality. The result is perverse and pervasive injustice." How much are societal issues related to the concentration of wealth among so few people and corporations?