

READ GLOBAL BOOK GROUP

Tunnels by Rutu Modan

Questions & food for thought

1. The first panels show Doctor playing a videogame, putting light out into a dark room. Can you think of other uses of light in the book?
2. The drawing style is more cartoonish than some of Modan's other work. In her review on NPR, Etelka Lehoczký says, "Only cartoon characters, Modan suggests, can possibly reflect the cartoonish levels of greed and self-deceit revealed as her tale unspools."
3. Tunnels can connect. They can also undermine. How does the tunnel metaphor work in the book?
4. Many of the characters are intensely self-interested – they betray each other and engage in some questionable ethics. What are their interests and motivations? Is there anyone who stands out as particularly noble or evil?
5. Do you think the Israelis or Palestinians come out looking better in the story?
6. Expressions and gestures are important to how we understand characters. Can you find an example of a particular expression or movement that you think shows a significant character trait?
7. There is a mix of lighter and heavier elements in the story and characterizations. What were the lighter moments? What things were serious or bitter?
8. Why do you think Modan chose to include a cast of characters with credits at the end?

Notes

Rutu Modan has edited the Israeli edition of MAD Magazine and done work for the *New Yorker*. You can see some of her work from an exhibition at the Phillippe Labaume Gallery in New York this spring: <https://www.philippelabaume.com/exhibitions/3-continents-colomba-meurisse-modan>



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