1. Doc and Andy spend Friday’s catching up on personal things because it’s a Muslim holy day. How much do you know about the Muslim religion? Its practices and beliefs?

2. Doc has a great deal of emails in this section. How do these personal correspondence within the narrative affect your reading of the overall story? Are they helpful or do they interfere in the main issue?

3. Take a look at the photographs in the middle of the book. These photos help put faces on descriptions that you’ve been reading about. Does seeing the actual scenes and situations make a difference in how you read from here on? Are the photos emotional or just informational? Does it matter? Why are photographs included?

4. In Chapter 8, Doc returns to his home family during one of his R&Rs. He describes the meeting at the airport as nearly surreal with the entire reception “one big blur.” Have you ever traveled away from your family and returned with a similar reaction—a feeling of not belonging, not being totally involved or a part of your own family? Why does Doc not easily connect with his family after spending so much time away?

5. Doc writes in an email that on his birthday he traveled to a village and “didn’t get shot,” so that was a sort of birthday present. What kind of inner strength do you think it might take to work in a place where the people you’re trying to help don’t understand why you’re there and assume you’re the enemy? Would it be worth it? Can you see a point in your life where you might commit yourself to such a project?