STUDY QUESTIONS

• What is the relationship between the novel and Paul Green’s dramas? In what ways are the author’s experience and expertise as a dramatist revealed in This Body the Earth?

• What characteristics of place, character, and language set the novel in the agrarian South? What folk motifs and rituals of farming run through the book?

• What universal themes dealing with the human condition are found in Green's novel? Comment upon it as the story of an "everyman." What are the defining events of Alvin Barnes’ life?

• What beliefs and practices of that period exist today? How have they changed in the 21st century?

• What are the main beliefs of Blake Dewar's social philosophy? What is their relevance to today’s thinking? How did they impact Alvin Barnes and other characters in the novel?

• Consider other American novels, like John Steinbeck's The Grapes of Wrath, that depict the plight of the migrant worker in post-World War II America. Who are today’s migrant workers and what are the determining factors that govern their lives?

• What were the harsh realities of the sharecropper's life at the time of the novel? And, explain the difference between a tenant and a sharecropper. How does the sharecropper in Green's novel differ from other kinds of modern-day laborers?

• In what ways does the author reveal his devotion to the individual and his belief in the rights of people to the fulfillment of their potential?

• Discuss such issues as class, race, and gender in This Body the Earth. What place does religion have in the novel?

• What is the role of women in Green's agrarian landscape? What are the characteristics of Ivy Chadbourne that make her a saintly person? Is she a believable, sympathetic character?

• Did you like the book? Why?
The giant-impact hypothesis, sometimes called the Big Splash, or the Theia Impact, suggests that Luna (the Moon) formed from the ejecta of a collision between the proto-Earth and a Mars-sized planetesimal, approximately 4.5 billion years ago, in the Hadean eon (about 20 to 100 million years after the Solar System coalesced). The colliding body is sometimes called Theia, from the name of the mythical Greek Titan who was the mother of Selene, the goddess of the Moon. Analysis of lunar rocks, published but what, exactly, happens to your body in space, and what are the risks? Are risks the same for six months on the space station versus three years on a Mars mission? No. There are several risks NASA is researching for a Mars mission. Science takes time, and researchers are eagerly analyzing results of the mission to see how much more the body changes after a year in space. One year is a stepping stone to a three-year journey to Mars, and Scott’s data will help researchers determine whether the solutions they’ve been developing will be suitable for such long, onerous journeys. Beware, what you’re about to read can be scary. But the good news is NASA has been working to solve these problems with some of the most brilliant minds in the field. The Earth is like a gigantic battery that contains a natural, subtle electrical charge—a special kind of energy present in the ground. For safety and stability, most everything in the electrical world is connected to it, whether it is an electric power plant or your refrigerator. That’s what the term grounded means. Being grounded also applies to people. When you are electrically grounded, you feel: Centered. Solid.