Discussion Questions

• Does the fact that we distinguish between "people" and "animals" in everyday language suggest an anthropocentric bias?

• What's your reaction to the following argument? Fishing for tuna "on dolphin" is defensible because
  1) it provides an affordable source of protein for humans
  2) the number of humans who benefit from this practice is far greater than the number of dolphins harmed
  3) there's no risk that this fishing practice will make dolphins "endangered" or "extinct" in the eastern tropical Pacific

• Dolphins at entertainment facilities with access to the open ocean don't leave. Should this be understood as meaning that they freely choose to stay?

• What's your reaction to the idea that the criteria for "intelligence" may differ dramatically among different species?

• If the book's claims are correct, does this mean that the use of dolphins at entertainment facilities constitutes "slavery"?

• Is it ever acceptable for a "person" to be considered someone's "property"?

• The book suggests that the current treatment of dolphins is wrong.
Could a similar argument be made regarding such nonhumans as chimpanzees, gorillas, elephants and the larger whales? Should they be considered other candidates for "nonhuman persons"?