

# TALKING POINTS

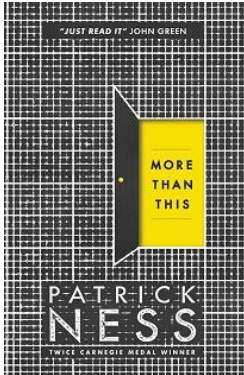
## CILIP Carnegie Medal Shortlist 2015



The CILIP Carnegie  
& Kate Greenaway  
Children's Book  
Awards

### MORE THAN THIS

By Patrick Ness



#### The beginning

Read the two epigraphs to the book again . how do they relate to what comes afterwards?

What do you think the title is telling you?

Do you think the brief prologue is effective? Why, or why not?

#### Telling the story

What effect did the shifting between the two worlds have on your reading . did they work well together? Was it confusing, or intriguing?

Think about how the story is told . can you picture what it's describing? Do you have a clear image in your mind of, say, the chamber of coffins?

#### The characters

What function does the character of the Driver have in the world of the book, and in the story?

What does Seth and Regine/ Tomasz think of each other when they first meet? How has their relationship changed by the end?

#### Some themes

How does the book deal with each of these?

- Technology
- Bereavement and loss
- Sexuality
- Being between two cultures

The book plays with the idea of which world is the real one . both feel real to Seth. Do you think Ness is asking a question about the perception/reality of our own world?





## Some quotations

How do each of these quotations relate to the book as a whole?

Real life is only ever just real life. Messy. What it means depends on how you look at it. The only thing you've got to do is find a way to live there.

What I've learned is that there actually is more. There's you guys. You guys are my more.

There's always beauty if you know where to look.

We have to lie to ourselves to live. Otherwise, we'd go crazy.

## Final thoughts

Has this book made you think about your own real world differently?

Some reviewers have described this book as brave. Why do you think that might be, and do you think that's a fair description?

If you've read anything by Patrick Ness before, can you see things in common?

Ness has written: Though there's despair here, and pain, in one way it might be the most hopeful thing I've ever written. How might this book be seen as hopeful?

