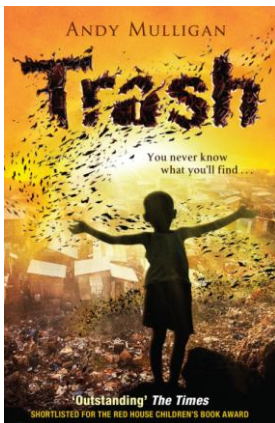


TALKING POINTS

CILIP Carnegie Medal Shortlist 2012



The CILIP Carnegie
& Kate Greenaway
Children's Book
Awards



Trash

by Andy Mulligan

SOCIETY'S REJECTS

Raphael, Gardo and Rat are all very good at their job: scavenging in Betala, an entire shanty town built on the rubbish dumps of a sprawling city in a third world country, with great extremes of rich and poor.

- What skills do the boys need in order to survive?
- How does their life in Betala prepare them for their quest to discover the secrets of the bag Raphael finds?
- How can what they learn in school help them with their everyday working life and with their investigation?
- Why does Father Juillard have to bribe his pupils to attend school?
- Why are the uniforms that have been donated mostly useless to them?
- When the children have to leave Betala, which of them has the most to lose?
- Why is Rat's life even harder than Gardo's and Raphael's?
- Why doesn't Rat use his real name, Jun-Jun, which he is called in school?

A TALE OF MANY PARTS

Andy Mulligan shares the narration between the three boys plus four other characters.

- What is the effect of frequent switches between narrator?
- Andy Mulligan's first career was as a theatre director. How might this have influenced how he tells the story?

Each narrator tells only part of the story. When you have finished reading the book, study each narrator and write down:

- What they tell us
- What they leave out.

If they don't tell us something important, is that because:

- They don't know?
- It's not the right time to tell us?

The most innocent people tell the most challenging parts of the story. Why do you think this is?

Read Raphael's description of his interrogation in the police station in Part Two.

- What does this scene tell us about how the authorities view Raphael and his friends?
- Do you think the violence that is described is excessive?
- What do we learn later about the effect of this experience on Raphael?

Then read Olivia's description of her visit to Colva Prison in Part Three.

- What doesn't she understand about the task she has been given?
- Where do the images of locked doors, cages and keys appear elsewhere in the book?



JOIN THE DEBATE
www.ckg.org.uk/shadowing

Which characters that do not tell any of the story might we be interested to hear from?

- Write two pages telling any section of the story from the point of view of one of these characters.

BREAKING THE CODE

The boys have to decipher various secret messages and codes in the course of their investigation.

- How does this activity reflect their position in society?
- Do they need help to break the codes and who gives it to them?
- Are any of their helpers unlikely?
- Does anyone who should support them let them down?

FIND OUT MORE:

- Use the internet to research where in the world children live like Raphael, Gardo and Rat and display your findings.
- Find out what efforts various charities are making to help street children who have to work to support their families.
- From what you have learned about the street children in Trash, what do you think needs to happen to improve their lives?

