

# TRINITY SCHOOLS BOOK AWARD 2016

Creative Response inspired by the book *Mortal Engines* by Philip Reeve

## **'Interview with Tom Natsworthy'**

By Oscar (Emanuel School)

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### **Since the end of the book:**

Tom has been having troubles since the destruction of London. He has been traumatised since he sent Pewsey and Gench into flames and has had many visions of London burning and Katherine dying to save Hester. So he and Hester change their minds and decide to go back to Barmunkh Gompa to get help.

The anti-tractionists treat him like a hero, but Tom is too light-headed and confused to understand what they are saying. The people of Batmunkh Gompa take him to a local hospital to sort out the problem. The Doctors and Nurses give him a temporary treatment to help clear his head. Then the anti-tractionists question him to find out what he has been through and to figure out how to help him recover from his trauma.

This interview is then broadcast on their radio station to the people of Barmunkh Gompa.

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## The Interview

We are delighted to have with us today on the Mortal Engines Media Show Tom Natsworthy who has just returned from an epic adventure which has taken him into the Out-Country, through the Rustwater Marshes and back to London, only to discover that London was actually burning up.

Welcome to the show Mr Natsworthy. Can I start by telling you that all of us in the Anti-traction League feel the sorrow that you must be experiencing now, after you've seen London at its end and Katherine dead, but we assure you that you are safe behind the shield wall and that we're the 'good guys'. I'm just going to ask a few questions so that we can understand what you have been through and can work out what to do.

Where did your journey start and what made you set off in the first place?

I started in London, but then my idol Valentine pushed me down the garbage chute. I would have died if Hester had not been with me. I would have been stranded with no experience of anything like this and no one to help me. I set off so I could reach Katherine and warn London about Valentine. I never saw Katherine or London alive when I got back.

Can you tell us about some of the most memorable experiences you had on the journey?

In my mind when I think back, all I can hear are the screams of Pewsey and Gench in flames. I remember sadness, hope, but then more sadness. I remember all the people who tried to help me, who I took for granted and then they ended up dead - Miss Fang, Chrysler Peavey and Katherine. I remember the stink of rust, the groan of Shrike and the screams of metal eating metal.

Can you tell us about Hester Shaw and how your perception about her changed on your journey?

On my journey I met many people. Some were nice. Some were not as nice. Some pretended to be nice but were actually horrible and some pretended to be horrible but were actually lovely. At the beginning of my journey I met an ugly heartless assassin. Days passed and she was still the same. But I began to see something more in her. Soon I came to know a new, intelligent, loving, persuading girl who wanted revenge, just as I did. She was the real Hester Shaw.

What were the challenges you encountered on your journey?

My journey *was* a challenge. Every day we struggled to survive, for food, shelter and hydration. We spent many of our nights in a cell (waiting to be sold as slaves the next morning) because it was safer there than in the Out-Country.

My main challenge was thinking straight and focusing on my goal. It is very easy to get carried away and think too much about what has already happened and not think about the future. When you think back you worry more and focus on things that aren't important, such as 'I wonder whether Katherine will go to heaven' or, 'I wonder what would have happened if I let Shrike take Hester'. These thoughts are useless because they have already happened and nothing can change that. When you have a brain as messed up as mine you can't waste your precious few seconds of sanity on the past. Not even the future, but in the present.

### Was there any moment when you thought you wouldn't make it through alive?

I didn't think I'd get half as far as I did. When you're stuck with who you believe to be a cold-blooded murderess in the Out-Country, threatened with being run-over, defenceless, your mind tells itself to shut down and prepare for death. However although my goal and Hester's goal may have been completely opposite (mine to get back to Katherine and warn London, and Hester's to go and murder Valentine), we both had to get back to London. I was most frightened about death when I heard the grumbling sound of Shrike. Hester was in the mood to hand me over and I would have been dead now. But I saved myself. I may not have saved Hester, but I'm glad that she and I are not dead.

### Can you describe the feelings you felt when Katherine took a blade for Hester?

What Katherine did was the most amazing thing I have ever heard, dreamed or seen anyone ever do for someone who they didn't even know. I was not there to witness the event, but I wish I was. Without any hesitation I would have taken the blade for Katherine and Hester. Katherine was a clever, brave and beautiful girl, whereas I am just a poor, worthless and lucky-to-be-alive boy, with hardly any intelligence at all. I mainly feel like I'm useless. I travelled my whole journey for nothing. Katherine died which meant that my goal was useless. By committing to my journey I got innocent people killed. Finally, I've ended up in to Barmunkh Gompa and not London!

Now that you have got back safely what are your plans for the future?

My plans for the future are very vague. I wish to leave to Barmunkh Gompa after my treatment and spread the word that ancient tech is not to be played with. I don't want more innocent people dying like the poor people of London. I'll spread the word that the anti-tractionists are good people. But after that all I want to do is find somewhere away. Hester might like the idea of visiting her parent's old house. Even if she doesn't I am going far away so I can be forgotten. I will live a normal life and work for myself, not for any power-hungry leader.

I will start a new generation of free people.

Thank you Mr Natsworthy. All of us hope your future plans go well for you.

Remember that there will always be help at hand here in Barmunkh Gompa. I'm sure the doctors and Nurses will be able to give you treatment for your traumas.

Good Luck!

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