



Discussion Questions

Mortal Engines by Philip Reeve

Source: Madison Public Library and Multnomah Co. OR.

1. The main characters all had their trust in people shattered. What happens when trust is destroyed?
2. How did Hester and Tom display loyalty?
3. Name a character or two who were disloyal and why?
4. Why did Hester and Tom want revenge? Were they justified? Who suffered because of their revenge? Should innocent people pay the price?
5. If you lived in the time of *Mortal Engines*, where do you think you would choose to live – in a city like London, in a place like Shan Gao, in a scavenger town, or elsewhere? Explain why.
6. Who had the power (or money) in both worlds? What were they like?
7. How were the ordinary people treated in both worlds?
8. What groups countered this system? (Anti-Traction League; Socialists; Progressives) What did they do?
9. The Anti-Traction League was an insurgency or movement to counter the principle of Municipal Darwinism. Why was it an insurgency? What were its goals? How did they accomplish this? What insurgencies are happening today? What are their goals? What are they doing?
10. Why do people want to buck the status quo?
11. Why is change (progress) imperative?