

Massachusetts Letters About Literature 2016  
Massachusetts Center for the Book  
www.massbook.org

Level I Honors Award

Dear Philip Reeve,

I've always thought of the world as a movie: each second, a moment captured in a piece of film. All the people on Earth swept away on the current of the film which would inevitably conclude in a happy ending. I thought that everyone's fate, their roles and lines, were already written and were unchangeable. Reading your books made me think differently about our future and what could happen if we don't do something about it.

If everyone just sat around and did not try to stop worldwide problems like war and global warming, our world and economy would crumble and chaos would erupt. All the amazing things that our human ancestors have worked towards would burn and the ashes would litter our minds. Fantasy books and stories like the *Mortal Engines* series would become the reality and I'm pretty sure that would not be good. I don't think anyone would want to live in a world with little to no plants and where seeing wildlife would be like hitting the jackpot in mega millions. People live and thrive on hope, so our currently hopeless future will be inhospitable and catastrophic unless we make a change in our ways.

I think your book had a very realistic picture of our future because it was ruined by war and by the destruction of the environment. Just in my short 11 years I have realized that this is where we are headed at full tilt as a planet. I did a little research and figured out that the top three causes for global warming are emissions from machines, agriculture, and commercial cattle lots. I wonder why these few easily changeable problems are not being stopped. Even if everyone on Earth just cut back a little bit on their power usage or made a better choice on what kind of food they bought, it would make a huge difference. Of all the horrible things that could be going on in our world, these are the problems that are ruining it?

I used to think that only really important people like governors and senators could actually make any sort of difference in problems like global warming. After reading your books, I realized that anyone can make a contribution, no matter how big or small, that will rid our world of these dilemmas. Many people have already helped to stop global warming. For example, my family has helped by getting solar panels and buying local produce, but there is still one thing we need to do. We need to change that "many" to "all".

I now know, because of reading your books, that we can choose our own fate and that our future is not already planned out. If there are problems in the world that need to be solved we will always have the power to solve them, we just need to use it. We shouldn't just sit around and think "I don't need to help solve problems. Other people can". I think the two things we need to remember is that we are all just "other people" to everyone else, so if we don't contribute, no one will and that a happy ending will never happen if we don't try.

Sincerely,

*Amos*

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Grade 6