

THE SHIP OF DOOM

By M.A. Bennett

DISCUSSION NOTES

The Butterfly Club: The Ship of Doom is the first in a gripping and rip-roaring time-travel adventure series for middle-grade readers by bestselling YA author, M.A. Bennett.

Members of The Butterfly Club are time-travelling thieves, stealing artefacts from the future to bring progress forward. But small changes in history can have a big impact and only time will tell the consequences. That's the Butterfly Effect.

Luna, Konstantin and Aidan travel to 1912 where they find themselves aboard a great ship travelling to New York. They meet a man called Guglielmo Marconi and plan to steal his new invention: the wireless radio. But as the ship heads into icy waters, they discover its name: The RMS TITANIC.

WOULD YOU RISK THE FUTURE TO CHANGE THE PAST?

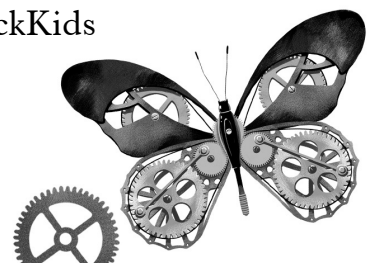


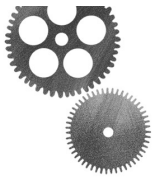
The Butterfly Club: The Ship of Doom by M.A. Bennett is published in paperback on 3 March 2022.

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'But even future travel is not without its problems. You won't change your own past, but you could alter the future. You can't change huge events. But remember, small changes can have big consequences. That's the Butterfly Effect' [page 23]

Have you heard of the Butterfly Effect before? Think about the different ways in which Luna, Konstantin and Aidan's actions affect what happens to the RMS Titanic and those on board. Do you think they were right to save Signor Guglielmo Marconi?

Would you be willing to time-travel? If so, where would you go and what would you do? Like Luna, Konstantin and Aidan, would you try and steal something from the future to bring progress forward? What would it be?

One of the themes of the book is the ownership of ideas. How important do you think it is that the time thieves refuse to steal Marconi's radio? Is it wrong to pass off someone else's ideas as your own? Can you think of a time when someone has stolen someone else's idea?

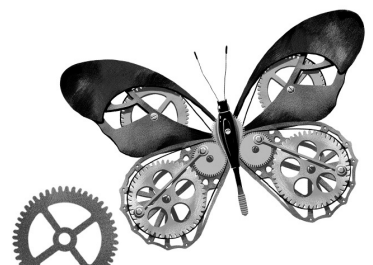
'The little girl was wearing a butterfly-bright dress, the rust-scarlet of a Red Admiral.' [page 43]

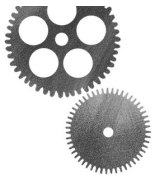
M.A. Bennett uses references to butterflies throughout the novel, can you find three different ways that the theme of butterflies is presented?

Over one hundred years on, the captivating story of the 'unsinkable' Titanic has lost none of its appeal. *The Ship of Doom* includes references to many of the well-known facts about the fateful ship's journey. Discuss the many small and big mistakes that ultimately led the ship to disaster – do you think any of these could be described as the Butterfly Effect? You could refer to the 'A Little Bit About the People and Things In This Book' section on page 361.



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Luna's impressions of gender and the roles of men and women change and develop over the course of the book – and as a result of getting to know Aidan. Do you think ideas about gender are very different now to how they were in 1912?

'There are 709 passengers in Third Class Steerage with a one-way ticket. They are all hoping for a better life in America.' [page 97]

Throughout time, humans have searched for better lives through migration from country to country. In the 1900s people were keen to travel to America and Australia looking for new opportunities and today, people continue to move around the world. Think about the reasons why people decide to emigrate. Do you think those reasons have changed over the years? Think about the dangers people face and the risks they are willing to take.

Guglielmo Marconi, Harold Lowe and Captain Smith all become heroes to the time thieves. What are the different ways that they show courage? Do you have someone you look up to in your life? Maybe a parent, a teacher or someone on social media? What qualities do they have that you'd like to copy? Is there a character from history that you admire?

Using the International Morse Code decoder on page 238, create a message for someone else in your group to decipher.

Luna's father uses a Rorschach Blot when he writes to her. Can you create your own and what does it look like to you? Try cutting them in half, mixing them up and then see if you can match them back up.

Why do you think that M.A. Bennett chose to end the book with the words 'The Beginning'?



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