

# THE SHIP OF DOOM AND THE MUMMY'S CURSE

By M.A. Bennett

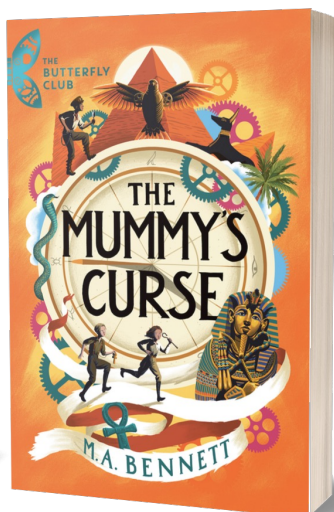
## DISCUSSION NOTES

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.

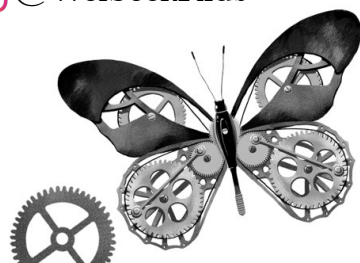
The series takes as its subject very well-known events, but largely unknown heroes. Everyone has heard of the Titanic, but Guglielmo Marconi, whose wireless radio saved hundreds of lives on that doomed ship and countless lives over the following century, is unknown to many. Everyone's heard of Tutankhamun, and most people think that he was discovered by Howard Carter; but not many middle-grade readers will have heard of Abdel Rassoul, a boy their own age, who was actually the first person to discover the greatest archaeological find of all time.

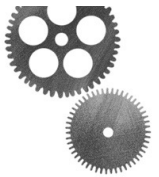
Skilfully weaving fact with fiction, M.A. Bennett's Butterfly Club, is a must-read adventure series for middle grade readers.

## WOULD YOU RISK THE FUTURE TO CHANGE THE PAST?



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## THE BUTTERFLY CLUB SERIES

*'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' [The Ship of Doom, 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? Do you think they were right to ensure that the mummy of Tutankhamun stayed in Egypt?

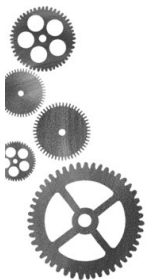
Would you be willing to time-travel? If so, where would you go and what would you do? Like Luna, Konstantin and Aidan, would you try and steal something from the future to bring progress forward? What would it be?

*'The little girl was wearing a butterfly-bright dress, the rust-scarlet of a Red Admiral.' [The Ship of Doom page 43] and 'Aunt Grace had also dressed in her best – the acid orange of a Banded Orange Tiger butterfly, a hue which clashed beautifully with her auburn hair.' [The Mummy's Curse page 15]*

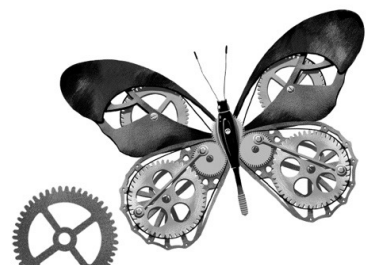
M.A. Bennett uses references to butterflies throughout her novels, can you find three different ways that the theme of butterflies is presented?

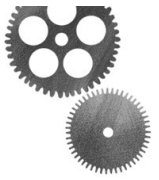
Luna's impressions of gender and the roles of men and women change and develop over the course of both the books – and as a result of getting to know Aidan. Do you think ideas about gender are very different now to how they were in 1912?

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.



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# THE SHIP OF DOOM

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.

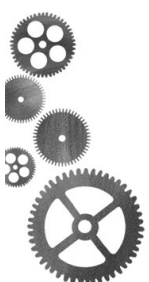
One of the themes of the book is the ownership of ideas. How important do you think it is that the time thieves refuse to steal Marconi’s radio? Is it wrong to pass off someone else’s ideas as your own? Can you think of a time when someone has stolen someone else’s idea?

*‘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]*

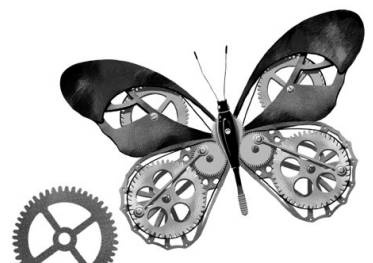
Throughout time, humans have searched for better lives through migration from country to country. In the 1900s people were keen to travel to America and Australia looking for new opportunities and today, people continue to move around the world. Think about the reasons why people decide to emigrate.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

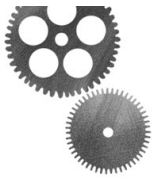
Guglielmo Marconi, Harold Lowe and Captain Smith all become heroes to the time thieves. What are the different ways that they show courage? Do you have someone you look up to in your life? Maybe a parent, a teacher or someone on social media? What qualities do they have that you’d like to copy? Is there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



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# THE MUMMY'S CURSE

November 2022 marks the one hundred year anniversary since the discover of Tutankhamun's tomb and its story, the curse and the treasures still fascinate us today. *The Mummy's Curse* includes references to many of the well-known facts about the discovery alongside the little-known story of 12-year-old Abdel Rassoul's part in the discovery. Discuss whether you think that Abdel should be credited with the greatest discovery of all time because he stumbled across a step? Or did Howard Carter deserve the credit because he'd dedicated years of his life to finding Tutankhamun? You could refer to the 'A Note About the People and Things In This Story' section on page 405.

Many countries, including the UK, hold important historical artefacts from other countries in their museums. Do you think that artefacts should all be given back to the country of origin? Or do you agree that it is acceptable for other countries to look after artefacts if they can curate them more effectively and they can be seen more widely?

Do you think Abdel was right to donate the pendant he was given to the museum or was it rightly his?

Discuss whether ancient graves should be excavated at all? Is there a time-frame or reason which makes it feels more acceptable to disturb the dead or should they be left alone? Is it right that we can go to many museums and sites and look at coffins and see skeletons?

Do you believe in curses? Discuss what you would do if you had an expensive item, that you believed was cursed – would you donate it to a museum, try to sell it or keep it?



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