



Synopsis

Raphael, Gardo and Rat are “dumpsite boys”, who spend their lives living and working on Smoky Mountain. Their job is to sort through mountains of rubbish for things they can sell like plastic and cardboard. They make just enough money to survive. Then one day, they come across a mysterious bag containing a wallet, a map and a key. It’s a discovery that will change everything, as they go in search of the owner of the bag: José Angelico.

Key Vocabulary

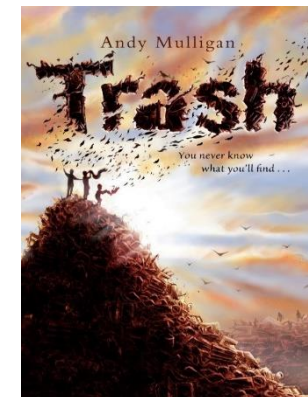
- **Poverty** - the state of being extremely poor.
- **Inequality** - a person, or group of people, are treated unfairly because they are ‘different’.
- **Developing country** - a poor agricultural country that is seeking to become more advanced economically and socially.
- **Society** –a group of people living together as a community.
- **Hierarchy** - a system in which members of an organisation are ranked according to status or authority.
- **Perspective** - a particular attitude towards or way of regarding something; a point of view.
- **Tension** - various elements of the plot are woven together in such a way that we are often left on a mini cliff-hanger, feeling anxious/nervous.
- **Government** – the organisation in power.
- **Authority** – people or groups of people who are in power.
- **Corruption** - dishonest conduct/actions by those in power.
- **Identity** - who or what a person or thing is.
- **Debate** – to argue within a formal manner.

Language terminology

- **Character** - a person in a novel, play, or film.
- **Setting** - the place or type of surroundings where something is positioned or where an event takes place.
- **Writer’s methods** – deliberate choices made by the writer for effect.
- **Narrator voice** – character voice / perspective.
- **Figurative language** – language techniques such as similes, onomatopoeia, personification.
- **Sensory language** – Using the senses in your writing (see, hear, smell, taste and touch).
- **Opinions** – personal point of view.
- **Inference** - a conclusion reached on the basis of evidence and reasoning.
- **Connotations** – words and ideas which link to and are associated with the ‘thing/words’ primary meaning.
- **Repetition** – repeating words or phrases for effect.
- **Tone** – the attitude of the narrative voice.
- **Foreshadowing** – a subtle hint towards a future event.

Themes/Setting

Andy Mulligan’s novel *Trash* examines themes of poverty, homelessness, corruption, waste, religion and friendship. Set in the near future in an unnamed country, it follows the adventures of three boys who take turns narrating the story: Raphael, Gardo, and Rat (Jun-Jun). The boys are poor, as are the majority of the people in their region. They live, as do most, by picking through trash at a variety of sprawling dumpsites near a city called Behala, hoping to find something they can sell. Behala, in the novel, is a developing country.



Trash is set in a fictional city called Behala which is inspired by a city named Manilla in the Philippines. Andy Mulligan visited Manilla before he wrote the novella *Trash*.



Manilla
Philippines





Year 7 English Poverty and Inequality Trash



<u>Key Character</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>Raphael</u>	Raphael is the main protagonist (character) in <i>Trash</i> . He is only fourteen years old, and has been picking trash since the age of three. He is a tall, skinny boy, and lives with his aunt in Behala. He discovers the mysterious bag that changes his life.
<u>Gardo</u>	Gardo is like a big brother to Raphael. He is strong and protective, never leaving Raphael's side. He had been his friend ever since they were born. He is very tall and skinny for a fourteen year old. He acts as the "mature one" out of the trio.
<u>Rat (Jun-Jun)</u>	Rat lives on his own, near a enormous rat's nest on the far side of Behala. He is independent and longs to live on a fishing boat. He is a couple of years younger than Raphael and Gardo. He is very observant, and he can notice or spot things that others can't. Rat used to live in the train station, with other "station boys". He's very small and extremely skinny, because of the lack of food.
<u>José Angelico</u>	José Angelico is a man of mystery. The boys, Raphael, Gardo and Rat, discover little bits and pieces about José as they strive to uncover the secrets of his life, family and job.
<u>Father Juilliard</u>	Father Juilliard is in charge of the Pascal Aguila Mission School. He wants to encourage the dumpsite children to attend school but this is a difficult task.
<u>Sister Olivia</u>	Sister Olivia is a volunteer at the Pascal Aguila Mission School. She stayed to help out at the school during her gap year travels due to feeling sympathy for the children and their families.
<u>Gabriel Olondriz</u>	Adopted Grandfather of José Angelico. He has been imprisoned for allegedly stealing government money.
<u>Pia Dante</u>	The daughter of José Angelico and the adopted granddaughter of Gabriel Olondriz.
<u>Senator Zapanta</u>	Senator Zapanta is seen as a corrupt, "fat" politician who lives in a luxurious gated compound while the citizens of his country live in squalor. He is seen as a thief because of the money he siphons from the community.

<u>Part 1</u>	Narrated by Raphael and Gardo.
<u>Part 2</u>	Narrated by Father Juilliard, Raphael and Grace (Senator Zapanta's maid).
<u>Part 3</u>	Narrated by Sister Olivia, Father Juilliard, Gardo, Raphael and Rat.
<u>Part 4</u>	Narrated by Rat, Gardo, Raphael and Frederico Gonz (the undertaker).
<u>Part 5</u>	Narrated by Raphael, Gardo, Rat and Pia Dante.

The Day of the Dead is a more popular name in some countries for All Souls' Day, part of the Roman Catholic tradition. The holiday focuses on gatherings of family and friends to pray for and remember people who have died. The celebration takes place on November 1st and 2nd, in connection with the Catholic holidays of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. People lay flowers and light candles at loved ones graves as well as sharing stories about them and recalling memories.

- The Big Questions:**
- What is an inference?
 - What is context?
 - What is a quotation?
 - Who is Rat? How does he symbolise ideas about poverty and inequality?
 - What is narrative voice?
 - What is tension?
 - Why is education important?
 - What are children's rights?
 - What is tension? How is it built?
 - Who is José Angelico?
 - Who is Olivia? How does she reflect issues in society?
 - What is sensory language?
 - What is corruption?
 - What is political corruption?
 - How is social class shown within the novel?
 - Who is responsible for the worst crime in *Trash*?
 - What does the book code symbolise?
 - How are the police presented?
 - What is 'The Day of the Dead'?
 - How are the poor treated within the novel?
 - What is the impact of poverty on the poor?
 - How are José Angelico's final thoughts shown?