

MiNRS
Chapter 17 – Ground

Consider the following passages from Chapter 17. Why is Christopher so shocked that grinders are kids and not machines? How are these quotes and example of money and power being more important than safety? Why would somebody sell their child to do such dangerous work? Why do you think people exploit kids?

“The word shot through my brain like an electric shock. A grinder was person. No, not a person, a child. I thought – I’d always been led to believe – that a grinder was just another piece of mining equipment. A machine. But a grinder wasn’t a machine.” (p.177)

“Children have been used in mines for centuries, so they went back to what worked.” (p 178)

“Small hands and small bodies. Also small price tags. My parents barely got a month’s rent when they sold me to Melming.” (p178)

“I closed my eyes and shook my head. I’d seen transport ships arriving, but my parents had always said they were bringing new supplies. Was that what Fatima was to Melming, to my parents – a supply? (p. 179)

“They hadn’t even invited the grinders to they party. They had just left them in a cage.” (p.180)

“As I drove on, the depths of this new horror began to sink in.

My father knew about this.

My mother knew about this.

Hans Melming knew about this.

This was our Great Mission

The other kids had called my dad and mom heroes.

They had saved so many children. But had they, really?”

(p.181)