

Teen Librarian

Monthly Newsletter

www.teenlibrarian.co.uk

Editorial

Dear all, this edition of Teen Librarian (usually) Monthly is a combination of the September & October issues. It is very rare that I mash two of them together but I have a very good reason. That being towards the end of October I will become a father for the first time, the preparing for parenthood as well as a more hectic than usual beginning of the school year has led to limited time for me to put TLM together in as timely a fashion as I would like.

It is entirely possible that post new child, more information on events and books for small children will creep in to future issues of TLM. On that note I will also add that I am always looking for guest contributors and regular writers, so if anyone is interested please do feel free to send me an e-mail.

If you are a member of CILIP may I encourage you to nominate books for the Carnegie & Kate Greenaway Medals to ensure that no books are left behind! Details on how to nominate can be found on page 2.

The article on Multiculturalism in YA is by author Peter Kalu, whose book *Being Me*, was published by Hope Road Publishing earlier this month.

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CILIP Carnegie & Kate Greenaway Medal Nominations Closing Soon

Nominations are now open for the 2016 CILIP Carnegie & Kate Greenaway Awards.

The nomination period is from 1 September 2015 to 6 October 2015.

To be eligible for the 2016 Awards, titles must have been first published in the UK between 1st September 2014 and 31st August 2015. Books first published in another country must have been co-published in the UK within three months of the original publication date.

To nominate up to two books for the Carnegie Medal, follow this link:

<https://fs3.formsite.com/cilip/form227/index.html>

To nominate up to two books for the Kate Greenaway Medal, follow this link:

<https://fs3.formsite.com/cilip/form264/index.html>

National Book Token £1000 Book Bursary Competition

Help your favourite student win a £1000 book token – enough money for a four year supply of books!

Nominate them (or yourself!) to win a £1,000 (€1,200) National Book Token - enough to cover every book they'll ever need. Plus, we'll give you an extra £50, just for you!

Enter here:

http://www.nationalbooktokens.com/studentbooks#.VgkxpE_bK1s

The competition will close on 16th October 2015.

Guardian Young Critics Prize

Review one of the Guardian children's fiction prize 2015 longlisted books as an individual or a school book group and be in with a chance of winning books, book tokens and an invite to the star-studded author award ceremony in November

Full details on how to enter here:

<http://www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site/2015/jul/10/guardian-young-critics-competition-2015-enter>

Multiculturalism in YA



I began not as a YA fiction writer but as a storyteller. As part of that, me and my mate, Tariq Mehmood, visited schools telling stories in classrooms across the North of England. Pupils asked us lots of questions and we would ask a few of them too. We found classrooms where 20 languages were known within one class, classrooms where there would be children of amazingly mixed backgrounds – Turkish Pakistani, Nigerian Polish, third generation hyphenated Jamaican, Ghanaian, English- Irish children. We visited other schools where the majority had cultural backgrounds from Pakistan or Bangladesh.

Even when we went to schools which were predominantly white, the pupils there could find a black or diverse connection in their family with little effort.

Teachers and librarians at these schools would be asking us, how can we find books that reflect this classroom, that resemble some of the stories you tell? Some would lean on American publishers, but even in the USA, they said, there were few truly diverse books to draw upon.

So, supported by the Arts Council of England, we started doing our own research and asking questions of the UK publishing industry. What we found out was (1) that UK publishing industry is very white, (2) that it makes good money, and (3) diverse writers and novels do exist but they weren't getting published.

This brings us to the big question of why.

I don't think there is a grand conspiracy to shift diverse writers or material containing diverse characters straight to the slush pile. It is simply that the predominantly white publishing industry tends to select for publication that with which it is most familiar. Which means worlds created by white writers. Those are the worlds they themselves most recognise and those books put forward the cultural reference points that resonate most with the publishing's gate-keepers.

Where black writers are chosen to be agented or published, strong yet subtle pressures are exerted at editing and marketing stages to ensure books published are 'commercial' – a word that often unpacks as 'palatable to an imagined white readership which has not lost its post-colonial nostalgia for the primacy of white lives'!

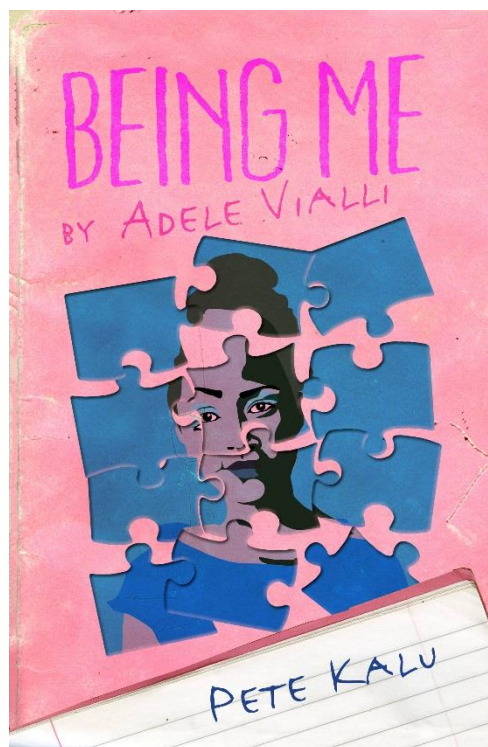
The subtle nudges and edits to increase 'palatableness' or 'marketability' work their way through the editing and marketing stages where the following rules tend to apply:

- Black characters get the green light if clearly foreign, or if stories with diverse characters are set in foreign countries, so this becomes a monocultural 'multicultural' book.
- Black characters are fine if secondary and there are not too many of them.
- Black characters are acceptable if assimilated by their passing for most of the novel as white or if the ambiguity of their cultural background is mainlined for the whole or a large a part of the novel.

Commercial concerns also dictate that there will be:

- No visual representation of clearly black characters on the front cover
- No mention of 'blackness' in the blurb on the back cover of the book
- No culturally black references or language in the opening pages of the book

- Black characters will never reflect on their 'blackness' nor ever form an alliance with another black character to oppose racism



We set about trying to change this. Helped by the North based new writing agency, Commonword/Cultureword, we held workshops, some of them run by renown YA authors such as Melvin Burgess; we held seminars and debates – with contributions from YA authors such as Bali Rai, Jacqueline Roy and Malorie Blackman; we ran competitions such as the Commonword Diversity Writing For Children Competition which has been judged by authors, Catherine Johnson and Irfan Master. And we wrote YA novels ourselves that broke the publishers' moulds.

Being Me features a number of diverse characters of different and hybrid backgrounds with complex identities that shift and are sometimes hard to pin down. The *Being Me* cover, with its jigsaw image, tries also to suggest the degree to which we compile our identities from different influences, especially in the teen years. Discovering what it is about you that makes you uniquely you is an exploration that is particularly intense in those years, though for some of us it is a life-long quest!

Being Me and the other books in the Striker series celebrate the invention, the wonderfulness, the unique experiences thrown up by the collision and hybridization of diverse cultural influences within one person, one school, one geographical community.

At the same time, we never flinch from taking an honest look at racism and how that impacts on character's lives. We explore the issues and perceptions around it in a way that reduces promotes understanding and tries to shed some new light on this key issue of the 21st century. *Being Me* attempts to tell a smart, revealing story with humour and compassion.

Pete Kalu is the author of ***Being Me***, published by Hope Road Publishing on the 17th September.

A chicken walks into the library. It goes up to the circulation desk and says: "book, bok, bok, boook". The librarian hands the chicken a book. It tucks it under his wing and runs out.

A while later, the chicken runs back in, throws the first book into the return bin and goes back to the librarian saying: "book, bok, bok, bok, boook". Again the librarian gives it a book, and the chicken runs out. The librarian shakes her head.

Within a few minutes, the chicken is back, returns the book and starts all over again: "boook, book, bok bok boook". The librarian gives him yet a third book, but this time as the chicken is running out the door, she follows it.

The chicken runs down the street, through the park and down to the riverbank. There, sitting on a lily pad is a big, green frog. The chicken holds up the book and shows it to the frog, saying: "Book, bok, bok, boook". The frog blinks, and croaks: "read-it, read-it, read-it"

All Hallows Read



All Hallows Read, the initiative started by Neil Gaiman to try and get people to give out spooky books over Hallowe'en instead of chocolate and sweets is back!

This sort of thing is perfect for libraries as we can give spooky books out and give readers the chance to read more if they enjoy them.

HarperCollins the publisher has put together a list of spooky reads for all ages that would work perfectly as a core for a spooky display over Halloween. I have included the teen selection below.

TEEN

<i>A Madness So Discreet</i> by Mindy McGinnis	<i>The Graveyard Book</i> by Neil Gaiman, illustrated by Dave McKean	<i>The Sleeper and the Spindle</i> by Neil Gaiman, illustrated by Chris Riddell
<i>Another Little Piece</i> by Kate Karyus Quinn	<i>The Graveyard Book Graphic Novel: Volume 1, Volume 2</i> graphic adaptation by P. Craig Russell	<i>Teeth</i> edited by Ellen Datlow and Terri Windling
<i>Beware the Wild</i> by Natalie C. Parker	<i>Gris Grimly's Frankenstein</i> by Mary Shelley, illustrated by Gris Grimly	<i>Ten</i> by Gretchen McNeil
<i>The Cemetery Boys</i> by Heather Brewer	<i>Made for You</i> by Melissa Marr	<i>This Monstrous Thing</i> by Mackenzi Lee
<i>Coralline</i> by Neil Gaiman, illustrated by Dave McKean	<i>The Murder Complex</i> by Lindsay Cummings	<i>3:59</i> by Gretchen McNeil
<i>(Don't You) Forget About Me</i> by Kate Karyus Quinn	<i>Night School</i> by C. J. Daugherty	<i>The Turning</i> by Francine Prose
<i>The End Games</i> by T. Michael Martin	<i>No One Else Can Have You</i> by Kathleen Hale	<i>Unnatural Creatures</i> stories selected by Neil Gaiman
<i>The Fall</i> by Bethany Griffin	<i>Possess</i> by Gretchen McNeil	<i>The Vanishing Season</i> by Jodi Lynn Anderson
<i>Fat Vampire</i> by Adam Rex	<i>Shadowcry</i> by Jenna Burtenshaw	<i>Wicked Girls</i> by Stephanie Hemphill
<i>Feral</i> by Holly Schindler		

START A SERIES

<i>A New Darkness</i> by Joseph Delaney	<i>Gone</i> by Michael Grant	<i>Messenger of Fear</i> by Michael Grant
<i>Asylum</i> by Madeleine Roux	<i>Hemlock</i> by Kathleen Peacock	<i>Sea of Shadows</i> by Kelley Armstrong
<i>The Body Finder</i> by Kimberly Derting	<i>In the After</i> by Demitria Lunetta	<i>Something Strange and Deadly</i> by Susan Dennard
<i>Clariel</i> by Garth Nix	<i>The Last Apprentice</i> by Joseph Delaney	<i>Spellcaster</i> by Claudia Gray
<i>Dark Eden</i> by Patrick Carman	<i>The Madman's Daughter</i> by Megan Shepherd	<i>The Summoning</i> by Kelley Armstrong
<i>Don't Turn Around</i> by Michelle Gagnon	<i>Masque of the Red Death</i> by Bethany Griffin	<i>The Vampire Diaries</i> by L. J. Smith
<i>Dorothy Must Die</i> by Danielle Paige		<i>Vampire Kisses</i> by Ellen Schreiber
<i>Evernight</i> by Claudia Gray		

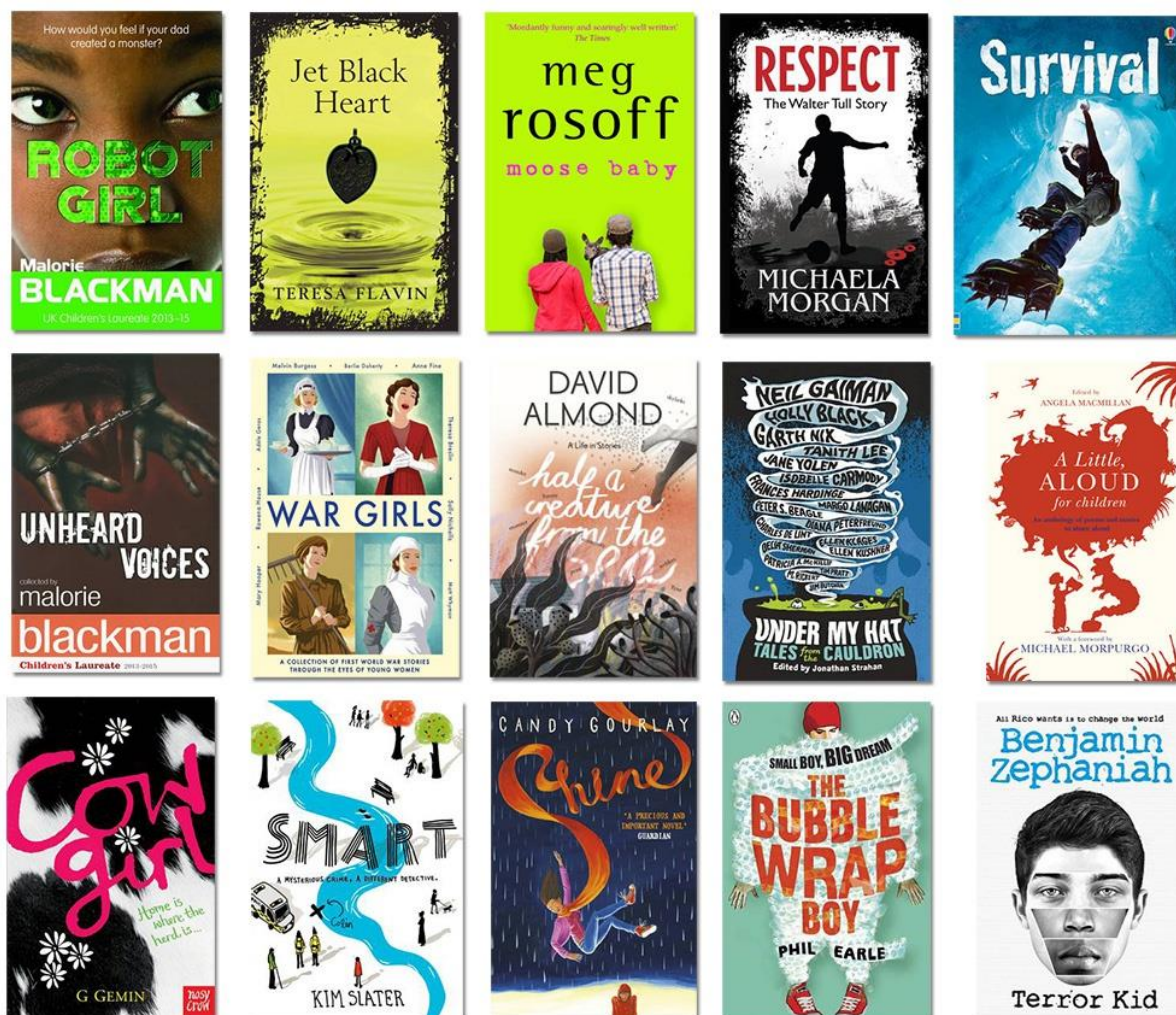
To download the full list, follow this link:

http://www.allhallowsread.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/FINALAllHallowsRead15_ScaryBooklist.pdf

Booktrust School Library Pack

The pack of 40+ great books and supporting resources aims to help staff create a reading culture that reaches all students, encouraging students to talk about reading and join in activities such as reading groups.

The 2015-16 School Library Pack includes all these great books



Register to receive the 2015/16 pack here:

<http://www.booktrust.org.uk/bookgifting/registration/search/slp/>

Remembering the golden Age of Manga in Libraries (and a list of manga titles)

Remember when manga was on the cutting edge of library provision a few years ago? Heady times when it seemed like the easiest way to attract teens into libraries was to invest in a manga collection and run a manga art event*.

Oh sure there were the occasional blips, including parents discovering their children paging through shonen-ai** or even worse hentai, because library staff were not aware that not all manga is for young readers; and library borrowers having conniptions when encountering teens cosplaying a Death Note Shinigami*** but overall nothing too major.

In the dark ages of 2006 the September edition Teen Librarian Monthly was a Manga Special, designed to introduce librarians to manga. You can find it in the TLM Year 1 Archives on the Teen Librarian website.

I also wrote Turning Japanese an article for the Public Library journal, which is available under the Published Articles tab on the Teen Librarian website

It all seemed so easy with publishers like Tokyopop running regular ReCon events around the country and of course manga and cosplay still had an aura of underground cool. Then Tokyopop imploded, Tanoshimi disappeared and for a long while there seemed to be fewer titles available.

Even worse**** happened, manga went mainstream and nowadays everyone and their gran seems to know what cosplay is, and a lot of them attend conventions together, dressed up as their favourite characters.

Nowadays the largest providers of manga in the UK are Kodansha, Viz Media and Self Made Hero with their Manga Shakespeare line; then there are UK-based indie manga creators and collectives, the oldest and best-known being Sweatdrop Studios and Umisen-Yamasen.

Even though manga appears ubiquitous, sometimes guidance is required by those that feel that they do not know enough to make safe choices when it comes to stock; so I have decided to put together a list of recommendations suitable for teen readers (13+).

An important thing to remember is that popular manga series can extend to many volumes, Naruto, for example, ran to 72 volumes and One Piece is currently on 79.

Some of these titles are well-known, others less so

Assassination Classroom – Yusei Matsui

Attack on Titan – Hajime Isayama

Animal Land – Makoto Raiku

Black Butler – Yana Toboso

Bleach – Tite Kubo

Cirque du Freak – Darren Shan, Takahiro Arai

Death Note – Tsugumi Obha

Fairy Tale – Hiro Mashima

Fullmetal Alchemist – Hiromu Arakawa

Gon – Masashi Tanaka

I am Here – Ema Toyama

JoJo's Bizarre Adventure – Hirohiko Araki

Kitchen Princess – Miyuki Kobayashi

Miles Edgeworth: Ace Attorney Investigations

– Kenji Kuroda

Monster Hunter Orage – Hiro Mashima

Monster Soul – Hiro Mashima

Musishi – Hiro Mashima

My Hero Academia – Kouhei Horikoshi

My Little Monster – Robico

Naruto – Masashi Kishimoto

Nausicaa – Hayao Miyazaki

No.6 – Atsuko Asano

One Piece – Eiichiro Oda

One Punch Man – ONE

Phoenix Wright: Ace Attorney – Kenji Kuroda

Read Or Die – Hideyuki Kurata

Shaman King – Hiroyuki Takei

Shugo Chara – Peach Pit

Shugo Chara Chan – Peach Pit

A Silent Voice – Yoshitoki Oima

Tegami Bachi – Hiroyuki Asada

Tokyo Ghoul – Sui Ishida

Tokyo MewMew – Reiko Yoshida, Mia Ikumi

Tsubasa – CLAMP

World Trigger – Daisuke Asihara

Your Lie in April – Naoshi Arakawa

Yu-Gi-Oh! – Kazuki Takahashi

* this still works

** it happened to me

*** as did this

**** worse... or better? I think better

Young Judge Required for the Times/Chicken House Children's Fiction Competition

Chicken House Books is looking for a brilliant and enthusiastic 14-18 year old guest judge for the Times/Chicken House Children's Fiction Competition

Potential judges have to make a short video of between one and three minutes about the book THEY think that everyone should all read – inventiveness, wit and creativity is encouraged – a link to the video should be emailed to chickenhouseyoungjudge@riotcommunications.com by 5.30pm on Friday 30th October.

For full details please visit:

<http://www.chickenhousebooks.com/blog/childrens-fiction-competition-were-looking-for-a-young-judge/>

Posts & Articles of Interest

Some links to blog posts that I think may be of interest to readers of TLM

It's Not Just About Banned Books: Self-Censorship and Library Collections

<http://www.yalsa.ala.org/thehub/2015/09/28/its-not-just-about-banned-books-self-censorship-and-library-collections/>

The joy of the Little Gem series – Barrington Stoke

<https://bookloverjo.wordpress.com/2015/09/28/the-joy-of-the-little-gem-series-barrington-stoke/>

Library Wars Short Film Shows the Future of Libraries

<http://goodereader.com/blog/digital-library-news/library-wars-short-film-shows-the-future-of-libraries>

Write for Teen Librarian

All submissions of articles, reviews & ideas are welcome and can be sent to teenlibraryservice@gmail.com

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