

TeenLibrarian

Monthly Newsletter

www.teenlibrarian.co.uk

Editorial

Welcome to the bumper September issue of Teen Librarian Monthly! A new school year has begun and we continue our inexorable slide towards winter.

A lot has been happening, this week we marked the 100th anniversary of the birth of Roald Dahl, in my library I have been reading Charlie and the Chocolate Factory to a large group of Year 7s as well as giving out chocolates to everyone who mentioned the man.

Next week the 19th September is *International Talk Like a Pirate Day* – I feel that I would be failing in my duty if I did not mention it, you can find out more about it here: <http://bit.ly/2cHlhgi>

This month I would like to thank colleagues Abbi McInnes for the brilliant article on Accelerated Reader for beginners, School Libraries superstar Barbara Band for the article on her new career path and Helen Swinyard for the smashing student interview with the judges of the Branford Boase Award.

Also this month we take a quick look at the Booktrust School Library Pack for 2016-17 and (this is important) remind all members of CILIP that you have until the 14th October to nominate the books you think should go forward for the CILIP Carnegie & Kate Greenaway Medals.

The British Heart Foundation is offering schools a chance to win a workshop with one of their researchers. If you have a wonderful student librarian then you can recognise their brilliance and nominate them for the Pupil Library Assistant of the Year Award.

Up north beyond the wall the Scottish Book trust have released the short-list for the inaugural Scottish teenage Book Prize to celebrate the most popular teen books by Scottish authors.

Lastly the UKLibChat team is organising a twitter talk on Teens and Libraries in October and I would encourage all readers of TLM to get involved!

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School Library Pack

The School Library Pack is a reading for pleasure programme which is available free to any secondary school or education provider in England with Year 7 students.

Containing over 40 free books, the pack can not only boost your library resources but also encourage students to try different types of books they might not usually consider reading.

Sign up for the free School Library Pack 2016-17 here:

<http://www.booktrust.org.uk/programmes/secondary/school-library-pack/>

What's included?

Your pack will include more than 40 books from a range of genres and supporting resources that aim to help staff create a reading culture that reaches all students. The pack encourages students to talk about reading and join in activities such as reading groups. School Library Pack titles will include sets of: Future classics, Reluctant Readers and Short Story Collections.

The 2016-17 School Library Pack books:



Accelerated Reader

When I started at St Mary's School in October last year, they were just in the process of rolling out Accelerated Reader (AR) to all Year 7s. It was my first year as a School Librarian, having worked in public and SLS libraries before, and it was a steep learning curve getting everything ready for AR and keeping the students engaged with it throughout the year. I thought it would be useful for others to learn from my mistakes, and also to share the positives.

The school I work in has 10 form entry. All year 7s and lowest ability groups in Year 8 and 9 were taking part, a total of 300 students. This requires a lot of books to be labelled up with the AR levels and in our case the coloured book bands. This brings me to:

Top tip 1: When choosing the colour bands, don't use white for any of them, as the students will get confused with the Dewey Decimal labels.

The reward system was not properly thought out before we commenced with the programme. I have found it to be vital that the students know what they are working towards and what they receive for each milestone they reach. Money is obviously an issue for rewards, so I have created a range of certificates that the student can earn when they have read certain amounts of words. These are based on the TV program Who Wants to be a Millionaire, with certificates at increments up to 1 million words. Students can keep track of their progress via a bookmark. Students can also earn pencils and bookmarks for every 5 books they read, and 2 merits for passing a book quiz with 100%.

Students who get to 1 million words get asked to join the Millionaire's Club which is a fun club in the library once a week. The millionaires also went on a school trip to Waterstones to spend some of the library budget on new books for the library.

Top tip 2: Promote exactly what rewards students will get when, so they have a goal to work towards

We had regular library lessons for all English classes taking part. Every student had at least half an hour in the library once a fortnight in lesson time. This meant that they remembered about AR at least once a fortnight.

Top tip 3: Work with the English Department to ensure that students get regular library lessons

Throughout the year, and especially at the end, staff will ask you for feedback and although you can print reports from AR, this year I am creating a monstrous spreadsheet to collate data from some of these reports so it's all in the same place. This will also allow me to sort the data by form, and house as well as English class, to add a bit more of a competitive edge. Obviously where English classes are set by ability it is difficult to be competitive.

Top tip 4: Decide at the start of the year what data you need to collect throughout the year, and make sure you know how to get the data from AR

Top tip 5: Have fun! Be creative and encourage the students to be too!

Mrs A McInnes
Librarian
St Mary's Catholic High School, Astley

CILIP Carnegie & Kate Greenaway Nominations

Nominations for the 2017 awards open on 1 September 2016 and run to 14 October 2016.

Nominations are made by members of CILIP, the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals. Up to 2 titles can be nominated for one or both awards by CILIP members.

Please read the eligibility information on this page and see the criteria:

<http://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/awards-process.php>

To Boldly Go...

I never set out to be a librarian, it was not a career I'd ever considered. Astronaut, yes; librarian? - didn't even feature on the radar! And yet I have always loved books and reading, would spend hours mooching around my public library or curled up on my bed, lost in another world.

I studied Business at university and ended up in project management. As a born organiser, this career suited me but it didn't really work once I had a young family and that's when I saw an advert for a "media resources officer" in a local school, somebody to run the library and "interest our children in reading". I loved the job from day one, qualified as a librarian, became Chartered ... and the rest, as they say, is history.

From that first job, I worked in various schools, each time gaining experience that I used in my next position until I became the Head of Library and Resources at a school in Berkshire. My first task there was to completely refurbish the library which meant I could create an exciting space that supported the varying needs of the students rather than working with some cobbled together classrooms and equipment as so many school librarians have to do. A few years later the library flooded, a silver lining because, although this meant complete upheaval and redecoration, I received a large sum of money to replace the 5326 damaged books. This removed budget worries and I was able to build up all aspects of the library collection rather than choosing between graphic novels or manga, curriculum-supporting non-fiction or recreational reading books linked to students' interests as well as organising author events and related activities. I only expected to stay at the school for a few years but new challenges came along, there was always another idea to try out or project to organise. I had a very supportive Head (who was also my line manager) who gave me freedom to run the library because, as he said, "I let Barbara get on with it because what she does always seems to work". I had lots of collaboration with teaching staff and a good budget. And before I knew it, those few years had turned into fourteen.

However, things change and earlier this year I was made redundant. I could have just said to friends and colleagues that I had decided it was time to move on but I wanted to be open and honest about what happened because this is an example of how school librarians are bearing the brunt of budget cuts, much the same as public librarians. It is a sad fact that even if you have a busy library, integrated within all subject areas, and supporting students in their learning, recreational and pastoral needs, it can be closed. Even when you have support from senior colleagues, if financial savings need to be made then the library and librarian will often be the first to go because they're not statutory and don't "tick any boxes". Schools are focused on exam grades and Ofsted

inspections. Libraries don't feature in the latter and it is very hard to show our impact on the former. We all know that readers do better in all subjects; after all, reading underpins everything else but how can you measure what impact turning a year 8 reluctant reader onto books has on their exam grades three years later? This needs long-term studies and we live in a short-term world where people expect instant gratification and answers.

So ... what next? Coincidentally, I had been thinking for a while that it was time for change. I felt I had got comfortable and getting involved in the wider library world had given me a taste for new challenges. I'd been to a couple of interviews at other schools but nothing "clicked" – they felt like more of the same and certainly didn't create any excitement about new possibilities, and it would have been unfair to move to another school without bringing that 100% commitment with me. I even thought about moving into a new career area but my passion, love and expertise is within school libraries, then the redundancy happened. If this had occurred a few years ago, I would probably have fought against it, tried to come up with a strategy for keeping the library open until student numbers increased and budgets improved but there had also been major changes within the school during the past year, including a new head, and I knew that this was the push I needed, that the time was right for me to move outside that comfort zone.

One of the frustrations I have is that there's only so much a solo librarian can do, there's only so many hours in the day and you have to prioritise, often spending time on necessary administrative tasks instead of new projects (even if you work outside your contracted hours which many school librarians do). There's also only so far your advocacy can reach when you are behind one desk in one school. I could have found another position in another school but the same frustrations would remain which is why I've decided to move into consultancy. This will give me the flexibility to say yes, to support school librarians and school libraries when opportunities arise; it also means I can, hopefully, use my experience and expertise in a wider range of schools and libraries. And yes, it's scary and I will miss the students but my head is full of ideas, and that excitement about new challenges and unknown possibilities is back...

Barbara Band

School Library, Reading and Literacy Consultant

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Win a workshop with a British Heart Foundation researcher for your school

Sign up to one of the charity's schools fundraisers to be in for a chance to win

The British Heart Foundation (BHF) is offering schools across the UK the chance to win a once-in-a-lifetime interactive workshop with a BHF-funded researcher to teach pupils about what the heart does and how it works.

The competition is open to all primary and secondary schools and is simple to enter. All schools need to do is sign up to take part in one of the BHF's school fundraisers; Jump Rope for Heart or Ultimate Dodgeball before midnight on Tuesday 28 February 2017.

The BHF runs two school fundraising initiatives which show children how keeping fit and maintaining a healthy heart through exercise can be fun. The money raised will go towards the BHF's life saving research and schools can also keep 20% of the money raised to put towards new equipment and resources to promote a healthy lifestyle for pupils.

Schools can choose to take part in either of the following fundraisers:

Ultimate Dodgeball: The BHF's popular sporting challenge provides participating schools with over £30 worth of free dodgeballs when they raise money for the BHF. Schools also receive an organiser's pack with lesson plans to make it easier for teachers to teach pupils how to play dodgeball and help create a fun and successful event.

Jump Rope for Heart: The BHF's skipping challenge provides participating schools with over £100 worth of free skipping ropes when they raise money for the BHF. They also receive an organiser's pack with lesson plans to help teachers introduce skipping either through the PE curriculum, the playground at lunchtime or in after school clubs.

In the UK, one in every 180 babies is diagnosed with congenital heart disease – an average of 12 per day. The money raised by Ultimate Dodgeball and Jump Rope for Heart goes towards powering research to help prevent, diagnose and treat heart disease.

Jessica Rose, Programme Manager for Jump Rope for Heart and Ultimate Dodgeball at the BHF, said: "Our school fundraisers are a great way to get pupils involved in energetic, heart healthy exercise whilst having fun and raising money for life saving research.

"We're delighted to be offering a school the chance to win a workshop with one of our BHF-funded researchers, who work tirelessly to help fight heart disease.

"We're calling on teachers across the country to get involved and sign their school up to Jump Rope for Heart or Ultimate Dodgeball to receive a free organiser's pack and lesson plans with everything they'll need to arrange a successful event.

"The money raised will go on to support the 7 million people in the UK living with heart and circulatory disease so we can fund more research to keep more families together."

By signing up to Jump Rope for Heart or Ultimate Dodgeball before the end of February 2017 you will automatically be eligible for a chance to win. The winners will be notified by email by no later than Friday 31 March 2017 and the workshop will be arranged during the Summer Term.

For more information on Jump Rope for Heart or Ultimate Dodgeball and be in for a chance to win, sign up for free by visiting www.bhf.org.uk/schools



The Pupil Library Assistant of the Year Award is a joint venture between the School Library Association and the CILIP School Libraries Group. As well as promoting the work and achievements of pupils within their school libraries, work which involves dedication and commitment but which often goes unnoticed and unrewarded, it also highlights the benefits and values of the school librarian.

Do you have a pupil librarian who could become the Pupil Librarian of the Year 2017?

Someone who is reliable, volunteers regularly and who has made a difference to the library, being a role model for others?

Someone who is an example of the synergy between a school library and the pupils?

Why not nominate them?

Watch out for more details when the award opens on September 19th ...

The award is supported by a number of leading children's books publishers and the company, Authors Aloud UK, and judged by a panel of leading figures from the children's book world and school library community.

For further information including nomination forms, contact details and sponsorship:

<http://libpupilaward.wixsite.com/home>

About the CILIP School Libraries Group

The School Libraries Group (SLG) of CILIP affirms that school libraries and school library services are fundamental to the development of a literate population able to participate fully in a thriving democracy, culture, civilization and economy. www.cilip.org.uk/slg

About the School Library Association

The School Library Association is an independent charity that believes that every pupil is entitled to effective school library provision. The SLA is committed to supporting everyone involved with school libraries, promoting high quality reading and learning opportunities for all. Website: www.sla.org.uk

The Scottish Teenage Book Prize

Authors Keith Gray, Claire McFall and Joan Lennon have made it onto the shortlist for the very first Scottish Teenage Book Prize.

The prize, set up to celebrate the most popular teen books by Scottish authors, is run by Scottish Book Trust with support from Creative Scotland. Shortlisted authors receive £500 per book, and the winning author will receive £3,000.

The Scottish Teenage Book Prize 2017 shortlist is:

- *The Last Soldier* by Keith Gray (Barrington Stoke)
- *Black Cairn Point* by Claire McFall (Hot Key Books)
- *Silver Skin* by Joan Lennon (Birlinn)

<http://scottishbooktrust.com/learning/teachers-librarians/secondary/scottish-teenage-book-prize>

UKLibChat on Teens and Libraries

On Wednesday 4th October from 6:30 to 8:30pm the [#uklibchat](https://twitter.com/uklibchat) will focus on "Teens and libraries".

Follow @UKLibchat here: <https://twitter.com/uklibchat> and visit their blog for more information: <https://uklibchat.wordpress.com/>

Being a Book Award Judge



Ms Swinyard invited Simon Key & Andrea Reece, both involved in the process of this year's Brandford Boase Award, to come and be interviewed by the bookclub! This is what happened!

Questions and answers:

Who are you?

Simon co-owner of the Big Green Bookshop in Wood Green – judge of the short story in Bristol. This year a judge for Brandford Boase Award

Andrea works in publishing with Troika Books & helps with administration for Brandford Boase. She has previously been a judge for the Costa Book Award & the Carnegie Medal. Andrea also runs the children's literature journal Book for Keeps.

How much does it pay?

Most awards pay nothing, but you do it because you love reading & you get free books! It gives you the discipline to read so many books in a short time & try out different things. Also, it is a privilege to be asked, so it comes with kudos. Sometimes you do get a little bit of money (e.g. for Costa) and you get to keep the books.

Be warned, however – it can actually be a stressful experience! You have to take it seriously.

What's your favourite book?

SK: It changes every day! Reading depends on your mood, the time of day! If you asked me tomorrow I would say something different. I just finished *The Glorious Heresies* – shortlisted for the Baileys' Women's Prize for Fiction 2016. I seem to like Irish female authors. I've also recently enjoyed *A girl is a half-formed thing* – it is written in her own dialect, so you have to engross yourself and not read it in short bursts, so you can get into the language.

AR: My favourite book to re-read is *Middlemarch* – and I love *Frankenstein* too. Lately a favourite has been *Julia Vanishes*.

Have you ever had a book and you thought it was rubbish?

Lots of times! Reading a book is always a gamble & why judging is so hard sometimes.

Can you choose an author who you would like to write just one more book?

AR: Diana Wynne Jones – she’s died now so I wish she could write more, especially in the Chrestomanci series. I love Howl’s Moving Castle which was made into a film.

SK: For children’s authors it would be Roald Dahl – my favourite is Danny Champion of the World. For an adult author – Mark Leyner. In the mid 1990s there was an American surge in fiction with 3 main writers – Jonathan Franzen (still famous), Dave Foster Wallace (still famous) & Leyner. Leyner is less well-known now. He stopped writing fiction between 1998 & 2012 – such a shame!

If you could make up your own book award, what would it be like?

AR: Something like the Phoenix Award, for books published 10 years ago & wasn’t well received at the time, or just missed out on winning awards to other books. I might call it the ‘We Were Robbed’ prize. Kit’s Wilderness would be on there!

SK: Something for short stories. You need specialist skills to write a decent short story. We’re trying to set this up at the Big Green Bookshop actually – watch this space!

Are there any books that you have read more than once and have reacted differently?

Yes, definitely. You usually miss things the first time around. When you read for judging, the first read it just trying to find out what happens – re-reading means you can look at different things. Again, reading depends on your mood too – and your age. You have a different perspective on life as you get older, so your perspective on a story changes too.

What is your favourite genre?

SK: Magical realism e.g Harry Potter

AR: I love a book that makes you cry. I used to be a bit sniffy about fantasy, but actually I like it.

Do you have any rituals when reading?

SK: I know I will get in trouble for saying this, but when I’m reading books for judging, I like folding the pages over. I know you’re not allowed to do that with your school books though!

AR: I’ve started to do that too! I make annotations too. The editor Marian Lloyd, one of the Branford Boase judges, scribbles over everything when she judges – no one can re-read them afterwards! I also try not to read blurbs – I don’t want any pre-conceptions of the book.

What’s the longest book you’ve ever read?

AR: When I was 17 I read War & Peace. I remember it took forever. Also Lord of the Rings took me a long time too.

SK: Wolf Hall (I tend to avoid long books!)

What’s your favourite book that has been made into a film?

AR: I like the 2005 film version of Pride & Prejudice. I think the casting was great. But films are so different to the books, and they should be. Perhaps one of the reasons The Golden Compass didn’t

work as a film was it was just like the Northern Lights book but with pictures. And Shrek, for example, the book version doesn't have the character of Donkey at all – he makes the movie!

How does the Brandford Boase Award work?

The award is for a first novel. Publishers submit books which are eligible and the administrators read them all and cut them down a bit. Andrea & the other admins had to read the 63 submitted books and narrowed it to 23.

The judging panel all read the 23 books and have a discussion day where they decide together on a shortlist of 6. You turn up with 3 piles of Yes/No/Maybe and fight for your favourites. As a judge you have to compromise all the time & be aware that the books are aimed at teenagers, not you – you have to take that into consideration!

Once the shortlist is decided, the judges then go and read the shortlisted books again, before another meeting together to pick their overall winner. The Brandford Boase Award is great because it acknowledges the editor as well as the writer – the editors often have a big part to play with a first novel.

The Brandford Boase Award 2016 was awarded to... *Aubrey and the Terrible Yoot* by Horatio Clare
http://www.branfordboaseaward.org.uk/BBA_Current/bbastart.html

The Being a book Award judge Interview originally appeared on the Heartland High School Library Blog: <https://heartlandhighschoolharingeylibrary.wordpress.com/2016/09/09/being-a-book-award-judge/>