



Book Club Success

Recent research indicates an urgent need to extend teachers' knowledge of children's literature. To this end, this academic year I (Janice) started a children's literature book club called **Book Talk**. The group met in the Library six times over the course of the year, each time focusing on one fiction author and one picture book author or illustrator. We read as many books as possible by the authors we selected and we purposely selected authors who write for children of all ages, such as Anne Fine and David McKee, to ensure that everyone became familiar with books across a range of ages and abilities.



The discussions were enthusiastic, funny, and thought provoking. It is testament to the students' enthusiasm and determination that meetings continued even when they were on placement or in the midst of assignments. The feedback was extremely positive, and included the following:

"It was a very warm, relaxed environment which made learning fun!"

"By talking with others through the club I have become enthusiastic about the different authors and re-discovered literature."

"[When on placement] I was able to recommend Michael Morpurgo's *Kensuke's Kingdom* to a child who was 'stuck' looking for something to read because I remembered it being recommended at the meeting."

If you're a BG student and are interested in joining us at **Book Talk** next semester please email me at j.m.morris@bishopg.ac.uk. To read more about in the research on teachers as readers just go to www.ukla.org and click on *Research*.

Welcome back!

...to a slightly remodelled *Hullabaloo!* (we thought it was about time for a change). As usual we've got lots of news and articles, but the biggest piece of news of all, which broke just before we went to press, is that Janice's favourite picture book author, Anthony Browne, is to be the next Children's Laureate (see page 2). Have a great summer!

Emma & Janice

Books are little hand-held parallel universes.

Guy Browning

Awards Roundup

The overall winner of the **Blue Peter Book Awards**, and winner of 'The Book I Couldn't Put Down' category, was *Shadow Forest* by Matt Haig (Corgi Children's, £5.99). Winner of 'Best Book with Facts' was *Planet in Peril* by Anita Ganeri (Scholastic, £6.99), and of the 'Most Fun Story with Pictures' was *Mr Gum and the Dancing Bear* by Andy Stanton, illustrated by David Tazzyman (Egmont, £5.99).

The **Waterstone's Children's Book Prize** was awarded to Michelle Harrison's *The Thirteen Treasures* (Simon & Schuster, £6.99).

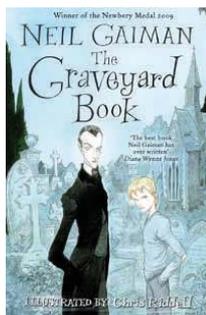
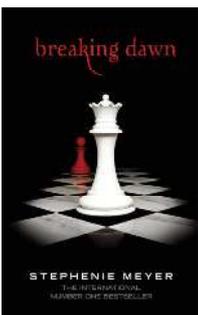
Neil Gaiman won the 2009 **John Newbery Medal** for *The Graveyard Book* by (Bloomsbury, £14.99). The adult edition is illustrated by Dave McKean and the children's by Chris Riddell (below).

The **Caldecott Medal** for the most distinguished American picture book for children, went to *The House in the Night*, illustrated by Beth Krommes and written by Susan Marie Swanson (Houghton Mifflin, £11.69).

Breaking Dawn, the fourth in Stephenie Meyer's hugely popular *Twilight* series (Little, Brown, £12.99) won the **WH Smith Children's Book of the Year**.

The **Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award** went to the *Tamer Institute* in Ramallah, Palestine, which has been carrying out reading promotion work in the West Bank and Gaza since 1989.

And lastly, a couple of issues ago we reported on a new prize– the **Frances Lincoln Diverse Voices Children's Book Award**. Its first recipient is Cristy Burne for her manuscript *Takeshita Demons*.



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hullabaloo@bishopg.ac.uk / www.bishopg.ac.uk/hullabaloo

Written by Janice Morris and Emma Sansby

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Newsletter of the Children's Collection at Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln

Hullabaloo!

Featured Website: 247 Tales

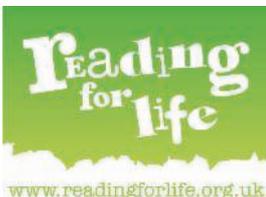
This issue's featured website has been developed by Bloomsbury to encourage short story writing. Each month 247Tales features two stories on the same theme: one written by a Bloomsbury author and one submitted to the site by a young person between the ages of 8 and 16. The catch, and the reason why we really like 247 Tales, is that each story must be no longer than 247 words (think how much you can - and can't - say in 247 words!). The winning entry gets £75 worth of Bloomsbury books and ten runners up get a signed book from that month's featured 247 Tales author. Take a look at this month's stories (you can also read the archived ones) at www.247tales.com



NYR Inspires New Initiatives

The National Year of Reading (NYR) was launched with the specific aim: "to change the nature of reading forever". A recently published review, *Reading the Future*, celebrates the campaign's achievements and makes recommendations for the future. Read the review and see for yourself how successful the campaign has been at

www.readingforlife.org.uk



www.readingforlife.org.uk

One very useful resource to come from the NYR is *Wikireadia*. As its name suggests, this uses the same format as Wikipedia for users

to search, contribute and edit articles about reading. Go online today to contribute your own ideas and find inspiration to promote and encourage reading for pleasure: www.readingforlife.org.uk/wikireadia

Mark Twain was the first author to submit a typewritten manuscript to a publisher. It was 1875 and the manuscript was *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*.

Classics With A Twist

This year's generous donation from the BG *Old Students Association* has enabled the Sibthorp Library to purchase a wide selection of graphic novels.

In a graphic novel the story is told using text and comic strip art. Graphic novels can play an important part in encouraging reading. However, because of the comic strip format it is often assumed that graphic novels are only for the 'less able' reader. This is not the case. While graphic novels may attract those children who have rejected the traditional novel format they also challenge and intrigue successful and sophisticated readers.

Titles purchased include Danny Fingerth's *The Rough Guide to Graphic Novels*; Frank Miller's *Batman: the Dark Knight Returns*; and graphic novel versions of Anthony Horowitz's *Stormbreaker*, Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre* and William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* (above right).

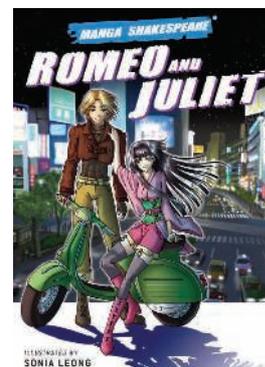


Image courtesy of SelfMadeHero

These wonderful, stimulating and exciting additions to the Sibthorp Library will allow our students to explore the diverse range of graphic novels available, to investigate ways they can use them to encourage reading for pleasure, and support their teaching throughout the curriculum. The *Learning and Teaching Scotland* website has an excellent section on graphic novels including practical ideas for classroom use. Go to www.ltscotland.org.uk/literacy and click on *Find Resources* and then *Graphic Novels*.

Second Human Rights Book

In our October 2008 issue we featured the book *We Are All born Free*, which was published to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is one of three books planned to mark the anniversary and the second has just been published by Walker Books and Amnesty International. *Free?* is a collection of short stories for children aged 10 to 15 on the theme of human rights written by authors such as Eoin Colfer, David Almond, Malorie Blackman and Theresa Breslin. The third book, *Freedom*, will be an anthology of short stories for young adults and is due to be published in October.



Anthony Browne is New Children's Laureate



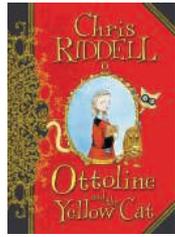
Image © Laurence Cerintowicz 2009

Anthony Browne (pictured left) was announced the 6th Children's Laureate at a ceremony in London on June 9th. Anthony takes over the role from Michael Rosen and will hold the title until 2011. Janice is a huge fan and will be spreading her enthusiasm about Anthony and his wonderful picture books in a future issue of *Hullabaloo*!

Meanwhile, previous Children's Laureates Quentin Blake, Anne Fine, Michael Morpurgo, Jacqueline Wilson and Michael Rosen have been helping to celebrate the first decade of the Children's Laureate by picking their favourite children's books. Between them they choose 35 books spanning 170 years. Titles included John Masefield's *The Box of Delights* (Blake), Helen Cresswell's *Absolute Zero* (Fine), Oscar Wilde's *The Happy Prince* (Morpurgo), Susan Coolidge's *What Katy Did* (Wilson), and David McKee's *Not Now, Bernard* (Rosen). Find out more on the Waterstones website at <http://tinyurl.com/m3dhud>

Lincolnshire Young Persons Book Award Winners Announced

This year's LYPBA winners were announced on May 13th during the Lincoln Book Festival. Winner of the 9-11 category was **Ottoline and the Yellow Cat** by Chris Riddell (right), and winner of the 12-14 category was **Sundae Girl** by Cathy Cassidy (left).



Earlier this year, our PGCE and GTP Secondary English teacher trainees held a discussion about the shortlisted books in the 12-14 category.

Lecturer **Ruth Hewitt** tells us more...

"Blurbs were read and 'dipping in' was assiduously carried out on each of the five books. Groups were asked to select a section which exemplified their chosen text and to subsequently read out to the rest of us; to comment on significant aspects of the style and content; to mention any 'best bits'; and, to suggest who they thought might like it. Here are some of the comments arising from this activity:

We are thrown into the story and magical atmosphere of **Here lies Arthur** by Philip Reeve straightaway; a book that will appeal to both boys and girls. Notes on pronunciation at the back are helpful and the links to Arthurian legends, in authors' notes at the back, were welcomed too. We felt this would appeal to children who would want to know what was 'true' and what was not. However, we did worry that the use of unknown words could put some pupils off at the outset.

In the author's introduction to **The Black Book of Secrets** by F.E. Higgins it is stated that Ludlow Fitch's memoirs have been found and are being re-told and right from the beginning his persona is taken on by the author for an exciting, sinister, fantasy-type opening. The book's descriptions are evocative and it should appeal to both boys and girls, although they could be confused by the different narrative voices created

by the telling of the memoirs by Fitch alongside the snippets of authorial information.

It was felt that **The Swan Kingdom** by Zoe Marriott was very formulaic; using elements of existing fairy and magical tales yet with a challenging vocabulary quite at odds with the childish story line. We felt the cover was too girly and might put older teenagers off, as well as boys. On the plus side, it started off well and starred a female protagonist. However, its concerns with marriage, its predictable happily-ever-after ending and sickly sweet style did nothing to break with tradition. Having said all that, when I took it home it was the most popular immediate choice for my 12 and 14 year old girls.

Sundae Girl by Cathy Cassidy was also a stereotypical girly book but of a very different kind. It opened with a chatty, teenage magazine style letter from the author at the beginning,

immediately setting the mood. Even the graphics used on the cover are in clear imitation of Jacqueline Wilson and it is clearly aiming at the same readership. It also deals with similarly serious contemporary issues, in this case an alcoholic mother.

Hurricane Gold by Charlie Higson is about the young James Bond and is very much true to the Bond genre in that there is absolutely nothing realistic about this adventure story. It is full of suspense, hints, adventure and cliff hangers. The descriptions are vivid, the pace is fast and the atmosphere is electric. The main female character is strongly drawn and for this

reason it will appeal to both boys and girls. It has fantastic visual imagery and dramatic fight scenes and, despite the fact that the plots are so fast moving, it is the descriptions that are the best thing about it.

Our vote for the book we'd most like to read went to **The Black Book of Secrets**.



Local Authors Promote Inclusion To Young

Following on from last issue's feature about Lincolnshire authors we've found two more, both of whom have written books promoting positive images of disability for young children. **Moonbird** is the creation of Lincolnshire-born Joyce Dunbar, and is beautifully illustrated by Jane Ray. It is the story of a moonchild who pops a bubble on an earth child and surrounds it in silence, and how a moonbird teaches the child to communicate with his hands and eyes.

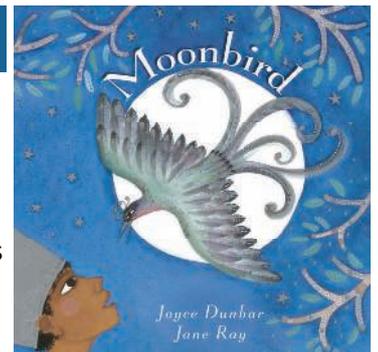
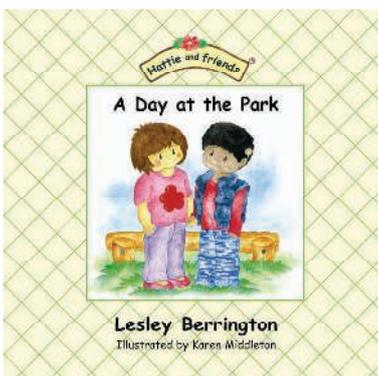


Image courtesy of The Random House Group Ltd

Our second author, Lincolnshire-based Lesley Berrington, will introduce **Hattie and Friends** to you herself! "My name is Lesley Berrington, I am NNEB qualified and for nine years owned a day care centre. During that time I became aware of the need for books featuring children with disabilities. After having difficulty finding any suitable books to use in my nurseries I decided to try to meet this demand myself, and thus 'Hattie' was born!



The Hattie stories are about children enjoying a day out and do not mention disability in the text. This means the characters are just accepted for who they are, but still provide an opportunity for disability issues to be discussed. I have written and published four titles in the series which are already being used in hundreds of nurseries across the UK. I have also sold to libraries, bookshops, and childminders. I have found it very rewarding to hear such great feedback from childcare professionals who have been looking for books like these to reflect diversity in their settings. It is also important for children with disabilities to be able to identify with book characters to feel included in everyday life."

To see the full **Hattie and Friends** range visit: www.hattieandfriends.co.uk

When I Was A Nipper...

Library Assistant Jane Hutchinson tells us about her favourite book when she was a nipper: Anna Sewell's **Black Beauty** (cue that wonderful TV theme tune)...

"My main memories are of a roller coaster of emotions as Black Beauty plunged from safe haven to desperate circumstances! There was the excitement as he saved his beloved master from the broken bridge, only to be almost killed by well-meaning but ignorant care. Then came the adrenalin of the fire in the stable, the despair as he was sold, and the horror of cruel treatment by his fashion conscious mistress. I was relieved when he found kindly Jerry, the hackney carriage driver, but seethed with anger at his unfair treatment by rich customers, and wept as Ginger's body was taken past on the cart. How glad I was when Black Beauty was re-united with his favourite groom Joe, and was able to live out his days in peace!

As a result of this book, I begged my parents for riding lessons,

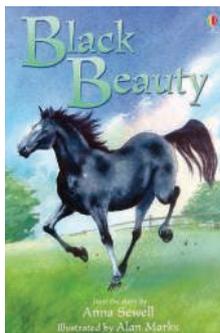


Image courtesy of Usborne Books

and spent many rainy afternoons re-enacting the stories with my Action Girl and her horse (Barbie and Cindy were for sissies). I can remember making a stable for my horse out of a cardboard box in true Blue Peter fashion!

As I flick through the library copy of **Black Beauty**, I realise that many of my memories are coloured by the various television and film adaptations, and it is probably these that have left the pictures (and the music) in my head.

Apparently Anna Sewell's book was extremely unusual in being written from the animal's point of view, and ended up being a revolutionary influence in the treatment of horses. Now, as I watch my daughter cantering round the arena, and try not to rock in time to the pony's hooves, I realise that I must share this wonderful book with her, before she loses interest and moves on to teenage things!"

Featured journal: Armadillo

Finished reading *Hullabaloo*!? Why not check out *Armadillo Online*? *Armadillo Online* is a web-based children's book magazine which contains loads of reviews, as well as features and competitions, and even its own weekly blog.

Founded by Mary Hoffman, author of *Amazing Grace* and the *Starvaganza* series, *Armadillo* celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. Writing commitments have recently encouraged Mary to hand over the reins of *Armadillo Online* to a new editor, school librarian Louise Ellis-Barrett (*City of Secrets*, Mary's fourth *Starvaganza* book, was nominated for this year's Carnegie Medal).

Armadillo Online will continue publication four times a year in March, June, September, and December and Louise has plans to introduce some fresh features. The current issue, which includes nearly 40 book reviews, plus interviews with Kaye Umansky and Cristy Burne, can be viewed at www.armadillomagazine.co.uk

First Words Competition

Last issue's winner was Mandy Spurr who received a £10 book token for correctly spotting that our quote came from Stephenie Meyer's vampire phenomenon **Twilight**.

Our new first words are:

Until he was four years old, James Henry Trotter had a happy life.

E-mail the title and author together with your name to us at hullabaloo@bishopg.ac.uk by October 9th 2009 and that £10 book token could be yours.



Whole Duty of Children

**A child should always say what's true,
And speak when he is spoken to,
And behave mannerly at table:
At least as far as he is able.**

Robert Louis Stevenson
(1850-1894)

Happy 40th Birthday The Very Hungry Caterpillar! (1969-2009)

It's a double celebration for Eric Carle this year. His **Very Hungry Caterpillar** munched his way through a 40th birthday cake in March, and in June Eric is munching his way through an 80th birthday cake — happy birthday Eric!

If, like us, you read this wonderful book as a child, or read it to your children, you know just how magical its appeal can be (the colours!, the food!, the holes in the pages!). And you're not alone: in forty years the book has clocked up worldwide sales of 29 million and has been published in over 47 languages.

Eric Carle started his writing career fairly late. He was born in Syracuse, NY, in 1929 to German parents but the family

moved back to Germany when Eric was six, and so it was in Stuttgart that Eric grew up and later graduated from art school. In 1952 Eric followed his heart and returned to the USA, securing jobs as a graphic designer at the New York Times and later as art director at an ad agency. In the mid-1960s Bill Martin Jr. asked Eric to illustrate his book **Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?** and it went on to become a bestseller. A year later in 1968 Eric published his first solo book **1,2,3 to**



the Zoo and next came the **The Very Hungry Caterpillar**.

In total Eric has illustrated more than 70 books, around 40 of which are still in print, and many of which are about the natural world. He uses collage techniques to create his pictures with paper he hand paints himself. Eric and his wife Bobbie are passionate about picture book art. So much so that in 2002 they opened the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in Amherst, Massachusetts. (It looks a really cool place to visit!)

Find out more about Eric and his books at www.eric-carle.com (which includes a link to Eric's really interesting blog).