

# Hullabaloo!

Newsletter of the Teaching Resources Collection at Bishop Grosseteste University Library



How lovely to find Michael Morpurgo in our library on a gorgeously sunny day back in July. He and wife Clare were about to make their way to the Cathedral where Michael was to receive an honorary degree from the University for his contribution to children's literature and work with the charity *Farms for City Children*. Janice had arranged a display of Michael's work in the Teaching Resources Collection which he was delighted to see, immediately singling out (and signing!) an old and relatively rare early edition of *War Horse*.

We were both lucky enough to be in the Cathedral to see Michael collect his degree and hear him celebrate and recognise of all the various people who help and support us through life, be they family, friends, teachers or colleagues. Unusually Michael ended his speech with a traditional folk song, reading the lyrics from a book he had asked to borrow from our library - *Where My Wellies Take Me*, the first he and his wife have ever written together. It was a lovely moment, made all the more special by Michael's fine voice and the wonderful acoustics!

Happy Reading,

*Emma and Janice*

Inside this issue:

- A new children's literature journal
- The 2013-15 Children's Laureate
- The life of a Pupil Librarian
- Celebrating the Brothers Grimm

# And The Winner Is...

Hot off her success as winner of the Costa Children's Book Award, Sally Gardner picked up this year's **CILIP Carnegie Medal** for *Maggot Moon* (Hot Key Books, £6.99). Carnegie's sister prize, the **CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal**, went to Levi Pinfold for his terrific *Black Dog* (Templar, £6.99). For more on the CILIP awards see page 5.

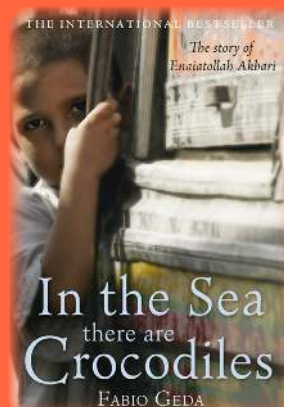
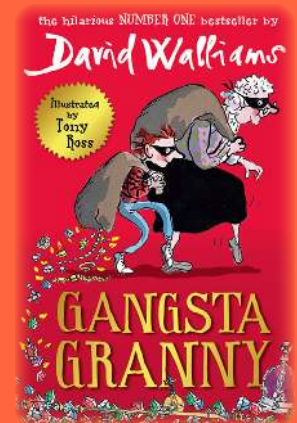
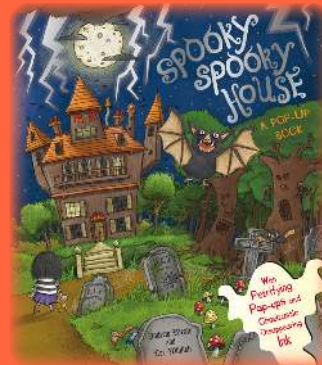
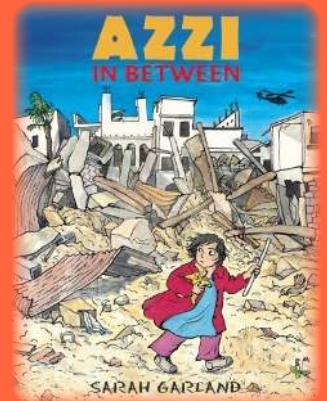
At a ceremony in Stockholm in May, Argentinian illustrator Isol (pictured top right, by Stefan Tell) was presented with the 2013 **Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award** by HRH Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden. Jury Chairman Larry Lempert particularly praised her 'humanism and respect for the child'.

A brand new prize, **The Little Rebels Children's Book Award**, was presented in May to Sarah Garland for her book *Azzi in Between* (Frances Lincoln £12.99). Given by the Alliance of Radical Booksellers and administered by Letterbox Library the award celebrates radical fiction for children aged 0-12.

The **Red House Children's Book Awards** are the only national awards voted for exclusively by children. This year's overall winner, and winner of the Younger Children category, was Andrew Weale's *The Spooky Spooky House* (Corgi, £6.99). The Younger Readers' category was won by David Walliams for *Gangsta Granny* (HarperCollins Children's, £6.99) and the Older Readers category by Sophie McKenzie for *Hit Squad* (Simon & Schuster, £6.99), the sixth and final book in *The Medusa Project* series.

This year's **Branford Boase Award**, given annually to the author and editor of the most outstanding debut novel for children, was presented to Dave Shelton and his editor David Fickling for *A Boy And A Bear In A Boat* (David Fickling Books, £5.99), which last issue we reported had won Peters' Fiction Book of the Year.

And lastly, an award that we accidentally overlooked in the last issue, the 2013 **Marsh Award for Children's Literature in Translation** was won by Howard Cutis for his translation from Italian into English of the book *In The Sea There Are Crocodiles: The Story of Enaiatollah Akbari* by Fabio Geda (David Fickling Books, £6.99).



*Spooky Spooky House* (Corgi) reproduced by permission of The Random House Group Limited.  
*Azzi in Between* reproduced by permission of Frances Lincoln Ltd.



# A New Perspective On Children's Literature

We were pleased earlier this year to hear about the launch of a new children's literature journal - **Children's Literature in English Language Education** (CLELE - rhymes with freely) - particularly one that is peer-reviewed, online and open-access! Inspired by the profound enthusiasm they experienced for the use of children's literature in second-language teaching at a 2010 international conference, editors Janice Bland, Christiane Lütge and Sandie Mourão published the first issue in May 2013. Set to be published twice a year, CLELE is directed at scholars, teachers, educators and practitioners and aims to 'investigate children's literature as an art form', taking in all kinds of writing for children - from fiction to films to poetry to plays - and spanning childhood from nursery age to teenage.

With editors based in Germany and Portugal and contributors to the first issue from Poland, The Lebanon and India CLELE is a truly international publication. The current issue contains articles on subjects varying from the impact of pictures on a child's understanding of a story, to using children's books to humanise the teaching of English, to the use of nonsense texts to bridge language teaching. The next issue, due in November, will be themed around 'intercultural approaches to English language education through children's literature'.

We wish CLELE all the best for a long and successful run.



Photo by Jennifer Clampet from Flickr

## Fun In The Classroom

Acting out picture books in the classroom can be lots of fun and is a great way to get children excited about books.

**PictureBookPlays.co.uk** is an interactive website designed to provide resources and advice for anyone wanting to act out picture books in the classroom or in front of any sort of audience. Presented by Julia Donaldson and developed during her time as Children's Laureate (a role she handed over to Malorie Blackman earlier this year - see overleaf), the website includes lists of books that work well as plays, downloadable resources, videos and links to other useful sites.

## The Competition

Last issue's winner was lecturer Mike Steele who correctly spotted that the first line of the poem was from W.H. Auden's *Night Mail*. A new first line is below. Simply email us at [hullabaloo@bishopg.ac.uk](mailto:hullabaloo@bishopg.ac.uk) with the name of the poet and poem by 31 December 2013 and the first correct answer out of the hat will win a £10 National Book Token.

*"In the other gardens and all up the vale.."*



# Sibylle Erle On Malorie Blackman

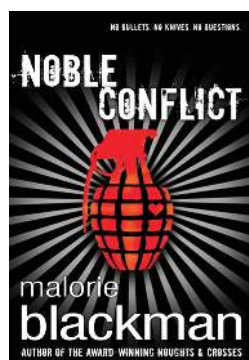
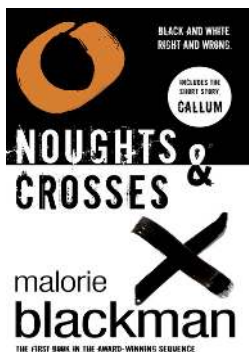
**M**alorie Blackman (1962 - ), the new Children's Laureate for 2013-2015, is an internationally acclaimed writer. Blackman is versatile and talented. She has had novels as well as short stories and picture-books published and she writes for television, radio and the stage. Often nominated or shortlisted for prizes she has already received several important awards and her services to children's literature were recognised in 2008 when she was awarded an OBE. What can we expect from Blackman in her new role?

When news of Blackman's appointment broke in June the London Evening Standard published a short article about her response and her views on what her target audience - young adults - should be reading. Basically, she said that it is important for them to read what they want to read; if they are into *Twilight* (the example she used) why not ask them if they've read *Frankenstein*? How smart is that? It turns out that Blackman is not only into horror and science fiction but is passionate about all kinds of literature and doesn't differentiate between low and high culture. In fact, she remains unconvinced by discussions about what is deemed appropriate for young readers. To Blackman what matters is that we read – not what we read. It seems to me that she sees today's young adults as readers who enjoy and absorb but are at the same time resistant and critical of what they are reading.

Malorie Blackman's books engage with big issues: love, life and death as well as violence, discrimination and open political conflict. The question of when and if terrorism is justified is, for example, a sensitive one but whether or not this question is appropriate depends on how the story is told. To put it differently, her stories are topical and always provide thoughtful responses to complex subjects. This brings me to *Noughts & Crosses*, her famous dystopian series which interweaves a doomed love story with the power dynamics of a totalitarian society. Blackman describes the impact of learnt ideas of superiority while scrutinising the social mechanisms which regulate how we relate to strangers. Under what conditions do we identify with those around us? When we do perceive them as 'other'? Blackman expects her readers to pay attention and react. A text about racism or disenfranchisement will definitely generate such a response but it is through the characters that we enter into the debate; the story is told from different points of view and in diary style. What we get is an authentic display of raw emotion. Who is right? What is wrong? Her latest novel, *Noble Conflict*, was published in June.

Malorie Blackman is the eighth Children's Laureate. A prestigious position sponsored by Waterstones, it has been in existence since 1999 and is awarded to an eminent writer or illustrator of children's books along with an awarded bursary of £15,000. Previous Children's Laureates have included Quentin Blake, Michael Morpurgo and Julia Donaldson. Blackman's task is now is to promote children's literature across Britain, with many events already lined up. Will she come to Lincoln? I very much hope so; she looks an inspiring person to meet.

*Sibylle Erle is a Senior Lecturer in English at BGU and teaches literature for children and young adults on the University's BA (Hons) English Literature degree.*



*Noughts & Crosses* (Random House) and *Noble Conflict* (Doubleday) cover images by permission of The Random House Group Limited. Photo 2013 Booktrust/Tom Pilston.

# CILIP Medal Winners Announced

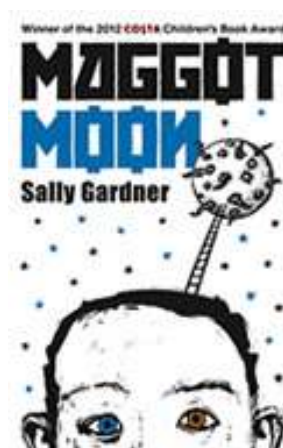
This past academic year we ran a Carnegie-Greenaway Challenge at BGU, reporting on our progress every so often here in *Hullabaloo!*. The Challenge involved shadowing two of the most important children's book awards in the UK: the Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medals, which are awarded annually by the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) for excellence in writing and illustration respectively. The Challenge ran from February to June when CILIP announced the official winners and we in turn announced the results of the voting here at BGU.

Official winner of the 2013 CILIP Carnegie Medal was Sally Gardner for the moving *Maggot Moon* (Hot Key Books, £6.99). Sally received a golden medal and £500 of books to donate to a library of her choice. Official winner of the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal was Levi Pinfold for the sublime *Black Dog* (Templar, £6.99). Levi received a golden medal and £500 of books to donate to a library of his choice, as well as the Colin Mears Award of £5,000, which since 2000 is always awarded alongside the Kate Greenaway Medal. Congratulations to both winners and to our three prize draw winners, all of whom received copies of both books.

In the BGU voting we had a tie for the Carnegie Medal between R.J. Palacio's life-affirming *Wonder* (Corgi Children's, £6.99) and Sarah Crossan's poignant *The Weight of Water* (Bloomsbury Children's, £6.99) but an outright winner for the Kate Greenaway Medal of Jon Klassen's charming *I Want My Hat Back* (Walker Books, £6.99).

We hope those of you who took part in the Challenge enjoyed doing so - we certainly enjoyed sharing all 132 of those fantastic books with you; so much so that we're planning to do it all over again in 2013-14. It was clear from his acceptance speech that Levi Pinfold enjoyed himself too:

*One of my favourite parts of being involved in the Carnegie and Greenaway [awards] has been sharing the excellent books with my family and friends, particularly my nephew whose face will light up at a story well told. The idea of sharing good stories is key to the success of the shadowing schemes. I have been bowled over by the enthusiasm of all the teachers, librarians, children and young people involved.*



The CILIP Carnegie  
& Kate Greenaway  
Children's Book  
Awards



# The Busy Busy World Of A Pupil Librarian

Ever wondered what it's like to be a Pupil Librarian? **James Kearney** (pictured right), a student at *The King's School* in Grantham, tell us more...

I am a pupil librarian in my school library [pictured below right] and am lucky to work in a well-resourced library, used by a lot of our pupils. I've been in the job for just over 3 years, and I am now a 'senior pupil librarian'! And do not worry- I wouldn't dare shhh anyone- that's my number 1 rule!

I try and get into the library every day of the school week, busy doing all sorts! I've just set a challenge for the other pupil librarians. I've split them up into two 'teams', given them each a display board, and asked them to fill it - it's a sort of competition. In my view, colourful and cheerful display boards are really important to create that welcoming atmosphere in a library. We try and link some of the displays to certain events, such as National Libraries Day or World Book Day. Others are more general, such as e-resource guidance or library information.

I'm fascinated by web2.0 tools and try to use them in the library as much as possible. We have a library blog, which I manage ( <http://libraryatkings.blogspot.co.uk>) and which includes subject pages with links and resources for pupils to use. I'm also in the process of creating Wordles ([www.wordle.net](http://www.wordle.net)) for the pages; I find them a very effective revision technique for my GCSEs.... just reading and writing the key words of the syllabus helps to recall some of the information!

I tend to write a library newsletter each term. I try and gather reviews from pupils, special events, competitions, revision tips, e-resources information and my trademark- a quote! My top tip for other pupil librarians would definitely be to talk to the library users. Ask what they are reading..... I was discussing with some year 7 pupils the other day the wacky and crazy things in the 2013 *Ripley's Believe It Or Not* annual. Get pupils involved in library displays. For example, some year 7s saw me putting up a display and asked if they could help- we ended up with a stunning collage of books and two new pupil librarians on the team!

What do I like reading? All sorts! I review books for *The Guardian Children's Books* website and one great book I reviewed was *Slide* by Jill Hathaway. I must confess I do love the classics. I particularly enjoyed *Animal Farm* and *1984*, both by George Orwell.

Outside the school library, I manage and moderate the Student Library Assistants' Network, a group which aims to support pupil librarians in their work and share ideas. It's going quite well- we currently have 18 members. We welcome not just pupil librarians, but also library and information professionals working in different types of libraries.

Well, that's my work as a pupil librarian! I definitely enjoy the work, and I find it very rewarding. Oh, and I just have to leave you with the quote on the right from Deepak Chopra (ok, I confess - I'm fanatical about quotes!).



*"Birds don't try to fly, they fly. This is their intrinsic nature. The earth doesn't try to spin on its own axis; it is the nature of the earth to spin with dizzying speed and to hurtle through space. It is the nature of babies to be in bliss. It is the nature of the sun to shine. It is the nature of the stars to glitter and sparkle. And it is human nature to make our dreams manifest into physical form, easily and effortlessly."*

# BGU Staff Contribute To A New Book

**Values & Vision in Primary Education** (McGraw-Hill, £22.99), is an exciting new publication by Kathleen Taylor and Richard Woolley heavily influenced by the values and vision of BGU itself. Contributor and BGU Lecturer Rachael Paige tells us more...

Dedicated to the students of BGU and with contributors with strong links to the University, this book encapsulates a key principle: that the learner is at the centre of the teacher's priorities. An accessible resource, it is recommended for anyone beginning to consider their identity and role as a teacher and what that means in terms of values and vision for the learners in their classroom.

The book supports the reader in developing their own personal philosophy with useful vignettes, case studies and opportunity to reflect. The different chapters lead the reader through a journey considering their own personal and professional values and their aspirations for those they teach. Creativity, play and curiosity are discussed providing helpful exploration of how learners can develop into confident and inquisitive individuals, asking their own questions and following their own lines of enquiry. Chapters focusing upon story-telling, narrative and voice encourage the reader to consider the power of storytelling and how narrative and voice can be used to express ideas, thoughts and feelings. The importance of language and expression is also discussed in the context of inclusion with a clear challenge to consider how labels and categories can impact valuing people as individuals. Other contributions explore the use of investigation, problem solving and technology as useful approaches to preparing children for an ever changing world.



## When I Was A Nipper

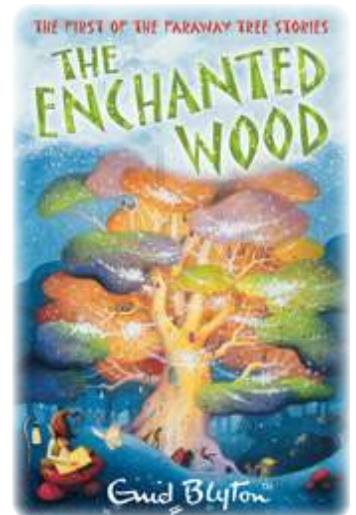
This issue's nipper is **Kimberley Godwin**, LRC Coordinator at one of BGU's partner colleges, New College Stamford. Kimberley's favourite book as a child was Enid Blyton's *The Enchanted Wood*...

I don't remember when I got my first copy of *The Enchanted Wood*, but I do know it was a 1978 edition and has long since been sent to the great library in the sky. It was a well-worn copy, having been read multiple times, and was also a firm favourite of our family dog. I remember vividly the day I returned home from school to find torn pages and teeth marks across the front cover – I was distraught! However, it was still a good few years after the event before I disposed of that copy; I couldn't bear to be parted from it.

I replaced my copy about five years ago while working in Waterstones – I'd spotted a copy on the shelf and my head was immediately filled with fond memories of what was my favourite book as a child. It is the tale of three siblings who move to the country, to a cottage beside a mysterious wood which they soon discover is known as the *enchanted* wood. The children can't wait to explore and quickly find themselves embroiled in adventures with elves, pixies, goblins and fairy

folk. They befriend the occupants of the Magic Faraway Tree and those who climb to its topmost branches soon find it no ordinary tree, leading into a myriad of constantly changing, wondrous lands such as the Roundabout Land and the Land of Take-What-You-Want.

As a child I loved to create make-believe lands in my imagination and that is what delighted me so much about *The Enchanted Wood*. I had no difficulty imagining the lands and characters portrayed in the story and happily read it again and again. *The Enchanted Wood* remains a classic story of magic and adventure that I believe will be enjoyed by generations to come. My only criticism of modern interpretations of the story is that they have seen fit to rename the three children Joe, Beth and Frannie... when to me they will always be Jo, Bessie and Fanny.



The Enchanted Wood published by Egmont.  
Cover by permission of Hachette Children's Books.

# Farewell E. L. Konigsburg (1930-2013)

American children's author E.L. Konigsburg died in Virginia on 19th April 2013 aged 83.

E.L. (Elaine Lobl) Konigsburg was born Elaine Lobl in New York City. One of three sisters, she grew up in Pennsylvania and was the first in her family to gain a degree, in Chemistry from the Carnegie College of Technology in Pittsburgh. After graduating she married Daniel Konigsburg and the couple moved to Florida where she taught high school science and studied art. The couple raised three children and it was when the youngest started school that Konigsburg began to write.

Her first two novels were both published in the same year (1967) and were extremely well received: *From The Mixed-Up Files of Mrs Basil E. Frankweiler* won the Newbery Medal, whilst *Jennifer, Hecate, MacBeth, and*

*Me* was a runner-up.

It is for *From The Mixed-Up Files...* that Konigsburg is probably best known: friends Claudia and Jamie run away from home and camp out in New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. They sleep in antique beds, touch *everything* and collect coins from the good luck fountain. Critic Joan McGrath called it 'an inspired piece of wish fulfillment'.

E.L. Konigsburg continued to write and draw (she illustrated three picture books featuring her own grandchildren) and in 1997 won a second Newbery Medal for teenage novel *The View From Saturday*; the longest period between wins for the same author in Newbery history. Her final book, *The Mysterious Edge of the Heroic World*, was published in 2007.

## Jacob Grimm Anniversary (1863-2013)

The 20th of September 2013 marks the 150th anniversary of the death of Jacob Grimm, one half of the famous *Brothers Grimm* who, in the nineteenth century, popularised storytelling through the publication of collections of traditional German folk tales like Snow White, Sleeping Beauty, Rumpelstiltskin and Rapunzel.

Folklorists, linguists, lexicographers, librarians and writers, Jacob (1785-1863) and Wilhelm (1786-1859) Grimm were born in what is now the Hesse region of Germany. They both read law at Marburg University but whilst there became fascinated by German folklore. Thus began a lifelong study of the subject, one in which they were both ultimately regarded as pioneers.

The brothers' most famous work, published in 1812, was *Kinder- und Hausmärchen* (Children's and Household Tales), commonly known in the English-speaking world simply as *Grimm's Fairy Tales*. A collection of 200 folk tales and children's legends, it was followed by a second volume two years later. The Grimms placed great importance on the oral tradition meaning that many of the stories they collected were relayed to them by friends and neighbours; *Hansel and Gretel* was passed on by Wilhelm's future wife Dortchen, and several others by a local egg seller Katharina Viehmann. In total seven editions of the fairy tales were published in the brothers' lifetimes and brought them worldwide fame.

It's amazing to think that 200 years later the world is still reimagining those same fairy tales, in books like Adam Gidwitz's *A Tale Dark and Grimm* and Shannon Hale's *The Goose Girl*, on television in series like *Once Upon a Time*, and in films like *Enchanted*, *Tangled* and *Hoodwinked*.



An illustration by Kate Greenaway of  
*The Pied Piper of Hamelin*.