

Hullabaloo!

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

Volume 4, Issue 3, October 2008. Compiled by Janice Morris and Emma Sansby. Please direct all comments to hullabaloo@bishopg.ac.uk

Welcome!

...to our latest issue in which we focus on equality and social justice. It seemed timely given the 60th birthday of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (see page 4) and the launch of the University College's new *Centre for Education for Social Justice*. We also talk about Puffin Post, the lovely Neil Griffiths, and *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*. Happy Reading!

Emma & Janice



A Still Day in Autumn

I love to wander through the woodlands hoary,
In the soft light of an autumnal day,
When summer gathers up her robes of glory,
And, like a dream of beauty, glides away.

Sarah Helen Whitman (1803-1878)

Attention All Puffineers

Are you old enough to have been a Puffineer? A Puffineer is someone who subscribed to the iconic **Puffin Post** magazine sometime between 1967 and 1982. You are? Then 'Sniffup'! In the magazine's heyday there were about 200,000 Puffineers. They greeted each other with a 'Sniffup' which was responded to with a 'Spotera' ('puffins are tops' backwards!).



If you were a Puffineer then you're going to be very happy to hear that **Puffin Post** is back and, along with the usual free book every issue, will include a whole new online element and a top membership package. A pre-launch issue is already available and the first new issue is due in January. Struggling with gift ideas for an 8-12 year old? We reckon you need look no further than

www.puffinpost.co.uk

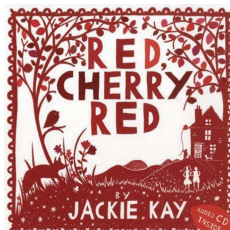
Awards Roundup

This year's winner of the **Carnegie Medal** was Philip Reeve's *Here Lies Arthur* (Scholastic, £6.99) and of the **Greenaway Medal** was Emily Gravett for *Little Mouse's Big Book of Fears* (Macmillan Children's Books, £6.99).

Jackie Kay won the **CLPE Poetry Award** for her collection *Red Cherry Red* (Bloomsbury, £6.99).

The **Booktrust Early Years Award** went to Marcus Sedgwick for his gothic tale *My Swordhand is Singing* (Orion, £6.99).

Patrick Ness's *The Knife of Never Letting Go* (Walker Books, £7.99), a book which seems to appeal to adults just as much as children, was awarded the **Guardian**



A Chronology Of Classics

We're always reminding people what a wonderful collection of children's literature we have in the Sibthorp Library; not only that we have the works of all major authors and illustrators, but that the collection represents really well the development of children's literature to the present day. But how do we know that?



Wondering if our claims could actually be substantiated, members of the library staff recently made some checks, consulting all of the major guides to children's literature to identify (and rectify!) any glaring omissions. Janice then produced an impressive chronological list of all the Library's classic children's books: from Perrault and Grimm to Rosoff and Reeve. You can view the list yourself on the *Hullabaloo!* webpages: we hope you'll agree that ours is a collection to be proud of!

The books below are featured on our list. Can you guess when each one was published? (answers at the bottom of page 2):

Tom Brown's Schooldays The Railway Children
Just William Black Beauty Ballet Shoes
Charlotte's Web Tom's Midnight Garden The Outsiders
Goodnight Mr. Tom Dear Nobody

Children's Fiction Prize.

Winners of the **English 4-11 Best Book Awards** were two books by Helen Ward: *Wonderful Life* (Templar, £5.99) and *Varmints* (Templar, £10.99). Brian Selznick's *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* (Scholastic, £12.99) also won.

Jenny Downham's heartbreaking *Before I Die* (Black Swan, £5.99) took the **Branford Boase Award**.

And finally, Australian author Sonya Harnett was the recipient of this year's **Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award**.

For a list of all the main prize winners in 2007-2008 see our website at www.bishopg.ac.uk/hullabaloo

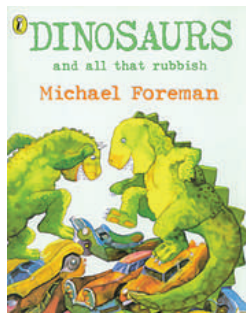
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Getting The Message Across

In keeping with this issue's focus on equality and social justice we thought we'd bring to your attention some recommended children's books on related themes.

Dinosaurs and All that Rubbish by Michael Foreman



A man builds a spaceship to reach the stars, but in doing so pollutes the Earth. Whilst traveling in space the dinosaurs return, clean up the planet and create a paradise. The man returns, unaware that it is the same Earth he polluted in search of his dream. He claims it for his own but the dinosaurs object. They insist that he can only stay if he is prepared to accept that "the Earth belongs to everyone, not

parts of it to certain people but all of it to everyone, to be enjoyed and cared for."

First published in 1972, this was one of the first picture books to highlight the need to protect and care for the environment. The book's other message, that Earth is not for the rich and powerful to destroy in pursuit of their own greedy dreams, seems even more pertinent in the twenty first century in a world tottering on the brink of financial collapse.

I'm Special I'm Me by Ann Meek and Sarah Massini

Playtime for Milo is not fun. He can't be the lion because the other children say he's not strong enough, he can't be the captain because he's too small, he can't be the prince because he's not handsome, and he can't be the astronaut because he wears glasses. Each day he returns home disappointed, but his Mum always turns his disappointment around. She teaches Milo to see that being a deck hand is just as important as being the captain and being an alien is more fun than being an astronaut. Through wit and encouragement Milo's mum builds up Milo's self esteem. Gradually, Milo realises that it is for him to decide who he is going to be, not the other children.

Why not check out these other titles on similar themes:

- * **Two Monsters** by David McKee
- * **The Whisperer** by Nick Butterworth
- * **The Rabbits** by Marsden John
- * **The Arrival** by Shaun Tann
- * **Fly Eagle Fly** by Christopher Gregorowski
- * **Amazing Grace** by Mary Hoffman
- * **Way Home** by Libby Hathorn
- * **Have You Seen Who's Just Moved in Next Door to Us?** by Colin McNaughton

First Meeting of Book Talk

Book Talk is our new children's literature book club, which met for the first time on October 17th.

The next meeting will be from 5pm to 6pm on Monday November 10th in Library Seminar Room 3.

We'll be discussing **Michael Morpurgo** and **Janet and Allan Ahlberg** so if you fancy joining in all you need to do is make sure you've read one of their books and turn up. See you there!



Once Upon a Time...

Head of our Department of Undergraduate Initial Teacher Training, Kathleen Taylor, tells us about the storytelling project that her students get involved in each year...

"Students on our BA Primary Education always begin the course with a storytelling project. The project is run in conjunction with a number of local schools and involves each student pairing up with a child. The student draws on the relationship that they build with child to write a story which is personal to the child and which is then told on a special storytelling day at BG.

The students share the experience with the child and in doing so get to know the kind of things the child might like in their story. Often the child may want their siblings and friends in the story, or favourite TV characters; indeed the names of the characters in the stories often reveal the personal traits that the children see in people they know. The project culminates in a storytelling day on campus when classrooms are transformed into storytelling spaces and the children get to hear the stories that have been written for them.

My involvement in the (long established) project, began fourteen years ago, which in project's history is not so long! I knew then, as I know now, that story is a fundamental vehicle through which we learn, especially for children. My mantra was that of Barbara Hardy who, in Margaret Meek's collected essays in *The Cool Web*, wrote "*narrative, like lyric and dance is a primary act of mind transferred to art from life*". The same quotation was used to illustrate the underpinning principle of teaching and learning in the first year of our course when we wrote the first validation document in 1994.

My part in the project is to model storytelling and like everything in teaching the more you know the more there is to know, so I'll admit now to being a novice storyteller. I still feel nervous when I start to tell a story, it always *feels* like stepping into the dark, so I can empathise with the fear that students feel when embarking on the project. To allay those fears both for myself and the students I begin by recognising the stories we already hold in our minds, especially those we know from childhood."

To read the rest of Kathleen's article visit our website at www.bishopg.ac.uk/hullabaloo



Charlotte's Web: 1952
Tom's Midnight Garden: 1958
The Outsiders: 1970
Goodnight Mr Tom: 1981
Dear Nobody: 1991

Tom Brown's Schooldays: 1857
Black Beauty: 1877
The Railway Children: 1906
Just William: 1922
Ballet Shoes: 1936

A Natural Storyteller

Last summer when children's author and Storysack® creator Neil Griffiths received his honorary degree from Bishop Grosseteste University College he expressed a keen interest in coming back to meet some of our students. We put Janice on the case, and she delivered!

On September 25th Neil very kindly spent an entire day on campus with students from our PGCE Primary, BA Primary Education, and English programmes. He joked about how they were probably expecting a boring lecture with the chance for a quick doze. No chance. Neil inspired and entertained, speaking with passion and enthusiasm about the importance of storytelling, both as an activity and as an art, and as an added bonus slipped in some hilarious anecdotes about his time as a headteacher. He also showed us how to tell a story (and I mean REALLY tell a story). What a treat. Talk about tenterhooks: we were all *desperate* to find out if little mouse with the red, ripe strawberry got eaten by the big hungry bear. With the help of some willing volunteers, Neil then re-told the same story using a Storysack®, demonstrating how they can really bring a story to life.

A big, big thank you to Neil (we know you're reading): we look forward to welcoming you back again soon.



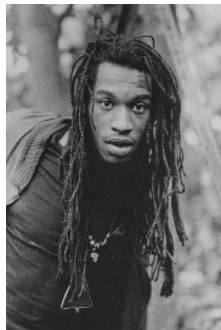
Neil's most recent books, all published by Red Robin Books, are: **There's A Spider in the Bath**, **Shaun the Shy Shark**, and **Where Have You Two Been?** (with the lovely autumnal cover on the left).

Featured Author

He's best known to children for his poetry and reggae raps. He's received a total of 13 honorary degrees and refused an OBE. He's passionate about Aston Villa football club. He's a powerful performer who actively campaigns against racism, pollution and animal cruelty. He can be provocative and controversial and isn't afraid to speak his mind. And he's an immensely talented wordsmith. Who is he? He's **Benjamin Zephaniah**.

Benjamin Zephaniah was born in Birmingham in 1958. By the age of 15 he was already known in Handsworth for his public performances and at 22 had seen his first book, *Pen Rhythm*, published. His children's books, many of which we have in the Library, include the poetry collections **Talking Turkeys**, **Funky Chickens**, **Wicked World!** and **We Are Britain!** as well as the novels **Refugee Boy**, **Face**, and, most recently, the excellent **Teacher's Dead**.

At the beginning of **Teacher's Dead** teenager Jackson Jones witnesses the death of one of his teachers at the hands of a fellow pupil. In the aftermath of the tragedy Jackson finds that the only way he can cope with what he's seen is by investigating why it happened: **"Sitting in front of a counsellor wasn't my style but understanding what happened was, it would be my therapy."** And that's what he does, uncovering some surprising truths and unexpected results along the way. It's a truly modern and poignant story, and one that deserves to be read.



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Featured Website: Multiverse

This issue's featured website is **Multiverse** which describes itself as "a website for teacher educators and student teachers addressing the educational achievement of pupils from diverse backgrounds". It's chock full of resources including papers and documents, learning and teaching materials, case studies, weblinks, staff



development materials and much more besides. You can browse by type of resource, curriculum area, key stage, age range, or topic, and it also features a glossary and a link to the Teacher Training Resource Bank's 'E-Librarian' service. A highly recommended website for anyone studying or researching diversity. Find it at www.multiverse.ac.uk

New Award Celebrates Diversity

Frances Lincoln Ltd. and Seven Stories have collaborated to launch a new children's book award in memory of Frances Lincoln, founder of the publishing house, who died in 2001.



The first **Frances Lincoln Diverse Voices Children's Book Award** will be presented at a ceremony in April 2009 to a writer who produces an outstanding manuscript for children aged 8-12 years and which celebrates diversity 'in the widest possible sense'.

The prize includes the sum of £1,500 and the option for Frances Lincoln Ltd to publish the work. The judges include Trevor Phillips, Chair of The Equality and Human Rights Commission, and Mary Briggs, Co-Founder of Seven Stories. The winner will be reported in the May 2009 edition of *Hullabaloo!*: we look forward to finding out who it is!

Controversy Over Age Banding

A decision by publishers to introduce age guidance on children's books created a storm of protest from authors, illustrators, librarians and teachers earlier this year. It all started when the Children's Book Group of the Publishers Association commissioned research which found that 86% of adult consumers thought age ranging was a good idea. The research seemed to lend support to the idea that age guidance would encourage more adults to buy books for children.

Once the decision to introduce age banding was announced many authors were annoyed that their opinions had not been sought. Opposition gained momentum when the website www.notoagebanding.org was created by Northern Lights author Philip Pullman, both to voice his concerns and to give others the chance to do the same. The arguments against age banding include:

- *The fear that potential readers will be put off some books.
- *The implication that children of a certain age are all the same.
- *The fact that many authors don't have a specific age group in mind when they write, so how can publishers determine this with any accuracy?
- *That not only adults buying books for children will be drawn to one age-specific area of a bookshop, but that children will too, irrespective of their reading ability or interests.

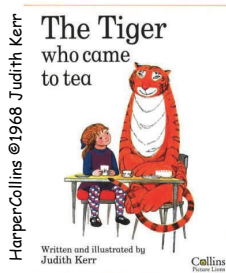
Pullman's website asked people to register their opposition by signing up to the following statement: "We are all agreed that the proposal to put an age-guidance figure on books for children is ill-conceived, damaging to the interests of young readers, and highly unlikely, despite the claims made by those publishers promoting the scheme, to make the slightest difference to sales." So far over 4250 people, including 800 authors and illustrators, have signed. We'll have to wait and see if publishers decide to push ahead with the initiative.

When I Was A Nipper...

This issue's ex-nipper is Helen Hendry, lecturer on our PGCE Primary programme, who has chosen to share her love of **The Tiger Who Came to Tea** by Judith Kerr (which this year is celebrating its 40th birthday)....

"I loved reading from a very early age and still get excited when I go into a bookshop or library. I have so many favourites and have since spent a lot of time working with the youngest children in school so thought it would make a change to write about a picture book, especially one which can still be found in many early years classrooms.

I think one of the reasons that I liked **The Tiger Who came to Tea** so much was the illustrations; they were simple and colourful but also had interesting detail in parts such as the tiger's coat. The family have a 1950s look about them which for some reason I found appealing. The clothes and stereotypical family were even dated by the time I read the book and so look very old-fashioned now but to me the homely setting was comforting.



In the story a tiger unexpectedly comes to visit and empties the contents of the cupboards, including memorably eating all the cornflakes from the packet. This problem is resolved by the family going out for tea instead. Perhaps the intention was to create a cautionary tale about strange visitors?

The tone of the book though is very calm without any indication that Sophie, who is the central character, could be eaten at any moment. Uneventful you might say, but in my vivid 3-year-old imagination the possibility of tigers visiting was equivalent to an early horror story and caused me nightmares, yet I love the story and when I see it in the classroom it fills me with nostalgia. I think the timing of my introduction to this book was very significant as it was when I first started to go out into the big wide world of playgroup. For me this story was about the security of home and reinforced my belief and hope that your family will keep you safe, however anxious you might feel."

There is no substitute for books in the life of a child.

Mary Ellen Chase (1887-1973)

First Words Competition

Last issue's winner was student Sarah Miller who received a £10 book token for correctly spotting that our quote came from Julia Donaldson's **The Gruffalo**.

This time our first words are :

I found him in the garage on a Sunday afternoon.

E-mail the title and author of the book together with your name by December 31st to us at hullabaloo@bishopg.ac.uk and that £10 book token could be yours.

Are You Sitting Comfortably...?

Then I've still got the dishwasher to unload, your brother to pick up from swimming, packed lunches to make for tomorrow, that leaking tap to mend...

A recent survey found that fewer and fewer people are finding the time to read to their children: in 2006 43% of parents and carers read with their children daily compared to 33% in 2008, while 23% of parents and carers do so rarely or never. The survey was conducted on behalf of **Booktime** and **Booked Up**, two new initiatives designed to promote reading for pleasure and to encourage parents to read to their children. Set up by the independent national charity **Booktrust**, the schemes are giving away free books to all children aged 5 and 11 in England.

The importance of these initiatives is further underlined by the recent National Literacy Trust publication, *Literacy Changes Lives*, which draws together existing research about the importance of literacy in promoting an individual's ability to achieve, succeed and be happy.

Check out the full reports at:

www.booktime.org.uk/Research-and-Evaluation

and

www.literacytrust.org.uk/research/Literacy_changes_lives.pdf



Happy Birthday Universal Declaration of Human Rights! (1948-2008)

A document of immeasurable importance, equally so today as the day it was adopted, the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10th 1948, a date now celebrated around the world each year as *Human Rights Day*.

The Commission responsible for drafting the Declaration was chaired by ex-First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and included philosophers, scholars and legal experts from around the world. They drew upon key historical documents like the *Magna Carta*, the UK and US *Bills of Rights*, and the French *Declaration of the Rights of*

Man and Citizen to create one of the most significant (and most translated) documents of our time.

The Declaration is composed of a preamble followed by 30 articles. In the preamble the articles are described as "a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations...[which]... every individual and every organ of society...shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms".

To commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Declaration's adoption publisher Frances Lincoln Ltd., in association with Amnesty International, have published a

new picture book for children called **We Are All Born Free**. The book contains 30 beautiful illustrations, one for each article, all by world-renowned illustrators. They

include the UK's very own Polly Dunbar, John Burningham, Chris Riddell and Jackie Morris, as well as many other illustrators from around the world including Korky Paul of Zimbabwe, Fernando Vilela of Brazil and Hong Sung Dam of Korea. The drawings really are stunning: we heartily recommend this as a terrific addition to any child's (or adult's) bookshelf.

