

Hullabaloo!

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

Volume 4, Issue 1, January 2008. Compiled by Janice Morris and Emma Sansby. Please direct all comments to hullabaloo@bishopg.ac.uk

Celebrating Our 10th Issue!



Believe it or not we've been publishing our little newsletter for three years now and we're still enjoying it. We've got a sneaking suspicion that we could be the only free printed children's literature newsletter in the UK. (Can you prove us wrong?). In the past year we've seen evidence that our readership is growing, and we've even been mentioned in the journal *English 4-11*, which we both got very (disproportionately!) excited about.

Thanks for reading — we hope you enjoy this issue!

Emma & Janice

Thoughts for a Cold Day

A little bit of blowing,
A little bit of snow,
A little bit of growing,
And crocuses will show;
On every twig that's lonely
A new green leaf will spring;
On every patient tree-top
A thrush will stop and sing.



Anon

Book Resource Values Family Diversity

In the same week that this issue of Hullabaloo is published the University College will coincidentally be launching the *Family Diversities Reading Resource*, an annotated bibliography which aims to highlight the varied and sometimes complex issues surrounding twenty-first century family life. Senior lecturer and project coordinator **Richard Woolley** tells us more...

"Sometimes children cannot access images of their own family background in books available in schools or libraries. This can apply to children from two-parent, single-parent, adoptive, carer, traveller, extended and separated families from a range of ethnic and cultural backgrounds, or to children who have three or more parents/carers for a range of reasons.

The project set out to develop an annotated bibliography of age-appropriate texts suitable for use by teachers, students and teacher educators, with a view to addressing the representation of families in primary school classrooms. Developed by students on the BA (Hons) Primary Education with QTS programme, with contributions from library staff and academic staff, the project's aim is to allow all children the opportunity to see their particular family backgrounds represented fairly."

The launch takes place during *Homelessness Week*, in the Sibthorp Library on Wednesday 30th January, and will be a great opportunity to celebrate the importance of children's families. 100+ picture books for primary school children and copies of the bibliography will be on display, and we'll also be keeping the display up for a week after the launch. In addition, copies of the Resource will be freely available online.

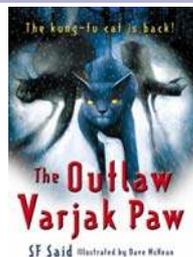
Want to know more? Contact Richard at richard.woolley@bishopg.ac.uk, or pop in to the Library to view the display and Resource for yourself!

Did You Know?

Antoine de Saint Exupéry, French author of *The Little Prince*, was also an aviator. Whilst on a wartime spying mission in 1944 he and his plane went missing and were never heard from again. 54 years later, in 1998, a fisherman found a piece of Saint Exupéry's jewellery off the coast of Marseille, and in 2000 a diver found the remains of his plane on the seabed.

Awards Roundup

The overall winner of the **Blue Peter Book Awards**, and winner of 'The Book I Couldn't Put Down' category, was *The Outlaw Varjak Paw* by S.F. Said, illustrated by Dave McKean (Corgi Children's, £5.99). Winner of 'Best Book with Facts' was *The Worst Children's Jobs in History* by Tony Robinson (Macmillan, £6.99), and winner of the 'Most Fun Story with Pictures' was *You're a Bad Man, Mr. Gum!* by Andy Stanton, illustrated by David Tazzyman (Egmont, £4.99).



(Orchard, £5.99); in the 6-8 age group *Ottoline and the Yellow Cat* by Chris Riddell (Macmillan, £8.99); and in the 9-11 age group, *Shadow Forest* by Matt Haig (Corgi Children's, £5.99).

The **Costa Book Award** was won by Ann Kelley for *The Bower Bird* (The Luath Press, £6.99).

The **Booktrust Teenage Award** was won by Marcus Sedgwick for his chilling gothic tale *My Swordhand is Singing* (Orion Children's, £6.99).

The **Eleanor Farjeon Award** has been won by Jane Nissen Books, a small company publishing 'lost' children's books of the 20th century.

And finally, congratulations to two authors whose contribution to children's literature was rightfully recognised in the 2008 **New Year's Honours List**: Dame Jacqueline Wilson and Eric Hill OBE.

It was recently announced that the **Nestlé Children's Book Prize** is to end after 23 years. The following winners will therefore, sadly, be the last. Gold medals went to: in the 0-5 age group, *When a Monster is Born* by Sean Taylor and Nick Sharatt

Morpurgo And Walden Triumph In The LYPBAs



Lincolnshire Young
People's Book Award

In a ceremony at the Lincoln Drill Hall on Monday January 28th Janice joined invited guests and local schoolchildren to celebrate the 5th annual Lincolnshire Young People's Book Awards. Entertainment was provided by Lyn Gardner, who read an extract from her book *Into the Woods*, and performance poet Gez Walsh, who told stories and read poems (and surprised a few people with a water pistol!). The winners were announced by Helena Pielichaty: in the 9-11 category last year's winner **Michael Morpurgo** did it again with *Alone on a Wide Wide Sea* and in the 12-14 category **Mark Walden** won for his debut novel *H.I.V.E.* Though unable to attend, both sent messages emphasising how much it meant that the awards were chosen by children. Our BA (Hons) Primary Education and PGCE Secondary students again shadowed the award. Below are soundbites from their reviews, including a larger feature on **Anne Fine's *Road of Bones***, which the PGCE students chose as their winner.

*Ruth Hewitt tells us why her PGCE Secondary students voted Anne Fine's **The Road of Bones** their winner:*

It impressed many of us with its non-patronising approach to its intended teenage audience. The book does not pull any punches about the potential dangers and despair caused by living in a totalitarian society where a road is being built on the bones of those who dare to oppose the authorities:

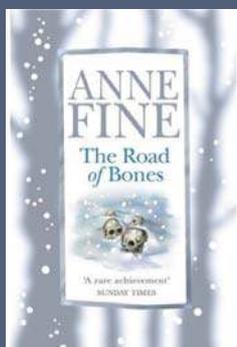
"Use your wits, Yuri. Either you risk a fall now, or you wait for those men to make even more of a mess of you later, here or in their cells.'

'Cells?'

'Yuri, wake up! You've seen the colour of their uniforms. You know who's coming for you.'

And if I was pale before, now I was grey with fright..."

Anne Fine, in her introductory note to the reader claims, "I have taken great liberties with history, geography, language and culture. Nonetheless, inside this story lies a part of the truth." We felt the book did tell an important message in a gripping way and would be as appealing to a teenage audience as it was to us.



The plot was extremely exciting and full of twists and turns. The introduction of strange and wonderful characters enhanced my interest and enjoyment.

*Mark Lowe on Angie Sage's **Flyte***

I liked the humour, and the characters were interesting and engaging.

*Christine Major on Terry Pratchett's **Wintersmith***

Morpurgo makes the reader believe that he...is..Arthur, suffering alongside him, sharing his laughter. He describes the landscape beautifully and I didn't want it to end.

*Nicky Bellamy on Michael Morpurgo's **Alone on a Wide Wide Sea***

A well paced and predominately satisfying romp.

*Michael Lyon on Tom Madley's **Marco's Pendulum***

Walden has created a great book for kids... [it] reads like a cartoon and as such is vibrant, exciting and fun.

*Timothy Mead on Mark Walden's **H.I.V.E.***

I thought this was a fabulously exciting book, packed with adventure. I liked how the book was set out as a stage production with a cast list and scenes instead of chapters.

*Louise Crowther on Julia Golding's **The Diamond of Drury Lane***

Wilkinson...captured my imagination with the characters and the way she brings Ancient China alive in this adventure story. You, as the reader, truly feel as if you are on the adventure with Ping.

*Aaron Himsworth on Carole Wilkinson's **Dragon Keeper***

The main theme throughout the book is...concerned with children's ways of dealing with change.

*Sally Maudsley on Linda Newbery's **Catcall***

A chilling and compelling read for younger teens. It will appeal to anyone who has ever felt alone, smothered by family commitments or wanting an escape or transformation.

*Catherine Warner on Kate Cann's **Leaving Poppy***

Featured Author: Jenny Nimmo

Last issue we featured a Scottish author to mark St. Andrew's Day, so this time, with St. David's Day approaching on March 1st, we thought we'd travel south to Wales, to introduce you to **Jenny Nimmo**.

Though not strictly Welsh (she was born in Berkshire) award-winning author Jenny Nimmo has lived in Wales on and off for over 30 years and she is much inspired by the Welsh countryside. Early in her career Jenny worked for the BBC, first as a researcher, then as a floor manager, and finally editing and directing *Jackanory*. Since the publication of her first novel, **The Bronze Trumpeter**, in 1975 she has written over fifty books including picture books, novels and short stories.

By permission of Egnott Books



Jenny is probably best known for two series, both of which are about boys who possess magical powers. The first is the **Snow Spider** trilogy: *The Snow Spider* (which earned her the 1986 Smarties Prize), *Emlyn's Moon*, and *The Chestnut Soldier*, all follow the adventures of Gwyn, who, on his 9th birthday discovers he's a magician and has to use

his powers to stop powerful and evil forces from the other world that threaten his family and community.

The other is the more recent **Children of the Red King** series, of which six titles have so far been published. Since the story is about a boy, Charlie Bone, who has magical powers and attends boarding school, the comparisons with Harry Potter are unavoidable. No judgements will be made here about who would out-magic who, but what is for sure is that if you like one you'll almost certainly enjoy the other! The first book in the series was *Midnight for Charlie Bone* and the most recent, published in 2007, is *Charlie Bone and the Wilderness Wolf*. To find out more visit www.jennynimmo.me.uk

National Year Of Reading 2008

Last July we reported that 2008 would be the **National Year of Reading** (NYR). This ambitious project aims to 'change the nature of reading forever!' From now until March every school, library, family, business and community organisation will be invited to consider how they can promote and celebrate reading in their homes, schools and workplaces.

Why not kick start the NYR by celebrating **World Book Day** on March 6th? Need more time and inspiration? There are plenty more opportunities to celebrate throughout the year—here are a few dates to inspire you:

March 21st	World Poetry Day
March 27th	World Theatre Day
April 2nd	International Children's Book Day
May	National Share-a-Story Month
July-August	Summer Reading Challenge 2008
September 8th	International Literacy Day
September 13th	Roald Dahl Day
October 5th	World Teacher's Day
October 9th	National Poetry Day
October 6th-12th	Children's Book Week



In addition why not contact your local library about the Summer Reading Challenge and events that Lincolnshire Libraries are planning?

Featured Website



We appreciate value for money here at Hullabaloo! so we really like **The Word Pool**—a collection of sites developed by Steve and Diana Kimpson to raise the profile of children's books on the web.

The main Word Pool site contains an abundance of information for teachers and parents about children's books, games and software, including recommendations by subject area and reviews. Sections include *Reluctant Readers*, *Numeracy*, *Big Books* (which Diana tells us was inspired by a request from a student teacher) and *Parent's Corner*.

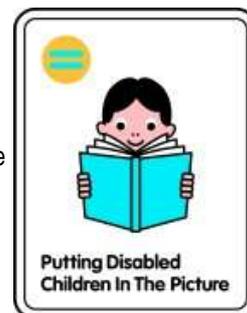
Two of Word Pool's sister sites are also really useful: **Contact an Author** can help you find the right person to speak at a school or other event, and **UK Children's Books**, is a directory of links to selected authors, illustrators and publishers.

www.wordpool.co.uk www.contactanauthor.co.uk
www.ukchildrensbooks.co.uk

Are You 'In The Picture'?

Have you ever searched in vain for picture books about children with disabilities?

Most common are those which explain various disabilities. These are useful for educating and raising awareness. Harder to find are books with illustrations and storylines which feature disabled children playing, having adventures, going on holiday, celebrating, and being happy or sad alongside their non-disabled peers.



It's important that all children find themselves represented in the books they read and with this in mind **In the Picture** was set up in 2005 to work with and encourage authors, illustrators and publishers to include disabled children in their books. One of the project's *10 Guiding Principles* is "not that disabled children should be the prime focus of stories or pictures: simply they should be there, a natural feature of every child's landscape."

The **In the Picture** website is well-designed and accessible, with over 190 pages of interesting information. Included are an image bank, illustrated and animated stories, factsheets, leaflets, reports, web resources, information on training and workshops, and teaching suggestions. We were particularly impressed by the inspirational interpretation of *Winnie the Witch* by Valerie Thomas (illustrated by Korky Paul). Janice used to recommend this story to people wanting books about colour, but now recommends it to teach about different ways of thinking about disability.

Evidence of the project's success is the number of books that have been published portraying disabled children since 2005. In January alone they have added to the website a series of six science books for 7-9 year olds published by Franklin Watts, a new story by Polly Peters, two baby board books, and two stories written by Sophie Smiley and illustrated by Michael Foreman! Checkout the full list at:

www.childreninthepicture.org.uk/bookexamples.htm

When I Was A Nipper...

To celebrate our 10th issue we asked our University College Principal, Professor Muriel Robinson, about her favourite children's book...

"I was an avid reader as a child - I still am! - and so this was a very hard call to make. I've cheated and chosen two books - one I have re-read at least annually since I first read it and one I re-read regularly as a child but hadn't revisited since.

The first I doubt anyone else will know. It belonged to my sister and I don't know where she got it from. It's **The Secret of the Ruby Locket**, by **Harriet Evatt**. Set in a US farming community, it has three interwoven stories; Saraphine's attempts to resolve the mystery of the dark house with the old lady who won't talk to her, the potential threat of gypsies in the ravine, and Saraphine's heifer, Starbright, competing at the County Fair.

I liked this because it was essentially safe - all the mysteries are resolved and things work out well all round. Re-reading it after so long I was charmed by what it told me about life in this very different world. I was also struck by the very positive gypsy story. The main gypsy character turns out to be the hero, but one of his family is dishonest: a 'good and bad in all' message, it can't have hurt me to have read

alongside the clichéd villains I was meeting in Enid Blyton!

Many readers will know **Ballet Shoes**, my other choice. I liked all **Noel Streatfeild's** stories but this was my favourite. I loved the unconventional family and the ballet school itself, and recognised the dilemmas the Fossil girls have to manage. [The illustration below, of Nana and the girls by Ruth Gervis, is reproduced from a 1949 edition by permission of Puffin.] I also liked the way that the book included other texts: chunks of *The Bluebird* and a 'genuine' licence application for the 12-year-old Pauline, with typescript and handwriting - an early forerunner of *The Jolly Postman*!



Both books were comfort reading of the best kind. The stories have a good shape and lead the reader through to a satisfying conclusion with no loose ends. The characters are ones I identified with easily and would have liked as friends. It was great to have a chance to re-read them!

Featured Journal

The Sibthorp Library has a wonderful selection of American children's literature, appropriately complemented by a 39-year back run of featured journal **The Horn Book Magazine**.

The Horn Book Magazine

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The Horn Book, Inc., www.hbook.com

Hornbooks were first produced by English monks in the 16th century to help their pupils learn to read. Made of wood and in the shape of a paddle, each had a verse glued to its surface protected by a transparent piece of animal horn, hence the name *hornbooks*.

The Horn Book Magazine, first published in Boston (USA) in 1924, was the first periodical anywhere in the world exclusively concerned with children's books and reading. Creators Bertha Mahony Miller and Elinor Whitney Field also ran a bookshop - *The Bookshop for Boys and Girls* - which sounds like it was a wonderful place, with comfortable chairs and glowing fires.

Published bi-monthly, the magazine continues the tradition began by its creators by publishing reviews and articles about all aspects of children's literature. Worth noting in the latest issue (Jan/Feb 2008) is a list of the winners of the Boston Globe Horn Book Awards—with their acceptance speeches (you'll find the same for the Newbery and Caldecott Medals in the Jul/Aug 2007 issue). The latest issue is in the Library foyer and more information about this historic publication is at <http://www.hbook.com>.

Happy 50th Birthday Paddington!

Did you know that Paddington's Peruvian name is *Pastuso*? Or, that in 1994, when the British channel tunnel workers broke through to the French, it was a Paddington Bear that they decided to pass through?

On Christmas Eve 1957 BBC cameraman Michael Bond spotted a lonely teddy bear on the shelves in Selfridges. He bought the bear for his wife and named him Paddington after the nearby railway station. He then proceeded to write eight Paddington Bear stories in just over a week, the first of which was published just 10 months later, in October 1958.

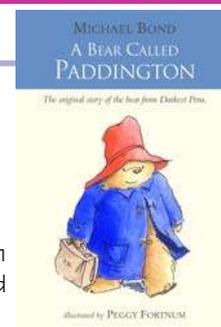
Fifty years on, 30 million Paddington books have been sold in 30 different languages.

Of the 150+ books that have been published about Paddington, only 11 original stories were written by Bond, plus two longer stories published in the 70s with TV series *Blue Peter*. Like all the best modern icons Paddington has changed his look several times, but most people picture him either as he looked in Peggy Fortnum's original drawings (as on the cover on the right), or as the TV Paddington from the 1975 animated series (Emma loved the theme tune when she was little!), or the classic 'Gabrielle Designs' soft toy (which for many years was the only official Paddington toy you could buy in the UK).

Gabrielle Designs was started by husband and wife Eddie and Shirley Clarkson in 1972

after Shirley made her children - one of whom was Top Gear host Jeremy - a Paddington Bear for Christmas in 1971, adding Wellington boots to make him stand up properly.

Lots of events are planned to mark the little bear's birthday, including a special appearance at the *World's Original Marmalade Festival* in Cumbria in February! The biggest event however is likely to be the publication of the first new story for 30 years: *Paddington Here and Now* is due to be published in June by HarperCollins, and we're already excited!



First Words Comp

Last issue's winner was student Gemma Wells who received a £10 book token for correctly spotting that our quote came from the classic tale of **The Owl Who Was Afraid Of The Dark** by Jill Tomlinson. This issue's first words are :

"Mr Piggott lived with his two sons, Simon and Patrick, in a nice house with a nice garden, and a nice car in the nice garage."

Identify the book and e-mail your name and your answer by April 7th to hullabaloo@bishopp.ac.uk and a £10 book token could be yours!

Reading is much more than the decoding of black marks upon a page: it is a quest for meaning and one which requires the reader to be an active participant.

The Cox Report (English for Ages 5 to 11)