

# Hullabaloo!

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

Volume 2, Issue 2, May 2006. Compiled by Janice Morris and Emma Sansby. Please direct all comments to [hullabaloo@bgc.ac.uk](mailto:hullabaloo@bgc.ac.uk)


## Welcome!

This issue of *Hullabaloo!* has been published a little earlier than usual to allow us to promote the forthcoming Lincoln Book Festival (see page 2). We also have a comparison of two of Jeannie Baker's books by BGC Programme Leader John Halocha, information about recently published reports on reading, and we celebrate the 35th birthday of the Mr. Men.

Have a great summer, and watch out for the next *Hullabaloo!* due to be published in October.

Emma & Janice

## Awards Roundup



Winner of the South Lanarkshire Book Award 2006 was Sherry Ashworth for *Paralysed* (Simon & Schuster, £5.99), the story of a teenager whose life is changed in an instant when he is paralysed in an accident whilst playing rugby.

The Newbery Medal, awarded by the American Library Association, was won this year by Lynne Rae Perkins for *Criss Cross* (Greenwillow Books, £9.76). The Caldecott Medal, awarded by the ALA to the most distinguished American picture book for children, went to *The Hello, Goodbye Window*, written by Norton Juster and illustrated by Chris Raschka.

The Macmillan Writers Prize for Africa, a biennial award devoted to previously unpublished fiction by African writers, has three categories. The Junior Award went to Elizabeth Irene Baitie (Ghana) for *A Saint in Brown Sandals*, the Senior Award went to Glaydah Namukasa (Uganda) for *Voice of a Dream* and the New Children's Writer Award went to Ngozi Ifeyinwa Razak-Soyebi (Nigeria) for *The House That Kojo Built*.

*Howl's Moving Castle* (HarperCollins, £5.99) by Diana Wynne Jones (the animated feature adaptation of which was Oscar nominated this year) won the 2006 Phoenix Award from the (American) Children's Literature Association.

And finally, Anthony Horowitz (last issue's featured author) won the British Book Awards (or 'Nibbies') Children's Book of the Year in April for Alex Rider's latest adventure, *Ark Angel* (£6.99, Walker Books).

## Featured Author: Morris Gleitzman

Once again our featured author has a Lincolnshire connection. You may know him as an Australian author, but Morris Gleitzman was in fact born in 1953 in Sleaford. Having said that, he didn't stay long!

Gleitzman did most of his growing up in Welling in the south east of London. When he was 16 he reluctantly emigrated with his parents to Australia. A fortuitous meeting put him back in touch with reading and encouraged him to enrol on a creative writing course at Canberra University which in turn led to a successful career in script writing for television.



Gleitzman's first book for children *The Other Facts of Life* was based on a television script he had written. This was followed by *Two Weeks with the Queen*, *Misery Guts*, *Worry Warts*, *Blabber Mouth* and Janice's particular favourite, *Bumface*. *Bumface* deals with the problems faced by Angus who has to look after his stepbrother and stepsister while his mother works long hours as a TV actress. All the adults around him are blissfully unaware of the responsibilities they put on Angus's shoulders: he takes the children to school, puts them to bed and even prepares their packed lunches. Angus is at breaking point and, realising he could not cope with another baby, he is determined to prevent his mother becoming pregnant again. Consequently he gate-crashes a medical convention to obtain free samples of diaphragms and intra-uterine devices, and when this plan fails he takes to phoning his mother every day to remind her to take her contraceptive pill.

*Bumface* has all the ingredients we have come to expect from a Gleitzman story. The opening scene is the funniest and most memorable Janice has ever read. The jazzy cover belies the seriousness of the issues explored. Arranged marriages, contraception, asylum seekers, refugees, child cancer and the Holocaust are just some of the issues Gleitzman confronts. Angus's refusal to accept the world his parents have created and the inventive ways he deals with his problems is also mirrored in *Boy Overboard* and *Girl Underground*. The children in these books have also learnt that although adults are responsible for the problems they face, they cannot be relied upon to find the solution. Finally, although *Bumface* has a happy ending many of the problems Angus faces remain unresolved. These strands are best summed up by Gleitzman:



I think that kids popular culture bombards them with the notion that heroism is synonymous with success. It makes them think that problems can be solved in their entirety as they often are on screen. Life's not like that. I'm simply interested in how kids deal with that discovery. Without being overt, I champion a heroism that's about overcoming, not escaping or denial or bitterness or bigotry. It's the heroism of staying optimistic and continuing to struggle. Heroism is the striving to overcome problems in the knowledge that they can never be overcome.

(*Books for Keeps*, No 113 November 1998)

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# The 2006 Lincoln Book Festival

[www.lincolnbookfestival.co.uk](http://www.lincolnbookfestival.co.uk)

Box Office = 01522 873894

## Festival Highlights for Children

Many of the festival's special events for children are taking place during the weekend of the 13th-14th May.

Highlights include, on Saturday May 13th, birthday celebrations and storytelling with the Mr. Men and Little Misses (more on page 4) and a workshop with cartoonist and poet Chris White (both at the Drill Hall). Alternatively, visit the beautiful Wren Library at the Cathedral to find out how to make a book, or meet up with Elmer and Kipper for 'Rhymetime and Storytime' at the Central Library.

On Sunday 14th (at the Drill Hall) there will be an activity-based storytelling session with Adam Bushnell; a medieval-themed storytelling session from new children's author Mark Bartholomew, author of *Whispers in the Wood*; and an interactive workshop with Nicholas Allen (more on him below). There are also lots of chances to meet Kipper and Elmer throughout the week at venues around the city.



**lincoln book festival**  
12<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> May 2006  
In association with the Lincolnshire Echo



## Lincolnshire Young People's Book Award



Lincolnshire Young  
People's Book Award

The **2006 Lincolnshire Young People's Book Award** longlist will be announced as part of the festival at 1pm on Friday May 12th in the Drill Hall. Last year's winner, Sally Grindley, will be at the launch, which is a closed event for invited schools. Last year 26 books were longlisted, including novels by Jacqueline Wilson, Anthony Horowitz, Eoin Colfer and Lemony Snicket. This year's longlisted books will be read by a panel of young people and a shortlist will be announced in July. The winner will be announced in January 2007.

## BGC Represented

The BGC English Department's own Dr. John Flood will be appearing at the Drill Hall at 11am on Sunday May 21st to examine visions of good and evil in Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* and Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. Tickets cost £5 (£3 concessions).

## City Read

Not read Michael Morpurgo's *Private Peaceful* yet? Shame on you! If you haven't then this is the perfect opportunity. Michael Morpurgo is one of the festival's two official patrons (the other is poet Benjamin Zephaniah) and his 2003 prize-winning novel has been chosen as this year's 'City Read'. City Read is an initiative which encourages as many people as possible to read the same book. Libraries and schools will be taking part in themed events and you can get involved too, by posting your comments about the book on a special message board on the festival website. You're also encouraged to send photos of yourself reading the novel to [arts@lincoln.gov.uk](mailto:arts@lincoln.gov.uk)!

*Private Peaceful* is the thought-provoking story of Thomas Peaceful, who looks back on his childhood from the trenches of the First World War. Because of the subject matter it's not always an easy read but then it's not meant to be. However, it is engaging, well-written and very broad in its appeal, so why not give it a go?



## About Nicholas Allan...

Nicholas Allan selects well known stories or characters and looks at them afresh. In *Jesus' Christmas Party* he retells the nativity story from the inn keeper's point of view: the inn keeper becomes increasingly angry because his sleep is constantly interrupted by a couple expecting their first child, wise men, shepherds and angels.

His quirky but affectionate sense of humour is not to everyone's taste: his aunts thought *The Queen's Knickers* irreverent and some bookshops refused to sell it. Fortunately loads and loads of people love his books and shortly after it was published *The Queen's Knickers* won *The Sheffield Children's Book Award*.

Why not judge for yourselves? Meet Nicholas at the Abbey Room, Lincoln Drill Hall on Sunday 14 May from 12.30-1.30pm for a workshop involving drawing, writing, story telling as well as the opportunity to design and decorate a pair of knickers for the Queen! (Ages 5-8, Tickets £2)

## First Words Competition

Winner of the First Words competition in issue 4 was 3rd year ESS student Helen Lobley who received a £10 book token for correctly spotting that our quote came from **Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince** by JK Rowling. This issue's first words are:

**'They've gone now, and I'm alone at last.'**

Identify the book and e-mail the answer, together with your name, by May 26th to [hullabaloo@bgc.ac.uk](mailto:hullabaloo@bgc.ac.uk) and a £10 book token could be yours.

## OSA Award

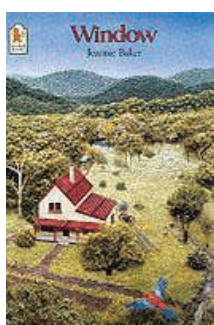


Each year for several years now the BGC Old Students' Association has donated a sum of money to the Sibthorp Library's Children's Collection. Last year the money was spent on novelty and pop-up books. This year the money will purchase children's books translated into English from other languages. Our selection will be based on recommendations from Hallford and Zaghini's book *Outside In*, the first ever guide to children's books in translation, published in October 2005 and featured in the last issue of Hullabaloo!

We will be adding to stock titles from Japan, Portugal, Holland, Germany, France and Denmark. Through these our students will have the opportunity to discover that there is more than one way of looking at and interpreting the world. Once again the Sibthorp Library is very grateful to the OSA for making it possible to enrich our collection of children's books.

## Changing Spaces: a Comparison of *Window* and *Belonging*

Since 1991 Jeannie Baker's **Window** has inspired children and adults alike to reflect on just how fast our world is changing. The book relies on a sequence of beautifully designed illustrations to show what a little boy called Sam can see from his bedroom window. It begins at his birth. The reader is drawn into each scene by both the fascinating detail and how easy it is to relate these human and natural features to our own lives. We also see the things on his window sill that are important to Sam. As the years go by the reader can see how each part of the view slowly but surely changes. The quality of the illustrations draws children in and encourages them to turn the pages of Sam's life backwards and forwards. By the time he is twenty the view from his window has changed from countryside to a built-up environment. The final picture shows Sam looking out of a new window and holding his own child. However, beyond the open country he can see the growing city from which he has moved.



**Belonging** was published in 2004. The reader looks out onto the bleak cityscape and derelict garden that

Do you remember listening to school radio? How about 'Singing Together'? Well, school radio has changed quite a bit since Janice and I were at school and it's now available as a digital service.

In April and May a series of programmes entitled 'Meet the Author' are being broadcast. Eight children's authors - Anne Fine, Eva Ibbotson, Michael Morpurgo, Philip Ridley, Jeremy Strong, Jacqueline Wilson, Valerie Bloom and Brian Patten—have been interviewed by children from primary schools across the country. Each 15 minute programme will be transmitted on digital radio as well as being available to download from the School Radio website.

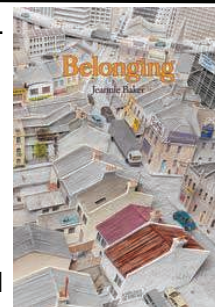
Transcripts can be printed from the website and pre-recorded copies can also be purchased. For more info visit the School Radio website at [www.bbc.co.uk/schoolradio](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schoolradio)



"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body".

Sir Richard Steele

Tracy can see from her bedroom window. Perhaps it's that same city that Sam knows. The fourteen views show the reader what Tracey sees from birth to twenty-two years old. However, in this book the magnetic illustrations depict a world in which people slowly take on the challenge of making the urban landscape more human, natural and local in scale. They do not move out and increase the spread of cities. The final view depicts how perhaps future cityscapes may evolve if we begin to think more creatively about the unique character and opportunities in built-up places.



Either book provides excellent starting points for children and adults to think about how our own lives and the world are changing, often without us noticing. Together, they challenge the reader to look much more closely at our surroundings and to think about the choices we make with each small action that we take.

*John Halocha, Reader in Geography Education, Bishop Grosseteste College.*

## When I Was a Nipper...

Thanks to Mary James, BGC's Science Technician, for telling us about her favourite books when she was a nipper...

**Alice in Wonderland** by Lewis Carroll: "The version we had included the illustrations by Arthur Rackham. Although I loved the story and read it many times, it was the illustrations that really caught my imagination. They are beautifully detailed, with soft gentle colours, but there is something a bit dark, foreboding and scary about them that I found appealing. The one of Alice sat with the Mock Turtle and the Gryphon was a particular favourite."

The **Flower Fairy** series by Cicely Mary Barker: "We had several of these including the Tree Fairy and Spring Fairy books. The pictures are in quite a similar style to the Rackham ones but the colours are much more vibrant. Each fairy also had a short poem along with the illustration which described the character of the plant and the fairy."

Tell us your favourites when you were a nipper by e-mailing us at [hullabaloo@bgc.ac.uk](mailto:hullabaloo@bgc.ac.uk)

*Illustration of 'The Lavender Fairy' from 'Flower Fairies of the Garden' by Cicely Mary Barker*  
© The Estate of Cicely Mary Barker, 1944, 1990. Reproduced with permission by Frederick Warne & Co.



## Reports on Reading

A number of reports and research into reading have been published in recent months:

The **Rose Report** was published in March 2006, final report of the *Rose Review of the Teaching of Early Reading* (named for its Chair, Jim Rose, former Deputy Chief Inspector of Schools). The report sets out how children should be taught to read. Phonics features prominently, and following its publication Ruth Kelly announced that the Government would be revising the national curriculum "to require phonics to be the prime approach used in teaching children to read" (DfES press release, 20 March 2006). Find out more and/or download a copy of the Rose Report at [www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/roserereview](http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/roserereview).



Between the publication of the interim and final Rose Reports, in January 2006 the DfES published **A Systematic Review of the Research Literature on the Use of Phonics in the Teaching of Reading and Spelling**. Carried out by the Universities of York and Sheffield, the review is available to download from the

research pages of the DfES website. The URL is really long so we converted it into a 'tiny' URL using the website [tinyurl.com](http://tinyurl.com)! Find the document at <http://tinyurl.com/kervg>

Finally, in December 2005 The National Literacy Trust published its report **Children's and Young People's Reading Habits and Preferences: the Who, What, Why, Where and When**, which looks at why some pupils choose to read and others don't. The report is based on a survey of over 8000 school children from 98 schools in England. It makes interesting reading and can be downloaded at [www.literacytrust.org.uk](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk)

## Happy Birthday Mr. Men! (1971-2006)

We're pleased to report that at the time of going to press we didn't have any obituaries to write, so instead we're celebrating a birthday!

2006 is the 35th birthday of the Mr. Men. The occasion is being celebrated by the creation of two new characters — **Mr. Birthday** and **Little Miss Birthday** (and also at the Lincoln Book Festival - see page 2).

The Mr. Men and Little Misses books were created by Roger Hargreaves, born in 1935 and raised in Yorkshire. For 20 years Hargreaves was a successful advertising copywriter, but he really wanted to be a

cartoonist. One morning at breakfast in 1971 Hargreaves's son Adam asked his father what a tickle looked like. And so Mr. Tickle was born.

After Mr. Tickle came Mr. Greedy, Mr. Happy, Mr. Sneeze, Mr. Nosey and Mr. Bump... and about 75 more characters in the intervening years.

In 1975 the books were made into a popular TV series narrated by Dad's Army star Arthur Lowe. Six years later, in 1981 the first Little Misses character, Little Miss Bossy, was created. The Little Misses also had a TV series, this time narrated by husband and wife actors

## Featured Journal: Signal

This issue's featured journal is *Signal Approaches to Children's Books*. Although no longer published, this journal is an essential resource for anyone studying children's literature. *Signal* appeared three times a year from 1970 to 2003 and each issue contained articles about some aspect of children's literature: writing and illustrating; educational theory and practice; literary criticism; reviewing; publishing and bookselling. The Sibthorp Library has a complete set.

Nancy and Aidan Chambers set up the 'Thimble Press' in 1969 specifically to publish *Signal* and it still publishes in the field of children's literature. Some pamphlets and books — such as *Picture Books 9-13* by Elaine Moss and *Looking at Pictures in Picture Books* by Jane Doonan — first appeared as articles in *Signal* (Doonan's article can be downloaded from the Thimble Press website). The Thimble Press is responsible for many other significant titles, including *How Texts Teach What Readers Learn* by Margaret Meek and *Tell Me: Children, Reading and Talk* by Aidan Chambers. For a full list of titles check out their website at [www.thimblepress.co.uk](http://www.thimblepress.co.uk)



John Alderton and Pauline Collins.

In 1988 Roger Hargreaves died suddenly at the age of 53. His son Adam, who admits he was at a bit of a career crossroads at the time, decided to take over the family business, despite the fact that he had never attempted to draw any of the characters before!

Today the books have sold over 100 million copies worldwide and have been translated into 15 languages. Who's your favourite?