

Hullabaloo!

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

Volume 2, Issue 1, January 2006. Compiled by Janice Morris and Emma Sansby. Please direct all comments to hullabaloo@bgc.ac.uk

Welcome!

We thought we'd be witty
and write you a ditty
about *Hullabaloo!*.
We tried our best
but failed the test,
and perhaps should stick to being librarians.

OK, so we're no Benjamin Zephaniah, but our paltry attempt at rhyme should give you a clue as to the focus of some of the articles in this issue. Also featured are multiculturalism, World Book Day and the sad loss of Jan Mark.

And finally, because we didn't have room to mention it elsewhere, look out for **Animal Tales**, a new set of stamps from the Royal Mail. Featuring (amongst others) Maisie Mouse, Paddington Bear, Kipper, and the Very Hungry Caterpillar, they're just the thing to put a smile on your face in this miserable mid-winter weather!

Emma and Janice

Bog standard literacy?

New from the National Centre for Language and Literacy (NCLL) is **Waiting for a Jamie Oliver: Beyond a Bog Standard Literacy** (£4.95): a collection of articles by Bernard Ashley, Anne Fine, Jamila Gavin, Michael Morpurgo, Chris Powling, Alison Prince, Philip Pullman, Michael Rosen and Jacqueline Wilson, with a cover illustration by Quentin Blake.

The publication is referred to in an article *True Crime: SATS are Killing Our Stories* (The Guardian, November 8th 2005) which examines authors' concerns that their books are being used for 'joyless comprehension tests'.

The NCLL is based at the University of Reading and offers support for teachers, parents and governors. Check out their comprehensive website (www.ncll.org.uk) for, amongst other things, an information bank of authors, illustrators and poets who are willing to visit schools. The NCLL publishes a wide variety of resources on subjects such as multiculturalism, speaking & listening, and reading & writing, as well as a 'helping children' series for parents. Many are available in the Sibthorp Library's Classroom Collection.



Unicorn opens a new theatre

Unicorn Theatre is one of the leading producers of professional theatre for children. Founded back in 1947, it offers art and education programmes to over 100,000 children a year.

Unicorn's new venue opened in December 2005 close to City Hall on London's South Bank. The building contains two theatres, the *Weston Theatre* and the smaller *Clore Theatre*, an education studio and café. One of the first productions to be staged was **Tom's Midnight Garden**. Upcoming productions include **Treasure Island**. Find out more at www.unicorntheatre.com

The fastest selling book of 2005 was 'Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince' by JK Rowling: it sold 3.1 million copies in the UK in its first week of publication. In America it sold 4.1 million copies on the first DAY!

Awards roundup

The **Booktrust Teenage Award** was won by Sarah Singleton for her book *Century* (Pocket Books, £5.99), a tale of magic and mystery set in a haunted house.

Last issue we reported that Kate Thompson had won the **Guardian Children's Fiction Prize** with her book *The New Policeman* (Bodley Head, ££10.99). On January 4th it was announced that this book had also won the **Whitbread Children's Book Award**.

The **Blue Peter Book Awards** were announced in November. Judged by nine Blue Peter viewers, winner of 'The Book I Couldn't Put Down' category was *Private Peaceful* by Michael Morpurgo (HarperCollins, £5.99), winner of 'Best Book with Facts' was *Explorers Wanted! At the North Pole* by Simon Chapman, and winner of the 'Best Illustrated Book to Read Aloud' was *The Snail and the Whale* written by Julia Donaldson and illustrated by Axel Scheffler (MacMillan, £5.99).

Gold medal winners of the **Nestle Smarties Book Prize** were Oliver Jeffers for his book *Lost and Found* (HarperCollins, £10.99), Nick

Butterworth for *The Whisperer* (HarperCollins, £5.99), and Sally Gardner for *I, Coriander* (Orion, £8.99).

The **Ottakars Children's Book Prize** was launched only last year. The most recent winner, announced on January 26th, was *The Diamond of Drury Lane* by Julia Golding, a book about an orphan who lives at the back of the theatre on Drury Lane.

In awards news, the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) who award both the Carnegie and Greenaway Medals have recently announced that they will be changing the timetable for both medals in order to raise the profile of CILIP and children's and young people's librarians, and to allow more involvement from publishers and the book trade. The first awards to be affected by the changes will be those presented in 2007 when the medals also celebrate two major anniversaries: the 70th anniversary of the Carnegie Medal and the 50th anniversary of the Greenaway Medal.



Children's Poetry Bookshelf

All you out there who want to know more about poetry for children should check out the new website www.childrenspetrybookshelf.co.uk, launched by the Poetry Book Society in October last year. It's the only website dedicated *entirely* to children's poetry books.

With sections on poetry, games and quizzes the website offers opportunities to take part in poetry related activities and encourages children to participate by sending in their own poems, ideas and reviews.

However, this is not just a website. The Children's Poetry Bookshelf is also a book club and aims to encourage children to read and enjoy poetry by promoting and providing access to a selection of the very best.

Books are chosen by Mandy Coe, Wes Magee and Fiona Walters. Parents and grandparents can join and send two or three books three times a year to the child of their choice. There is also a new scheme for libraries whereby eight books are delivered three times a year along with posters of poems from the selected books and Children's Poetry Bookshelf leaflets (we aim to take part). Activity sheets and discounts are available to all members.



Featured author: Anthony Horowitz



This month's featured author is **Anthony Horowitz**, whose most famous creations are (in print) 14-year-old spy **Alex Rider**, and (on the small screen) DCS Christopher Foyle, from Foyle's War.

Horowitz is our fourth featured author to have a link with Lincolnshire. In his book **The Devil and His Boy** (Walker Books, £4.99) Horowitz writes of **Gamaliel Ratsey**, the notorious (real life) highwayman who was hanged in 1605. Ratsey was the son of a nobleman from Market Deeping, and after serving in the army in Ireland, like many ex soldiers turned to a life of crime. He was well known for the horrible masks he wore to disguise himself (first a sack with slits, then a hobgoblin mask with large

ears). The one imagined by Horowitz is particularly gruesome...

'Ahead of them, a figure suddenly stepped out, something long and metallic in its hand. The horse reared and tried to find a way round. But there were thick briars on either side. There was no other way. Gamaliel Ratsey was wearing another, even more disgusting mask. This one showed the head of a fish, but a fish that was already dead and rotting. Its eyes were white and sightless. Its lips were disfigured as if torn by the fisherman's hook. Where its neck met Ratsey's shoulders, blood and green slime seemed to be oozing out.' Page 43-44.

The March 2005 edition of Lincolnshire Life examined whether Ratsey was a hero or a villain. However in Horowitz's books he does good in the end and secures happiness for the hero Tom, who he pursues throughout the book with murderous intent! In the afterward of his book Horowitz admits that he does try to use accurate sixteenth century details but adds mischievously ...

'It is quite possible that teachers will find mistakes in this book. These mistakes are entirely deliberate. I put them in to keep teachers happy.'

Find out more about Anthony Horowitz and get a complete list of the books he has written at his official website www.anthonhorowitz.com.

A review of the 'Noughts and Crosses' trilogy by Sally Bentley

Noughts and Crosses, Knife Edge and Checkmate: a trilogy by Malorie Blackman (pictured below)

Malorie Blackman's *Noughts and Crosses* trilogy is now complete and is a must-read for young and older adults alike. The books are riveting good reads that simultaneously explore serious contemporary issues. The story is set in an apartheid-style regime, where the Crosses (with all the connotations of that word) rule the Noughts (insultingly called the Blankers).



Terrorism and suicide bombing, the power of the media, institutional racism, political corruption, criminality, single parenthood, violence against women and baby-killing are all explored. Some of the material is potentially offensive, but it is well-handled balancing an exploration of the complexity of every situation with a clear moral imperative. No one is innocent and good intentions do not, for the most part, lead to easy answers.

These books have the classic ingredients of good teenage novels. Their characters are grappling with issues that are confronting their intended readers. They are driven forward with fast-moving plots that twist and turn and shock. The first book features a powerful Romeo and Juliet style romance and the second two face up to the complex consequences of the tragedy. There is an appeal to both genders with the stories being focalised through male and female eyes and by the final book, the perspective of the parents and wider family are included too.

I am pleased to report that the sequels are as good as the first book. The sequel has negative connotations in our culture and I think that these need to be challenged. Sequels provide a powerful incentive to the reader to continue reading and thereby not only encounter, but dwell on the issues raised in the first book. Looking beyond the closed ending to the further ramifications of cultural conflict and exploitation invites deeper reflection of text and life.

These books are welcome on three fronts, as exciting fiction, as alluring sequels and as discomfiting challenges to the status quo.

Sally Bentley, Head of the School of Culture, Education and Innovation, Bishop Grosseteste College.



R.E.A.D.

Resourcing Education and Development (READ) is a voluntary group of mainly school librarians which meets three times a year. Their mission is to counter the isolation sometimes felt by those working in education libraries, and to build on and promote good practice.

The next meeting will be the AGM on the 7th March at The Priory, Lincoln School of Science and Technology, 6th Form College. Afterwards there will be an opportunity to view the Library.

Anyone interested in joining READ should contact Mrs D.L. Lee at The Priory on 01522 8889977 or at dll@priorylst.co.uk.

First words competition

Winner of the last First Words competition was 3rd year student Fiona Coulson who received a £10 book token for correctly spotting that our quote came from **Noughts and Crosses** by Malorie Blackman.

This issue's first words are:

'It was nearing midnight and the Prime Minister was sitting alone in his office, reading a long memo that was slipping through his brain without leaving the slightest trace of meaning behind.'

Identify the book and e-mail the answer, together with your name, by February 28th to hullabaloo@bgc.ac.uk and a £10 book token could be yours!

Embracing diversity

In the Sibthorp Library we try as much as possible to maintain a collection which reflects ethnic and cultural diversity.



A new book on the subject was published in 2005 and is now available in the library. Entitled *Outside In: Children's Books in Translation*, the book is a comprehensive review of children's books from around the world which have been translated into English.

It contains reviews and articles about some of the 'most ground-breaking, popular and influential books on the market', and also includes biographies of authors,

illustrators and translators. This is the first ever guide of its kind and is published by Milet Publishing at the bargain price of £6.99.

Some additional bibliographies on the subject include:

Aston, Sarah (2004) *Reading Our World: a selection of culturally diverse literature for children*. Booktrust.

Brett, Clive & Randle, Lynne (2004) *The Global Dimension*:

Learning the rules of poetry is fun!

At least that's the claim of the author of a new book entitled **A Kick in the Head: An Everyday Guide to Poetic Forms** (Walker Books, £12.99). We love this charming picture book because it explains in simple terms how the different rules of poetry apply. From sonnets to limericks to senryu, the book gives an example of each form, as well as its definition and rhyming scheme. An excellent resource, this book encourages children to experiment with the many different forms of poetry.



When I was a nipper...

David Barber, BGC's E-Learning Coordinator writes:

'I had an edition of **There was an Old Lady who Swallowed a Fly** where each new page depicted the animal just eaten around a hole, through which one could see all the animals already consumed on the pages beneath. The old lady would grow and grow and I remember the feeling of morbid glee that built up inside me as we approached the concluding and inevitable explosion.'

[Janice believes David had the 'Child's Play' edition of this traditional tale, illustrated by Pam Adams, which is still in print today.]

Although it's not from when they were nippers, Library staff **Wendy, Claire** and **Bev** all love **Russell the Sheep** by Rob Scotton:

'Russell the sheep is a very enjoyable story. You can't help but like Russell and find his remedies for trying to sleep very amusing with excellent illustrations, which appeal to both parents and children.'

What was your favourite when you were a nipper?

E-mail us at hullabaloo@bgc.ac.uk



multicultural fiction for children and young people 3-16 years.
Leicestershire Library Services for Education Community Services.

Coghlan, S., Fitzpatrick, M. & O'Dea, L. (2004) *Changing Faces, Changing Places: a guide to multicultural books for children* O'Brien Press.

Coghlan, S. & Morris, S. (2005) *Cross-Currents: a Guide to multicultural books for young people*. O'Brien Press.

Goody, Joan & Yearwood, Philip (2003) *Reading Across Cultures: novels, short stories and other narrative writing for secondary schools: post-16 onwards and teachers in training*. National Association for the Teaching of English.

Lazim, Ann (1999) *Finding Yourself in a Book: an annotated list of books that reflect the cultural and linguistic diversity of children in Southwark primary schools*. Centre for Learning in Primary Education.

Stones, Rosemary (1999) *A Multicultural Guide to Children's Books 0-16: The Reading and Language Centre*. The National Centre for Language and Literacy.

For multicultural resources check out also The Letterbox Library (www.letterboxlibrary.com) and The Willesden Bookshop (www.willesdenbookshop.co.uk).

McGough's double whammy World Book Day 2006

Roger McGough has won the **CLPE Poetry Prize** for the second year running.

The prize was established by the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE) to recognize and promote the importance of poetry for children, and is presented annually for a poetry book published in the preceding year.

The first recipients of the prize, launched in 2003, were John Agard and Grace Nichols for **Under the Moon and Over the Sea** (Walker Books, £8.99), an anthology of Caribbean poetry. Roger McGough received the award in 2004 for **All the Best, Selected Poems** (Puffin, £7.99) and has now won it again in 2005 for **Sensational! Poems Inspired by the Five Senses** (Macmillan, £4.99).

Judge Tony Mitton had nothing but praise for **Sensational!**...

'What a crop of Gems! An array. Such variety. What a range of moods and types and styles. Traditional and contemporary, serious and humorous, coherent and whimsical. At every turn of the page something new, fresh, bright different, engaging. And so very hard to find a poem that hadn't really earned its place. This was the book of all seven (shortlisted) that I kept wanting to go back to.'
(From *Books for Keeps*, No 155, November 2005, p.9.)



Featured journal

This issue's featured journal is **The School Librarian**, published four times a year by the School Library Association (www.sla.org.uk).

The review section of recent fiction and information books serves those interested and involved in organising and managing school libraries. The reviewers recognising this, highlight those aspects of the books that relate to curricular and other educational issues. Briefings sections cover obituaries, prizes and awards, events and initiatives to promote and develop education libraries. The section ICT@SLA provides useful information about the wealth of internet sites with something to offer libraries supporting the national curriculum. The current issue contains articles on:

'Up for inspection: A look at the process in England and its link to self-evaluation' by Geoff Dubber;
'One step further: Improving School Library Services for primary schools' by Gillian Harris and Judith Collins;

'Digging for treasure: A makeover of a web site used by thousands of schools' by Martin Hill.

Another resource for school librarians is www.strongest-links.org.uk, a website with links to the School Librarians' Network, a forum for the exchange of news and ideas.

Farewell... Jan Mark (1943-2006)

Author and teacher **Jan Mark**, twice winner of the Carnegie Medal, died suddenly and unexpectedly in Oxford on January 16th at the age of 62 from meningitis-related septicaemia.

Mark wrote over 80 books for children and young people including novels, picture books, plays, short stories, scripts and non-fiction. For adults she wrote poetry and the novel, **Zeno Was Here**, published in 1987, which won the Angel Award for Fiction. She also wrote literary reviews for the *Guardian* and *Times Educational Supplement*.

Born in Welwyn, Herts, and educated in

Ashford, Kent, Mark attended Canterbury College of Art. She went on to teach Art and English at a school in Gravesend and later taught in the Faculty of Education at Oxford Polytechnic (now Oxford Brookes University).

A true lover of children's books Mark compiled several anthologies including the **Oxford Book of Children's Stories** (1993) and the **Kingfisher Book of School Stories** (1989).

A frequent visitor to libraries, schools and colleges, where she spoke about writing and conducted workshops, Mark worked extensively with students and serving teachers on the uses of



Hunter Davies, Ruth Rendell, Minette Walters, and others will be producing 'short, fast-paced books designed to encourage reluctant readers to get hooked on books.'

To celebrate **World Book Day** school children throughout the UK will receive £1 National Book Tokens, which they will be able to exchange for the following titles:

Here Comes Harry and his Bucketful of Dinosaurs by Ian Whybrow and Adrian Reynolds, **Rainbow Magic: Hannah the Happy Ever After Fairy** by Daisy Meadows (illustrated by George Ripper), **How to Train your Viking by Toothless the Dragon** (translated from the Dragonese by Cressida Cowell), **The Mum Surprise** by Gwyneth Rees, **The Stone Pilot** by Paul Stewart and Chris Riddell, or **Koyasan** by Darren Shan.

Thousands of events are currently being organised for **World Book Day** including book fairs, author visits, story telling sessions, fancy-dress activities, games and quizzes. We would love to hear how

This year's **World Book Day** is on Thursday March 2nd.

As always, the celebrations are to encourage adults as well as children to read for pleasure.

Quick Reads is a new initiative to bring lapsed adult readers back into the fold and to make reading more accessible: writers like Andy McNab,

Hunter Davies, Ruth Rendell, Minette Walters, and others will be producing 'short, fast-paced books designed to encourage reluctant readers to get hooked on books.'

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Thousands of events are currently being organised for **World Book Day** including book fairs, author visits, story telling sessions, fancy-dress activities, games and quizzes. We would love to hear how

you are celebrating World Book Day. E-mail us at hullabaloo@bgc.ac.uk.

All UK primary schools will automatically receive the special school packs and book tokens. UK **secondary schools** and **pre-schools** will have to register to receive their packs and book tokens. For more details see the WBD website at www.worldbookday.com

"Never judge a book by its movie."
WJ Eagan

fiction in the classroom.

Mark's two Carnegie Medals were won for her first novel **Thunder and Lightnings** (1976) and for **Handles** (1984). In May 2005 she published **Riding Tycho**. Reviewing the book in *The Guardian*, Adèle Geras wrote 'if anyone made a list of this country's best writers for children, Jan Mark's name would be very near the top....[she] is a novelist who thinks, and who requires thought from her readers.'

The sequel to **Riding Tycho**, **Voyager**, was published just days before Mark's death.