

Hullabaloo!

Newsletter of the Teaching Resources Collection at Bishop Grosseteste University Library



Hello everyone — welcome to the spring/summer 2018 edition of *Hullabaloo!*, this time compiled by second year English Literature students **Lewis Gennery** and **Cian Patrick**.

They have put together a terrific collection of articles, so every reader is sure to find something inside to enjoy!

As usual we've been super-busy here at BGU, meaning that we were unable to publish an autumn/winter issue, but we hope this makes up for it; Lewis and Cian have certainly been busy over the past few weeks writing and pulling it all together.

Happy reading!

**The 2017-19
Children's
Laureate**

**Frankenstein's
200th
Anniversary**

**Peter Rabbit:
The Movie**

Book Awards

**Winnie-the-
Pooh**

**And Much
More!**

Introducing Children's Laureate Lauren Child

By Sibylle Erle

Lauren Child, named in 2017 as the UK's 10th Children's Laureate, was born in 1965. Her books, picture books and novels are for children over 10 years of age, but much younger children often take to them as well.

Child is a writer and illustrator, with a background in design; her complex picture books, many of which have been nominated for the Greenaway Medal, bear testimony to her many talents. Her books are collages, combining text with drawings and photographs. Before her career took off Child used to have her own business making and selling lampshades, and worked briefly as a designer. She is now world-famous, primarily for the *Charlie and Lola* picture books, which were also made into a multi-BAFTA-winning TV series (she acted as executive producer).



Photo: Booktrust Press Release, 19/10/17

1999 saw the publication of *Clarice Bean, That's me*. It won the Nestle Smarties Book Prize and eventually morphed into a novel but also inspired another very successful series – *Ruby Redford* – about a child spy. Clarice Bean is definitely for older children. The book I looked at, *What Planet are you from, Clarice Bean?* (2001), has an environmental message and the context is school-life and its social challenges. Learning, in this book, just as in the *Charlie and Lola* series, does not only take place in school. Child has always been outspoken about this fact.

When writing *Ruby Redford: Take Your Last Breath* (2012) Child had help from Marcus du Sautoy (University of Oxford Simonyi Professor for the Public Understanding of Science; he describes himself as Child's 'Super Geek Consultant'). The story intelligently intertwines an adventure with ancient legends and logical puzzles. It's this mix which makes the book what it is: a captivating read.

The most recent of her works in our library is *One Thing* (2015). Go and find it – it's well worth a read; Child's inventive use of words and numbers is truly inspiring. The language is fresh and vibrant, but more importantly we see words and paragraphs move across the page, and along with counting, we have to figure out how to use and read this book. It's a game.

Child is a champion of reading for pleasure, a campaign with which those working on and with children's literature at BGU are deeply invested. According to an article published in The Guardian, shortly after her inauguration as Children's Laureate in June 2017, she said:

I'm really keen to discuss creativity, because I feel it's vital for all of us to be able to create and explore our world in a different way", she says, "...There's such a lot of talk today about how children should be reading when, in fact, if you can get a child excited about it, that's half the work done, because they'll then have the courage or enthusiasm to carry on for themselves.

Child's books speak for themselves and I for one am enjoying her laureateship and her imaginative creativity.

The official Children's Laureate website can be found at booktrust.org.uk/books/childrens-laureate

Remembrance And Recognition In 2018

By Lewis Gennery, Cian Patrick and Emma Sansby

Two important military milestones were reached in April 2018: on the first of the month the Royal Air Force celebrated its 100th birthday and just twelve days later Lincoln's new 10-acre *International Bomber Command Centre* (IBCC) officially opened its doors. Begun in 2013 and involving the efforts of 500 volunteers from 9 different countries, the IBCC aims to serve as a point for "recognition, remembrance and reconciliation". Its steel spire is the UK's tallest war memorial and has quickly become a familiar part of the Lincoln skyline.



In recognition of these two important landmarks (figurative and literal!) we've decided to highlight two children's books - by husband and wife team **Mick Manning** and **Brita Granström** - that take a closer look at life in the RAF/WAAF during the Second World War...

Taff in the WAAF (Frances Lincoln Children's Books, ISBN 9781847804150) is a book about a grocery assistant who joins the WAAF and becomes a female wireless operator. It is very well put together and is both an educational and enjoyable read for children. It is not only an accurate and informative representation of what life was like during the war, including rationing and being bombed, but specifically highlights the important contribution that women made to the war effort.



Taff in the WAAF's companion piece is *Tail-End Charlie* (Frances Lincoln Children's Books, ISBN 9781847800756), which follows the story of a young RAF airman navigating his way through life at the height of the Second World War. Manning and Granström's unique storytelling perfectly balances themes of war and loss with charming illustrations. This light-hearted yet emotional tale is sure to entertain young readers whilst helping to introduce them to one of the most important periods of modern history.

Both books contain a glossary explaining the terminology used within the two books, particularly some of the more technical terms, in a way that manages to make learning fun for younger readers. This, along with the many photographs and facts scattered through the books, ensures they appeal to all types of learner so every child has something to gain from being introduced to these excellent stories.

Find out about more about events marking 100 years of the RAF at www.raf.mod.uk/raf100 and about the International Bomber Command Centre at internationalbcc.co.uk.

Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*: Why Is It Still Important Today?

By Lewis Gennery

2018 marks the 200th anniversary of the novel *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley, an important landmark in one of the most popular literary genres of today: science fiction.

Some of the themes that are prominent within the novel were inspired by Mary Shelley's own life. The theme of death and reanimation, arguably the most central theme to the novel, may have come about as a result of Shelley's loss of her mother and baby daughter.

Mary Shelley also had a keen interest in the idea of galvanising life, particularly whether or not the will to make something live actually means that it should.

However, other themes that occur within the novel are much more implicit than death and reanimation. The horrific and unnatural are often focal points in film adaptations of the novel. In particular, the 1931 adaptation directed by James Whale, which is often described as the best

adaptation, very much focuses on society's frequent disdain for the 'other'.



All of the above are prominent themes within the genre of science fiction to this day. For example, the *Blade Runner* films (the first of which was based on a Phillip K. Dick novel) have a narrative close to that of the story of *Frankenstein*, as does Tim Burton's *Edward Scissorhands* and *Frankenweenie* (which is a loose adaptation of the novel, though more aimed at children). On the small screen, gory television shows like *American Horror Story* and, more recently, *The Frankenstein Chronicles* have used many themes and tropes from the original story (Mary Shelley herself appears as a character in the latter).

The fact that all of these adaptations and homages have been well received with audiences clearly shows that the story and themes of *Frankenstein* are still something enjoyed to this day, 200 years on from the book's original publication. In 1818 it represented a changing point within the wider scope of literature, opening doors for authors to bring about wonders and create worlds that were never even possible of being imagined before its publication. In 2018 it continues to challenge thinking and inspire debate.

Events marking the anniversary of the publication of *Frankenstein* will be taking place through 2018. Here at BGU, look out for news of a 'Monster Conference' in the summer and *Frankenstein*-themed events taking place around Halloween!

Competition: Design a Monster!

To celebrate the 200th anniversary of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, we're offering readers the chance to win a £10 National Book Token. Design your own monster and give it a name—the more creative and unique, the better your chances of winning! Email your monster picture to us at [<hullabaloo@bishopg.ac.uk>](mailto:hullabaloo@bishopg.ac.uk) by Friday 22 June 2018.



DID YOU KNOW?

Mary Shelley – then Mary Godwin – was just 18 years old when she began to write Frankenstein, whilst staying with friends at Lake Geneva in summer 1816. The weather was so dreadful that, to pass the time, Lord Byron (no less) challenged each of them to write a ghost story.

DID YOU KNOW?

Film Review: Peter Rabbit By Lewis Gennery

March 2018 marked the release of the new *Peter Rabbit* film, and having seen it, it is sure to be a hit with audiences of all ages.

The film stars James Corden in the titular role and his performance is one of the highlights, as the wit and charisma that he brings to the role makes it even more enjoyable to watch. He's also very funny, providing many of the best punchlines throughout the film.

His character is elevated by the supporting cast of Daisy Ridley, Margot Robbie, Elizabeth Debicki and Colin Moody who play Cottontail, Flopsy, Mopsy and Benjamin Bunny respectively. Personally, Daisy Ridley as Cottontail was particularly memorable for me as, similarly to James Corden as Peter Rabbit, she also provided many laughs throughout the film; I think children in particular will take a real shine to her character.

I would say that this is not what you would typically expect from a Beatrix Potter film— it takes elements that are recognisable from the story of *Peter Rabbit* but changes them in such a way as to provide a fresh take on the story and the characters for a new audience. It is very fun to watch as a result.

At the time of writing *Peter Rabbit* is currently the number one film at the UK box office, so why not check it out for yourself? - there's something for everyone!



Photo by Cian Patrick

The Enduring Appeal Of Winnie-the-Pooh

By Lewis Gennery

The character of Winnie-the-Pooh has been around for over 90 years and his appeal endures to this day through films such as last year's *Goodbye Christopher Robin*, and Disney's forthcoming live-action/CGI film, *Christopher Robin*. The latter hopes to follow the success of other recent remakes of Disney classics, such as *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Jungle Book* and *Alice in Wonderland*, by introducing much-loved characters to a whole new generation.

Winnie-the-Pooh was created in 1924 as a result of the partnership between author AA Milne and illustrator EH Shepard. He appeared in their first collection of poems, *When We Were Very Young*, and since then has consistently appealed to children and adults alike.

The enduring popularity of the Winnie-the-Pooh books is largely down to the individual characters. Winnie the Pooh is naturally very modest. Piglet is small and often anxious, but occasionally is able to lift himself to great feats of bravery. Owl is often pompous but also somewhat ignorant, whilst Tigger is arguably the most child-like of them all, with his very bouncy, frequently irrepressible personality. Then of course, there is Kanga who is generally devoted to Roo, and Roo who is regularly impetuous. Arguably, this is what makes the stories of Winnie-the-Pooh so appealing; children in particular are able to relate to at least one of these characters, recognising certain characteristics reflected back at them.

Another reason that the Winnie-the-Pooh books are distinct from many other children's stories is that they appeal to adults as well as children. This is perhaps because one of the central moral messages is that childhood is something to be treasured and is a state of grace from which adults may be able to learn a thing or two from as well. This is further supported by the inclusion of many of Pooh's philosophical musings in everyday life. For example, the poem *Us Two* (from *Now We Are Six*), which ends with

*"True. It isn't much fun for One,
but Two can stick together," says Pooh, says he.
"That's how it is," says Pooh.*

is regularly read at weddings. It's clear therefore that both children and adults can find themselves emotionally attached to the world of Winnie-the-Pooh.

The wonder of childhood is something that the film *Christopher Robin* explores. The story follows a now grown-up Christopher Robin (played by Ewan McGregor) who has lost his imagination because he is too focused on his adult responsibilities. This results in the appearance of Winnie the Pooh, and many of his friends, who help him remember the loving and playful boy he once was.



If past adaptations are anything to go by the new film will not only appeal to adults who have grown up with Winnie-the-Pooh, but also to a new generation of children, providing a fresh take on the story whilst retaining many of the popular central themes.

So, why not check out the latest imagining of Winnie-the-Pooh for yourself when it hits cinemas in August?



Perfect for Poohsticks!

Showcasing Shortlists

By Janice Morris

Students and staff took time out during a BGU Students' Union Mental Health Day on 18 April 2018 to unwind with a book at the Library's *Book Swap & Book Chat* event, organised by Teaching Resources Librarian Janice Morris. Everyone enjoyed sharing and recommending authors, illustrators and poets, and swapping favourite titles while relaxing over coffee and biscuits. At the same time, Janice took the opportunity to showcase the shortlists for the annual CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Children's Book Awards and the UK Literacy Association (UKLA) Book Award, and lively conversation followed.

Under the Same Sky by Britta Teckentrup (Caterpillar Books, £10.99) proved the most popular of the Kate Greenaway selection. Beautifully illustrated, this deceptively simple story tells of the hopes and dreams we all share.

One of the Carnegie titles, Geraldine McCaughrean's *Where the World End* (Usborne Publishing, £10.99), also provoked much discussion. Based on true events that took place in 1727, the story recounts how three men and six boys left their St. Kilda homes to hunt birds on a remote rock, as they did every year. But on this occasion no one arrived to take them home. Find out why, and what happened to them, by borrowing the book from the Teaching Resources Collection. You won't be disappointed!

Second year students on BGU's BA (Hons) Education Studies programme are once again shadowing the 3-6 age category of the 2018 UKLA Book Awards and are taking the shortlisted titles to their placement schools to find out which ones the children enjoy. They will then share their experiences amongst themselves and other shadowing groups, and get to vote for their winner. The actual winners of all three age categories (which are decided by a panel of teachers), will be announced in July, with the Carnegie and Kate Greenaway winners (which are decided by a panel of librarians) announced a little earlier, in June.

On the right is Dr. Helen Hendry — who is coordinating the UKLA shadowing process with Janice — pictured with all of the shortlisted titles in the 7-11 and 11-16 age categories.



Photo by Emma Sansby

When I (or should that be *He?*) Was A Nipper

By Ruth Pearson and Samuel Prydderch

This issue's *When I Was A Nipper* has been written by **Ruth Pearson**, Senior Lecturer in the School of Teacher Development, together with her son, postgraduate BGU student **Samuel Prydderch**...

"As my son Sam was growing up the bedtime story was always our favourite part of the day. The first book I bought for him was *Guess How Much I Love You* by Sam McBratney. After that, I seemed to be on a mission to buy every children's book that included his name in it, and, as it turned out, Sam is quite a common name in stories! My favourite however was *Kiss Good Night Sam* by Amy Hest (illustrated by Anita Jeram) as I could turn the whole thing to my advantage and get quite a few kisses as we acted out the story!

The Velveteen Rabbit (by Margery Williams) is my favourite children's book; the story of the little rabbit so loved by his owner that he eventually becomes real. I still cry every time I read it but it didn't quite work its magic on Sam! His favourites were the funny stories. He can still recite whole sections from Janet and Allan Ahlberg's *Burglar Bill* and *Cops and Robbers*. He loved books with pictures so detailed you could spend hours exploring them and still find something new. Korky Paul was his favourite illustrator: *Winnie the Witch* (by Valerie Thomas), *Sanji and the Baker* and *Professor Puffendorf's Secret Potion* (both authored by Robin Tzannes) - we read them over and over again.

We also had books for certain times of year, for example Helen Cooper's *Pumpkin Soup* for the autumn and Nick Butterworth's *One Snowy Night* in the winter. Our collection of Christmas books continues to get bigger every year and reading Clement C. Moore's *The Night before Christmas* on Christmas Eve is now a well-established tradition.



I lost my role as the storyteller in the middle of JK Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*. One night Sam demanded he take over, but he would become so engrossed in the story that he would forget to read the words aloud. After that, when new Harry Potter books were published we would buy two copies, race to be the first to finish them, and then discuss them at length. Years later, Sam is now the one making suggestions of books I should read!"