

## Welcome...

...to the latest edition of *Hullabaloo*! This time we've chosen to devote two pages to a subject close to our hearts— school libraries. We also provide some Christmas present ideas (it'll be here before you know it!), tell you about our new index, hear about breakfast DJ Rod Whiting's favourite book when he was a nipper, and bid a fond farewell to Eva Ibbotson.

Stay warm!

Emma & Janice

## Indexing Hullabaloo!

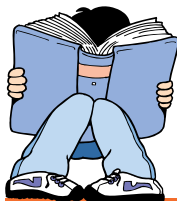
It's hard to believe that we began writing our little newsletter nearly six years ago. We've covered so many different topics, books, and authors that we thought it was high time we wrote an index. So we did! It's available on our website (see the URL at the bottom of page) as a pdf document and will be updated as each new issue is published. Just use the 'find' box to search for particular words.



## Silent Nights—Guaranteed!

Books make fab Christmas presents, but which ones to choose? A little known seasonal gem is *The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey* by Susan Wojciechowski. We also love Christian Birmingham's version of *The Night Before Christmas*. For teenagers why not try Bob Dylan's *Forever Young* or Mordcai Gerstein's *The Man Who Walked Between The Towers*. Our choice of top novels for young teens includes Nicola's Morgan's *Wasted*, Patrick Ness's *The Knife of Never Letting Go*, Michael Morpurgo's *An Elephant in the Garden*, and Julia Jarman's *Inside*. All deal with fairly serious subject matter but are totally engrossing. If the children in your life are into particular characters it's a good idea to check out if they have a new book out. For example, the final book in Michele Paver's *Chronicles of Ancient Darkness* series is now out, as is the eighth Alex Rider instalment, *Crocodile Tears*.

Pop-up books like Jan Pienkowski's *Haunted House* or Julia Donaldson's *The Gruffalo Pop-Up Theatre Book* are always a winner. Or, if you feel like ho ho ho'ing your way through Christmas why not try



Nicholas Allan's *Santa Needs a Wee*, David Walliam's *Mr Stink*, or Louise Rennison's superbly titled *Withering Tights*. Still at a loss?

For the best of the best look no further than the lists of award winners on our website which includes all the new additions below.

Books are the  
quietest and most  
constant of friends.

Charles W. Eliot (1834-1926)

## Awards Roundup

In the **Booktrust Early Years Awards**, winner of The Best Book for Babies was Giles Andreae's *I Love My Mummy* illustrated by Emma Dodd (Orchard, £4.99), winner of The Best Picture Book was Chris Wormell's *One Smart Fish* (Jonathan Cape, £10.99), and winner of The Best Emerging Illustrator was Levi Pinfold's *The Django* (Templar, £10.99). The **Teenage Prize** went to Gregory Hughes for *Unhooking the Moon* (Quercus, £6.99).

Winners of **The Roald Dahl Funny Prize** were, in the 6 and under category Louise Yates for *Dog Loves Books* (Jonathan Cape, £5.99), and in the 7 to 14 category Louise Rennison for *Withering Tights* (HarperCollins, £10.99).

Winner of the **Guardian Children's Book Prize** was Michelle Paver for *Ghost Hunter*, the sixth and final book in her *Chronicles of Ancient Darkness* series (Orion, £6.99).

Michael Morpurgo won the children's category of the **Independent Booksellers Book Prize** for his adventure story *Running Wild* (HarperCollins, £6.99).

The **Branford Boase Award** for first time novelists went to Lucy Christopher for her kidnapping story *Stolen* (Chicken House, £6.99).

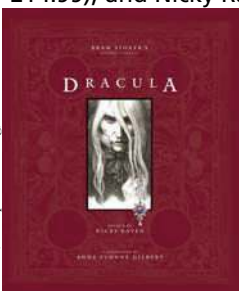
Lizzie Findlay won the **Dundee Picture Book Award** for *Dandy Lion* (Red Fox, £5.99).

Winners of the **English 4-11 Best Book Awards** included Catherine Rayner's *Ernest* (Macmillan, £5.99), Steve Voake's *Insect Detective* (Walker, £11.99), Neil Gaiman's *Crazy Hair* (Bloomsbury, £5.99), Amanda Wood and Clint Twist's *Charles Darwin and the Beagle Adventure* (Templar, £14.99), and Nicky Raven's adaptation of *Dracula* (Templar, £12.60), illustrated by Anne Yvonne Gilbert, which won the special award.

In the Galaxy National Book Awards the **WH Smith Children's Book of the Year** was Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's *Zog* (Alison Green Books, £10.99) and Terry Pratchett was given an outstanding achievement award.

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[www.bishopg.ac.uk/hullabaloo](http://www.bishopg.ac.uk/hullabaloo) / [hullabaloo@bishopg.ac.uk](mailto:hullabaloo@bishopg.ac.uk)

Written by Janice Morris and Emma Sansby  
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## School Libraries Matter

According to two recent reports there's good and bad news about school libraries. The bad news is that the gap between the best and the rest of school libraries is getting ever wider. Indeed, the School Library Commission, in *School Libraries: a Plan for Improvement* (<http://tinyurl.com/3yv73e>), described many as a "wasted resource", blaming the failure to embed libraries in some schools' infrastructure and planning. The report also stated that school libraries are too often staffed by people without specialist knowledge of children's literature. Similar findings in *School Libraries in the UK: a Worthwhile Past, a Difficult Present – and a Transformed Future?*

(<http://tinyurl.com/2u8y6jb>), commissioned by CILIP's School Libraries Group, led to the conclusion that active support from a school's senior management is crucial for a successful library.

The good news is that both reports recognize that well-run libraries are good for pupil's literacy levels, enjoyment of reading, information literacy skills and overall achievement, and both give wholehearted support to school libraries and school library services. The School Library Commission makes recommendations which would ensure access for all young people to quality library services, and it is proposed that these will shape discussions with the new coalition government about the future of school libraries and school library services. However, it is not a statutory requirement in England for schools to provide a library. Nick Gibb, the Schools Minister, said at the Conservative Party Conference in October that he "would like to see every school have a library" - but went on to say that he thought it unlikely the government would make it compulsory.



## Bigging up the SLS

Every term around 600 boxes of books and resources are delivered to schools in Lincolnshire by the Schools Library Service (SLS). The SLS holds a stock of over 100,000 educational items including fiction and non-fiction books, picture packs, posters and objects, and covers every conceivable subject - from football to France, Boudicca to bacteria and magnets to mole-hills. Teachers from around the county send in individual 'topic' requests which are then specially picked to match the age and abilities of their pupils.

Traditional non-fiction topics such as the Victorians are only part of the story; requests are received for book sets, collections of books by specific children's authors, and stories about particular themes. Also available are over 130 blue 'Learning Resources Boxes' containing replica objects and costumes, and information with a specific religious, historical or geographic focus such as Judaism, Tudor exploration or Africa.

Teachers who use the SLS find that it can add a great deal of flexibility to their teaching as they can cater for unusual or whole-school topics relevant to pupils' interests, or highlight topical events such as the recent floods in Pakistan. Having multiple copies of a book and sufficient resources for individual non-fiction work means that class organisation is easier too.

Next time you are in a Lincolnshire school look out for the Schools Library Service yellow, red, green or blue boxes. If you're on teaching practice in a school that uses the SLS you can order SLS resources to support your teaching—phone 01522 552854 or see <http://tinyurl.com/2v9qgg7>.

## Networking for Success

If you're a school librarian and work in Lincolnshire and would like to meet other school librarians to share ideas and develop good practice why not join READ (Resourcing Education and Development)? READ meets three times a year and the next meeting is on the 15th of March 2011 at Alford Grammar School. Contact Kim Graham at [Kim.Graham@spaldinggrammarschool.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:Kim.Graham@spaldinggrammarschool.lincs.sch.uk).

## Supporting the LYPBA: A Review of Julia Golding's *Dragonfly*

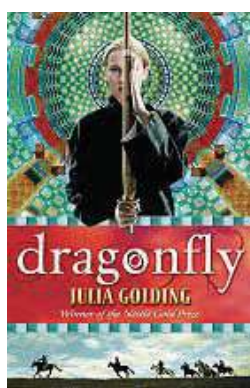
Along with hundreds of children in Lincolnshire schools, each year students on our *PGCE Secondary English with Drama* programme get involved with the Lincolnshire Young Persons Book Award. Here, Amy Bennett reviews one of the year's short-listed titles (the winners were listed in our previous issue)...

"On starting I was quite unsure about what to expect - fantasy fiction isn't usually my cup of tea and so I proceeded cautiously expecting a fight on my hands, but I was nevertheless hooked a few pages in.

The book tells the story of Ramil and Tashi, two teenagers (he a prince by blood, she an elected princess of a different land) that are betrothed in order to form an alliance between their differing kingdoms. Upon meeting, neither is impressed with each other or the fact that they have been pledged to marry. However, when they are kidnapped by a common enemy, the warlord Fergox, the trial and struggles they face push them together so that they inevitably fall in love.

There are several themes running through the text that I found interesting and could provoke classroom discussions. The change

of relationship between the hero and heroine is a large focus and there are many quotes that can be pulled from the text to show this – perhaps a reading exercise would benefit this task. Both of the main characters are young (mid to late teens) which I feel



would enable pupils to possibly relate to and understand some of the issues they face – fear of leaving home, heavy responsibility and of not being quite sure who they are. The act of survival is also prominent throughout and I feel pupils could sympathise with this – whilst they are not spending their days fighting blood thirsty tyrants (!) there is an awful lot of 'surviving' to be done to get through the teenage years.

I would readily recommend this book to a pupil. For me it became a book that I didn't want to put down, and as ever with fantastic tales of good versus evil, the reader is rewarded with a happy ending that I found myself holding out for."

*Dragonfly* was published in 2008 by Oxford University Press. A second book set in the *Dragonfly* world, *The Glass Swallow*, was published earlier this year.

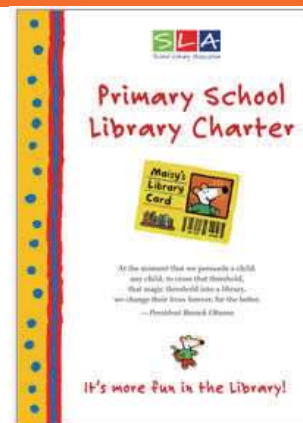
At the moment that we persuade a child, any child, to cross that threshold, that magic threshold into a library, we change their lives forever, for the better.

President Obama

## A Helping Hand for School Libraries

Earlier this year The School Library Association published its *Primary School Library Charter*. We think it's great, not only for anyone wanting to set up a library from scratch, but also for anyone wanting to look afresh at their library and try something new. The 12-page booklet, featuring illustrations by (amongst others) Anthony Browne, Polly Dunbar and Lucy Cousins, it is packed full of information, advice and ideas to inspire. Particularly useful are the references to publications, organizations and websites that can offer advice and help.

Why not take a look yourself?—it's free to download from the SLA website at [www.sla.org.uk/primary-charter.php](http://www.sla.org.uk/primary-charter.php)



## A Day in the Life of a School Librarian

By Linda Dawes,  
Librarian/LRC Manager at  
The King's School, Grantham



**08:15am** It doesn't matter how early I arrive, there is always someone waiting to get into the Library. I haven't even taken my coat off before I am asked: Is the printer working? Can I borrow a chess board? Have you got today's newspaper? The Library opens from 08:30am for pupils to finish off homework, read the papers, borrow books, play chess and chat before school starts at 08:45am. A lovely way to start the day.

**08:45am** This is my tidy up time. I systematically work from one end of the Library to the other making sure the fire exit is clear, magazines are tidy, and chess boards are put away. I like to leave some books and magazines out on the coffee table as this encourages pupils to pick them up and read them during the day. The favourite book of the Library is *The Guinness World of Records* – it's not worth reshelving it!

**09:00am** Time to check my emails and update the Library blog (<http://libraryatkings.blogspot.com>). Sometimes it's difficult to think of something every day so I often write a few entries at once and schedule them to upload on consecutive days. If I can manage to get a pupil's book or film review it makes my job a lot easier and more interesting for the reader. The Library is quiet this morning with no class bookings for the first two hours but there are 6<sup>th</sup> form students in studying independently.

**09:15am** During the summer term we worked on a project with a group of (then) Year 7s to produce a book about Isaac Newton. We are arranging a launch in December and I have been asked to produce layout for the book cover, a publicity flier and the invites. I am fortunate to work in a Library which is housed in the Old School building where Isaac Newton went to school. He actually carved his name on the window sill and we regularly have visitors wanting to come and see it.

**10:15am** I've decided I really must refresh some of the display boards. It's important to maintain a vibrant, up-to-date and interesting environment to encourage pupils to want to visit the Library and to engender a love of reading. I'm going to create a special display area for our new Year 7

and 8 Reading Group – 'King's Cool Readers'. We plan to meet fortnightly in the Library at lunchtimes and I'm hoping they will provide me with some book reviews and posters about their favourite authors.

**11:15am** Coffee time! I try to get up to the Staff Room as often as I can as it is my only time to interact with teaching staff. A good working relationship and collaboration with teaching departments is critical for an efficient school library that benefits the whole school community.

**11:30am** The Library is full with a Year 12 group and the Head is giving a presentation on the importance of debating skills. I must follow this up by seeing what books we have on debating. I can't access any of the shelves at the moment so I use the time to prepare for tomorrow's Year 7 Information Skills lesson. They take a Library and Information Skills module as part of their Personal Development Curriculum. This presents us with a valuable opportunity to get to know the pupils as they start school and introduce them to the Library. We end the module with a visit to Grantham Library. It is one of the highlights of my job seeing lots of Year 7 boys queuing up to get their membership cards and borrowing a book; they love the new-look library and self-issue machines!

**12:35pm** Lunchtime in the Library is busy. I work a job share and my colleague and I overlap at lunch, but we still have to limit numbers to around 60. Today there was the added excitement of just having taken delivery of three boxes of *Booked Up* books which are offered free to all Year 7s. So some of our team of pupil Library Assistants helped me to sort these out and distribute them to pupils.

**13:30pm** Officially home time for me, but I rarely leave on time. Once at home I log on to my home email account. I am a member of the School Librarian Network email group which I access from home as I don't have time at work. This is an invaluable source of up-to-date information for anything to do with school libraries. They have also just launched a new website which is well worth a visit at <http://heartoftheschool.edublogs.org>. I'm also Secretary for the local branch of CILIP so I need to catch up with administrative work for an event we are organising. Then it's on to my homework – I've just started an MSc in Information and Library Studies, studying by distance learning.



## When I Was A Nipper...

This issue's nipper is Rod Whiting, presenter of the Breakfast Show on BBC Radio Lincolnshire. Catch him on air weekday mornings between 6 and gam.

*My mother, being a grammar school gal and an accomplished actress was very keen that I should read and speak well. I still thank her to the bottom of my boots for that. The latter has certainly come into its own given my current day job but the reading began in earnest when I was about six years old. Service life had the family almost permanently packing and unpacking boxes and following them to locations in all corners of the world but one companion would keep me company in those early years: 'The Adventures of Tom Sawyer'.*

Mark Twain's 1876 classic and the follow up 'The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn' allowed me to escape to the freedom and gigantic playground of a young boy who instilled in me a sense

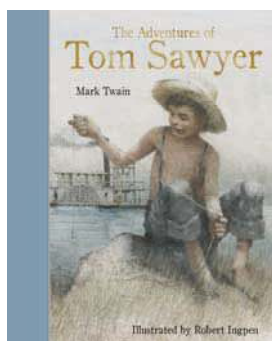


Illustration by Robert Ingpen. ISBN: 1848774648

of 'adventure': a curiosity about people and places that would shape my later life. Twain's ability to bring life and colour to his characters as seen through the eyes of a ten year old boy made a powerful connection with another young boy who was often left to his own devices in strange and exciting places. I liked that Tom challenged authority and was forever testing his Aunt Polly's patience. Because I wasn't allowed to be naughty and punishment was pretty harsh when I tried, I was able to vicariously enjoy Tom's mischief.

Looking back, that book awakened me to so much, the urge for adventure, a moral code, even awareness of girls through Tom's relationship with Becky Thatcher! Ernest Hemingway later wrote that "all modern American literature comes from one book by Mark Twain called Huckleberry Finn". A great work indeed, set up by his earlier creation of Tom Sawyer and I couldn't have asked for a better introduction to literature.

## The First Words Competition

Last issue's winner was Rachael Lineker, a third year Education Studies and English student, who receives a £10 book token for correctly spotting that our quote came from Michael Morpurgo's wartime novel *The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips*. Can you identify these new first words?....

**"It was Mrs May who first told me about them."**

E-mail the title and author together with your name to us at [hullabaloo@bishopg.ac.uk](mailto:hullabaloo@bishopg.ac.uk) by January 14th and a £10 book token could be yours.

**What a school thinks about its library is a measure of what it thinks about education.**

Harold Howe (1918-2002)

## Radio Reminiscences

Did you happen to catch one of the *Hullabaloo!* team on Rod Whiting's (see above) BBC Radio Lincolnshire breakfast show on Friday November 12th? Following the premiere of the new Harry Potter film the night before, Rod was talking about favourite children's characters and what makes certain characters endure. Given our love and knowledge of children's literature we were asked to contribute, so Emma went along to the studio to put in her two-penneth!



## Featured Website: WorldCat

WorldCat is one of those websites that you may find it hard to tear yourself away from. It's the combined library catalogue of a whole host of national and local libraries (though not ours, unfortunately) and so if you want to know which libraries have copies of a particular book look no further. It's also a fantastic source of information about different authors and their works. Find WorldCat at [www.worldcat.org](http://www.worldcat.org).

## Farewell Eva Ibbotson (1925-2010)

Award-winning author Eva Ibbotson passed away at her home in Newcastle on October 20th. She was 85. Well-known for her magical, spooky stories Eva was born Maria Wiesner in 1925 in Vienna but moved to Edinburgh with her father in the early 1930s. (Her parents were separated but the young Eva still saw her mother, who had herself relocated to London.) Like her father, Eva studied science at university but chose not to make a career of it. She married naturalist Alan Ibbotson in 1947, started a family (they had four children) and also did some teaching. She wrote short stories for *The Lady* magazine and a television drama, but it wasn't until 1975, at the age of 50, that *The Great*

*Ghost Rescue*, her first children's book, was published, followed in 1979 by *Which Witch?* In 1994's *The Secret of Platform 13* Eva wrote about a secret door to another world on a platform at King's Cross Station. Three years later when Harry Potter hit the bookshops the similarities were discussed in the media at some length!

One of Eva's most critically acclaimed novels, *Journey to the River Sea*, was written following the sudden death of her husband in 1998. As a tribute to him and his passion for ecology she set the book against the exotic backdrop of the Amazonian rainforest. It won the 2001 Nestlé Smarties Book Prize and was a



runner up for the Whitbread Children's Book of the Year and the Carnegie Medal. She also won a Silver Nestlé Smarties Prize in 2005 for *The Star of Kazan*, which was one of a handful of novels she set in her Austrian homeland.

Eva's most recent book, *The Ogre of Oglefort* was published in May and was shortlisted for this year's Guardian Children's Fiction Prize. In an interview for *The Guardian* published just days before her death, speaking about how her books are loved by children she said "It's quite extraordinary: when I wrote them many years ago it was definitely for old ladies, and people with flu".