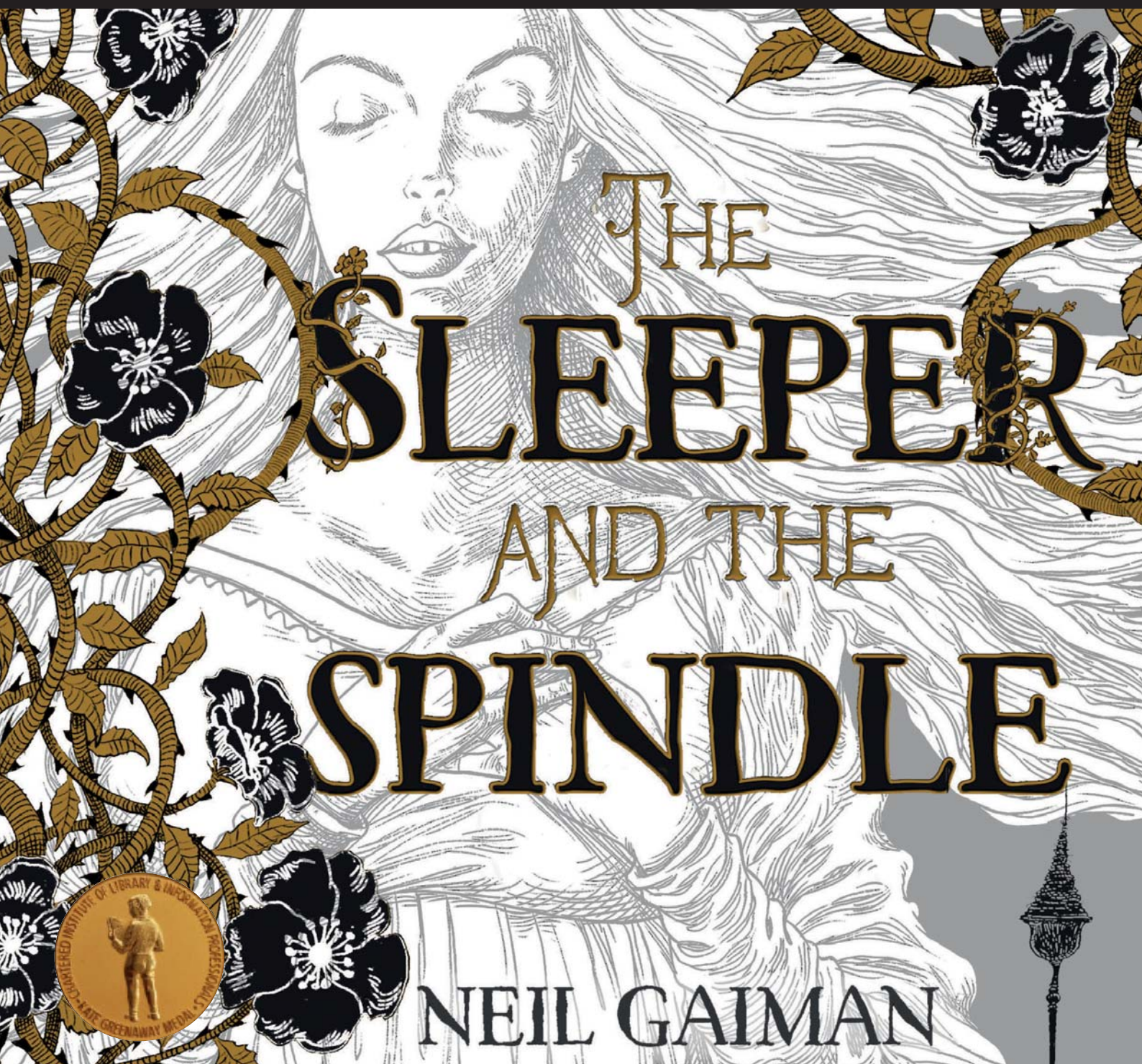


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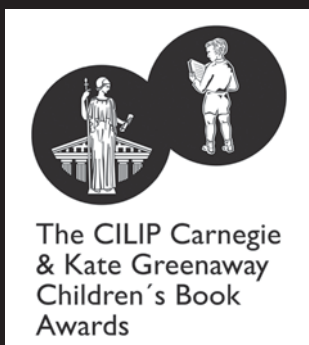
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CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Awards Ceremony



Sioned Jacques, Chair of Judges 2016

Prynhawn da. Good afternoon.

It has been my pleasure, a dream come true, this year to chair the CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway awards. Despite learning to read firstly in the medium of Welsh, looking back over books that I read as a child, past winners of the awards are prominent, testifying to the fact that the awards really do promote outstanding literature and illustrations.

However, I was a child some time ago, although when it comes to reading I haven't really grown up. Why would I? Children's publishing has been growing stronger and this year without a doubt has been a remarkable year. The 92 novels on CILIP Carnegie nomination list and 70 on the CILIP Kate Greenaway list are testament to this. For the first time ever since I've been involved with the awards I can honestly say that I have never read such a strong shortlist with so little between the books. Therefore I would like to thank all the publishers and particularly the authors and illustrators for your hard work and giving us as librarians, let alone our borrowers so many amazing books to enjoy.

Judging all these books is no mean feat and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each judge from all twelve

regions of Britain for their hard work and dedication. Each one has given their time in addition to working full time in libraries across the country. They made my role as Chair easy, despite the task in front of us as a panel. I would also like to thank the CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway working party for their support throughout the process.

Before we go on to look at the shortlisted titles, there is one more group of people to thank. All across the country and the world, enthusiastic groups of children and young people have been busy reading and taking part in activities and discussions based on the shortlisted titles. Shadowers are key to the success of the Awards and I would like to thank them all for their time. Their honesty and observations are an inspiration.



Carnegie Medal Winner Speech, Sarah Crossan

My publicist at Bloomsbury called me a few weeks ago and said “Sarah, are you sitting down?” Now, the only other time someone had said that to me, was to inform me of a death, and so I did sit, but I also started to think, “Who at my publisher do I care enough about that I would have to sit down to be informed of their death?” ...

Luckily however, my publicist was calling to tell me I’d won the Carnegie medal and actually I did need to be sitting down because I was in utter shock – the shortlist this year is simply magnificent, I’ve no idea how the judges reached a decision, but I’m delighted they chose *One*. When “ordinary” people say they like my novels I am very polite and say “why, thank you!”, but when librarians approve, I glow. So thank you.

A massive thanks also to my family and my friends. I couldn’t have written any of my books without your support.

Thank you to Julia Churchill, my extraordinary agent, who, when taking me on, said of my novel in verse *The Weight of Water* “This book... is going to be a very hard sell.” She’s always kept it real. But she believed in the book, and believed *she* could sell it. And I’m so lucky she did, and so lucky she sold it to Bloomsbury my wonderful, and very much alive publisher. I’m well aware that today is the result of a mammoth team effort. I’m particularly grateful to Emma Bradshaw, Rebecca McNally, Emma Hopkin, Zoe Griffith, Hannah Sandford, and Ele Fountain.

The best thing about Bloomsbury is that they have been completely unapologetic about publishing my verse novels as novels in an incredibly competitive market. I think this is because, like me, Bloomsbury believe that poetry belongs to everyone. That poetry should be a part of our every day language and a part of our every day lives.

So why isn’t it?

I have a few ideas, and these ideas I address to the students shadowing the Carnegie because the fear of poetry begins, I believe, at school. It did for me. It was when I was a teenager that I suddenly decided I hated it; that it was hard, not about me, and boring.

This is because at school poetry was the only art form where I was asked to understand what it meant, before I was asked how it made me feel. We don’t do this with music or dance or film. Instead we allow everyone to start from the heart.

Intuition has to come before intellect. We have to read poems, listen to the melody of the words and allow the magic and energy of the language to seep into our bones, to feel it with our bodies.

And the key to this bit is that we should be performing poetry. No poet writes words so that they remain cold on a page to be scanned from left to right in black and white and then examined for GCSE. Poetry belongs to everyone. It doesn’t belong merely in the classroom or university nor in the bookshop ghetto next to fifteenth century literary criticism. Poets want words said aloud so that the rhythm

of the language is felt in the limbs and blood of the listener.

My daughter is three years old and loves poems. Why wouldn’t she? It’s how she learned to speak. When she was a newborn I didn’t stand over her cot saying, “*Morning, Darling. Grapefruit for breakfast today? And have you heard the news? Yup, Donald Trump – he’s at it again!*”

I stood over her cot and made silly sounds.... *gee gee gaa gaa* and when she was a little older I danced with her and sang poems at her, “*one, two, three, four five, once I caught a fish alive...*”

And she would reply... “*six, seven, eight, nine, ten, then I let it go again!*” **[Interactive moment with audience!]**

No one ever forgets these rhymes from childhood. We remember them with our guts. So children trust poetry. They love it. And then we destroy it for them with questions and testing, leaving no space for pure pleasure.

We have to find a way to keep children and therefore adults connected to poetry. Because it’s not just children who are afraid when they see poems – it’s adults too, and often the adults teaching the children poetry due to their own dismal experiences as young people. Oh unhappy cycle of pain!

I do have an idea for how to end the struggle though... how about we embrace the teen verse novel as they do in the US and give young people poetry that is written with them specifically in mind? Verse novels provide teens with opportunities to engage with poetry in a way that’s non-threatening and fun. But publishers have to be brave enough to publish it. Booksellers have to be brave enough to stock it.

We can pretend poetry doesn’t matter, yet whenever something important occurs, we all whip out the poems – at weddings, at funerals (whether it’s our publisher who’s died or someone much, much more important) – we mark momentous occasions with poetry. Because what else can express how we feel in so few words?

For example... what was the Great War like? Well, Wilfred Owen seems to capture it in just two lines...

*“What passing bells for those who die as cattle?
Only the monstrous anger of the guns.”*

So that’s war.

But what about love?

Isn’t love the thing we most want to understand capture and synthesise?

Well, many writers have tried. Jane Mayhall is one of my favourites.

"Love is not champagne truffles or pacified sucks

But walking on broken rocks where nobody goes."

So what I would say to young people is that poetry belongs to you. It's been your language since you learned to speak, it's how you learned to speak. Don't let the academics or poetry snobs say you aren't doing it correctly. You shape the way language changes. You make the rules. Claim poetry as your own. You have a right to it.

A reader once complained that although my novel was a third of the length of most other YA novels, it was still the same price! Well if you borrow from the library, cost won't matter.

And this is part of the reason why I am infuriated by library closures. I couldn't have afforded to be a teen reader were it not for libraries.

It's all very well for the suits in Westminster to say WE don't need libraries but what they really mean is that THEY don't need them right now. Most of us do.

When I moved back to the UK from the US three years ago, I had nothing to prove I was legally in the country (not being

a British passport holder). Yet Islington libraries gave me a temporary card anyway. What does this say about our society? It says that even those who are invisible in the system are welcome to learning, information and the arts – that they are entitled to social mobility and they matter. Libraries are safe places and when we close them we are saying that those people who use them and need them aren't important. Well it's down to us to stand up and say, 'no'. That isn't the world I want to live in. What matters to me is the happiness of people. The happiness of everyone. Even, actually, the Westminster suits who will someday realise how much they need their local libraries too.

There once was a desperate MP

Who hadn't had time for a wee

As it pooled in his shoe

He knew what to do

And rushed to his local library!

Thank you again so much for this award. My happiness is beyond measure.



CILIP Kate Greenaway Award Winners Speech, Chris Riddell

I am incredibly honoured and humbled to accept this award.

Honoured because this prize is judged by librarians who, between you and me, are pretty amazing people –

They know where the great stories are, and all you have to do is walk into one of their libraries and they'll introduce you them. FOR FREE....

Because librarians Love books and they Love reading and they Love turning children into readers by teaching them one of the most important life skills you can acquire, which is reading for pleasure.

Not SATs, Tests, or attainment levels, or league tables but the joy of losing yourself in the pages of a good book.

Without librarians a small boy called Neil Gaiman might never have become a writer – this is a quote from Neil....

"They were good librarians. They liked books and they liked books being read. They just seemed to like that there was this wide-eyed little boy who loved to read, and would talk to me about the books I was reading, they would find me other books.....they would help.

They were the kind of librarians who did not mind a small, unaccompanied boy heading back into the children's library every morning and working his way through the card catalogue, looking for books with ghosts or magic or rockets in them, looking for detectives or vampires or witches or wonders..."

This is the great thing about libraries and the librarians who work in them. They are bridge builders – using the books of the past to inspire the book creators of the future.

When we close down a library, we close down those bridges. As Ray Bradbury said "Without libraries we have no past and no future."

I am also humbled to accept this award.

Humbled that Neil chose me to illustrate his wonderful story...from all the talented young good looking fashionable illustrators he could have chosen....

I picture myself, slightly rotund, in a beige waistcoat, sitting outside my circular front door minding my own business when Neil shows up at my garden gate in flowing green robes and big pointy hat and says "Do you fancy going off on an adventure?"

And when the wise wizard Gaiman, as I like to call him, asks, it's impossible to refuse so I saddle up Hubris, my metaphorical mule, grab my pencil case and follow him wherever he leads.

Which is exactly what I did with "The Sleeper and the Spindle" with a lot of help along the way by Rebecca McNally, the Questing Queen of Bloomsbury and my talented designer, Katy Everson, or Galadriel, as I like to call her.

So thank you Neil, for writing this wonderful book and asking me to illustrate it, thank you Bloomsbury for giving me 96 pages and gold as a second colour and thank you, the librarians of CILIP for this very great honour.

Last June, I became UK Children's Laureate and I've had the most amazing year –

Standing in playing fields for the Guinness Book of Records, sitting on breakfast TV sofas at unfeasibly early times of day and hobnobbing with actors at the Globe Theatre, but 'The Sleeper and the Spindle' winning the Greenaway Medal has been the highlight.

As Children's Laureate, I've tried to champion creativity – drawing in sketchbooks, reading for pleasure and the power of poetry, so I would like to read a poem by Brian Patten that sums up how I feel about the importance of creativity.

THE MINISTER FOR EXAMS

When I was a child I sat an exam.
The test was so simple

There was no way I could fail.

Q1. Describe the taste of the moon.

It tastes like Creation I wrote,
it has the flavour of starlight.

Q2. What colour is Love?

Love is the colour of the water a man
lost in the desert finds, I wrote.

Q3. Why do snowflakes melt?

I wrote, they melt because they fall
onto the warm tongue of God.

There were other questions.

They were as simple.

I described the grief of Adam when
he was expelled from Eden.

I wrote down the exact weight of an
elephant's dream.

Yet today, many years later, for my
living I sweep the streets or clean
out the toilets of the fat hotels.

Why? Because constantly I failed
my exams.

Why? Well, let me set a test.

Q1. How large is a child's imagination?

Q2. How shallow is the soul of the Minister for Exams?

©Brian Patten. For permission to reproduce this poem contact Rogers, Coleridge & White, Literary Agents, London.



Kate Allen's presentation speech

2016 saw the award of the inaugural Amnesty CILIP Honour trophies.

Each year two special commendations, the Amnesty CILIP Honour, will be awarded to the author and illustrator of two books; one from each shortlist, that most distinctively illuminates, communicates, or celebrates our personal rights and freedoms.

What follows is Amnesty UK Director Kate Allen's presentation speech delivered at the CILIP CKG Award ceremony 2016.

Amnesty CILIP Honour trophies presented by Kate Allen, Director of Amnesty UK

We at Amnesty are absolutely delighted to be partnering with CILIP on the Amnesty CILIP Honour, to uphold and celebrate the human rights values in great children's books. We are also very grateful to our sponsor ALCS, the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society.

Amnesty and CILIP share core values on intellectual freedoms – especially the vital rights to freedom of information, expression and education. At Amnesty we know how important libraries are. And in recent years we have been developing a programme of work on the links between children's books and human rights. The Amnesty CILIP Honour is the first commendation to celebrate the deep and important themes in children's books that are far too often ignored.

Why do we think children's books are important?

Because, fundamentally, great authors and illustrators make us care. Your stories and picture books have the power to develop children's empathy, broaden their horizons and give them confidence. These are skills for

life. And empathy, awareness and confidence are exactly what children need to stand up for each other against discrimination and to shape a better world.

So we are very proud to award the new Amnesty CILIP Honour to one book from each of the Kate Greenaway and Carnegie Medal shortlists. Our judges were asked to choose winners using these criteria – the winning books must:

- Celebrate the values of freedom, truth, justice and fairness and
- Contribute to a better understanding of any one or more of our human rights.

First, **the Amnesty CILIP Honour in the Carnegie category.**

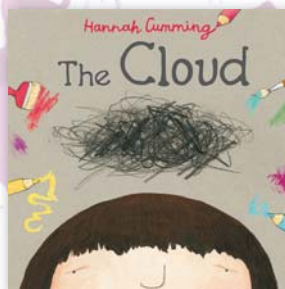
We are very grateful to all our judges. In this category they were:

- Last year's Carnegie Medal winner Tanya Landman
- author SF Said
- Louise Johns-Shepherd, the chief executive of the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education

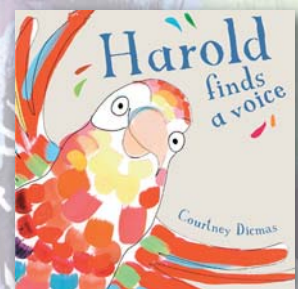
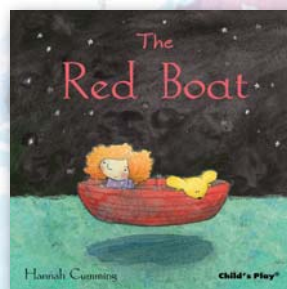
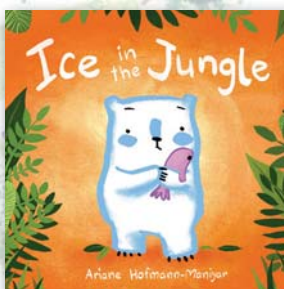


Help children understand their feelings with our picture books...

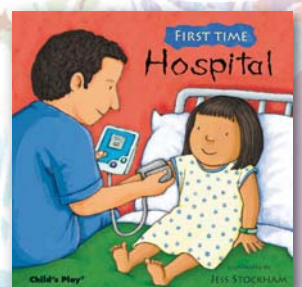
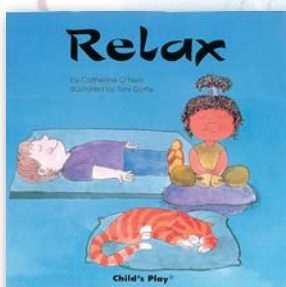
Emotions



Confidence and anxiety



Relaxation



Hospital visits

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- Nadina Kulara of the Young Women's Trust and a former Amnesty member of staff

- Nicky Parker and Rowena Seabrook of Amnesty

After intense debate they reached a final shortlist of four potential worthy winners. They are:

One, by Sarah Crossan

There Will Be Lies by Nick Lake

Five Children on the Western Front by Kate Saunders

Lies we Tell Ourselves by Robin Talley

Our winner vividly illuminates our rights to equality and education and shows why racial, sexual and gender discrimination is so wrong.

Before calling the winning author to the stage to collect their trophy, the audience were shown a short film of students at Oaklands School in Bethnal Green talking about it. Their teacher had encouraged them to engage with the book's deep themes by using the education notes that Amnesty prepared – as they did for all the books on the shortlists and which can be found on the website (details at the end of the article).

You will see why the 2016 Honour winner is
LIES WE TELL OURSELVES.

Now for the Amnesty CILIP Honour in the Kate Greenaway category.

In this category our judges were:

- Tanya Landman

- artist and storyteller Manya Benenson

- artist and former Amnesty volunteer Dean Bowen

- and Amnesty staff Nicky Parker, Rowena Seabrook and Dan Jones.

Between them, they whittled it down to a final three:

Chris Riddell's *The Sleeper and the Spindle*

Ross Collins' *There's a Bear on My Chair*

Sidney Smith's *Footpath Flowers*.

Our winner joyously celebrates how to stand up to a bully and our right to creative, peaceful protest, even though we know that this may not make us altogether popular with parents... But it goes to the heart of Amnesty and how we defend human rights. *Again, before the winner collected the trophy the audience watched a short film of children at Sir John Cass's Foundation primary school in Aldgate having fun with the winning book.*

And the winner is...

There's a Bear on My Chair by Ross Collins.

Winner of the 2016 CILIP Carnegie Medal

One

By Sarah Crossan

Published by Bloomsbury Children's

Hbk: 978-1408863114

Pbk: 978-1408827215

Winner of the 2016 CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal

The Sleeper and the Spindle

Illustrated by Chris Riddell

Written by Neil Gaiman

Published by Bloomsbury Children's

Hbk: 978-1408859643

Winners of the 2016 Inaugural Amnesty CILIP Honours

From the Carnegie shortlist:

Lies We Tell Ourselves

By Robin Talley

Published by Mira Ink

Pbk: 978-1848452923

From the Kate Greenaway shortlist:

There's A Bear On My Chair

By Ross Collins,

Published by Nosy Crow

Hbk: 978-0763689421

Pbk: 978-0857633941

Amnesty videos <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/blogs/stories-and-rights/amnesty-cilip-honour-winners-2016>

Prize fighting: the Carnegie Medal and Children's Librarians

This is a year for celebration, as the Carnegie Medal reaches its 80th birthday. Prizes, however, are not always accompanied by celebrations. As James English observes in his influential study *The Economy of Prestige*, they also invariably generate disputes.

Whenever a new award appears, so do a host of arguments about the purpose of the prize, its terms and even the value of prizes themselves. Once the prize is up and running, each year brings a new set of debates: was the winner really the best? Who was missed out? Is the winning artist or text promoting undesirable ideas? Readers who have followed the Carnegie Medal over the years will certainly be nodding ruefully at this point, for it's a rare year that brings no Carnegie controversy. As James English points out, however, this is not a bug, but a feature: such disagreements are an important way of examining what we value, what we are missing out, and how we think about culture. The old adage that no publicity is bad publicity also holds true here: public criticism helps to generate prestige for the prize itself - by suggesting it is "worth" criticising - and for the critics, who claim the authority to comment on the prize.

All this was certainly true in the infancy of the Carnegie Medal. The establishment of the Medal represented a definite attempt to claim greater cultural prestige for children's books in Britain; the announcement of the Medal noted the existence of the prestigious Newbery Medal in the USA, and suggested that its new British counterpart would have 'a very definite public value'. The time was ripe for such a claim, for the 1930s had seen a growing interest in children's books and children's libraries. Nevertheless, the Medal almost immediately attracted criticisms, for while the Library Association observed that it might offer 'considerable publicity value' and 'encourage the production of better children's books', not a single word was said about the role of children's librarians, and no children's librarian was on the inaugural committee.

This fact was to prove a useful rallying point for the formidable Eileen Colwell (discussed further in Paula Wride's article for this issue), who was quick to point out the need for a specialist on the committee, a position which she was duly awarded. A few years later, in a letter to the Library Association Record, she made a more public claim for the importance of involving children's librarians in the judging:

Our own Carnegie Medal Committee is composed of nine members, only one of whom is a Children's Librarian and therefore in constant touch with children's books. [...] The remaining eight members, while librarians of standing, are not in active touch with children's books, an essential qualification surely in appraising them.

Interestingly, Colwell does not refer to the expertise brought to the Carnegie Medal by its chief architect: W.C. Berwick Sayers had a long and distinguished track record in children's libraries. He was Chief Librarian of Croydon Public Libraries, which boasted one of the most notable children's libraries

in the country, and authored two manuals for children's librarians: *The Children's Library* (1912) and *A Manual of Children's Libraries* (1932). In 1936, when the Carnegie Medal was launched, he was still active in the field of books for young people: he was general editor of a guide on *Books for Youth* published by the Library Association that year. Whatever the qualifications of the other members of the committee, Sayers surely deserved to be termed an expert on children's books. It's notable, then, that Eileen Colwell glosses over Sayers' contribution and emphasises the importance of being in 'active touch with children's books', subtly implying a connection with child readers as well as the books themselves. This is not just a call for more expertise in children's literature on the committee, but a vision of children's librarianship premised on the idea of working directly with children.

As she acknowledges in the same letter, one reason for the lack of children's librarians on the Carnegie Medal committee was that there were so few specialists in the UK. The Medal became a good symbol around which to focus efforts to improve the status and training of children's librarians. The year after the Medal was founded, Eileen Colwell and Ethel Hayler (children's librarian at Croydon) established the Association of Children's Librarians 'open to all who are interested in work with children'. One of their first acts was to advocate for the involvement of children's librarians in the Carnegie Medal, and the profile of the Medal and its methods of selection remained a key focus for the Association. By 1945, they were already able to point to this campaign as one of their success. Indeed, coupled with their efforts 'to encourage the publishing of books of a higher standard for children, the establishment of more and better libraries, and an adequate training for children's librarians', this work was so successful that in time the Association was able to take over the Carnegie Medal entirely. The Association of Children's Librarians became an official body of the Library Association as the Youth Libraries Section, now known as the Youth Libraries Group. The critical poachers had become gamekeepers, and the Carnegie Medal - like its American cousin the Newbery - was the province of children's librarians.

Bringing the Carnegie Medal under the jurisdiction of YLG has not, of course, done anything to insulate the prize from disputes. Each year the announcement of the shortlist provokes a new round of discussions about what we want from our children's books - and sometimes what we want from the librarians who evaluate them - and the Medal has grown and changed in response. Let's raise a glass to the passionate people whose critical voices have helped to ensure the Carnegie Medal remains a living part of the children's book world - here's to another 80 argumentative years!

Works Cited

For a full list of works cited in this article please visit <https://carnegieproject.wordpress.com/2017/05/15/prize-fighting/>.

Dr Lucy Pearson is Lecturer in Children's Literature at Newcastle University.
Her Carnegie blog is at <https://carnegieproject.wordpress.com/>

The Amnesty CILIP Honour: one year on

In 2015 Amnesty and CILIP embarked on a ground-breaking partnership. A new human rights commendation for children's books – the Amnesty CILIP Honour – was added to the Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medals.

The Honour judges (who include authors, illustrators, activists and educators) consider all books shortlisted for both Medals with reference to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We give the Honour to one book on each shortlist that we believe best illuminates, upholds or celebrates at least one human right.

Amnesty has also committed to creating Honour 'explorer resources' for all the shortlisted books, designed to encourage young people to read through a human rights lens and to ask probing values-based questions of the stories. These are offered to the school shadowing groups alongside the CKG literary resources.

'Beyond personal contact, nothing brings us closer to our fellow human beings than fiction.' Bali Rai, award-winning author and Honour judge 2017

Amnesty has always sought to give voice to the voiceless, to bear witness and tell the truth. But it's normally real-life stories that we highlight, whereas most of the Carnegie and Greenaway books are works of fiction. This may seem counter-intuitive but, as librarians know, good stories tell the truth at a profound level. Indeed, under repressive regimes it's often artists and writers who are imprisoned first, because those in charge recognise and fear the far-reaching power of words and pictures.

Illuminating our freedoms

The premise that children's books deal with human rights is not nearly as challenging as it might seem. Human rights are positive laws, carefully constructed to uphold the very best human behaviour. Freedoms are not dark or negative – it's their violation that is.

We hope the Honour will draw attention to the human rights values (such as truth, fairness, equality and love) that already exist within the best children's stories and that it will show how even early years picture books can expand knowledge and understanding, develop confidence and inspire empathy. After all, from empathy and awareness it's a short step to kindness and solidarity.

Last year's Honour winners

Contrary to what many may believe, the Honour is not limited to serious titles. The first winner in the Carnegie category in 2016 was *Lies We Tell Ourselves* by Robin Talley, which overtly explores racism and homophobia. Yes, that one could have been predicted as a classic Amnesty choice.

But look at the unexpected Honour winner in the Greenaway category: Ross Collins' funny, quirky *There's A Bear on My Chair*. It's the human rights values (including our right to creative, peaceful protest) at the heart of the book that swung it for the judges, along with light-hearted storytelling that we thought was perfect for this age group.

Children's books are a key part of social progress

CILIP and the youth librarians have shared the gold-standard Medals with us with astonishing generosity of spirit. Both organisations uphold many of the same values around intellectual freedoms, but we appreciate the risks taken in welcoming us into the fold and are very grateful. Risk-taking can lead to real social progress, but it isn't always popular.

The book world is not immune to social problems and working on the Honour has helped us at Amnesty better understand challenges that librarians face every day. It is clear that children's books display a lack of representation across race, gender, sexuality, (dis)ability, from authorship to characters. On the other hand, subject matter can be extremely challenging – just look at this year's CKG shortlists, where refugee rights, rape and child abuse are explored by some brilliant writers and artists.

The lack of diversity in its broadest sense may be down to fear, again – fear of risk, transgressing traditional lines, rocking the status quo, commercial failure. Fear, above all, of 'the other'. But it really matters: limited representation has profound and long-term consequences. We only have to consider the lack of gender balance on offer in children's books and compare it with the fact that worldwide one in three women suffer sexual violence (in the UK it's one in five). There is almost certainly a correlation and it's one where shifts in the children's book industry could have a positive effect.

'Seeing yourself in the cultural world leads to a sense of better social inclusion and a feeling that you are part of something, that you have a stake in it and wish to add constructively to it.' Malorie Blackman

Now consider the lack of published BAME authors and illustrators. It's not that we can only identify with people like us, but we do need to see them in literature in order to feel we belong. As writer, artist and Honour judge Amy Leon says, what happens to BAME children who feel they can only access the world of literature through white writers? They are likely to grow up with a sense of social alienation. And they're not the only ones who miss out – think of the hundreds of thousands of white children who are not enriched by diverse voices. They too won't find themselves in those precious and unexpected places because so many doors are closed.

Children's books can be a powerful route to understanding and embracing the universality of human rights. As author and Honour judge Sita Brahmachari says, 'Stories that speak to children's hearts and minds about the values of fairness, justice and common humanity have seldom been more important in history than today. The Amnesty CILIP Honour seeks to illuminate the diverse stories of our age that shine a light on human rights values.'

By Nicky Parker, head of publishing at Amnesty International UK

An inspiring collection of children's librarians, and their books at seven stories

National Centre for Children's Books

From its very beginning, Seven Stories has been and continues to be, associated with amazing children's librarians in a variety of roles including as trustees, staff, book collection donors and incredibly loyal volunteers. Indeed, Seven Stories was co-founded as a charity in 1996 by Mary Briggs (librarian) and Elizabeth Hammill (pioneering children's bookseller).

Long before the establishment of Seven Stories, Mary and Elizabeth were founder members of the Northern Children's Book Festival (NCBF), a collaboration between all of the library authorities in the North East, now in its 34th year. Their idea of creating a permanent centre to champion and celebrate modern Britain's children's literature, and build a collection of original manuscripts and illustrations of national significance, stemmed from NCBF and became Seven Stories.

Seven Stories is the only institution in the world with a collecting policy dedicated to modern and contemporary (from the 1930s on), British children's literature. Our collection documents the entire process of the creation of children's books from initial ideas to post-publication and features original artwork and manuscripts by over 270 different authors, illustrators, and editors including: Nick Sharratt, Philip Pullman, Michael Rosen, Beverley Naidoo, David Almond, Judith Kerr, Elizabeth Laird, Helen Craig, Diana Wynne Jones and even Enid Blyton. We share our Collection in all sorts of ways; most notably through our exhibitions, our learning projects and by supporting research.

Alongside our archive of original material we have a library of over 36,000 children's books. Our 'book collecting' priority is to acquire first edition copies of the titles for which we already hold the original artwork or manuscripts. Many authors and illustrators donate copies of their books in multiple editions (including foreign languages) along with their manuscripts or artwork, but we have quite a few gaps to fill. We also have several large themed book collections such as 'Alphabets', 'Counting', 'Traditional Tales', and 'Pop-ups' and substantial collections from publishers including 'Puffin' and 'Ladybird books'. Alongside these we have book collections created by editors, reviewers and school inspectors, as well as children's librarians and libraries.

Probably our most significant 'librarian's collection' was



gathered together by **Eileen Colwell** (1904-2002). Eileen was truly a pioneering children's Librarian, a renowned storyteller, and writer about storytelling. As Lucy Pearson mentions in her article 'Prize fighting: the Carnegie Medal and Children's Librarians' (in this journal), we also have Eileen to thank for setting up what is now CILIP's Youth Libraries Group (in 1937) as well as championing practising children's librarians involvement in the Carnegie and Kate Greenaway medals.

Eileen's personal collection of 360 books dating 1920-2000 was donated to Seven Stories in 2002. It includes: Reference books about Children's Literature (including paper copies of early Children's Library catalogues); Picture books and children's novels, including many titles by her favourite author (and friend) Eleanor Farjeon; Poetry books; Foreign language children's books (including many Japanese editions of Eileen Colwell's titles); and short story collections. She wrote several books about her personal passion i.e. the art of storytelling, compiled booklists and anthologies including *A Storyteller's Choice: A selection of stories, with notes on how to tell them*, and *Tell me a story*. In 1956 she published a short book, *How I became a librarian* which was very popular, particularly in Japan where the

first 4000 copies apparently sold out and it was reprinted! Eileen's autobiography, *Once upon a time*, was published in 2000. Suffice it to say that Eileen Colwell's work at Hendon's Children's and School's Libraries, back in the 1930s, made a huge impact both nationally and internationally and laid down the standards which we have worked to sustain and improve upon ever since.

Seven Stories recently also received Eileen's personal papers including her copious and often hilarious notes (about numerous authors she met, the art of storytelling, and lectures she gave); scrapbooks she compiled of her lecture tours to Japan and Canada; *The Magic Casement* - the magazine she compiled for Hendon's Junior Library; as well as her own poems and short stories.

So what about our other children's librarians? **Elaine Moss** (b. 1924) donated her collection of over 750 picture books to Seven Stories in 2003, followed by her fascinating scrapbooks in 2009. Elaine is renowned as a British critic and librarian whose work as a commentator, reviewer and broadcaster brought serious critical attention to children's books. She selected the National Book League's annual Children's Books of the Year touring exhibition and compiled the accompanying catalogue from 1970-1979. She also championed the promotion of picture books to older readers, overturning the traditional restriction of picture books to children who cannot yet read.

Moving on... one of my personal favourites is the **St. Alban's Children's Book Group's 'Armchair Traveller'** collection of 495 books and a card catalogue, which was donated in 2008 by Jayne Truran, Chair of St. Albans Children's Book Group and a School Librarian. The group has run for over 30 years and in its early days was a forerunner of the 'Summer Reading Club'. The St. Albans parents were keen to keep children reading and usefully occupied through the holiday, and the idea was that the children could 'travel the world from the comfort of an armchair'. The collection was originally put together by Joyce DuCane, a school inspector and a member of IBBY. On average 30-40 children would attend to borrow books and for events. The books were displayed by 'Continents' with each continent as well as 'Folk Tales' and 'Journeys' having their own table, or space in the garden if the weather was good. Each child had a 'Passport' and would get a 'stamp' in it for each continent they visited, by reading and rating a book who's story was set in that continent.

Over the years, Seven Stories has also received several large book collections from public and school library services, most of whom have either had to reduce their

book stack shelving when moving to new premises or to make space to accommodate other Council services within their buildings or, have sadly closed their SLS's. The most significant of these collections were donated by Harrow, Warwickshire, Hampshire, and Rotherham. Briefly...

In 2005, **Harrow Schools Library Service** (Mary Steele) donated 15 boxes of books and children's literature journals dating 1950-1996 which have formed the core of our 'Children's Literature Reference' collection, and are regularly used by Staff and Researchers.

Warwickshire Libraries collection of 260 'Award Winning children's books' 1960-1995, was donated in 1997. This collection includes first edition copies of many Carnegie, Kate Greenaway and other medal winners, for which we hold the original artwork or manuscripts e.g. Martin Waddell and Barbara Firth's *Can't you sleep little bear*, Robert Westall's *The machine-gunners* and Leon Garfield's *The god beneath the sea*.

Hampshire Library and Information Service (Anne Marley) donated 471 picture books and novels from their 'Exhibition Collection' in 2008 & 2011. The collection is made up of books (dating from 1930 onwards) that had gone out of print but were felt worthy of retention e.g. by 'worthy' authors and illustrators such as Jan Mark & Catherine Storr, many of whose archive or artwork collections Seven Stories holds.

Rotherham School Library Service donated their 'Single Copy Stack' collection to Seven Stories in 1999. This is a collection of nearly 1000 books by significant (including many award winning) children's book authors mainly from the period 1950 - 1986. These books are believed to have been the last copy held in stock by Rotherham Libraries, by authors 'to be stacked if not already there'.

As well as the above, and the large book collections donated by our local North Tyneside and South Tyneside Public and School Library services, we have received several librarians' personal collections. To name just a few: Ann Key, Jan Clements, Dorothy Hadden, Barbara Wood, and Eleanor Dowley (all of whom were involved in NCBF alongside our founder Mary Briggs) and Thomas Pitchford.

Our book collections serve to contextualise Seven Stories' archive and artwork holdings and are proving to be a valuable resource for Staff and researchers in their own right. To find out more about our collection please go to: <http://collection.sevenstories.org.uk/home/> Sadly, our book catalogue records aren't available on-line yet, but we're working on it!

Titles cited:

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By Paula Wride B.A., MCLIP, Chair of YLG North East and Collection Officer at Seven Stories, The National Centre for Children's Books. Email me at paula.wride@sevenstories.org.uk

Healthy Libraries

Norfolk Library and Information Service

Healthy Libraries was launched in 2015 and is a joint venture between Norfolk Public Health and Norfolk Library and Information Service, to help people in Norfolk lead healthier lifestyles. The aim of the project was to create joined up health and wellbeing hubs using the strengths of each service to promote healthier living in Norfolk.

Healthy Libraries aims to expand the role of libraries in delivering positive health outcomes for Norfolk people. It takes advantage of the library's role in local communities as a place for information and advice, the role of library staff in promoting healthier lifestyles and the importance of working together with a key partner – Norfolk Public Health.

Healthy Libraries is based on a 'Healthy Libraries' workbook which includes a monthly calendar of health campaigns and library reading promotions. Libraries use the calendar as a planning tool and for ideas to link health and wellbeing to existing library activities and book displays. All libraries receive leaflets to promote the 6 key Public Health campaigns – New Year Resolutions, Early Years - Start for Life, Mental Health and Dementia Awareness, Physical Activity – School Holidays, Get Going Campaign, Stoptober and Warm and Well.

Public Health identified key health challenges in Norfolk and this formed the basis of the health information provided in libraries, library activity and staff training. Health Challenges in Norfolk are:

- There is a much older age profile than England as a whole
- Almost two-thirds of adults are overweight
- Over the last eight years childhood overweight and obesity prevalence in Norfolk has increased
- Levels of activity among children vary
- Over 16,000 people in Norfolk have dementia
- Falls – a major reason for people being admitted to hospital

During the first year of the project a pot of money was available for libraries to bid for. The funding was used by libraries to run health activities, with an emphasis on exercise, healthy eating and mental health and wellbeing.

The activities included use of the smoothie bike – the purpose of the smoothie bike is to create a healthy fruit drink by using pedal power only, so you get some exercise at the same time as creating a healthy drink! The smoothie bike has been used in Summer Reading Challenge activities, at the launch of Shelf Help – Reading Well For Young People and in activities with local schools and Children's Centres.



Healthy Library Day' event at Kings Lynn Library, Norfolk in January 2017

Gorleston Library have developed a session called Mini Movers, this is for the 0 – 5 age range and includes a brief bounce and rhyme session to encourage the development of language skills, followed by movement to music to encourage motor skills and agility.

Some libraries have created walking book groups, or have held Health and Wellbeing days – this is where a range of health and wellbeing organisations have been invited in to the library, so people can find out more about what is available in their local community. Health and Wellbeing days are also a great opportunity to promote the range of library activities and groups that can help reduce social isolation and schemes such as Reading Well Books on Prescription and Shelf Help – Reading Well for Young People.

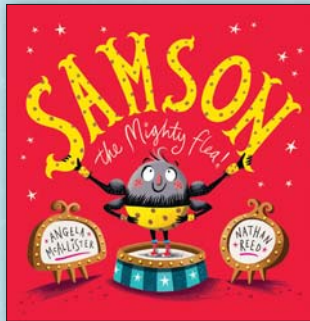
Another popular activity has been to set up 'Colour me Calm' groups for adults and young people. The colouring groups help to support mental health and wellbeing, as focusing on the colouring can help to concentrate the mind, enabling people to relax. The groups also provide an opportunity for people to socialise and make new friends.

Healthy Libraries also included staff training – Dementia Friends Sessions, Mental Health First Aid Lite and Healthy Libraries in Practice.

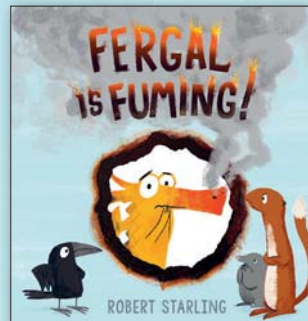
We are now in to the third year of Healthy Libraries and the project will continue with a fresh online workbook for libraries to complete and use as a planning tool, staff training and a focus on health and wellbeing activities in libraries.

By Alison Rainton, Service Support librarian – Adults, Norfolk County Council library and Information Service

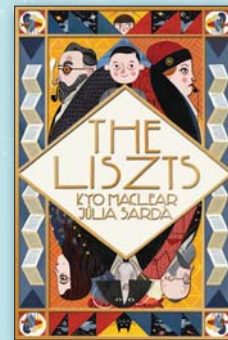
STORIES TO SEND IMAGINATIONS SOARING FROM ANDERSEN PRESS



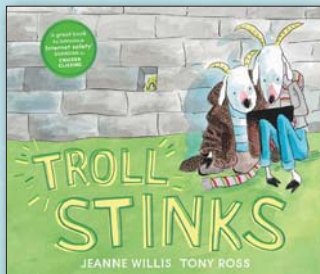
Samson the Mighty Flea
Angela McAllister & Nathan Reed
HB Sept 2016 / PB Sept 2017



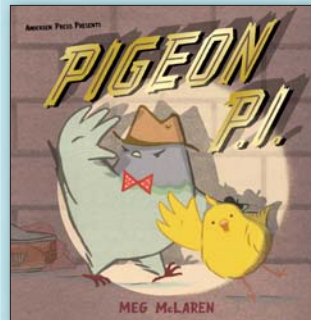
Fergal is Fuming
Robert Starling
HB Aug 2017



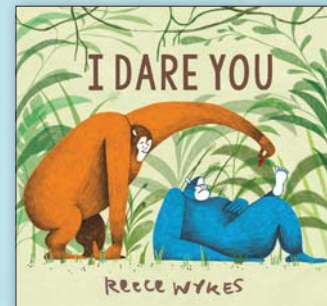
The Liszts
Kyo Maclear & Julia Sarda
HB Nov 2016



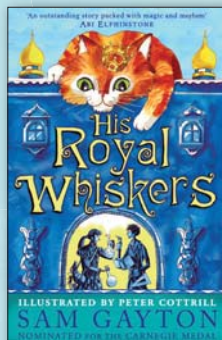
Troll Stinks
Jeanne Willis & Tony Ross
HB Sept 2016 / PB Sept 2017



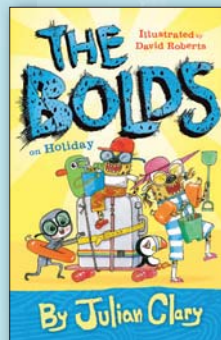
Pigeon P.I.
Meg McLaren
HB March 2017



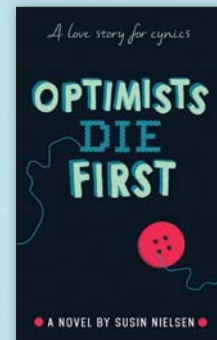
I Dare You
Reece Wykes
HB July 2017



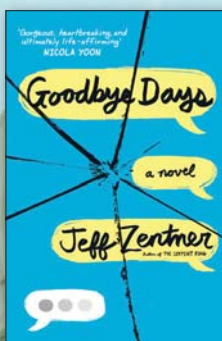
His Royal Whiskers
Sam Gayton & Peter Cottrill
PB Jan 2017



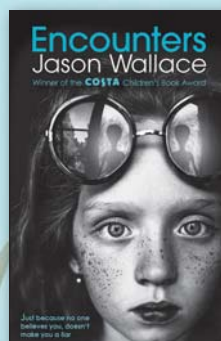
The Bolds on Holiday
Julian Clary & David Roberts
HB Feb / PB July 2017



Optimists Die First
Susin Nielsen
HB March 2017



Goodbye Days
Jeff Zentner
PB April 2017



Encounters
Jason Wallace
HB May 2017



Troublemakers
Catherine Barter
PB June 2017

Happy 20th Birthday

Stockton Children's Book of the Year

Stockton Children's Book of the Year began in 1996, with the first award ceremony being held in 1997. Now in its 20th year this annual project has gone from strength to strength, engaging thousands of school pupils with a carefully selected shortlist of outstanding, newly published children's books each year. In order to celebrate this success we are planning to deliver a 21st Birthday Party in March 2018 reaching out to current and past participants.

The Children's Book of the Year is an event that involves children, teachers, parents, authors and library staff in the promotion and celebration of high quality, modern children's literature.

The Award Aims:

- To provide an exciting and fun vehicle for demonstrating the pleasure of reading and literature
- To hold a high profile event which will be far reaching in the local community
- To contribute to the development of literacy skills
- To stimulate the imagination of children and give them the opportunity to meet real authors whose books they have been reading
- To provide an opportunity for authors to receive feedback from the very audience they are writing for

Each year 15 to 25 primary, secondary and special schools/academies throughout the borough of Stockton-on-Tees take part in the event, which runs from October to March. Every year approximately 500 nine to twelve year old children from year 5 to 7 are directly involved in choosing the best Book of the Year. This is a self-funded project as the schools pay a fee to be involved which covers a collection of the short listed books, that they keep, 3 visits by library staff to the school, an author session for all participating children, and attendance at the Award Ceremony. The children read and review the short-listed titles and then vote for their favourite in a secret ballot. Votes are collected from the schools and an overall borough choice is found.

To make the event really exciting, all of the short-listed authors are invited to Stockton to talk to the children about literature and their books, thus communicating an enthusiasm for reading and the written word. Meeting an author is always a special experience for everyone involved.

The project culminates in an awards ceremony attended



by the authors, local dignitaries and participating children and teachers, where the winning book is announced. Two children from each participating school will also be awarded certificates for 'Book Review of the Year' and 'Most Effort' throughout the project for their school. An overall school 'Book Review of the Year' award is also presented to one child.

As we reflect over the last 20 years there are some impressive figures:

15,000 Children have participated in the award

500 Children have won the most effort award for their school

500 Children have won the best book review award for their school

500 Teachers have been involved in the project

300 Author sessions have been delivered

100 Books and authors have been shortlisted

As the award has worked with 100 authors there has been a lasting legacy for the project. These are some of the comments from winning authors about being part of the award:



I have vivid memories of the first Stockton Children's Book of the Year Award - a super, whizzy day, spent with some highly enthusiastic pupils and then chatting with the authors at the ceremony - including Anne Fine. And finally the exciting news that I had won my first ever prize. Since then, by the way, Stockton's choice 'The Ghost Dog,' has gone on to be one of my best loved books, so the legacy of Stockton goes on.

Winning Author 1997 & 2001 – Pete Johnson

I am very proud to be a Stockton Children's Book of the Year winner and would be honoured to come back next March and celebrate the profile, contribution and history of this very special award.

Winning Author 2015 – Piers Torday

The whole event was incredibly special - meeting so many children passionate about books. I loved working with them in schools. And it was fabulous spending time with the librarians and other authors. And then winning - wow!!! I didn't expect it at all.

Winning Author 2017 – Tamsin Cooke

Some of our winning authors have gone on to great success; David Almond who won in 1999 with Skellig, Liz Pichon - now known world-wide for her Tom Gates series - who won in 2013, and 2015 winner Piers Torday who The Times describes as "The New Master of Books for Children".

As we look towards the next 20 years, I would like to sum



The winner is

TAM SIN COOKE
The Scarlet Files: Cat Burglar

up with some of the children's comments which I think say it all:

- It made me want to go to the library more and find more new books to read.
- There is always spare time that you don't have to spend on tech, you can read instead!
- Before I was involved with SCBY I didn't like reading but now I read every night. I love books now.
- I learned that reading can be fun if you find the right book for you.
- I learned that when you read you just get lost in a whole new world and I loved that.

By Lucy Carlton-Walker, Children & Young Person's Librarian, Stockton-on-Tees Libraries

Feminism in YA

What a difference a century makes

Next year will mark the 100th anniversary of women over the age of 30 gaining the right to vote in the UK. In 2028 we will be able to celebrate the centenary of all women being given the right to vote on the same terms as men.

This radical victory was thanks to the determination and bravery of those involved in the Suffragette movement. These fearless men and women protested, campaigned and even died to expose the gender inequalities in society and to ensure that the women of the future would have more control, more opportunities and, ultimately, more freedom.

However, our predecessors may have won the right for women legally to be deemed equal to men, and one cannot deny a lot has changed for women since the vote was won, but the battle didn't end there.

In the twenty-first century it is arguable that total equality is yet to be achieved as we live in a society where casual sexism and inadvertent gender biases are still visible. This is due in large part to the lingering belief in a female-related inferiority that was once associated with femininity which has yet to be entirely removed from the modern consciousness.

Challenging this perspective of women as The Second Sex - as Simone de Beauvoir proclaimed back in 1949 - is still a common cause for debate and concern amongst modern men and women.

Evidence of this can be seen in numerous ways across different forms of media. Social media initiatives and activist campaigns such as Cambridge University's 'We Need Feminism Because...' project aimed to highlight the shocking truth of sexism in the twenty-first century. Storylines in popular television or films are able to raise awareness of female dissatisfaction through fictional character's experiences, such as seen in HBO's 'Girls' series. And in the tabloid news we are exposed to the ongoing dissatisfaction with the treatment of women's rights through stories of victim blaming in rape cases, the critiquing of female leaders based on their appearance and even through public shaming of breast-feeding mothers.

It is not surprising therefore that feminist themes have become a visible addition to Young Adult literature. Popular fiction has a history of reflecting the worries and concerns of its readers and allowing them to explore such themes in

a safe, detached environment. As a result there has been a plethora of books written for young people that empower readers with the ability to question and challenge the twenty-first century perception and presentation of women through the power of fiction.

Two authors in particular that encapsulate this movement are Holly Bourne, creator of the 'Spinster Club' series - *Am I Normal Yet?* (2015), *How Hard Can Love Be?* (2016) and *What's A Girl Gotta Do?* (2016) And Irish-born writer Louise O'Neill, who has penned two incredibly thought-provoking novels to date *Only Ever Yours* (2014) and *Asking For It* (2015).

Holly Bourne's 'Spinster Club' series centres around three teenage girls - Evie, Amber and Lottie. Each girl is the protagonist of one of three novels in the trilogy and each of their stories has an underlying feminist vein thanks to



the The Spinster Club itself. This club was an invention of the trio's own making and is a pro-girls' rights club that originally featured in the first book of the series. The club aims to reclaim the sexist term 'Spinster' and work on ways of empowering young women. By the third novel, *What's A Girl Gotta Do?*, the trio have opened up the club to other pupils at their school with the final book's protagonist, Lottie, at the helm.

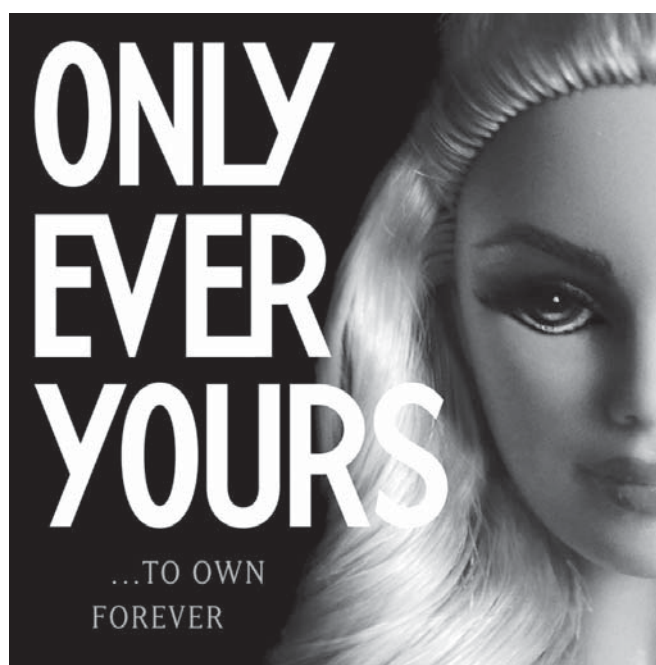
The main plot of the *What's A Girl Gotta Do?* centres around Lottie's 'Vagilante' campaign in which she pledges to point out all of the examples of sexism she sees, regardless of how big, small, easy or awkward they are for her to expose. By featuring characters like Lottie who are brave enough to confront the everyday sexism young women - and men - are exposed to through the media and other influences Holly Bourne has given the readers of today the ability to see the flaws in their society's attitude towards women. The issues mentioned may not be concerning the rights for women to work or to give political opinions as the suffrage movement began with, but it is instead challenging the casual sexism and objectification of women that the twenty-first century endorses.

Elsewhere in Young Adult fiction Louise O'Neill's novel *Only Ever Yours* takes a very different approach to confronting the feminist issues in the modern world by depicting a dystopian society that portrays young women as objects for men to possess, control and abuse. By using the dystopian genre as a vehicle for this story Louise O'Neill is able to portray a seemingly recognisable society that has been twisted and constructed to expose a specific flaw in the reader's world- in this case the flaw is the literal objectification of young women.

Only Ever Yours follows the protagonist Freida in her final year of her education in a school solely run for the purpose of creating and moulding young women, or 'eves' into perfect examples of femininity. Upon graduation the 'eves' are designated one of three roles for their future life: wife, concubine or chastity (teacher).

Only Ever Yours is an intense allegory for a society that values appearance over any of the far more worthy traits a young woman can possess. In portraying a society like this in her novel Louise O'Neill shows the readers a caricatured reflection of the attitudes commonly possessed (in varying degrees) by those around them.

Both of these two novels feature different yet equally powerful and valuable approaches to feminism as found in Young Adult fiction. The votes for women campaign may have ended nearly a century ago but there are modern day suffragettes out there fighting for the futures of young



people and preaching their practises through the medium of popular literature. Let us hope that in another 100 years the world will be a very difference place for women, but hopefully nothing like the society seen in *Only Ever Yours* and with more people like Lottie willing to confront inequalities and stand up for their rights.

For further reading:

<https://www.cam.ac.uk/news/we-need-feminism-because>

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What's a Girl Gotta Do?
Usborne Publishing Ltd
ISBN: 978-1474915021

O'Neill, Louise
Only Ever Yours
riverrun
ISBN: 978-1848664159

By Cassandra Kemp, Assistant Librarian at Coventry Schools Library Service

Curl up with an
Oxford Children's Book!

SHORTLISTED
FOR THE CILIP
CARNEGIE
MEDAL 2017

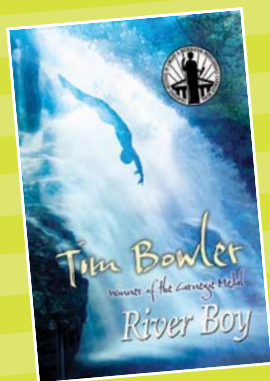


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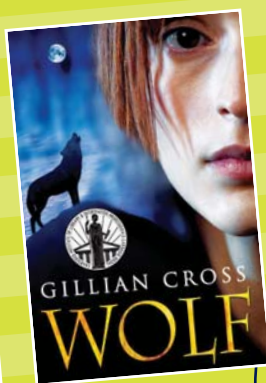


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LONGLISTED
FOR THE
CILIP CARNEGIE
MEDAL 2017

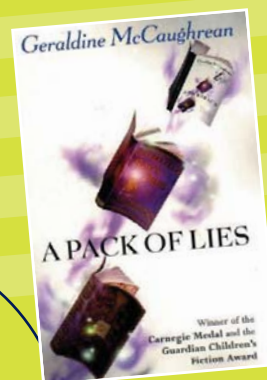


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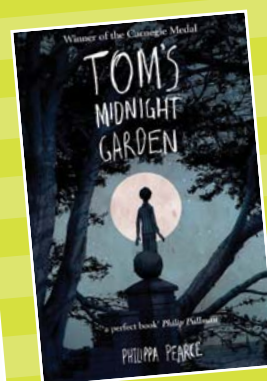


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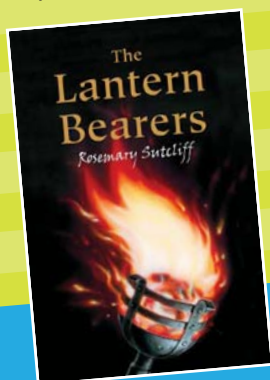
PREVIOUS
CILIP
CARNEGIE
MEDAL
WINNERS



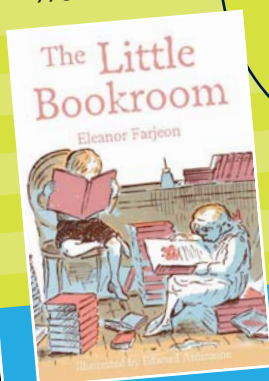
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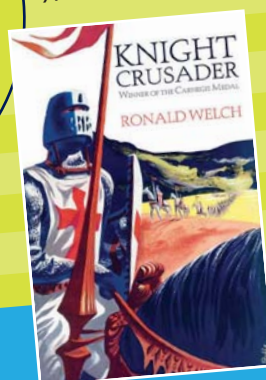
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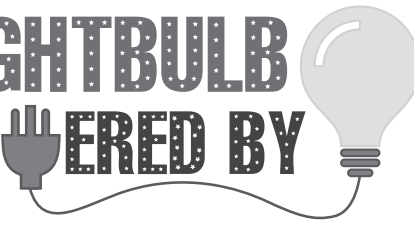


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Impressions from YLG conference

Where do I start? Most of the year I am embroiled in crowd control, removing chewing gum from the carpet, chasing overdue books, exacting fines, shelving books, tidying the shelves, monitoring what pupils are looking at on their I-Pads, banning use of 'phones for lower school, turning down the volume when library socialising becomes too vociferous... Some days it is easy to forget that I work with eager young minds who, contrary to popular belief, still relish a good story.

I was delighted to receive a bursary from YLG South East as it gave me the opportunity to meet other Librarians with similar gripes but also to refresh my enthusiasm for books and to get up to date with developments in children's literature. The Cardiff Conference delivered!

Highlights of the conference:-

Meeting the authors! I happened to meet Angie Sage, of Septimus Heap fame, in a queue. I adore her books and recommend them to pupils having withdrawal symptoms from Harry Potter. Other doyens of children's literature were Laurence Anholt and Jason Wallace who explores racism in *"The Hypnotist"* and *"Out of the Shadows"*, Meg Rosoff who described how she completed *"Beck"*, Mal Peet's last book, and Chris Riddell. The latter brought his "jewellery", his Kate Greenaway medals, referring to one as "his precious".

It was also exciting to discover new authors. Horatio Clare who won the Branford Boase Award for *"Aubrey and the Terrible Yoot"* is now on my To Buy list. Other must read and must buys are *"Scrambled"* by Huw Davies, *"Dave Pigeon"* by Swapna Haddow, *"Time travelling with a Hamster"* by Ross Welford and *"Voyage to magical North"* (The Accidental Pirates) by Claire Fayers.

Reading publishers' catalogues and newsletters is fine but it is better to browse through the books. I did not know that Barrington Stoke had created a bucket list www.bucketlist.co.uk and I shall certainly be investing in a copy of *"Alpha"* by Bessora and Barroux. This book explores the plight of refugees in pictures. It was heartening to see publishers are not just churning out bestsellers such as David Walliams' latest book. They are taking chances and producing books which, quoting Laurence Anholt, exercise the empathy muscle. Sarah Crossan and Brian Conaghan's book *"We Come Apart"* is one to order. David Fickling Books is always adventurous

and celebrates other cultures with *"Lost Tales"* by Adam Murphy.

Egmont have dipped into the e-book market but with limited success. They therefore did a survey, "Print Matters", to see how viable e-books are. 43 mums and 43 children participated. Go to the Egmont website to discover more. They discovered that books enable close physical contact, e-books less. Reading books involves eye contact between parent and child. Electronic devices do not. Children do not want to share electronic devices and emotional engagement increases when reading a book and it drops when reading a device. Long live Print!

We are all suffering with the cuts. A public librarian is a rare species and School Librarians are on the wane. However those remaining are still doing sterling work. Russell Allen from East Sussex Libraries described their project to run sensory story sessions for disabled children and what they learnt from offering them. They now offer sessions in libraries with PARKING, train their staff better, liaise with families and have built up a partnership with West Sussex Parent Carer forum. Librarians from Cardiff Libraries have sport sessions in their libraries. They have table tennis, indoor golf and boules sessions and introduce maths by stealth. In this way they attract hard-to-reach groups into their libraries and strategically place appropriate books close to games tables – literacy by stealth. Parents of pre-school children in Ayrshire are taught how to set child restrictions on their electronic devices thus enabling them to explore digital games of educational benefit to their children.

I came home from conference laden with page proofs and posters but also buzzing with ideas to try in my library. I hope to be back next year.

By Collette Shine, School Librarian, Langley Grammar School

YLG Conference 2016: Families: An Open Door to Literacy

It was a real privilege to be able to attend the Youth Library Group's annual two-day conference in Cardiff last year. The theme was 'Families: An Open Door to Literacy' and there was an exciting, jam packed programme of talks, discussions and workshops to look forward to featuring a whole host of popular and up and coming children's authors.

The first talk of the conference I found really interesting. 'Print Matters' by Alison David from Egmont Publishing was all about a reading research piece based on two studies that the publishers carried out. This focused on children from ages two to nine and explored their responses to different types of reading material i.e. print books, eBooks, apps and magazines. The conclusion of the study was that although digital formats are great for encouraging independence and enticing reluctant readers, print definitely DOES matter. Print lends itself much better to parents and children sharing stories together and the findings show that there are a great many benefits of doing so. Sharing books together helps parents and children to be physically close, which releases oxytocin (the 'cuddle hormone') and creates a calming, bonding, reassuring experience for the child. It is a valuable opportunity for fun 'quality time' between parent and child which encourages a love of reading from a young age. The full content of the study is available on Egmont's website: www.egmont.co.uk

One workshop that I really benefitted from was 'Get Families into Libraries and Start Engaging' delivered by Tracy Cooper from the Scottish Book Trust. In this session, Tracy talked about 'Bookbug', the Scottish equivalent to 'Bookstart', which sees children receiving four free bags of quality picture books over a period of time. Bookbug also runs free song and rhyme sessions in libraries and community centres. Tracy gave lots of practical advice on encouraging less confident parents/carers in these sessions which I found very useful and relevant to my job as a Library Assistant. She also introduced us to new songs which I have been able to incorporate into my own 'rhyme time' sessions at the library I work at in West Sussex. For more information on Bookbug go to: www.scottishbooktrust.com/bookbug

Over the course of the two days there were numerous author talks and discussions covering a range of sometimes weighty subjects including emotional literacy for boys, human rights and racism and immigration and refugees. One talk that I particularly enjoyed was Tom Moorhouse's 'Animal Magnetism' which explored the benefits of telling stories through animal characters, and was full of interesting facts and statistics. He told how people are 'hardwired to love stories' and that personal stories and gossip makes up 65% of our conversations. He also made the important point (stressed by many authors at the conference) that those who frequently read fiction

are better at understanding the people around them. Moorhouse explained that this is because the brain treats reading about experiences almost as if it has lived the experience in real life, but without the trauma of actually experiencing it. In this way, using animal characters can allow authors to explore more difficult subjects in much more depth than in stories about humans because readers can think 'this is just animals, my world isn't like this'. Moorhouse illustrates this perfectly in his children's book 'The River Singers' when water voles siblings have to abandon their home and go on an epic journey together.

As well as all the talks and workshops, we were also treated to the 'Exhibitors Roadshow' which was an opportunity for the many publishers present to tell us all about their up and coming children's books. It was exciting to feel I really had my finger on the pulse of children's publishing and I was lucky enough to receive several proof copies of future book releases.

The Carnegie, Kate Greenaway and Amnesty CILIP Honour presentations took place on Friday evening when authors Chris Riddell, Sarah Crossan, Ross Collins and Robin Talley entertained us all and tried to 'out do' each other with their witty speeches. Following this, all present were invited to a rather lovely 'Gala Dinner' in the evening and one lucky person won the chance to have their portrait drawn by Children's Laureate Chris Riddell.

2016 Astrid Lindgren award winner Meg Rosoff gave the last talk of the conference. She spoke warmly of her friendship with the late author Mal Peet and his last young adult novel 'Beck' which Rosoff completed following his death in 2015. After her talk, many items were 'raffled off' including artwork produced at the conference by the French author/illustrator Barroux and a number of books. I was delighted to win a copy of 'Beck' signed by Meg Rosoff! It was a great end to what was a fantastic conference. I left Cardiff with bags heaving full of freebies and goodies and feeling like a very lucky Library Assistant indeed! I also came away from the conference full of brilliant, practical ideas of how to engage with parents, families and carers in supporting children's reading. Attending the conference was certainly a very valuable experience; thank you to the Youth Libraries Group South East for giving me this opportunity. I am very glad to now be part of the YLGSE committee myself and look forward to what lies ahead with the committee rest of this year.

By Emma Evans, Library Assistant, West Sussex County Council

IFLA Report for YLR May 2017

IFLA Global Vision

Founded in 1927, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) is the leading international body representing the interests of library and information services and their users. It is the global voice of the library and information profession. IFLA is an independent, international, non-governmental, not-for-profit organisation. whose aims are to: Promote high standards of provision and delivery of library and information services; encourage widespread understanding of the value of good library & information services and represent the interests of its' members throughout the world.

Gerald Leitner, IFLA Secretary General has said that IFLA believes that the challenges facing the library field from ever-increasing globalisation can only be met and overcome by an inclusive, global response from a united library field. IFLA's Global Vision discussion is bringing together thousands of representatives of the library field worldwide to explore how a connected library field can meet the challenges of the future. IFLA needs your expert input and participation in the Global Vision discussion, so we can make the library field as ready as possible for what tomorrow might bring. Face-to-face and online, future-oriented conversations will be taking place throughout the year. To make this a true global brainstorm, IFLA wants to see participation from all countries in the world.

The global discussion was launched with a kick-off event in Athens, which I attended as Chair of the Literacy & Reading Section. It is being continued with a series of high-level meetings and workshops in different parts of the world. Numerous meetings and online threads led by librarians from all over the world will build on the momentum started in Athens. Simultaneously, a dedicated "Global Vision" website provides key information about the initiative and will also provide support materials as well as interactive mechanisms (e.g. real-time voting) that allow active participation in identifying future challenges and prioritizing actions that the library environment could take. Conclusions from this conversation along with voting data will then be gathered and analysed by IFLA. This material will provide a basis for the IFLA Global Vision report which will be published in early 2018. Based on the report, the library field will develop concrete work plans on how to put our collective vision of the future into practice.

IFLA is asking everyone to take action and to help make the Global Vision happen. We are all being encouraged



Annie Everall (UK) & Atlanta Meyer (Australia) at the IFLA Global Visioning Meeting in Athens

to organise our own discussions and to make use of the specially prepared guidelines which will be on the Global Vision website. Share your input with IFLA by recording and communicating your thoughts and discussions using the simple template based report, also on the website.

IFLA firmly believes that only a unified and connected library field will be able to fulfil one of the true potentials of libraries: to build literate, informed and participative societies. This is our opportunity to shape and create the future and to ensure the perspective of children's and schools librarians are included. For more information:

- Explore the #iflaGlobalVis on website - <https://globalvision.ifla.org/>
- Follow IFLA on twitter @IFLA #iflaGlobalVision
- Look at the IFLA facebook page
- Subscribe to the IFLA-L discussion list
- Contact: annie@alannie.demon.co.uk

By Annie Everall, Chair, IFLA Literacy & Reading Section

The International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) is a non-profit organisation established in 1953 by the visionary Jella Lepman following the devastation of the Second World War.

There are now 75 national sections representing a global network of people who are committed to promoting international understanding through children's books. Our aims are to encourage the publication and distribution of quality children's books, especially books in translation and in developing countries, and to support literacy and reading projects across the world.

IBBY UK is the British National Section, a charity and voluntary organisation with a membership that includes publishers, authors, illustrators, academics, librarians, and a range of academic and literacy organisations. As a member, you become part of this international network that upholds the right of every child to become a reader.

As part of that network, you will be able to nominate books from the UK for international selections such as the IBBY Honour List (a biennial selection of outstanding books, honouring writers, illustrators and translators from IBBY member countries); the IBBY Collection of Books for Young People with Disabilities; and the Silent Books Project (a wordless book collection, created by IBBY Italia, in response to the need for books for refugees fleeing North Africa and the Middle East). We also nominate for

the IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Award which is given biennially to two groups or institutions whose activities are judged to be making a lasting contribution. Members also nominate for many international awards such as the Hans Christian Andersen Award, The Biennial of Illustration Bratislava, the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, Bologna Publisher of Year and the UK Children's Laureate.

Every two years, IBBY holds an International Congress bringing together IBBY members and people from all over the world. As a member of IBBY UK, it is possible to apply for a bursary to attend or to be part of a UK delegation. We have also organised international trips to promote UK authors and illustrators including a recent trip to Vilnius Book Fair, Sharjah's International Reading Festival and through projects such as Hay Festival's Aarhus 39.

We hold an annual conference and several events across the UK through which you can meet other UK members and explore different themes relating to children's literature and get involved with our work internationally.

Please visit <http://www.ibby.org.uk/membership.php>

By Sophie Hallam, IBBY UK Executive Committee, www.ibby.org.uk, membership@ibby.org.uk

THE LADYBIRDS ARE COMING...

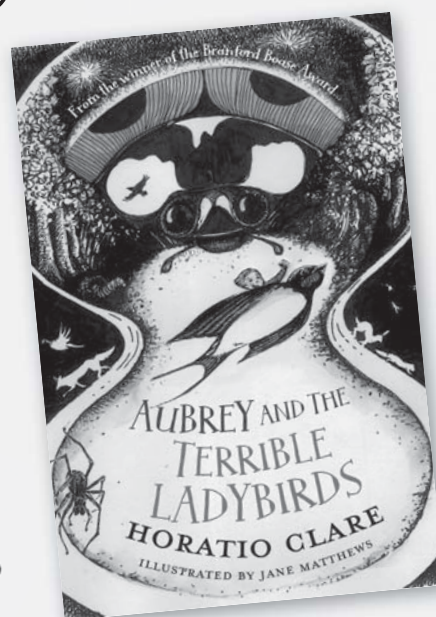
Aubrey and the Terrible Ladybirds
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A story without borders ... can one small boy and a house spider save the world?

Sequel to the Branford Boase Award-winning *Aubrey and the Terrible Yoot*, longlisted for the CILIP Carnegie Medal and UKLA children's book awards 2017.

'A joy, a sheer joy!' Michael Morpurgo

'A jewel not to be missed.' Nicolette Jones Sunday Times



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Interfaith Panel School Event

The idea for an interfaith event at the school came about as a result of a conversation with our head girl, a Muslim who was passionate about describing the tenets of her religion, concerned because it is often misunderstood. It occurred to me that all religions have the potential to be misunderstood, misrepresented or misapplied.

A teacher in the RMPS department and her faculty head were enthusiastic about the idea, and we collaborated to plan a programme of events to take place during Interfaith Week in November 2016. We discussed the potential value to the students of learning from people who practise their faith, and the positive impact on the lives of these students, including self-reflection, the increased ability to analyse and increased critical thinking, an important component of RMPS teaching in schools. We decided to hold an interfaith panel discussion in the Assembly Hall rather than in the library, as more students could be accommodated in the hall, and discussed which year groups would best benefit. We would have liked to include our most senior students as we felt that they would have been best able to formulate challenging questions, but as the school timetable didn't allow for this, we settled on the S4 year group, as that would cause the least disruption to classes.

We decided to broaden it as far as possible into an all-school activity for Interfaith Week, and staff in the School Canteen were extremely helpful and agreed to cook food that week which would reflect aspects of some of the major faith groups. During that week, our students were given menu choices which included curry, a vegetarian option, fish, and honey cake; foods eaten either during festivals or part of everyday food choices in the practising of faiths represented. The school's newsletter included a snippet of information about world religions each day that week.

The Edinburgh Interfaith Association provided most of the speakers for the event, for which we were most appreciative. It would have been difficult without them to gather together Buddhists, Christians, Jews, Muslims and Sikhs, on the same day, in the same place, i.e. the rural Borders!

The panel discussion itself was even better than we thought it might be! Representatives of the faiths above each



talked about the main principles of their faith, and after that, students asked questions which had been compiled in class beforehand. This was most interesting, as the panellists each replied to the question from the viewpoint of their faith. Students said afterwards that that had been the most interesting part of the afternoon. They know the basics of the faiths from RMPS lessons, but hearing differing approaches to the questions (which ranged from the straightforward to the in-depth abstract) enabled them to compare differing viewpoints while coming to the realisation that each faith had the same desired aims in mind, albeit with vastly different means of worship and culture, by helping and supporting others, and living an honest and good life.

Our head girl did herself proud by delivering a thoughtful and sincere speech, and students were left with much to think about.

The school librarian is ideally placed to organise events which can be cross-curricular (though not necessarily so). We have an overview of all subject areas and can make connections where subject specialists do not necessarily have the time or means to. This event was a great success and tremendously rewarding, and one I'd love to repeat.

By Ruth Fry, School Librarian, Dunbar Grammar School

Books for Keeps

Your door to the world of books today

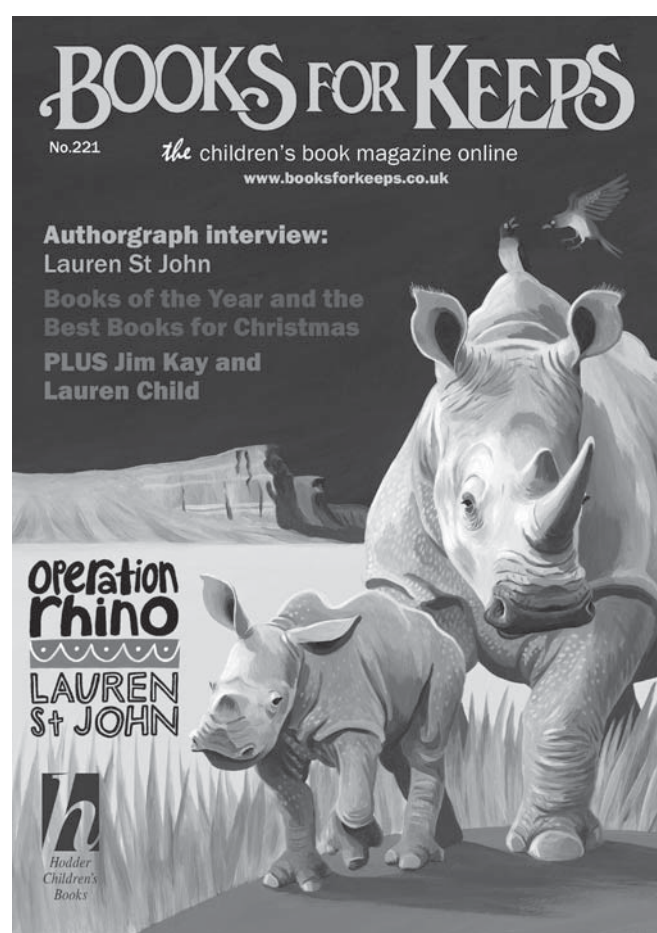
The world of publishing for children and young people is bewildering as new titles pour from the presses. Established publishing houses join up with each other, brave new imprints launch themselves - often arriving quite quietly. How to keep up with it all?

Books for Keeps has been publishing and reviewing since its launch in 1980. Of course it used to be a print journal for which you subscribed. Today it is online and available free to all. Not only that, every issue since the very first has been archived and can be accessed directly from the website. This is a door to the world of books today - and it is always open. So just walk in.

Here the reader will find a treasure trove. There are interviews with authors. In the past year these have ranged from Michael Morpurgo and Elizabeth Laird to Lauren Child, Glenda Millard and Jewell Parker Rhodes. There is the regular Authorgraph feature which will introduce you to stars such as Shaun Tan, Lauren St John and Jane Ray. Illustrators are not ignored. The most recent issues have featured Wen Dee Tan, Laura Carlin and Nicholas John Frith and Marian Dubuc.

Then there are the articles with contributors such as Michael Rosen and Nicolette Jones. Subjects have ranged from Visual Literacy under the guidance of Piet Grobler to a look at comics for young readers. Holly Bourne has looked at mental health issues in teenagers and Jonathan Stroud has written in praise of boredom! Books have been recommended ranging from Best Summer Reads to books for Christmas. Do you want fiction featuring refugees? Books for Keeps can oblige. There is the regular feature 10 of the best....from diaries to utopias, while young people get a chance to present their own favourites in Good Reads. Do you know a school near you who might like this opportunity for their pupils? Get in touch.

Books are, of course, at the heart of Books for Keeps through the reviews that feature in both the issues and the website which is constantly updated. Designed to be accessible and informative they range from board books to YA providing the reader with practical guidance for choice,

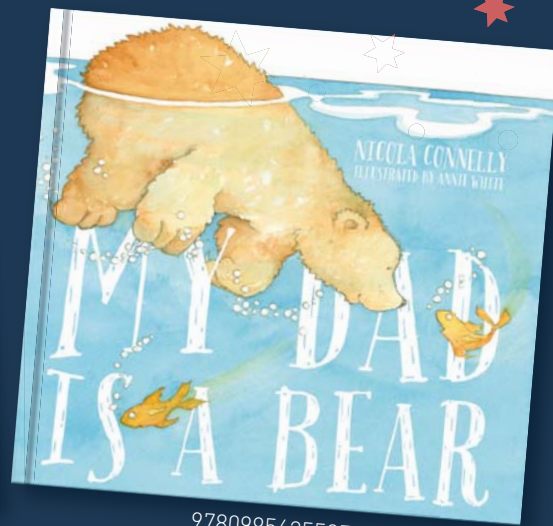


whether you are a professional librarian, parent or just interested adult. Whether you want to be surprised - there is a regular Book of the Week and an Editor's Choice as well as a spotlight on new talent - or want to search for a particular age range, it is a treasure trove, packed from cover to cover. And what covers! All of this at the touch of the keyboard - www.booksforkeeps.co.uk

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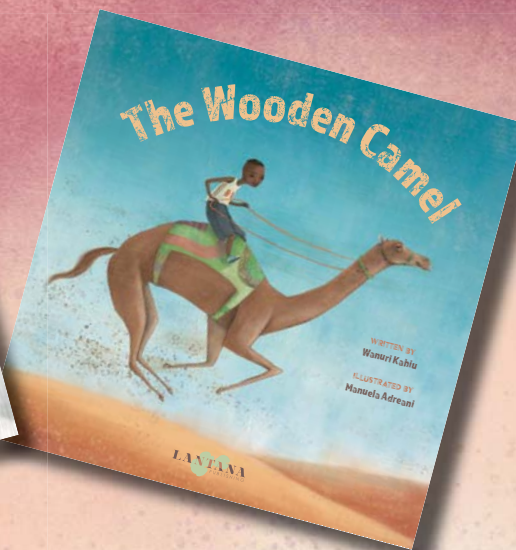
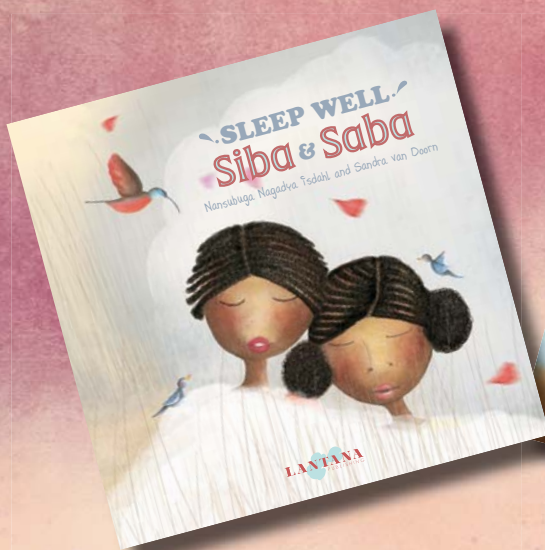
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Federation of Children's Book Groups Conference 2017

We arrived on Friday afternoon for the opening of the exhibition and then talks from Claire Barker (*Knitbone Pepper*) and Andrew Beasley, introducing his new series called *S.C.R.E.A.M.*

Pre-dinner drinks were hosted by Bounce Marketing who are celebrating their 15th anniversary this year. The first after dinner speaker was the historian Lucy Worsley who was talking about the two books she has written "*Eliza Rose*" and "*I am Victoria*". She linked these to her job at the Historic Royal Palaces. Lucy was a charming, articulate and very knowledgeable speaker with a great sense of humour. The second speaker was the poet A.F. Harrold who had us in stitches with some of his poetry. His rendition of this poem <http://childrenspoetryarchive.org/poem/minister-exams> had many of us nodding in agreement with the words that Brian Patten has written.

Saturday was a packed schedule and started with Jon Walter. He was an excellent speaker and really engaged with the audience. We then had a panel event with D.J. Brazier and Caighlan Smith in conversation with Daniel Hahn. The next session, following a much needed coffee break, was one about books in translation again led by Daniel Hahn; a fascinating insight that highlighted the new guide from the SLA, written by Daniel and his co-author Joy Court. The morning's events were concluded by a session by G.R. Gremin, the author of "*Cowgirl*" and the lovely "*Sweet Pizza*", which reflects his experience of being Welsh with an Italian heritage.

The afternoon started off with workshop sessions and I attended Bev Humphries discussing "Digital Storytelling". As always she challenged us to think in different ways and showed us resources that we had not seen before. We then had a session with the super talented Martin Brown who talked about his work, especially his new book "*Lesser Spotted Animals*". This covered some amazing, but relatively unknown animals and we all fell in love with the 'black hooded ferret'. The final session was the wonderful Wendy Cooling in conversation with Kes Gray ("*Oi Dog*") and Rachel Bright ("*Love Monster*"), two of our outstanding crop of picture book writers at the moment. The evening was outstanding with pre-dinner entertainment from



Jo Cotterill; a quiz around the theme of strawberries. The after dinner speech was from Chris Riddell and he spoke about his time as Laureate and the importance of reading, books, libraries and librarians.

Sunday morning started with a panel event, with publishers from Alanna Books, Book Island and Tiny Owl talking about the difficulties but also the opportunities that they found in setting up a small company. We then had Emma Shoard talking about the new edition of "*The Pavee and the Buffer Girl*" by Siobhan Dowd, for which she has provided the stunning illustrations. Cas Lester then spoke about her books for younger readers and how her previous life as a BBC producer of programmes such as *Jackanory* had strengthened her conviction on how important storytelling and books are to children. The final offering was a joint session by Nicola Davies and Petr Horacek speaking about their work "*A first book of Animals*".

By Margaret Pemberton, Freelance School library advisor



AGM Minutes

Agenda for 2016 Annual General Meeting of the Youth Libraries Group to be held at the Majestic Hotel, Harrogate on 25th June, 2017

1. To agree the minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting held at the Mercure Holland House Hotel, Cardiff on 8th October, 2016
2. To receive the Annual Report for 2016
Sioned Jacques, 2016 YLG National Chair
3. To receive the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement for 2016
Russell Allen, 2016 YLG National Treasurer
4. To introduce the YLG National Officers and Committee Members for 2017
Tricia Adams, 2017 YLG National Chair
5. Close of meeting

Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting of the Youth Libraries Group held at the Mercure Holland House Hotel Cardiff on 8th October 2016

Number present: 35

1. **Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting held at the Beardmore Hotel and Conference Centre, Glasgow on Saturday 24th October 2014**

These were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed: Ferelith Hordon

Seconded: Joy Court

2. **Annual Report 2015: Agnès Guyon: 2015 YLG National Chair**

Diversity and partnership were the two main themes for 2015. YLG has worked in partnership with the Association of Senior Children's and Education Librarians. Sarah Mears, chair of ASCEL was invited to a YLG meeting, resulting in major YLG input in the creation of a toolkit for library staff. Members of YLG were part of the judging panel for the CILIP Information Services Group Reference Awards, which this year featured Information Resources for Young People as it's special interest reference award category.

We held a very successful conference in partnership with the CILIP Community Diversity Equalities Group "Diversity, variety and choice: how to put the right book in the right hands". It took place in Glasgow in October 2015 and was attended by 113 delegates. Huge thanks to everyone on the committee who worked hard to make this event a success.

The CKG working party and Amnesty International have worked together to create the new Amnesty CILIP Honour, which was launched at the YLG/CDEG conference in October. I am absolutely delighted about this new partnership. It confirms what we already know:

that books are crucial if we want to build a better world, and that stories have the power to teach important values to children and inspiring empathy. In addition, we have continued with our existing partnerships with the School Library Association, CILIP School Libraries Group and the Federation of Children's Book Groups.

The CILIP Carnegie & Kate Greenaway Award was presented on 22nd June at the British Library. The nominations for both awards exceeded all previous years, with 91 books nominated for the Carnegie Medal and 71 nominated for the Kate Greenaway Medal. Tanya Landman won the 2015 Carnegie Medals for Buffalo Soldier and William Grill won the 2015 Kate Greenaway Medal with his debut Shackleton's Journey. William happened to be the youngest winner of the Medal since Gerald Rose in 1960, and it was lovely to welcome Gerald to the ceremony!

Finally, I would like to thank you all for a wonderful year. Being the chair of YLG has been the highlight of my career and I would not have done it without you – thank you for believing in me in the first place and supporting me throughout the year. If anyone out there is still wondering whether to join their local committee, I would urge you to do it – you'll make friends for life!

The report was accepted by the meeting.

Proposed: Margaret Pemberton

Seconded: Ferelith Hordon

3. **Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement for 2015**

The accounts for YLG's business year 1 January – 31 December 2015 were presented by YLG National Treasurer Russell Allen. We started the year with a bank balance of £15,681.31. Income for the year totalled £30,665.79, earned from conference fees, capitation from CILIP, bank interest and some miscellaneous items. Expenditure for the year totalled £37,191.10, spent on conference costs, committee expenses, YLR production costs, support for the CKG awards and some support for regional CPD activities. The closing bank balance at the end of the year was £9,336.00.

Proposed: Sioned Jacques

Seconded: Joy Court

4. **Officers and Committee for 2017**

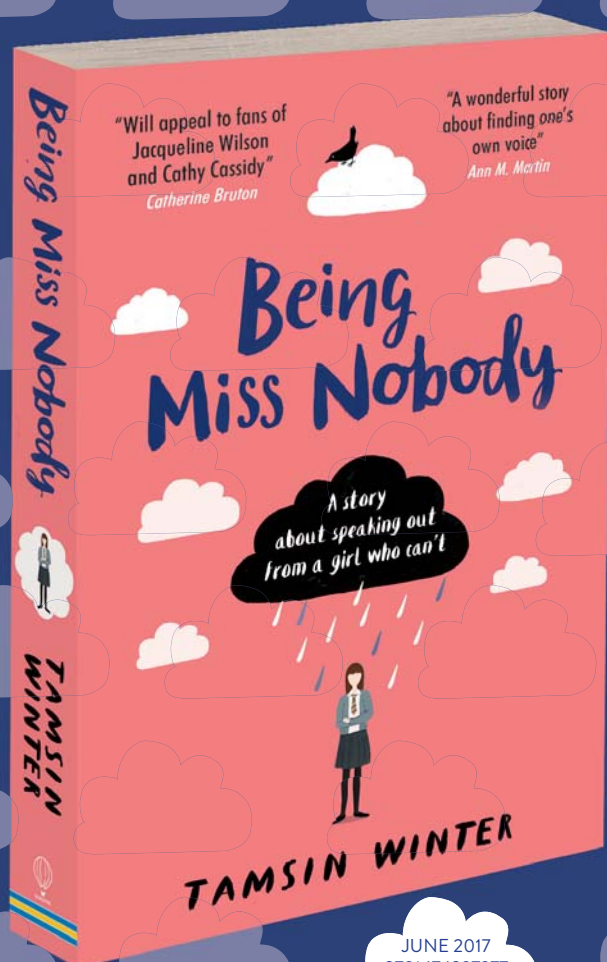
Agnès Guyon, YLG National Chair 2015 thanked everyone on the committee for their work during the year. She introduced the YLG National Committee members for 2016 and YLG regional representatives present also introduced themselves.

5. **Close of meeting:** The meeting closed at 9.20am.

Youth Libraries Group Accounts

1st January - 31st December 2016

	£
Balance at 1 Jan 2016	£9,336.00
EXPENDITURE	
Committee	£4,202.79
CKG	£2,910.06
Conference	£15,314.49
YLR	£2,905.00
Regional support	£500.00
VAT incurred	£3,191.30
VAT paid to CILIP	£1,103.10
Miscellaneous	£35.00
Subtotal	£30,161.74
INCOME	
Capitation	£2,547.00
VAT	£4,212.23
Interest	£19.14
Conference	£21,061.14
YLR	£0.00
Membership	£180.00
Miscellaneous	£149.78
Subtotal	£28,169.29
Profit/Loss	-£1,992.45
Balance at 31 December 2016	£7,343.55



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to the Youth Libraries Group for shortlisting *Tidy* by Emily Gravett
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Further treats to come in 2017

