

Teen Librarian

Monthly Newsletter

www.teenlibrarian.co.uk

Editorial

Welcome to the December edition of Teen Librarian Monthly! This issue was supposed to come out in November but owing to life interfering it has been delayed until now. The main reason for this delay is that I began a new job over here in the US – I am now a Youth Services Associate for the Kansas City Kansas Public Library which means I am back doing library services for children and young people, this is my third week in this role and I can honestly say that I have missed it! I loved my time as a School Librarian in the UK but it seems that my heart, soul and body belong in a public library service – particularly in the part that works with children and young people!

Did everyone sign the petition to ring-fence library funding that I mentioned in the previous newsletter? If not can I urge you to do so now, for even though the government has given a mealy-mouthed response to it and shunted the blame for spending back onto local authorities. You can sign the petition (and read the government's response here: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/228742>)

Back in July I ran an article about a 'zine workshop organized by Librarian Ka-Ming Pang that gave BAME Library staff the opportunity to create a 'zine documenting their experiences of being a minority in a 97% white profession. The 'zine can be viewed here: https://issuu.com/bamezine/docs/bame_librarians_zine_v2 it is an eye-opening piece of work.

Do you have any youth-centric events or activities planned for January 2019 (or at any point in the upcoming year)? If you do and seeing as I do know what youth services library folk do then I would like to hear from you if you want to share with me and other library colleagues across the country and world. Heck I would like to hear from you if you have an idea for future articles for TLM or the blog – please don't be shy!

Finally to all those celebrating Hanukkah, Festivus, Kwanzaa, Saturnalia, HumanLight, Yuletide (and any other festival that I have not mentioned) this month I hope that it is wonderful and full of joy!

Contents

Peadar O'Guilin's CreepyCast	2
Express Newspaper Launches Fight to Save Libraries	2
Out of this World Images from NASA	2
Events Calendar	2
Copyright Free Image Sources	2
An Object Lesson on Social Media Use & Misuse	3
Cats on the Page at the British Library	4
Links	
Celebrating BAME Characters from British History	4
A Suicide Bomber Sits in the Library	4
Beyond the Secret Garden	4

Write for Teen Librarian

All submissions of articles, reviews & ideas are welcome and can be sent to teenlibraryservice@gmail.com

How to Subscribe

Subscriptions to Teen Librarian Monthly are free! Send an e-mail to: teenlibraryservice@gmail.com to be added to the mailing list.

Peadar O'Guilin's CreepyCast

Once you are safely tucked up in bed let acclaimed YA horror author Peadar o'Guilin read some of his creepy short stories to you! Don't worry, you do not need to invite him in to sit by your bed as you try and sleep! You can listen here: <http://www.peadar.org/podcast> or subscribe to his podcast via whatever podcast app you have on your smart device.

Express Newspaper Launches Fight to save Libraries

Although not personally a fan of right-wing newspapers (or tabloids in general), I whole-heartedly support the Express for throwing their hat into the ring on behalf of public libraries!

You can read the article announcing their support here:

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1053788/libraries-branches-closing-down-britain-high-street>

Out of this World Images from NASA

Do you sometimes require amazing images for events and activities? NASA Image and Video Library allows users to search, discover and download a treasure trove of more than 140,000 NASA images, videos and audio files from across the agency's many missions in aeronautics, astrophysics, Earth science, human spaceflight, and more. Users now can embed content in their own sites and choose from multiple resolutions to download. The website also displays the metadata associated with images.

Users can browse the agency's most recently uploaded files, as well as discover historic and the most popularly searched images, audio files and videos. Other features include:

- Automatically scales the interface for mobile phones and tablets
- Displays the EXIF/camera data that includes exposure, lens used, and other information, when available from the original image
- Allows for easy public access to high resolution files
- All video includes a downloadable caption file

<https://images.nasa.gov/>

Events Calendar

I have made my events calendar available for public use over on TeenLibrarian! This is not a calendar listing events I am going to as that would be of no interest to anyone as I am currently not doing much apart from working. Rather it is a calendar of days (holy, hedonistic and some that are just hilarious). It is very much a work in progress but I have listed days in every month of the year, so if you are looking for ideas to base displays around, why not make a stop at: <http://teenlibrarian.co.uk/2018/12/03/event-calendar/> for a bit of inspiration.

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- <https://unsplash.com/>
- <https://freerangestock.com/>

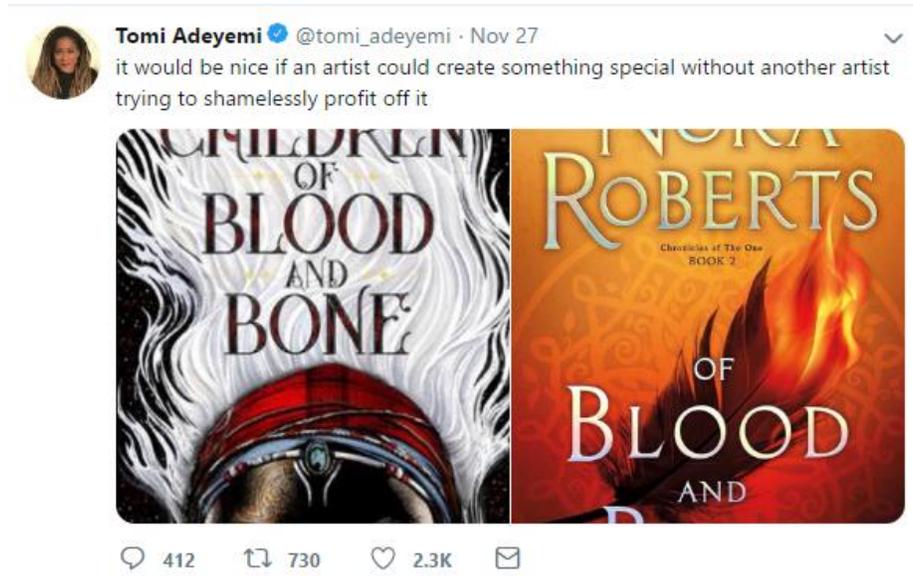
An Object Lesson on Social Media Use and Misuse

This is a good example of the use and misuse of twitter that can be used in a lesson on social media for users of all ages.

Tomi Adeyemi has written a brilliant book called [The Children of Blood and Bone](#)

Nora Roberts' new book is titled [Of Blood and Bone](#)

Tomi publicly accused Nora of plagiarism on Twitter due to the similarity of the titles:



This led to the usual mob pile on of fans calling Nora out on multiple platforms; who reached out to Tomi to try and smooth over the trouble that was erupting.

Tomi then tweeted an apology and explanation to calm her fans:



However, she left the original tweet up, which has kept the hate cycle rolling.

Requests from Nora's side to have the tweet taken down have, so far, remained unanswered.

Nora then wrote this post on her blog: <http://fallintothestory.com/mob-rule-by-social-media/>

This post gives a brilliant insight to what people under attack online can experience. It can also be used to discuss plagiarism, how the publishing industry works and also (and very importantly) online bullying as well as the importance of having all your facts in order before attacking someone publicly.

Nora and Tomi are both amazing writers, one with 30+ years experience and the other a first-time author, this contretemps seems to have soured views in both fan camps which may lead to many people not experiencing the wonderful work both authors have produced.

Fan is short for fanatic and sometimes the fanaticism comes to the fore and events can occur that damage fandoms, publishing and book lovers are not immune to this, as this event shows.

Cats on the Page at the British Library

I know that not all librarians love (or even like) cats, but many do. We all love libraries and I think that most of us enjoy special displays, so if you can get down to the British Library sometime before the 17th March you will be able to enjoy the free exhibition celebrating our furry friends in literature.

Highlights include:

- **Original illustrations by much-loved artists** including Mog by Judith Kerr, Beatrix Potter's Kitty-in-Boots as imagined by Quentin Blake, Gobbolino the Witch's Cat by Ursula Moray Williams, Fred by Posy Simmonds and two illustrations for T. S. Eliot's *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats* by Axel Scheffler
- **Lewis Carroll's own copy of the exceptionally rare third edition of *Through the Looking-Glass and what Alice found there* (1893)**, in which the author notes his frustration with the printing including a comment on an illustration of Alice's kitten
- **A selection of sound recordings for all ages** including a reading of *Macavity the Mystery Cat* by T.S. Eliot, songs from the musical *Cats* and Disney's *The Aristocats* and music by The Cure
- **Edward Lear's charming doodles of himself and his cat, Foss**, contained within a letter written to a friend in 1879
- **A 16th century pamphlet on witchcraft** describing the activities of Elizabeth Stile and three other 'notorious witches', with a woodcut image accompanying the description of the black cat or familiar belonging to Mother Devell (who is alleged to have fed it with milk mixed with her own blood)

For full details, visit: <https://www.bl.uk/events/cats-on-the-page>

Links

Celebrating BAME figures from British history

Scholastic will next year publish a series of books about BAME protagonists from British history, with Bali Rai and Patrice Lawrence signed on to write the first titles.

<https://www.thebookseller.com/news/rai-and-patrice-celebrate-bame-figures-british-history-899456>

A Suicide Bomber Sits in a Library

A fantastic post by Karen Sands-O'Connor about the A Suicide Bomber Sits in the Library controversy

<https://theracetoread.wordpress.com/2018/11/29/brown-bombers-what-readers-expect-and-what-viewers-get/>

Beyond the Secret Garden: 'We English' Non Fiction and Belonging in Children's Literature

An article by Darren Chetty and Karen Sands-O'Connor about representation of BAME voices in reference books for children

<https://content.yudu.com/web/1mjdv/OA1mjdx/BFK233/html/index.html?page=16&origin=reader>