



Here we are halfway through the 2015 and the end of the school year is coming ever nearer. This week the 2015 CILIP Carnegie & Kate Greenaway Award winning books were announced, I am particularly proud as this was my first year as a CKG Judge so am quite willing to accept the blame if you disagreed with the judges choices; it was an extremely difficult decision but I feel the right ones were made.

Coming up in July is the second in the hopefully now annual Midlands School Library Camp, so if are anywhere within striking distance of Derby I recommend you go as I heard last year was fantastic! School librarian Valerie Dewhurst has contributed an article on her experiences with Accelerated Reader – well-worth a read if you are considering going down the AR route at school.

This month we also take a quick look at the Public Library Offer to Young People as a new version of the document has been released by ASCEL. I share my views on our new Children's Laureate, bring you news of a competition being run by Atom books to win a year's supply of books and also include information on where to register for the latest Booktrust School Library pack.

This month also sees the return of the Eight Questions With... interview section, this month ten Librarian has spoken to A.J. Steiger, author of the amazing *Mindwalker*.

CILIP Carnegie & Kate Greenaway Award Ceremony

Well the CILIP Carnegie & Kate Greenaway Medals have been awarded for 2015 and what was an amazing experience for a first-time judge is now receding rapidly in the rear-view mirror.

The selection of *Buffalo Soldier* by Tanya Landman for the Carnegie Medal and *Shackleton's Journey* by William Grill for the Kate Greenaway Medal was no easy task, cutting the long-list of 20 books (for each of the awards) down to eight titles was a painful process. I will not even attempt to describe the bloody winnowing of the nominated titles that went into creating the long-list.

Tears were shed, passionate arguments were heard and many persuasive techniques were

made by the judges and now looking back I can honestly say that the correct decisions were made! As a judge alongside my fellow judges we stand proudly by the titles we chose.

Attending the Awards Ceremony is a perk of being a judge and I really recommend that everyone with an interest in literature for children and young people try and attend at least once. Heck, if you are a librarian and a member of CILIP then get involved with your regional YLG Committee and put yourself forward for the position of CKG regional representative (aka a Carnegie & Kate Greenaway Judge), it really is rewarding, you get to meet reps from other regions, improve your knowledge of children's books (including YA, MG & picture books) and get to be part of a panel that selects the most outstanding books of a year (for children & young people).

The ceremony this year was amazing! It took place in the British Library, prior to the awarding of the medals there was a mingling with coffee and biscuits in the foyer with authors & illustrators being besieged for signatures by shadowing groups and everyone else in attendance that did not write or draw. During the awards ceremony we were welcomed by CILIP CEO Nicholas Poole and entertained by MC Mel Giedroyc, host of the Great British Bake-off. Chris Riddell the Children's Laureate was in attendance and showed how swift he is at drawing by live-sketching the ceremony, you can view his sketches on his Instagram site here:

https://instagram.com/chris_riddell/

For full details on the awards and the winning authors please check out the CILIP Carnegie & Kate Greenaway Website: <http://bit.ly/1xukQWL>

Midlands School Library Camp 2015

For the second year running the Midlands will host a School Library Camp. This year we have decamped (sorry!) to the north of the region and the 2015 event will be held at the University of Derby's main campus at Kedleston Road.

More details about the location here: <http://bit.ly/1xlw5hB>

The event is taking place on Saturday 11th July. Doors open 10:00 and we expect to be finished and wiping up cake crumbs by 3:00pm.

Click here for more information and to grab your free tickets: <http://bit.ly/1BMdw0l>

At last year's event we discussed all sorts of stuff from our policies towards noise to using Minecraft. What will you discuss this year? Pitch your ideas or see what others want to talk about here: <http://bit.ly/1lyvsZo>

Chris Riddell: Children's Laureate for 2015-17

Each Children's Laureate brings something new and amazing to the role, my personal favourite has been Malorie Blackman due to the frankly amazing work she has done in raising the profile of teen fiction and YA engagement in general.

When Chris Riddell's name was announced yesterday I punched the air and whispered "Yeah!" (I was in the Library), I think he is a brilliant choice and has appeal from small children to their parents and grandparents as well as everyone in between.

I am a big fan of Chris Riddell's work and after hearing his views on libraries, reading, illustrations and how he let his children draw in his sketchbooks with him, I have become a fan of the man himself!

At his unveiling as Laureate he released his Five Point plan for the next two years and School Libraries feature heavily.

MY FIVE POINT PLAN.

1. THE LAUREATE LOG.
DAILY DRAWINGS POSTED ONLINE CHARTING THE PROGRESS OF THE LAUREATESHIP.
2. WORDS NEED PICTURES.
THE CREATION OF VISUAL RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES AND CLASSROOMS EVERYWHERE.
3. THE JOY OF SKETCHBOOKS.
PROMOTING DAILY DOODLING IN BEAUTIFUL NOTEBOOKS.
4. STAY CALM AND KEEP READING.
CELEBRATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIES AND READING FOR PLEASURE.
5. THE DOODLER
MYSTERIOUS MASKED MAN DRAWING ON WALLS AND CONDUCTING LIVE DRAWING EVENTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS, FIND HIM EVERYWHERE AND ANYWHERE IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS.



Chris Riddell on Illustration:

During my term I want to use the immediacy and universality of illustration to bring people together and lead them all into the wonderful world of books and reading

On School Libraries:

It's bizarre that it is not a requirement for the very places where children will learn how to read, draw, think and create to have a space for books... I want to help and encourage every school to do more for readers. If they have nowhere to read, create a space with a few books; if they have a bookshelf, have two; if they have a reading room, aim for a library.

I am looking forward to following what he does as Laureate and will be sharing it with the students in my school and encouraging them to pick up pencils and paper with their books. Find out more about Chris, his plans and previous Laureates at the Children's Laureate site here:

<http://www.childrenslaureate.org.uk/>

Follow his Laureate Log

here: chrisriddellblog.tumblr.com

The School Library & the success of Accelerated Reader

A few weeks ago I was asked to put a few words together for AR (yet again) to show how it's been working and show any successes. Now that we are coming toward the end of our second year using AR we are delighted with it and all that we have achieved this year. I am sure most librarians who use AR are very passionate about it - but we are also constantly aware of the negatives/the drawbacks which accompany this reading programme. However, for us the positives outsell the negatives because here at my school AR is working.

When AR was introduced here it was all new to me and like anyone taking on something new I did have my concerns. I did know lots of other librarians successfully using it so I didn't feel totally in the dark (thanks to our Lancashire branch of the SLA) However, I needed to get to grips with it fast (decision made in June for a Sept start) "Great!" I thought!

My paper reading scheme (which I inherited from my predecessor) had worked well - it had a creative touch as we redesigned book covers, wrote letters to authors, put together presentations and lots of other nice creative

tasks. But of course this had to go - sad as it was to say goodbye, it had to go.

Always one for a challenge I got stuck in, had a half day training - then head down and soon transformed our library into one which could work with the AR programme. To my surprise we had over 75% of book stock suitable to use (those using AR will know full well what I mean - levelled with quizzes.) So an amazing start - but then for the hard partlabelling - day in, day out - every spare minute, students helping, staying longer after school - coming in over the summer in my time - even dreaming about labelling!

Then Sept arrived - library lessons commenced and before I knew it I was in full swing of delivering AR sessions to 18 groups over a 2 week cycle - to all year 7, 8 and 9. Yes, quite a task but I know I'm not alone - so many of us do this too - with success.

The first term was a learning curve for me - I was learning just like the students were and I happily admitted to them that AR was all new to me and that we'd be learning together. It was an enjoyable term, hard work getting my head around all the AR data but I was really (and I still am) enjoying it.

Then one day a thought came to mind - as it does. I started to think of how our Lancashire branch of the SLA could share their expertise and knowledge with others new to AR - so many seemed to be taking it on with little training. So I put an email together and sent it to our members - never knowing just what would develop from it. A few weeks later I was hosting our very first AR user group here in school - with both members from our branch and also outside of our branch attending. Our user group had been born - no stopping us now. Since then we have met termly and shared much good practice with lots of confusions being ironed out - problems solved. As they say a problem shared is a problem halved! Every meeting we all take something back from our meetings to use in our own schools - we all have many success stories to share. And, it's not all work and no play as sometimes we end the session with a meal out/some social time.

So 2 years on and still loving AR (most days) It's been a whirlwind, a challenge and every day I discover something new from either our branch of Lancashire librarians or from SLN (school library network) there is so much else to it - so much we can do, time permitting of course.

We've taken it slowly here - it's the only way and

we have adapted the programme to meet our needs - that's what's also good about AR.

So after writing my argument yet again to justify keeping AR I do so wish we didn't have to do this every year - results should be enough to secure this programme. After all if we didn't use AR we'd only be using something else.

I close with a positive message - if you're thinking of embarking on AR then don't be afraid - tailor it to meet your needs - be passionate about it once it's up and running because if you are then students will be too. Don't be alone - it's a joint venture between you the librarian and the English department (a time to work together) and a whole school resource (co-curricular.) But, be prepared to be far busier - Issue more books than ever before - chat more to curious minds/students - have more bodies in your libraries - issue more credits/awards/certificates - celebrate more!

Reach for the STARS (you'll see lots as your achievers become your STAR readers) - celebrate your millionaires (creating a wealth of avid readers) but most all of enjoy AR - I've got a feeling it is going to be around for quite some time!

The icing on the cake for me was to recently award over 30 students with the AR Reading Millionaire award and to be nominated and take on the role of AR Facilitator for our Lancashire branch of the SLA.

V B Dewhurst
Head of Library
Lancashire School

Children and Young People's Promise: the Public Library offer to Young People

ASCEL (The Association of Senior Children's and Education Librarians) has launched a new version of the [Children and Young People's Promise](#). The Promise outlines the public library offer to children and young people. It highlights the quality of the experience they should have when visiting their library or using digital services. It identifies the role the public library plays in supporting children's literacy and reading for pleasure; their health and wellbeing; cultural activity and community participation.

The Promise also outlines the children's [library journey](#) detailing the interactions public libraries should have with children as they grow, responding to their changing needs, from

providing rhyme times for babies and toddlers, support for school transition to volunteering opportunities for young people.

The Children and Young People's Promise supports the [Universal Offers](#) developed by the Society of Chief Librarians (SCL) and their partners.

Sarah Mears, Chair: ASCEL. "Children and public libraries need each other. We want every child to love their library. This Promise means that we'll do everything we can to ensure that all children using libraries feel inspired, excited and valued".

Ciara Eastell, President: Society of Chief Librarians "Regular access to a library for children is a vital ingredient of a happy childhood, and sets children up to benefit from all that public libraries offer at every stage of life. We embrace this new Promise and library journey research and look forward to seeing it used in libraries across England."

Win a Year's Supply of Books with Atom



Atom are offering readers the chance to win a year's supply of books in anticipation of CJ Daugherty's amazing new series, *The Secret Fire*!

That's right, CJ Daugherty – the internationally best-selling novelist of the Night School series – will

be publishing her next YA series this September! *The Secret Fire* is about a boy in Paris and a girl England who meet as pen pals. Unbeknown to them, they are connected by an ancient curse which dictates that our Parisian hero, Sacha Winters, will die on his eighteenth birthday and an ancient prophecy will be fulfilled. Unless Taylor Montclair can save him . . .

Atom want to know what you would like to do MOST before you turn eighteen. As well as what kind of books you love reading. Take their survey and have a chance at winning that life-time supply of books!

You can follow the link to their survey here:

<http://svy.mk/1lyvyjK>

Co-written with French author Carina Rozenfeld, *The Secret Fire* is the first cross-channel YA novel ever and promises to be the most anticipated book this year!

School Library Pack

The School Library Pack is available free to any secondary school or education provider in England with Year 7 students.

For full details and to register follow this link:

<http://bit.ly/1oU9tnw>

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Eight Questions With... A.J. Steiger

Hi A.J. welcome to the Eight Questions With... interview for Teen Librarian, would you like to introduce yourself to the audience?

Hi, I'm A.J. Steiger, and I live in Illinois. I'm a writer and freelance transcriptionist. My work keeps me in front of the computer a lot, so I try to get out into nature sometimes to remind myself that the world is more than words and screens. *Mindwalker* is my first young adult novel, and it's out now with OneWorld Publications, and also with Knopf in the U.S.

Can you give us an idea of what *Mindwalker* is about and what inspired you to write it?

Mindwalker is set in a future where people can choose to have painful memories removed. Seventeen-year-old Lain Fisher is a prodigy who's already skilled at wiping away her patients' traumas. A troubled classmate asks her to erase a horrific childhood experience from his mind, and while exploring his memories, she learns that he's connected to something much bigger...something their government doesn't want the world to discover.

I've always found the idea of memory modification to be a fascinating and disturbing concept. There's a quote from Gregory Maguire that sums it up well: "Memory is a part of the present. It builds us up inside; it knits our bones to our muscles and keeps our hearts pumping. It is memory that reminds our bodies to work, and memory that reminds our spirits to work too: it keeps us who we are."

If you change someone's memories, you change their identity. It's the ultimate power over an individual. It could be used for good—to help people overcome horrors like war, abuse, and assault—but it could very easily go wrong, especially if institutions gain the power to control which facts people remember and which ones they forget.

Mindwalker is also a novel about mental illness and the social stigma that often goes along with it, which I think is a hugely important issue.

Dystopian novels seem to have an enduring popularity, especially amongst young adult readers, what do you think the reason for this is?

The world is already pretty scary. Transforming our fears into fiction gives us a sense of control and reminds us that there are things we can do about the situation we're living in.

I think young readers especially like these books because they often involve themes of rebellion or bucking the system. When you're young, the universe hasn't had time to wear you down and make you cynical and complacent, so there's still this burning fire to tackle injustice, and that's a wonderful thing.

There's a danger of sliding into escapism, though. If we satisfy our need for rebellion vicariously, through movies and books, it can take the edge off our hunger for real change. So I think a good dystopian ought to leave you at least a little bit nervous. Truth and justice doesn't always win—it doesn't happen automatically. You have to keep fighting for it.

***Mindwalker* has been compared favourably to *The Giver* by Lois Lowry – have you ever read it and do you read novels by other YA writers? If yes would you be able to recommend some authors and titles?**

I first read *The Giver* as a teenager, and it left an impression on me. Its world seems very safe and civilized and pleasant on the surface, but once you peel back the outer layers you see the darkness underneath, and to me that makes it more interesting than a world where everything is blatantly horrible. Real horror doesn't always advertise itself.

I've also read more current YA fiction like *The Hunger Games* and Marie Lu's *Legend* series, and I enjoyed all of those. But my favourite YA novels tend to be brooding, introspective stories like *The Adoration of Jenna Fox*.

Did you set out to write specifically for teenagers or do you write for yourself and hope that your work finds an audience?

I think all writers have to strike a balance between writing for themselves and writing for an audience. I originally conceived of *Mindwalker* as a science fiction story for adults, with adult characters. But in the process of writing, I decided to make it YA, and something clicked.

What is the most rewarding part of the writing experience for you?

Revision. Apparently, many writers hate editing, but for me it's a lot of fun. Writing the rough draft is kind of like generating the raw clay—it's messy, lumpy and unfinished—and once you have enough of that clay, you can start shaping it and playing with it and seeing it really become what it's supposed to be. That's a very exciting feeling.

Of course, I also love getting feedback. Writing is fundamentally an act of communication. Without readers, the experience is incomplete.

What is coming next after *Mindwalker*?

I'm currently working on the sequel, *Mindstormer*. After that, we'll see. I'll probably continue to write young adult fiction, though I'd like to try branching out into different genres, like fantasy.

You are based in the US so visiting schools and reading groups in the UK may be a bit difficult but do you ever do Skype visits to international groups that are interested in meeting you?

I haven't yet, but that could be a possibility for the future.

Mindwalker is published by Rock the Boat and is available now.