



Welcome to the August edition of Teen Librarian Monthly! I apologise for the lack of a July edition which fell by the wayside as I was involved in a massive cataloguing project – I can proudly state that my school library is now fully catalogued and I will now be focusing on developing the library service that I have seen in my mind's eye!

This month I start off with a challenge to everyone that reads TLM no matter where you are in the world I hope you will take it up as libraries can only survive and thrive if we all work together!

Following on from the challenge, The Reader Organisation is looking for a project worker – which looks like an interesting project for anyone who loves reading and working with teenagers.

We then take a look at Reading Groups for Everyone – an initiative by the reading Agency aimed at fostering a love of reading groups for all ages. There is a chance to win a full set of the Diary of a Wimpy Kid novels (including the latest one which was unveiled today).

Also this month I have included a number of upcoming dates of interest that may be good subjects for displays and activities – it is a mix of serious and light-hearted so there should be something for everybody.

Finally this month's eight questions with... interview is with Andy Robb, actor and author of the *Geekhood* YA novels.

The Teen Librarian Challenge

Local government will again be the biggest loser on Wednesday as the chancellor, George Osborne, unveils £11.5bn of overall spending cuts in 2015-16, an end to automatic pay progression, and a further round of public-sector job losses.

- <http://goo.gl/GmczZL>

Between 2010 and 2016 most library services will lose 30% to 40% of their budget. The extent varies, but few organisations can take a hit in their

budget of that size and carry on unchanged

<http://goo.gl/NDbzhH>

If you have followed the links above you will be aware of the perilous state libraries are in and have been in for a few years now. Every part of the library service will be affected by the new cuts that are coming up, we all know colleagues that have lost their posts due to cuts and that is set to become more severe.

So, I am issuing a challenge to everyone that works with young people in libraries. Ever since starting Teen Librarian Monthly over seven years ago I have asked readers to share ideas for library-based activities aimed at encouraging teenagers to engage with their public (and school) libraries. To date a number of librarians have contributed some really excellent ideas that I have shared through the newsletter and website.

If everyone sends in at least one idea of events they have run in the past then it will be possible to create a series of events that can run for over a year.

We are all in the same boat – we have more demands on our work time, less time to plan events, budgets if we have them are being stretched to breaking point to cover everything we do.

So if you have ever run an event for young people in a library then send it in. If you have ever had an idea about a library-based activity for teens and young readers then we would love to hear about it. If you have ever run a library event and have it go horribly wrong then please share – ideas that do not work in one location may soar in others.

Everyone that sends in an idea or activity will receive the credit, if several people send in the same or similar ideas, credit

will be shared. If you wish to remain anonymous then that is what will be done.

Starting from the next edition of Teen Librarian Monthly I will be running old articles about events that may spark new ideas or even be dusted off and renewed. This will only work if everyone shares – the idea you send in may help a colleague on the brink of despair, it could spark a teens love of reading or case a teen group to form in a library under threat of closure due to lack of services.

Can You Say Yes? Young Persons Project Work at The Reader Organisation

- **Do you have experience of working with young people?**
- **Do you understand the work, aims and values of The Reader Organisation?**
- **Do you engage with literature on a deep and personal level?**
- **Can you imagine yourself fostering a love of reading in others?**
- **Do you have a full, clear enhanced CRB check? (or are you willing to undergo one)?**
- **Are you available for work within the next few weeks?**

If you can say **yes** to all of the questions above, The Reader Organisation is looking for you to fill an exciting and enriching full-time job opportunity working as a **Young Persons Project Worker**.

We work to inspire a love of reading for pleasure in young people all year round, building imagination, confidence, self-esteem and relationships with peers through reading in a variety of settings, in groups and in one-on-one sessions.

For complete details and how to apply, follow this link: <http://goo.gl/Uko97g>

Reading Groups for Everyone

Reading Groups for Everyone is run by [The Reading Agency](http://www.readingagency.org) the independent

charity with a mission to get more people reading more, in partnership with the [Society of Chief Librarians](http://www.societyofchieflibrarians.org).

The Reading Agency has solid track record of running creative projects with libraries and other organisations like schools, colleges and workplaces, to open up reading groups to more people. They have also carried out in-depth research with reading groups and academic partners into the positive benefits reading groups can bring. From both their practical experience and research, they know that reading groups are good for people and good for society - they are social, enjoyable, promote well-being, raise educational achievement and build skills.

Reading Groups for Everyone is spreading the word and celebrating all the great things that reading groups, writing groups and book clubs offer.

The ambition is that Reading Groups for Everyone becomes the place where anyone can come to find information about reading groups in their area. Where people who are running reading groups can find support, resources and evidence, plus offers and events their group can benefit from. And where everyone can learn more about the many ways reading groups can make a difference to people and their communities.

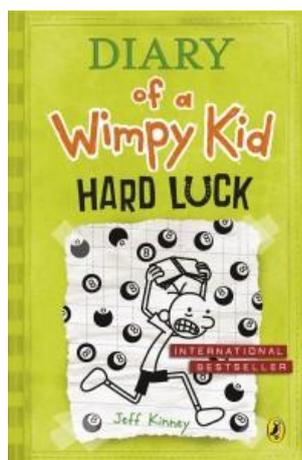
If you are running a Teen Reading Group in your Library then sign up, Reading Groups for Everyone regularly offers reading sets of novels for readers of all ages *for free* - see what is currently available here:

<http://readinggroups.org/offers/>

To find out more about Reading Groups for Everyone follow this link:

<http://readinggroups.org>

Diary of a Wimpy Kid Competition



The brand new eye-popping lime green cover for the eighth book *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Hard Luck* has been revealed today!

Diary of a Wimpy: Hard

Luck will be published by Puffin on Wimpy Kid Wednesday 6th November 2013 and is set to be the biggest children's book of the year!

Greg Heffley's on a losing streak. His best friend, Rowley Jefferson, has ditched him, and finding new friends in middle school is proving to be a tough task.

To change his fortunes, Greg decides to take a leap of faith and turn his decisions over to chance.

Will a roll of the dice turn things around, or is Greg's life destined to be just another hard-luck story?

To celebrate the unveil, we're offering you the chance to win a **full set of Wimpy Kid books plus the latest Wimpy Kid film: *Dog Days***. Just email competitions@worldbookday.com with your name and address and the subject line **WBD WIMPY KID**.

Competition closes 31 August 2013.
<http://goo.gl/OHVgqI>

Upcoming Events to Celebrate in the Library

International Youth Day*

*Not the one with the Pope

On 17 December 1999, in its resolution 54/120, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (Lisbon, 8-12 August 1998) that 12 August be declared International Youth Day.

The theme of International Youth Day 2013 is "Youth Migration: Moving Development Forward ."

<http://www.un.org/en/events/youthday/>

International Cosplay Day

This year on the 27th August International Cosplay Day is a celebration for Cosplayers with meet-ups held in locations around the world.

<https://en-gb.facebook.com/IntCosDay>

International Literacy Day 2013: Literacies for the 21st Century

For over 40 years now, UNESCO has been celebrating International Literacy Day by reminding the international community that literacy is a human right and the foundation of all learning.

<http://goo.gl/dHYEZm>

Friday 13th September

Celebrate *friggatriskaidekaphobia* on this day! Introduce your teens to an amazing word and also to superstitions around world.

International Talk Like a Pirate Day

It is never too early to start planning for ITLAPD, held on the 19th September every year. If you have never talked like a pirate give it a try – it isn't 'aaaaaaard!

Write for Teen Librarian!

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

Subscribe!

Subscribing to Teen Librarian Monthly is free just send an e-mail to: teenlibraryservice@gmail.com

Eight Questions With... Andy Robb

What influenced your decision to write for Teenagers?

I think of my teenage years as the years that formed my opinions about what I do and don't believe in; in that sense, that period of time was very inspirational. There are still things I do, music I listen to and books that I read that are strongly linked to those days – and many of my heroes were identified between hormonal surges. It was also a time of highs and lows, with very little flat-lining going on. I think I write for teenagers because I feel it's an important thing to do and, vainly, I'd like to hope that one of my books gets soaked up by a teen, as some sort of influence.

How do you get into the heads of your characters?

I spent 20 years as an actor, so it's part of what I do! I approach the characters I write in the same way as I do TV or theatre characters; it's about discovering their cores, rather than giving them identifiable speech-patterns. Once you've nailed their cores, the characters' foibles and idiosyncrasies seem to flow and you don't need to 'create' their differences; they're already there. 'Organic' is a word I tend to associate with potatoes, but it's an organic process.

Do you know instinctively what will appeal to Teens or is it more a hit or miss process?

I'm working on the theory that teens' experiences are fairly universal and timeless. There might be different gadgets and methods of communication, but the themes seem to be the same; take a look at Romeo and Juliet – how long ago was that written?

What is the most satisfying part of the writing process for you?

Testing your theories about what your characters can do and how they will react. For me, writing a book is a bit like sending a gladiator into the Coliseum;

you throw things at them, to see what they're made of.

Do you ever read the works of other Teen/YA authors? If yes what can you recommend?

I do; I've always loved YA books and still do. I'd cheerfully recommend the genius of Philip Reeve and his Mortal Engines books. And having read the proof of Natasha Desborough's Quimboids vs Weirdos, I reckon she's one to watch out for!

Are any of your novels based on personal experiences?

Yes. Both the Geekhood books draw heavily from my Geek status as a teenager, as well as my uselessness with girls! Plus, my parents were splitting up at the time and there's a look at how divorce can impact on the way you think, as a teen.

Are you working on anything new at the moment or do you have anything planned?

I am. I've got a new book in progress, which is as far away from Geekhood as possible. It's interesting writing it, as there are characters from Geekhood that I miss (especially the IM) and the temptation to drop back into the Geekhood 'voice' is a strong one – but I'm resisting it so far!

Do you ever do Library visits to Teen Reading Groups? If yes, what is the best way to get into contact with you or your agent about it?

I do! The best way to get me is via my email:

theutterlyheroicandyrobb@googlemail.com

Apologies for the lengthy address, but it was the only one that had my name in it, that wasn't taken! (That's my story and I'm sticking to it)

<http://theandyrobbsite.co.uk/>