



Welcome to the October edition of Teen Librarian Monthly! Ahhhh October, autumn is in the air and Halloween is rapidly approaching.

Before we get there though there is still time to submit your nominations for the **CILIP Carnegie & Kate Greenaway Awards!** Nominations close at 23:30 on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> – that is tomorrow so if you have not yet nominated (and have CILIP membership) get nominating here: [bit.ly/14RNKX](http://bit.ly/14RNKX)

We start off by looking at a game that can be played in schools as well as public libraries: Book Monopoly; written by phenomenal School Librarian Caroline Fielding.

Malorie Blackman has announced a Young Adult Book convention for 2014, tied in with the London Film & Comic Con which is exciting for all fans of YA literature (both adult and teens).

National Short Story Week returns in November, if you are in a school you have until the end of tomorrow to register for a short story competition courtesy of LFC. In honour of the approach of Halloween I have included a link to a relatively simple activity – creating monster page corner bookmarks. After which follows news on Neil Gaiman and what he has been up to (and how it affects libraries).

Those of you that have been keeping up with educational news will have seen that UK teens are doing rather poorly with literacy & numeracy; I have included a few thoughts on regarding that poor state of affairs.

Jonathan Stroud is running a Halloween special short story in the week running up to Halloween that may be of interest and finally November is Michael Morpurgo Month – celebrating his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## Book Monopoly

*Caroline Fielding*

Towards the end of last term, someone on SLN (School Librarians Network - a yahoo mailing list) mentioned a book monopoly game that they play with their pupils and I thought it sounded like a brilliant idea to introduce here to get pupils to try different genres.

If you Google 'monopoly template' there are lots available, and it is just a case of changing the names of the streets! I used a 'poster' template on Publisher and so printed it really big for a display in the library and brought a die in to school. Each label has a picture of one of the traditional Monopoly pieces, but obviously I have more than 6 players! Some of you will know that my school is being closed down, we only have about 120 pupils left, mainly in year 11 (just 25 in year 9) so I have opened it up to all pupils and was really surprised at how many year 11s wanted to get on there, there are about 60 pupils signed up.



### **The rules are very simple:**

Pick a book from the genre of the street you have landed on.

Before your next roll you must pass an AR\* quiz on the book, write a review or draw an illustration

#### **Chance**

Mrs Fielding chooses a book for you

#### **Community Chest**

Choose a book that another pupil recommends

#### **Free Parking**

You choose any book!

#### **Sweet shop**

instant sweet and another roll

#### **10 points\*\***

instant 10 points and another roll

#### **25 points for passing 'Go'!\*\***

On my board I don't have 'jail', I have extra 'free parking'.

\*AR = Accelerated Reader.

\*\* we have a House Point system so all the points go towards rewards.

It had been going for about 4 weeks when this picture was taken so they're beginning to spread across the board nicely. We're playing with one die so there are pupils that have read 4 books but still not turned the corner, you can imagine the groaning, but actually some of them have been pleased to have another book from the same genre. I'm going to have to badger the ones that haven't moved past their first roll yet, probably about a third of them :-/ But it really has encouraged some of the more reluctant readers to get excited about choosing a book, with my help, and actually settle down to read it!

In a library with more children (public or school) you might have to consider having different boards for different year groups, or not have a giant one but paper copies that the children keep and mark each time they visit the library...

Anyway, that's it, take the idea and roll with it!

### Malorie Blackman Leads UK Young Adult Book Convention 2014

Malorie will act as curator and director for the first UK Young Adult Literature Convention (YALC) which will take place at the [London Film and Comic Con 2014](#) (LFCC). This exciting two-day convention will bring together the UK's YA publishers to provide a host of author events in a dedicated Book Zone, with talks, workshops, signings, a book sales area and publisher stands promoting new and upcoming titles.

2014's YALC event will be the first time a large-scale public convention around Young Adult books has taken place in the UK, and its setting among the fans of cultish film and TV will help set books at the heart of entertainment for teenagers and young people. The event will aim to showcase UK YA's best books and authors, as well as bringing international authors to UK audiences.

For more information follow this link: <http://www.childrenslaureate.org.uk/yalc>

### National Short Story Week

National Short Story Week is an annual awareness event. Its aim is to focus the attentions of the public and the media on the short story and short story writers, publishers and events. It is intended as a framework for promoting literary events and publications at a national and local level.

### What are the aims of National Short Story Week?

The aims of National Short Story Week are to:

- 1) get more people reading and listening to short stories;
- 2) get more people writing short stories;
- 3) develop creative and commercial opportunities for individuals and organisations involved in the short story form.

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

LFC is stepping up again with a competition to win an author visit:

<http://lfcatalogue.wordpress.com/2013/09/06/win-a-visit-from-an-author-to-your-school/>

### Halloween Activity



Creating page corner bookmarks is easier than many people think, I found this brilliant step-by-step guide on how to make them on the Tally's Treasury website:

<http://bit.ly/HbzPNa>

### Neil Gaiman News

#### Neverwhere Banned in American School

A school in America has made sure that all its students will now want to read *Neverwhere* after it was removed following a complaint by a parent. *Neverwhere* was recently turned into an audio play by the BBC

<http://bit.ly/15YSIYN> The novel was based on a television miniseries (also filmed by the BBC) that was released in the '90's.

#### Reading Agency Lecture 2013

Neil gave the 2013 Reading Agency Lecture on Monday and from everything I heard about it he was as brilliant as he always is when it comes to public speaking and hitting the emotive notes about his subject.

You can read an edited version of his speech here: <http://bit.ly/15EkC4u>

## All Hallow's Read

All Hallow's Read is a Halloween tradition. It's simply that in the week of Halloween, or on the night itself, you give someone a scary book.

You can give out scary books or comics to trick or treaters on Halloween if you want to, obviously. (We recommend looking the child in the eye and saying, "Take it. Read it. Trust me... around here... a book can be... safer than candy." Then chuckling to yourself, as if remembering something unfortunate that happened to some of the local children only last year.)

<http://www.allhallowsread.com>

### *Why did Dracula go to the library?*

*He wanted a good book to sink his teeth into!*

## UK Teens Trailing in International Literacy & Numeracy (& possibly how to reverse this trend)

I read two news articles recently that are connected. The first was in the Guardian

*According to a survey of 2,000 British children and parents conducted by Nielsen Book in June this year, 50% of family households now own at least one tablet, up from 24% a year ago.*

*On a weekly basis, 60% of children are reading books for pleasure, and if you factor in children who are being read to by parents, that percentage climbs to 72%.*

*Only three activities increased in percentage terms between 2012 and 2013: playing "game apps" (the term used by Nielsen Book), visiting YouTube and text messaging. "What we're seeing is that non-readers have risen from 22% to 28% of all children,"*

*"It's hugely impacting on teenagers: 11-17 year-olds are actually dropping their participation in quite a broad range of activities in order to play game apps," said Henry.*

<http://www.theguardian.com/technology/apps/blog/2013/sep/26/children-reading-less-apps-games>

The second article on the BBC News website:

*A major study by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) shows how England's 16 to 24-year-olds are falling behind their Asian and*

*European*

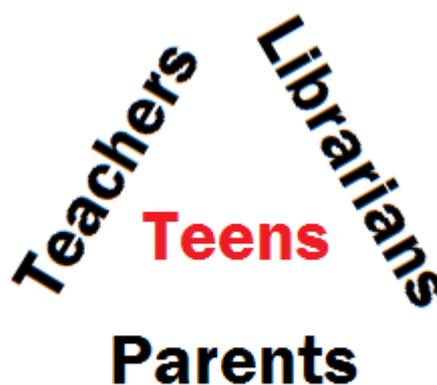
*counterparts.*

*England is 22nd for literacy and 21st for numeracy out of 24 countries. "This shocking report shows England has some of the least literate and numerate young adults in the developed world," said Skills Minister Matthew Hancock.*

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-24433320>

Over the past decade I have seen reading groups in libraries and schools run with librarians and parents (dads & lads groups), groups run with teachers & librarians or librarians & parents (Chatterbooks) and general reading groups run by librarians or (in schools) teachers for young readers. I have never come across groups that incorporate parents/guardians, teachers & librarians. If anyone knows of such groups please let me know as I would love to find out how they got started.

It is disturbing that a developed, first-world country like Britain is so far down on international literacy & numeracy tables. A suggestion is that teachers, librarians and the parents/guardians of young readers join forces to ensure that children have decent access to reading materials **and that they actually read them.**



Placing teens in the middle of a triangle with parents, librarians and teachers along the borders making sure they have access to relevant materials and actually use them will be a step in rectifying this but it is only a beginning.

*There is a strong link between literacy and employability in the UK: people with the lowest levels of literacy are the least likely to be employed while only 2% of families with good levels of literacy live in workless households.*

<http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/policy/literacy-and-employability-commission>

Many of the (pre-teen) children I have seen in schools and libraries love reading and stories. The Summer Reading Challenge bears this out with numbers of participants rising with every year. We need to keep young readers engaged as they reach their teens, this is why I think it is so important that teenagers are made aware of initiatives that are currently running across the country as well as independent, grass-roots work being done in individual libraries & local authorities around the UK and locally.

### **Lockwood & Co.: Reader-led Halloween Adventure**

Jonathan Stroud, author of the Bartimaeus trilogy, will be writing an exclusive interactive story for Halloween based on the intrepid ghost hunters from his latest book, Lockwood & Co.

Lockwood & Co. is a small ghost-detection agency in London. Its only employees are three children: Anthony Lockwood (dashing and brave), Lucy Carlyle (clever and resourceful) and George Cubbins (cautious and hard-working). They have a lot of work to do because there's an epidemic of ghosts across the country. Hundreds of spirits and spectres appear each night during the hours of darkness. And they're dangerous – the touch of a ghost can kill!

Starting on Saturday 26 October Jonathan Stroud is going to write a new Lockwood & Co adventure, which is going to be posted up on The Guardian website. There will be a new instalment every day for six days, with the last part coming out on Thursday 31 October – Halloween.

Each day, at the end of each section, there will be a VOTE on what happens next. The most popular choice will be chosen to carry on the story. So the entire shape of this story will depend on the readers. They (and you) can decide how Lockwood and his friends carry out the investigation. You can decide how they tackle the ghosts they'll meet, and what clues they should follow.

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

### **Michael Morpurgo Month**

November 2013 sees a month-long celebration of Michael Morpurgo's wonderful stories, marking his 70th birthday this year. Book lovers, schools, libraries and bookshops nationwide are being invited to take part and celebrate 30 unmissable books by one of the greatest writers for children.

A different theme will be celebrated each week:

**ANIMALS:** War Horse, Farm Boy, The Dancing Bear, Born to Run, Butterfly Lion, Not Bad for a Bad Lad, Little Foxes, Out of the Ashes, Cool!

**WAR:** Shadow, Private Peaceful, A Medal for Leroy, Why the Whales Came, The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips, An Elephant in the Garden, Little Manfred, The Mozart Question

**LEGENDS:** Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Beowulf, Outlaw, The White Horse of Zennor, The Last Wolf, My Friend Walter, Sparrow

**VOYAGES:** Kensuke's Kingdom, Running Wild, Twist of Gold, Dear Olly, Alone on a Wide Wide Sea, Kaspar Prince of Cats

From 1 November exclusive author videos, audio downloads and free teaching resources will be hosted on [www.MichaelMorpurgo.com](http://www.MichaelMorpurgo.com) focusing on a different book each day. There will also be a chance to win signed copies of the books, an iPad and even a school visit from Michael himself!

### **Write for Teen Librarian!**

All submissions of articles, reviews & ideas are welcome and can be sent to [teenlibraryservice@gmail.com](mailto:teenlibraryservice@gmail.com)

### **Subscribe!**

Subscriptions to Teen Librarian Monthly are free! email [teenlibraryservice@gmail.com](mailto:teenlibraryservice@gmail.com) to be added to the mailing list.