



Welcome to the spring issue of TLM!
Delayed of course like the improved weather
we have all been expecting.

This month we have a veritable cornucopia of information for just about everyone in the library world. We kick off with a plea from a friend and colleague who is currently working on her Masters and would like to know what you have been doing with teens in your libraries. Following on from that we have an introduction to the Patron of Reading scheme which (if you have not heard of it) brings schools and authors together for the benefit of the students.

Andrew Given introduces us to the inspiring Project Z club that has been running at Ferguslie Library.

Queen of Teen is back for 2014, and even if the award is pink and glittery, many of the books and authors are most definitely not. QoT made history last year with James Dawson being the first male author to be nominated.

The YLG Committee in the South east of England are holding an unconference in Bromley Library on the 9th May. The YLG London Unconference was extremely successful – notes from that day are still being added to the TeenLibrarian site.

Unconferences are a brilliant way of networking and learning new skills as well as brushing up on older ones so I urge you to sign up if you can, if you are too far away please be patient as I am aware that there are library-based camps and unconferences springing up around the country.

If you interested in teenagers beyond just making sure that they read and use the library then Teenager a documentary about the birth of the stage of life between child and adult may be the film for you! If you are up in Oxford then The Story Museum is a place you may want to visit to see authors appear as famous story characters.

This month the *Eight Questions With...* interview feature returns with Marcus Alexander

Call for Public Library Staff Who Work with Teens to Complete Surveys and Interviews

I've known for years that there are people across the country doing excellent work with teenagers. As there's no current research on the topic, it's been impossible to get a comprehensive picture of what's being provided, as well as the barriers and successes library staff encounter. I'm using my dissertation research to try to fill this gap.

I'm asking for **public library staff who have done any work with teens** – book groups, school visits, even buying and displaying YA stock – to reply. You don't need to be an expert or work in a large library. I'm researching at all types of provision styles and all types of services, from small branches to massive urban libraries.

Surveys should be relatively short, while interviews will be more in-depth (45-90 minutes, depending on how much time you're able to offer). Interviews will be conducted on the phone or in a venue that is easily accessible for participants (if interviews are face-to-face, I may travel to your local area). Final results will be anonymised.

My goal is to use the resulting information to find new ways to support staff in working with teens during an extremely difficult period of public libraries. Your participation will help me complete this essential piece of research!

If you're interested in participating, email Emily Dezurick-Badran at emily.dezurick-badran.13@ucl.ac.uk or emilykdb@gmail.com.

If you know a colleague who's involved in the type of work described above, please pass this information along to them.

Every School Should Have One!



During half term I went to the first Patron of Reading Conference held at the Society of Authors in Kensington, with my own PoR, Sita Brahmachari. It was a brilliant day.

I first heard of the PoR scheme last year, and thought it would be an excellent idea to have a “special, designated children's author with whom the school forms a personal attachment”. You can see full details on the website www.patronofreading.co.uk, but I'd just like to share a few things that Sita and Fortismere have done since last September to whet your appetite.

She's run three workshops based around her books for Years 7 (“Artichoke Hearts”), 8 (“Jasmine Skies”) and 9 (“Kite Spirit”). She attended our Year 7 Poetry Festival and chatted to students and their parents, and our Breakfast Club Christmas party - getting here at the unearthly hour of 7.45 am to present certificates to our less able readers. On World Book Day, Sita did 10 minute visits to as many English classes as possible to chat about the wonders of reading and to promote the WBD competition that she devised. This is a “literary menu” with a starter of a great first line, a main course of a recommended novel and a sweet treat of eg. a song lyric, a famous quotation...She will be judging these before they are laminated and left around the school for other students to “taste”. And we have filmed Sita talking about books and reading – this can be shown in assemblies, tutor time and linked to our website for parents to watch.

We have lots more plans. Sita would like to shadow a Year 7 class throughout the school until they reach Year 11. We are also hoping to involve some of our students in the filming of the book trailer for her next book, “Red Leaves”. We were inspired by the multitude of ideas that other authors had when we met them during the conference. And we love the fact that the students here feel a sense of “ownership” – they have their own author that they recognise and who knows them.

Sita lives locally to Fortismere – this works very well for us. But many schools' Patrons

are from further afield, some even live in other countries! They link up with blogs, emails, Skype, videos – and every one of them is dedicated and passionate about encouraging the students in the schools they work with to love reading and books. But I am amazed that there are plenty of authors who want to be PoRs, but cannot find a school to work with. I knew Sita from previous visits to the library and approached her direct. If you can't do this, on the website you will see plenty of “homeless” authors who are looking for someone just like you to adopt them and work with them. Honestly, every school should have one!

Gill Ward, Senior Librarian, Fortismere School, Muswell Hill, London N10

Project Z at Ferguslie Library

The Project Z club meet at Ferguslie library on a Tuesday evening. We have made 2 great graphic novels called 'Terror at the Tanny' and 'Return Of the Terror - featuring the rage' both have been catalogued in the 'National Library Of Scotland's' archives. We have also made a movie called 'Dawn Of The Fegs' alongside lots of participants in our community. We are currently working on a script for our second movie called 'Class Dismissed'. Everyone on the team enjoy going to the group and we all have great fun. We have won a 'Creative Scotland' award for our movie and graphic novel and we also won a 'Positive About Youth' award as a result of all our hard work. We all love coming to the club and we enjoy doing the various (sometimes crazy) activities every week. The staff are excellent - they are fun, approachable and are a great help to us all at the club. All of us at the club have learned lots of new things and skills we never thought we could learn - like creative writing, digital skills, illustration skills, storyboarding to mention a few. The staff give us full control of all activities we want to do and guide us through each phase. We have been meeting for a few years at the library and hopefully many years to come".

Aaron Chivers - Project Z.

Project Z, based in Ferguslie Park Community Library in Paisley, Renfrewshire, is supported by staff from Renfrewshire Libraries, Art and Museums, Youth Services and a community volunteer. The young people are ages 10 to 16. They really enjoy themselves at the group, as do the adults! It's been a great experience for the staff to work with such a creative and talented group of young people.

In producing their graphic novels the group has also received support from Mandy

Sinclair, graphic illustrator, and this was funded by the Scottish Book Trust's Live Literature Fund. The group has also been successful in a bid to the Live Literature Fund this year for creative writing and graphic illustration workshops to support the creation of their third graphic novel which will tie in with the film project "Class Dismissed", a supernatural story with a twist. The graphic novel will be in a "documentary style", giving background info on the characters in the film and clues as to their fate.

The group have produced 2 graphic novels: "Terror at the Tanny" and its sequel "Return of the Terror". They are available for sale for £3 each including postage, or £5 for two, including postage by sending payment to Andrew Givan, Children, Young People and Families Officer, Library Services, Paisley Museum, High Street, Paisley, PA1 2BA. Cheques should be made out to Renfrewshire Council. For more information please contact:

andrew.givan@renfrewshire.gov.uk



Who will be crowned Queen of Teen 2014?

To celebrate all that is great in teen fiction... the love stories... the life stories... the vampires... the villains... the Queen of Teen award is BACK! Back to capture the imagination of teenage readers across the country, finding out which authors made them laugh, which made them cry, which one petrified them or inspired them... and which author will make them visit

www.queenofteen.co.uk and nominate him or her as a potential claimant to the throne!

Long live the Queen of Teen!

The Queen of Teen award was founded in 2008 to celebrate the most feisty and fantastic writers for the tween and teen market. 2010 saw Cathy Cassidy swipe the crown from the very first winner, Louise Rennison, and in 2012 Maureen Johnson won the coveted title... being crowned in her original high school prom dress. In its first six years the competition has been a huge success, with thousands of heartfelt nominations from readers about the books they care most passionately about and tens of thousands of votes cast for each shortlist. Queen of Teen is now inviting nominations for

this year's award, which will be presented at a regally stylish award ceremony on 11th July 2014. Between 12th March and 29th April 2014, readers can nominate any author for the award, and the top ten nominated authors will make up the shortlist which will be announced on 1st May 2014. Superfans of each of the shortlisted authors will be invited to the award ceremony where they will be able to mingle with their favourite writers, invited journalists and other special guests. In previous years, it has been very gratifying for the shortlisted authors to see how much their books mean to their fans: reigning Queen of Teen Maureen Johnson says: *"I have savoured my reign as Queen of Teen. I have tried to rule with a FAIR and EVEN hand, demanding only the smallest of tributes, like gold bathtubs, dancing trees, and total control of the weather. I leave my fate to the winds. Will there be a new ruler? No one knows. I am watching a dancing tree in my gold bathtub while making it rain, so my mind is regally elsewhere."*

www.queenofteen.co.uk

Bringing Stories to Life – Youth Libraries Group South East Unconference

YLG SE will be running the unconference at Bromley Library on Friday, 9 May 2014 from 10:00 to 15:00

This Unconference is aimed at people with an interest in how we can bring stories to life and encourage reading for pleasure to children and young people.

The day will be filled with drop in and out sessions to support, advise and share ideas on all aspects of supporting children in reading. From sharing your favourite storytime read, to how you introduce beginner read books to children and parents, to how to run arts award within your libraries, to running Chatterbooks groups, Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Shadowing, including CKG judges past and present talking about the process and more.

There will be authors, storytellers and illustrators and members of the CILIP YLG South East committee will be available to talk all day.

Book your place here: <http://bit.ly/1fTPbnF>

I was in a library on Friday and a teacher comes up to me and says, "Do you have a bookmark?"

I said, "Yes, we have hundreds...but my name's Matt"

It's Complicated! The Social Life of Networked Teens

What is new about how teenagers communicate through services such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram?

Do social media affect the quality of teens' lives? In this eye-opening book, youth culture and technology expert Danah Boyd uncovers some of the major myths regarding teens' use of social media. She explores tropes about identity, privacy, safety, danger, and bullying.

Ultimately, Boyd argues that society fails young people when paternalism and protectionism hinder teenagers' ability to become informed, thoughtful, and engaged citizens through their online interactions. Yet despite an environment of rampant fear-mongering, Boyd finds that teens often find ways to engage and to develop a sense of identity.

You can download a free .pdf copy of the book here:

<http://www.danah.org/itscomplicated/>

Teenage: the Movie

Before the 'Teenager' was invented, there was no second stage of life. You were either a child or you went to work as an adult. At the turn of the century, child labor was ending, 'adolescence' was emerging, and a struggle erupted between adults and youth. Would the young be controlled and regimented, or could they be free?

Inspired by punk author Jon Savage's book, *Teenage* gives voice to young people from the first half of the 20th century in America, England, and Germany—from party-crazed Flappers and hip Swing Kids to zealous Nazi Youth and frenzied Sub-Debs. By the end of World War II, they were all 'Teenagers': a new idea of youth.

<http://www.teenagefilm.com/>

26 Characters at The Story Museum, Oxford, 5 April – 2 November 2014

26 characters from children's story are portrayed by some of Britain's best-loved writers and storytellers in a unique photographic installation at The Story Museum, Oxford. Four Children's Laureates past and present, master storytellers, award-winning authors and a bestselling poet invite visitors to meet their fictional heroes.

Children's Laureate Malorie Blackman metamorphoses into the Wicked Witch of the

West. Terry Pratchett achieves outlaw status as Just William. And Neil Gaiman gets stripey as a well-known woodland creature. See your favourite fabulists as you've never seen them before and make the acquaintance of a cast of characters, from Anansi to Boromir and all the way to Oz. Other celebrity authors taking part are Steven Butler, Cressida Cowell, Kevin Crossley-Holland, Ted Dewan, Julia Donaldson, Jamila Gavin, Frances Hardinge, Charlie Higson, Anthony Horowitz, Katrice Horsley (Storytelling Laureate), Shirley Hughes, Terry Jones, Geraldine McCaughrean, Michael Morpurgo, Philip Pullman, Michael Rosen, Katherine Rundell, Francesca Simon, Holly Smale, Clara Vulliamy and Benjamin Zephaniah.

Award-winning celebrity photographer Cambridge Jones has captured a gallery of rogues and rascals, wizards, witches and wild things, which unfolds through The Story Museum's atmospheric and unfinished buildings. Visitors of all ages are invited to go on a journey through some intriguing rough spaces - literally full of character - and brought to life by designers who include Michael Pickwood (*Doctor Who*) and Alix Harwood (*Harry Potter and The Prisoner of Azkaban*, *Hugo*, *Thor*).

26 Characters also features authors talking about their heroes and the magic of stories. Read and hear – for the very first time – new works of imagination specially created for the exhibition by Jamila Gavin, Geraldine McCaughrean and others and read by award-winning actors Olivia Colman and Christopher Eccleston.

Surprises along the way include a talking throne and the chance for children (adults too) to think about their own favourites, dress up and add their photograph to a digital gallery.

26 Characters is accompanied by a varied programme of author and story-related events for all ages, plus a fully illustrated book, designed to ensure that the characters follow you all the way home.

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

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What influenced your decision to write for Teenagers?

The books that I read as a teenager inspired me to travel the world looking for my own adventures so I packed my bags, hit the road and tried to live it and taste it all. I trekked to the base of Mt Everest at nineteen, got chased by muggers and cardsharps in Mumbai, sandboarded in the Sahara and broke bones while fighting in the rings in Thailand. It was these adventures that, in turn, caused me to revolve full circle and do my best to write the sort of books I'd have enjoyed age 8 - 14.

How do you get into the heads of your characters?

I tumble into my own head and reflect on how I would feel if dropped into my character's shoes. The adrenaline and stoked sensations are easy but surprisingly enough even the horrible twisted characters aren't that hard. I think what I'm like on a Monday morning without coffee, magnify it by a hundred fold and bam! you've got your bad character right there lol

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

I'm kinda lucky in the sports that I indulge with; parkour, gymnastics, snowboarding, fighting, capoeira, dance. They've all got a young vibe making it easier to gauge what's sweet for now. Plus I'm bit of a nerd so you know I'm down with my Adventure Time, the Last Airbender, Black Ops II, Assassins Creed, Dragon Ball Z and all that other good stuff that as an adult I shouldn't be so into...

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

Always the creative. Always.

Do you ever read the works of other Teen/YA authors? If yes what can you recommend? Eep! I've gotta jump in here and big up my boys Andy Briggs (the Young Tarzan series) and Chris Bradford (the Young Samurai/Bodyguard) and for my older teens; if you're looking for something fresh check out Dillon Khan author of 'the Intern' who was an MTV Base producer (you know he rolled with the funkier peoples!) and he's written an

awesome novel about an Intern in the music in industry. (Older teen, gotta think about getting a job soon? This is for yooooooooooooooooo!)

Are any of your novels based on personal experiences?

I write fantasy adventures so there's no memoirs in there. But I would perhaps say that my love for travel, adventure and adrenaline reflects heavily in the writing.

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

I'm super, super busy with tours but my brain is always bubbling away. If I can gather some quality downtime no doubt I'll hide away in my office (man cave!) and start typing like a man possessed.

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'm always on the road, on tour in the UK or abroad and I'm always down for Library and School Visits. If you'd like to arrange for me to visit your school please do get in touch with the very awesome Authors Abroad and they'll jump on it! www.authorsabroad.com

A big, big thanks for the amazing TeenLibrarian and of course a big thanks to all my young readers. You guys are stars! Marcus