



April is now upon us and exciting things are always happening. This edition of TLM is exceptionally early as I am off to America for the Easter holidays and did not want to miss the April edition.

We kick off with news that a school writing group in Cumbria has published a novel. Following on from that is an introduction to #UKLibChat a monthly twitter discussion with a focus on topics of interest to the UK Library community.

I am rerunning my article on Library Myth Busters on the off-chance that as the holidays are beginning some of us may need a quick and easy event idea.

Project YA should be of interest to everybody – a website celebrating British YA fiction started by YA fan Lucy Powrie. I am also showing off the launch of my Library genre display in my library and also

I did not know that libraries were not able to lend ebooks free of charge but CILIP did and they are campaigning for the law to be changed – so get involved with the campaign to let libraries lend ebooks free of charge.

The final article comes from an American doctoral student Abigail Phillips of the College of Communication & Information at Florida State University to learn more about how librarians engage with young patrons through social media. She is looking for librarians who work with teens to participate in a research study or interview.

The Eight Questions With... interview is with awesomely entertaining author Natasha Desborough

School Writing Group Publishes a Book

A dark, historical fiction book called 'The Reader' has been written by Keswick School's Writers and Illustrators Club under the pen name of K.S Aitken.

"The story has been team written by 17 people, ranging in age from 11 to adult, and has taken a lot of time and effort to produce," said Helen Robinson, English Teacher and Librarian at the school. "We did this team writing project to unite writers and combat the idea that writing is something that has to be done as an individual. Some chapters were written by individuals, some by groups but the story is continuous and is something that we all feel has been a very rewarding experience. It really has been a team effort and I am extremely proud of how the students stuck with the project over a period of around 18 months to complete all the drafts to get

the book finished. It is now published and available to buy."

The idea to write a story together as a club came from a Reader's Digest competition to write a story in exactly 100 words. Helen wrote a story about a book that was guarding a secret and waiting for one particular reader to reveal the secret to. The group played around with this 100 word story until it evolved into the prologue of a new story about a book that was developing consciousness that wanted not just to be read but to help the people that read it.

The book was launched at the Words by the Water Literary Festival held at the Theatre by the Lake in Keswick on Saturday 8th March. The story, about a book which has thoughts, feelings and opinions and wishes for more than just sitting on a shelf waiting to be read, contains some dark themes and is aimed at a teenage market. In essence, it is a book for young people, written by young people. It has been read by successful authors Jim Eldridge and William Hussey who described it as 'a sheer delight to read', and 'a narrative bursting with ideas and invention which is original, clever and rather heart breaking.'

Helen said that having a published book written by a team of young writers was a significant achievement. "The process was difficult at times but the team didn't give up; they worked hard to support each other and the story. There have been real lessons learnt in how to give and receive constructive criticism and how, as a writer, to edit and redraft your piece of writing for the benefit of the story as a whole."

To order a copy of the book, priced at £3.99, contact helenrobinson@keswick.cumbria.sch.uk.

Helen has also produced a 'teacher-made' Accelerated Reader quiz for the book, which has a book level of 5.7. The quiz can be sent in Word format to anyone who orders a copy of the book with instructions of how to upload it on to the school's AR platform.

Helen Robinson

Librarian pick-up line:

Do you have any overdue library books? Because you have fine written all over you!

#UKLibChat

#UKLibChat is a monthly discussion group that takes place on Twitter, usually from 6.30 to 8.30pm (UK time) on a Tuesday.

All of our topics for discussion are proposed by participants and are added to an agenda circulated in an open document format via this site

and Twitter the week preceding the talk. The document is available for editing by anyone, so please feel free to add things that *you* would like to see discussed! Questions from the agenda will be posed during the discussion and moderated by a member of the #uklibchat team. Responses from different respondents are grouped together by including the hashtag within the replies. We recommend the use of a desktop client such as [HootSuite](#) or [TweetDeck](#) to help you keep track of the conversation.

If you would rather just follow the conversation, as opposed to contributing, you can do so by searching for #uklibchat on [search.twitter.com](#), or use an external website such as [Twitterfall](#). We feel that to truly get the most out of the discussion though, it is best to chip in!
<http://uklibchat.wordpress.com/>

Library Myth Busters

This event can be run by following the Myth Busters format of having small teams investigating various Library Myths and then presenting their findings to the entire group or class. If permission can be obtained for filming, a short DVD could be made of the proceedings. This could tie into a larger media and film-making programme that can be run over half-term or summer holidays. It is fun and educational – teenagers learn how the library works and what the staff do all day as well as debunking misconceptions they may have on what goes on in libraries.

Here is a list of library myths that can either be debunked or confirmed:

- Librarians have lots of time to read on the job
- All librarians are fast readers
- Public libraries are only busy during the school year
- Public libraries are only busy during summer holidays
- Libraries are used only by those who cannot afford to buy their own books.
- Librarians have no stress
- Librarians have read every book in the library.
- Librarians know the answer to everything
- Everyone who works in the library is a librarian
- Libraries are just about getting books
- Libraries aren't necessary because everything's available on the internet
- Libraries have plenty of money because they get so many donated books and charge so much in fines
- The librarian can be held responsible for everything that kids check out because they work for the government and must protect young people from bad things
- School libraries aren't needed because kids can get everything they want at the public library or online
- Librarians wear their hair in buns, have wire-rimmed glasses, and say shhhh! all

- the time
- Librarians only issue books
- Everything in the library is free
- You have to know Dewey to use the library
- Libraries are serious and quiet all the time
- It is difficult to get a library card
- Libraries are for English readers only



With the upcoming YALC conference and various other projects, you may have heard the term UKYA.

UKYA stands for UK Young Adult and is the term for a novel written by an author born or currently residing in the UK. For example, Patrick Ness would be considered UKYA even though he was born in America, because he currently lives within the UK.

In September 2013, I set up Project UKYA, a website where UKYA authors are given their own space and promoted through monthly campaigns, which we call projects. Our projects have included a video of pictures featuring authors, bloggers and readers showing their love of UKYA; a blog tour in November where authors visited a different blog each day; and now in April there is a blog post every day on our blog and weekly Twitter chats run by myself and authors. It's so exciting, and so much fun to do! We now run weekly Twitter chats, which you may have seen – we do tend to trend in the UK, which is so, so surreal. Our hashtag is #ukyachat, if you would like to check it out.

I set Project UKYA up because I believe it's really important to support our authors. US authors often overshadow UK authors – I know I used to read a far greater number of US books than UK ones. My idea was that if we could muster up the same patriotic enthusiasm as we did at the London 2012 Olympics, more people would read UKYA. Through Project UKYA, I'd like to say more people have found out about UKYA, although that does sound quite pretentious. I like to think Project UKYA makes reading even more fun and interactive too.

So what will Project UKYA be doing in the future? My aim is to get Project UKYA out into the real world – into libraries and schools and bookshops.

I'm already working on this and will be revealing stuff soon, but the thing to remember is that Project UKYA would only be a fraction of what it is without the support we get from authors, librarians, bloggers and readers, not to forget publishers too. The reception we've received since starting in September has blown me away. People are so eager to want to join in and that is absolutely amazing. I never imagined Project UKYA would be half as well-known as it is and I find it incredibly overwhelming sometimes.

So, thank you! There are so many ways you can get on board, if you haven't done already. Keep an eye out on our blog and Twitter page, and I'm sure you'll find something you'll really enjoy joining in with.

If you'd like to find out more about Project UKYA, you can [visit our blog](#), [follow us on Twitter](#), or [like our Facebook page](#).

Lucy Powrie

Library Genre Displays

For the rest of the school year I will be celebrating genre fiction (& relevant non-fiction) in my library display space. I have decided to start with crime as everyone loves a good mystery.

I am hoping to extend the displays into the next school year to introduce readers to the best that genre fiction has to offer.

My idea is for these displays to rotate and with each cycle they will grow and evolve to grab the attention of browsing students.



Books so good the only CRIME is not reading them!

Let Libraries Lend eBooks

Join the campaign for public libraries in the UK to be able to lend ebooks free of charge to the public, as they do printed books. You can support the campaign as an organisation or an individual

Why don't libraries have the right to lend ebooks?

Current European copyright law means that publishers do not need to license libraries to lend ebooks at all.

This means that the choice of ebooks available to borrow is limited and not all local authorities lend ebooks.

Out of the six major trade publishers in the UK only three offer some of their ebooks to libraries and over 85% of ebooks are not available to public libraries in the UK.

Why is this important?

Almost half the UK population (47%) have used a public library in the past 12 months and libraries play a vital role building literacy skills and providing access to information and reading to build a knowledgeable, informed and connected society.

Ebook sales made up 29% of the total UK book market in 2013 and this is predicted to grow.

The fact that many ebooks are not accessible through public libraries means that this source of information, knowledge and ideas is cut off from families, communities and businesses.

Libraries should be able to lend ebooks as they do printed books.

For full details and to join the campaign follow this link: <http://bit.ly/NNzvvp>

Let's Facebook It! Promoting Library Services to Young Adults through Social Media

The College of Communication & Information is seeking research participants to study the professional social media practices of young adult librarians. We are seeking people who are currently employed as young adult librarians in public libraries. In particular, we are seeking participants who worked with social media as professional librarians. We are seeking participants who would be willing to participate in a research survey or interview.

The purpose of this study is to better understand how young adult librarians interact with young adult patrons through their library's social media profiles. Additionally, we will investigate the role(s) young adult librarians see social media as playing in marketing and promotion of library services. We hope to understand the what, how, and why of social media use by libraries and librarians.

This research study is being conducted by doctoral student Abigail Phillips of the College of Communication & Information at Florida State University to learn more about how librarians engage with young patrons through social media.

Get involved here:

<http://abigailleighphillips.com/study-info/>

Eight Questions with... **Natasha Desborough**

What influenced your decision to write for Teenagers?

I didn't make a conscious decision to write for teenagers. I just started to write a story about a fifteen year old girl. In fact, I wasn't completely aware that just because my protagonist was a teenager, the book fitted neatly into the 'Young Adult' genre until I'd actually finished it. I would think that *Weirdos vs Quimboids* could be enjoyed by pretty much anyone who has ever been a teenager themselves.

How do you get into the heads of your characters?

Every character has a little bit of me in them so it's easy to get inside their heads. The main character of Blossom was originally based on me at that age. Then she kind of evolved into who I *wanted* to be as a teenager and then eventually became a fully developed, stand-alone character in her own right. By contrast the character of Matthew Ludlow was initially intended to simply be a comedy stooge – but his character ultimately became the most like me out of all of them.

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

I remember being a teenager as if it was yesterday. I had no concept of time - the summer holidays stretched on forever and I could fall passionately in and out of love in the space of a week. All my emotions were intensified and despite often feeling frightened, I had an arrogant sense of being indestructible. Even my senses were heightened during my teen years – I only have to hear the intro to The Stone Roses 'Fools Gold' to find myself whizzing back in time to when I snogged a cute boy with a quiff at the bottom of the garden at a friend's summer garden party. I can still remember the smell of his aftershave and the feel of his biker's jacket. God he was HOT!

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

All of my stories are character led. I literally have no idea what I'm going to write until I sit down and start typing. I never have a concrete plot in my head, I just see where my

imagination and the characters take me and it's this journey into the unknown that I enjoy the most. It's a real fly-by-the-seat-of-my-pants method of story writing but it's worked for me so far.

Do you ever read the works of other Teen/YA authors?

My favourite book of all time is *The Secret Diary Of Adrian Mole Aged 13 ¾* and it's a book I still re-read over and over again. I also love SE Hinton's *The Outsiders* which is actually referenced in *Weirdos vs Quimboids*. The fact that SE Hinton was only sixteen when she wrote it still blows my mind. More recent YA fiction I've read includes 'The Perks Of Being A Wallflower' by Stephen Chbosky and David Levithan's *Everyday* - both excellent books that capture the spirit of teenagers perfectly.

If yes what can you recommend/Are any of your novels based on personal experiences?

I always draw on personal experience with my writing. In fact a lot of the embarrassing scenes in the *Weirdos* books are constructed around cringe-worthy things that have happened to me. Even the 'ham hooters' scene in *Weirdos vs Quimboids* is based on a personal experience (although the real incident was FAR ruder!!!).

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

The follow up to *Weirdos vs Quimboids* (*Weirdos vs Bumskulls*) is almost finished and there is scope for a third book. But right now I'm working on a couple of TV screenplays and I've just written a book for 7-9 year olds that is currently being pitched to various publishers.

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 love getting out and about meeting the readers of my books. The best way to get in touch with me for any event is either through my publisher (contact details on my website www.natashadesborough.co.uk) or on twitter @tashdesborough