

Green, Suzanne Collins, Philip Pullman, Benjamin Zephaniah, Jane Austen, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Bram Stoker and the competition is to make something of your own that is inspired by one of the books.

- **Malorie Blackman**

Entries can be submitted in five categories:

- Music
- Book cover design
- Book trailer
- Creative writing
- Comic strip

The aim of Project Remix is to engage young people with literature, using it as a creative springboard into other storytelling mediums, and to open doors to the arts and the creative industries. The competition was inspired by the growth of online fandom, including fan-fiction and fan art and the surge in related digital communities.

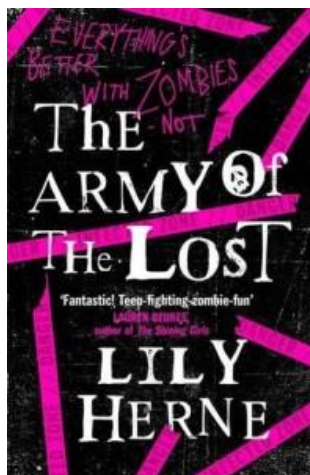
Find out more about the competition, including how to enter, at www.projectremix.co.uk

Tis the Season to Get Reading

I don't know about you, but I always buy a book or two (or three) to read over the holidays. We're so lucky to have the most beautiful weather over the festive season, and there's nothing better than sitting in the sunshine, or under the shade of a tree at Kirstenbosch Gardens, with a book and the entire afternoon to read.

There are some amazing young adult books out there at the moment, but before you reach for the nearest John Green or Cassandra Clare, why not give some local fiction a try? And if you're buying for your kids, nothing beats a great story set on home turf.

Here's a handy list of local young adult fiction available right now.



The Army of the Lost by Lily Herne

The third in the Mall Rats series, *The Army of the Lost* is set in a near-future South Africa decimated by a zombie apocalypse. This instalment takes place in a corrupt Johannesburg enclave and is just as thrilling as the first two.

What the back says:

"Eleven years after South Africa was ravaged by the walking dead, most of Johannesburg's survivors are forced to scratch out a living in the filth of Sandtown, an enclave in the old Sandton City mall, ruled over by a minority of rich, self-serving bureaucrats. Tommy, a bullied fourteen-

year-old Sandtownite, dreams of joining the Army of the Left, a radical organisation intent on setting the city free of the dead that lurch around its walls. But fate has other plans for him...

Betrayed by one of their closest allies and sold to the highest bidder, Lele, Ash, Ember and Ginger – the remaining Mall Rats – find themselves sucked into the dark heart of Jozi's twisted political system. While Ash is forced to face his traumatic past and Ginger struggles to regain his sanity, Lele goes head to head against Jozi's most powerful manipulator – a man who has sinister plans for her. Meanwhile, left for dead on the outskirts of Jozi, Saint begins her own journey. A journey that she hopes will provide the answers to all of the Mall Rats' unanswered questions..."

Sally rating: **4 stars**



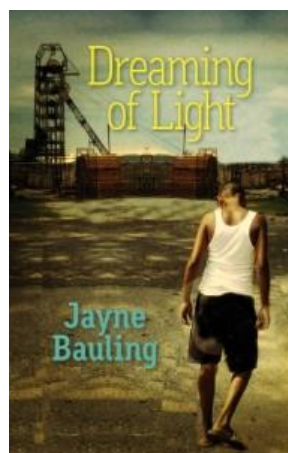
The Mark by Edyth Bulbring

Edyth is paving the way for other local writers to follow. Her incredible April May series is already making waves overseas. *The Mark* is her latest offering.

What the back says:

"In the future, the world has flipped. Ravaged by the Conflagration, this is a harsh world where the relentless sun beats down, people's lives are run by a heartless elite and law is enforced by a brutal brigade. A mark at the base of the spine controls each person's destiny. The Machine decides what work you will do and who your life partner will be. In this world, everyone must make their contribution. Some more than others.

Juliet Seven – "Ettie" – will soon turn 15 and her life as a drudge will begin, her fate-mate mate will be chosen. Like everyone else, her future is marked by the numbers on her spine. But Ettie decides to challenge her destiny. And in so doing, she fulfils the prophecy that was spoken of before she even existed."

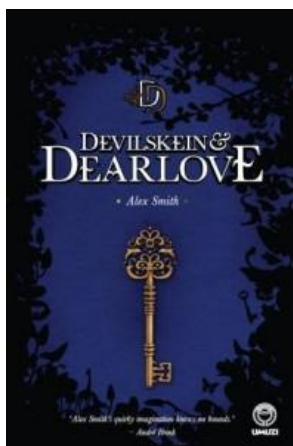


Dreaming of Light by Jayne Bauling

Dreaming of Light has been raking in the awards, including gold at last year's Sanlam Youth Prize Awards and being listed on the prestigious IBBY Honour Roll.

What the back says:

“Regile is a zama-zama working illegally in an abandoned mine near Barberton. Being eighteen, Regile has moved up the ranks and is now paid a salary to keep the other child workers in line. Towards the end of a three-month stint underground, a fourteen-year-old boy from Mozambique, Taiba, starts asking questions about their rescue. Taiba constantly reaffirms his belief that they will be saved: by the police, by the private security firms that guard the mines, or maybe even by the mythical Spike Maphosa. Regile knows that such hope is dangerous.”



Devilskein & Dearlove by Alex Smith

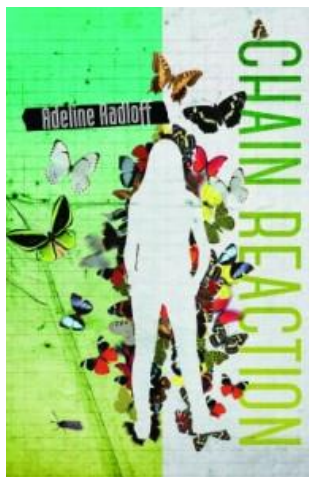
This is my ultimate favourite book of 2014. It's gorgeously fantastical and lyrical and has already made its way on to the Carnegie Medal Longlist.

What the back says:

“When thirteen-year-old

Erin Dearlove has to move in with her aunt on Cape Town's bustling Long Street, she struggles to adapt to her new life, harbouring a dark secret. But her friendship with their upstairs neighbour, Mr Devilskein, soon helps her to adjust. Like Erin, Mr Devilskein has something to hide: he is the keeper of six mysterious doors. He entrusts Erin with the key for one of these doors, and she discovers that they lead to infinite magical worlds. In wonder she explores an underwater paradise, the lost works of William Shakespeare, and a beautiful Chinese garden. During her adventures she meets a prisoner names Julius Monk, but Julius is not all he appears to be. The captive and his Book of Dooms prove dangerously enticing, and soon it is up to Erin to save the lives of those she's grown to love.”

Sally rating: **5 stars**

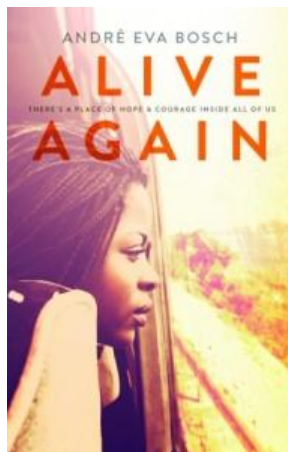


Chain Reaction by Adeline Radloff

I loved Adeline Radloff's action-packed super hero story, *Side Kick*. This is her latest novel, which bagged a silver Sanlam Youth Prize.

What the back says:

“Chain Reaction tells of the experiences of bully Stephanie Adolphus; the beautiful Krystle Thomas whose home life holds a shameful secret; Lisakhanya, a girl from the township; Krystle's sister who is trying to make any sense of her life; Dillan, Stephanie's bullied little brother; and Ben who has an overbearing abusive stepfather. Each chapter is told from a different character's point of view. In the end, one character's decision to do something differently, impacts on all the character's lives. It deals with the issues of bullying, the notion that true beauty is a blessing and not a curse, the complexities of young love, and fear of abuse.”



Alive Again by Andre Eva Bosch

This intriguing title won a Gold Sanlam Youth Prize earlier this month.

What the back says:

“The highly intelligent and very beautiful Nandile Dube hopes to be an “honest human rights lawyer to make sure helpless people get treated fairly and with respect”. Her mother supports Nandi's dream and works double shifts to pay Nandi's school fees. Mrs Dube constantly encourages Nandi to chase her dream. Nandi's father, however, thinks education is wasted on a girl.”



Sharp Edges by S.A. Partridge

My fourth book for young adults was released last year. It received the MER Prize for Best Youth Novel at the Media 24 Literary Awards.

What the back says:

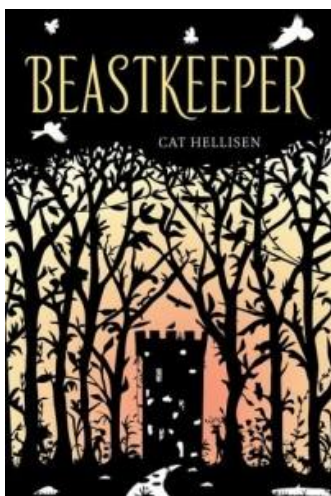
Six friends attend a music festival in the Cederberg. Only five come back. For her seventeenth birthday Demi Crowley invites her five closest friends to join her at a music festival for a party to end all parties. But what was supposed to be the night of their lives soon becomes a nightmare none of them will ever forget.

Sharp Edges is a topsy-turvy tale of love, loss and

friendship that will stay with you long after the final page has been turned, and leaves you questioning what you really know about your friends.”

Coming soon:

If you can wait a month or too, I highly recommend getting Cat Hellisen’s new book,



Beastkeeper.

It’s a beautiful retelling of *Beauty and the Beast* that’s already attracting rave reviews, and it’s not even out yet!

What the back says:

“Sarah has always been on the move. Her mother hates the cold, so every few months her parents pack their bags and drag her off after the sun. She’s grown up lonely and longing for magic. She doesn’t know that it’s magic her parents are running from.

When Sarah’s mother walks out on their family, all the strange old magic they have tried to hide from comes rising into their mundane world. Her father begins to change into something wild and beastly, but before his transformation is complete, he takes Sarah to her grandparents—people she has never met, didn’t even know were still alive.

Deep in the forest, in a crumbling ruin of a castle, Sarah begins to untangle the layers of curses affecting her family bloodlines, until she discovers that the curse has carried over to her, too. The day she falls in love for the first time, Sarah will transform into a beast . . . unless she can figure out a way to break the curse forever.”

Sally rating: **5 stars**

<http://sapartridge.bookslive.co.za/blog/2014/11/17/sallys-local-ya-gift-guide/>

- **Sally Partridge**

Citing Times

Bibliographies are important; they show what sources have been used to put an assignment together!

This is what I tell my students when they come in to the library for lessons when I introduce them to The Harvard Method of Bibliographic citation, you know the one:

[Author Surname], [Initial]. [Year of publication]. [Title of book]. [City]: [Publisher], pp.[Pages used]

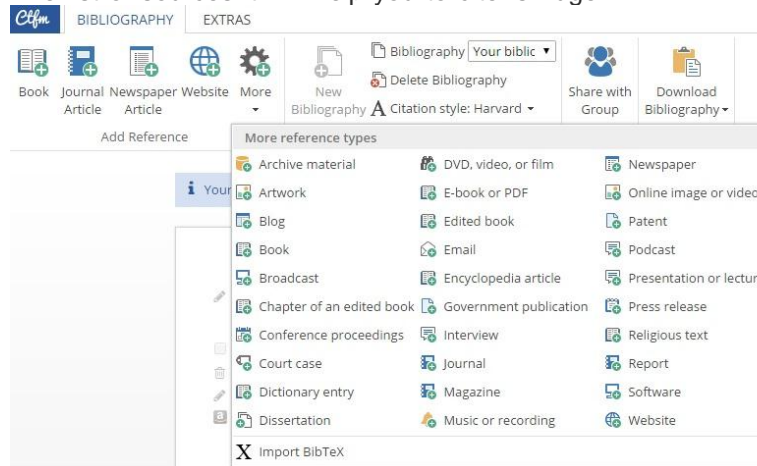
The World Wide Web has made research easier and harder, easier because you can access so much more information (through school site

subscriptions or everything that you can get through your public library service).

I had no idea how many sources could be referenced until I started researching what I needed to know to impart to my students.

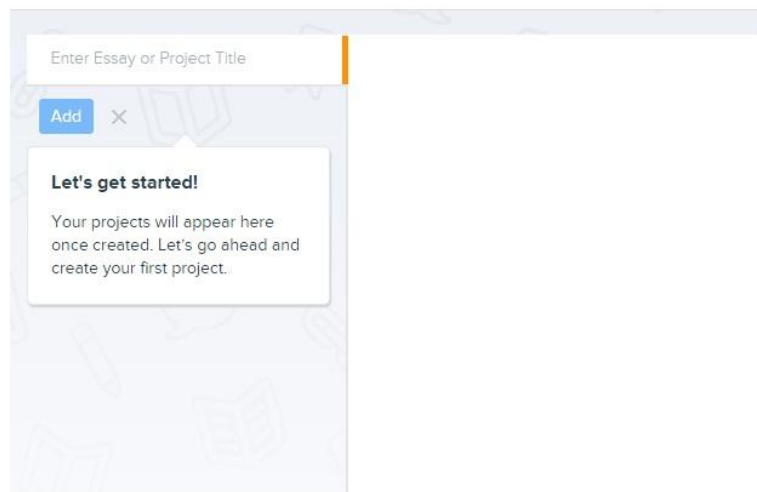
Fortunately there are a plethora of online tools that one can use. My current personal favourite is www.citethisforme.com a website that you can use on any computer that has an internet connection.

The list of sources it will help you to cite is huge:



The site allows you to search a books ISBN, and using WorldCat will find and create a bibliography for you in the style that you prefer. You can create a free account to store your bibliographies online or you can use it casually which allows you to keep your bibliography for up to seven days.

A second tool that I recently discovered is called **RefMe**



it has a web-based component as well as a smartphone app that connects to a free online account. You can scan an ISBN with your smartphone and it will store the record and you can access it through your account. It is not as powerful as Cite This For Me and could not locate the information for several books that I tried scanning but it allows you to add the information manually and does have potential for further development. As with Cite this for Me it also offers bibliography creation for a variety of sources.

Dyslexia, Dictionaries, Fonts & Learning

There is a new dictionary coming out at some point in 2015, many people may not think that this news is particularly earth-shattering as dictionaries are printed and published all over the world. The thing that makes this one special is that it is aimed squarely at people with dyslexia. Known as the *Maple Mayes Dictionary* after the school where the idea has been in development for quite some time.

Father and son duo Dr Neville and Dr Daryl Brown have dedicated their lives to developing new methods that can help children to overcome dyslexia – a pursuit that led them to open specialist Staffordshire-based teaching and research centre, Maple Hayes Dyslexia School, in 1982.

Now, after almost 25 years analysing the way dyslexics learn, the Browns have decided to rewrite the dictionary after identifying that its layout, which is biased towards phonetic language, proves to be a huge stumbling block for youngsters with dyslexia. The traditional dictionary – as its name indicates – was originally a tool primarily to promote the correct pronunciation of words.

This is fantastic news; I work with a number of dyslexic students and am excited at the thought of being able to offer a new resource to help them learn.

I found out about the dictionary while reading an article on the NPR website about dyslexic fonts and their development.

The *Dyslexie* font has been around for quite some time, but reading about it and how it works has given me a new appreciation for the amount of work that has gone into its development, I was also not properly aware of how it worked, apart from the font being weighted – but that is only a part of how it makes words easier to read.

See how *Dyslexie* works on the next page.

Further information:

[Lichfield father and son re-write dictionary to help dyslexic children](#)

[Christian Boer Designs Typeface for Students with Dyslexia](#)

[Dyslexia Typeface](#)

[Maple Hayes School](#)

[Specialist Dyslexia School Rewrites the Dictionary Spotting Dyslexia May Be Possible Even Before Kids Learn To Read](#)

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Are you interested in sharing successful projects that you have run in your Library?

Have you had a good idea for a Teen Library Group and think that people should know about it?

Would you like to share tips on working with young people in Libraries?



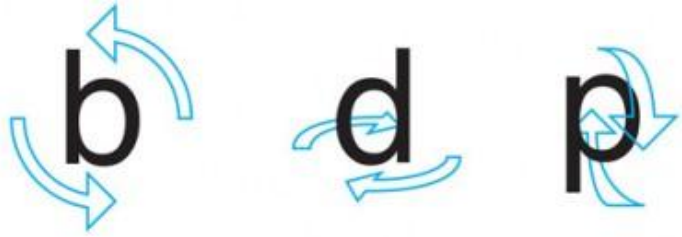
Then
Teen
Librarian
Needs YOU

To submit ideas for future articles
To write articles to help your fellow colleagues on the Library front lines

To share examples of good practice in working with young people
To send in ideas and suggestions for future articles

Dyslexia

When they're reading, people with dyslexia often unconsciously switch, rotate and mirror letters in their minds. Traditional typefaces make this worse, because they base some letter designs on others, inadvertently creating "twin letters" for people with dyslexia.



hmn u bdpq wvy ij

Example: Helvetica Regular

Typeface: Dyslexie

By changing the shape of the characters so that each is distinctly unique, the letters will no longer match one another when rotated, flipped or mirrored. Bolder capitals and punctuation will ensure that users don't accidentally read into the beginning of the next sentence.

abc

1.

Making the bottom part of each letter appear heavier than the top prevents the letter from turning upside down.

dijl

2.

By making part of the letters semi-italics, the letters do not look alike anymore.

acs

3.

We have enlarged the openings of the letters to make the letters look less alike and make the shape of each individual letter more obvious.

vwy

4.

Letters which look similar are different in height and each has its own features to prevent confusion.

bdu

5.

Characters which look quite similar have been adapted by changing the tails, to reduce the similarity and avoid the problem of mirror images and rotation.

fhp

6.

Lengthening the ascender and descender of some letters prevents them from changing in nature.

xo

7.

By increasing the x-axis of the letters the spaces in the letter are consequently increased. This makes the letters easier to recognise.

.,H

8.

Bold capitals and punctuation marks clearly highlight the beginning and the end of a sentence or interruption. This makes it easier to read each sentence separately.

de het

9.

The space between the letters and the words is wider, so that letters and words stand out more clearly.