Editorial

Beware the Ides of March! Although unless any of you are Caesar we should all be fine! Back again after another skip month in February – I do apologise, work got really busy and I was left with no time to put anything together that would have made sense or been usable.

This month I have put together a veritable cornucopia of resources for the Summer Reading Challenge in the UK and the Summer Library Program in the US as they both match up pretty closely this year as it is the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 Mission to the Moon and it is being celebrated in Libraries on both sides of the Atlantic. I won’t spend much time discussing the resources here as they are all pretty self-explanatory, links to various sites that can be used in Library settings pretty much everywhere.

The big thing this month is that CILIP is looking for a new Chair of the CILIP Carnegie & Kate Greenaway Awards Working Party, this is something I log to do and will hopefully get the chance one day, but the opportunity is available now for someone to take it on, so if you have the inclination and expertise please do consider it!

Speaking Volumes has just released a list of over 100 British BAME authors and illustrators of books for children and young people, so if you are looking for more books for your Libraries please take the time to investigate their publication.

When I woke up this morning it was to the news that an Islamophobic terror attack on a Mosque had resulted in the deaths of 49 people in New Zealand, Libraries are one of the public spaces where all people are welcomed and assisted without fear or favour. Just by doing our jobs we can make people’s lives that much better, I think in the aftermath of this tragedy no matter where we are in the world we can maybe do more to help demolish barriers between people by education, inclusion and challenging ourselves and others to be better. If anyone has a concrete ideas on what else Libraries and Library folk can do please contact me I will be happy to print and publicise anything we can do as professionals and people to contribute towards deescalating what is happening around the world right now.

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Library Summer Reading Resources

NASA
- NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory education website: https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/edu/learn/
- Straw Rockets: https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/edu/teach/activity/straw-rocket/
- NASA Image & Video Library – free to download & use: https://images.nasa.gov/
- NASA Kid’s Club: https://www.nasa.gov/kidsclub/index.html
- Apollo 50th: https://www.nasa.gov/specials/apollo50th/

European Space Agency
- Education: https://www.esa.int/Education
- European Space Education Resource Office https://www.stem.org.uk/esero

Music & Songs
- Zar and the Broken Spaceship by Dino O’Dell https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xjyvMbYVrW8
- Trout Fishing in America – Alien in my Nose https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tlyVRw4mUro

Science Experiments
There is nothing quite like setting up science experiments to get the attention of young people in Libraries. Some of them can be messy so if you have an outside space that you can use so much the better, the Mentos and Diet Coke fountain experiment is always a crowd pleaser but there is so much more! Below are a number of sites that offer DIY Science Experiments that are safe for home and the library. You can also check your shelves for science books that can offer even more!

- Steve Spangler Science: https://www.stevespanglerscience.com/lab/experiments/
- Science Kiddo: https://www.sciencekiddo.com/
- Science Bob: https://sciencebob.com/category/experiments/
- Science Sparks: https://www.science-sparks.com/category/science-experiments-for-kids/
- Imagination Station Toledo: https://www.imaginationstationtoledo.org/educator/activities/

Activity Ideas
- Two Book Geeks site: www.twobookgeeks.blogspot.com
- Post-it note 8bit art https://8-bitart.com/
- Pre Kinders Space Activities: https://www.prekinders.com/space-theme/
- Hoop Glider: https://sciencebob.com/the-incredible-hoop-glider/

Stories
- Constellation Legends: http://tcoe.org/scicon/instructionalguide/constellations.pdf
Other Resources

- CSLP Facebook page – for ideas and links to resources: https://www.facebook.com/cslpreads/
- Herschel Space Observatory: http://herschel.cf.ac.uk/education
- National Schools’ Observatory: https://www.schoolsobservatory.org/
- GAIA in the UK: https://www.gaia.ac.uk/education
- National Space Centre: http://education.spacecentre.co.uk/information/learning-resources
- Astro Science Challenge: http://www.astrosiencechallenge.com/
- UK Space Agency STEM Resources: https://www.data.org.uk/for-education/secondary/uk-space-agency/
- Kid’s Astronomy: www.kidsastronomy.com
- Rocketry for Kids: https://a2zhomeschooling.com/explore/astonomy/rocketry_kids/
- RosCosmos: http://en.roscosmos.ru/117/
- Scouts & the UK Space Agency: https://fundraising.scouts.org.uk/ukspaceagency
- International Literacy Association: https://www.literacyworldwide.org/blog/literacy-daily/2019/03/05/blast-offl-space-exploration-and-literacy

Upcoming Vacancy: Chair of the CILIP Carnegie & Kate Greenaway Awards Working Party

Passionate about outstanding writing and illustration for young people? Got the leadership skills to support our expert judges and raise our profile?

Want to take a lead role in running the country’s oldest children’s book awards?

Then you may have what it takes to be the Chair of the CILIP CKG Working Party! Full details on how to apply here: http://www.cilip.org.uk/ckgchair

Breaking New Ground

A new resource celebrating over 100 British writers and illustrators of colour, specialising in children’s fiction and poetry. This is part of the next phase of Speaking Volumes’ Breaking Ground series.

Breaking New Ground, launched in March 2019 and seeks to promote diversity in the creators of stories for children. Their partners in this project are children’s literature organisations BookTrust and Pop Up Projects. http://www.speaking-volumes.org.uk/

Refugee Narratives in Children’s Literature

In 2017 I attended a one-day interdisciplinary workshop about Refugee Narratives in Children’s Literature at Birkbeck College organised by The Reluctant Internationalists.

Apart from making excellent contacts and meeting some old friends I contributed towards the creation of a bibliography of children’s books on migration, refugees / migrants and multicultural living. For some reason I never shared this bibliography, but you can download it here: http://teenlibrarian.co.uk/2019/02/12/refugee-narratives-in-childrens-literature/

Anansi Craft Activity

One of my Crafty Story-time Activities for Black History Month in the US in February was based on Anansi the Spider Trickster from West Africa. Great for any time of the year, most Libraries have stories about him and the related craft activity can be downloaded here: http://teenlibrarian.co.uk/2019/02/14/blackhistorymonth-anansi-craft-activity/