

TEEN LIBRARIAN

Monthly

Vol. 4 No. 3

<http://www.teenlibrarian.co.uk>

March 2009

Editorial

So we are midway through March and nearly a quarter of the way through the year. This month there is an introduction to Bloomsbury Press' newsletter about their range of books for young people (and giveaways). Jen Bakewell takes a look at classic games and book covers.

There is a link to some feedback from the SpineBreakers event that was recently held in Newcastle. We also take a look at YouTube and how online video can be used to promote library events and lastly share some exciting news about David Almond's *Skellig*.

This month's *Eight Questions With...* interview is with Australian Lili Wilkinson, author of *Scatterheart*.

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The Dog & Arrow

The Dog and Arrow is a monthly newsletter published by Bloomsbury Press to publicise their new children's books and keep you updated on all the news, views and reviews happening at Bloomsbury.

Over the next few months they will let you know about their picks of the month, who is getting reviewed in the national press and will ask for your opinion on some of their new books. There will also be giveaways of proofs and books.

If you are interested in receiving a copy of this e-newsletter, e-mail Ian Lamb at Bloomsbury: ian_lamb@bloomsbury.com

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Get teens into the classics

Classic computer games that is!

It's more than 40 years since Germano Facetti, the head graphic designer at Penguin Books created the iconic look of Penguin Classics. <http://tinyurl.com/dcgnke>

Now Olly Moss has started something by revamping video game classics such as The Legend of Zelda and Silent Hill with the same look and feel. <http://tinyurl.com/dan7nx>

As with many good ideas, this one has gained momentum online and now it seems like everyone is creating their own.

<http://tinyurl.com/alp75w>

And it's not just computer games that are getting the Penguin Classics treatment. M S Corley is doing it with Harry Potter, His Dark Materials and A Series of Unfortunate Events.

<http://tinyurl.com/bc93px>

This has potential for a number of activities for teen reading or gaming groups. The images would also make a fun quiz for game literate teens. Groups with a flair for art or design could be inspired to create their own classic game covers or redesign their favourite books in this style. How could classics of children's literature like *Wind in the Willows* or *Alice in Wonderland* be represented? How would comic books look with this sort of redesign? Is the UK cover art for the collected *Watchmen* already half-way there? What about manga or even magazines? If you chose to do this activity with out-of-copyright books you could create an image to print on a bookmark or mug or t-shirt or even a deckchair to promote your group!

These pictures could also spark off interesting discussions for teen groups about the importance of book and game covers, how things are marketed and about visual literacy. General topics that could be discussed include what types of image appeal to which groups, why people designing and marketing things choose the images they do, and how and why certain images become considered classic or iconic. Or more specific examples could be used to start a debate, a variety of different imprints of the same book(s) could be a good starting point - why are different covers used for different countries or across the decades? Groups could also discuss reasons why books such as the Harry Potter series or Neil Gaiman's *The Graveyard Book* are released in different versions for adults and children.

*Jen Bakewell (with thanks to Carl Cross)
Birmingham Libraries*

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Spinebreakers Event Feedback

The SpineBreakers online book community held creative book-based workshops on the 17th February at the Sage in Gateshead. Forty-five teenagers participated in the workshops on book jacket design, creative writing and multi-media.

For full details and to see some examples of their work, click here:

<http://tinyurl.com/dfpyg4>

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Video & YouTube

YouTube is a Google owned video sharing website where users can upload, view and share video clips. Unregistered users can watch the videos, while registered users are permitted to upload an unlimited number of videos. Accounts of registered users are called "channels". YouTube can be used by Libraries and Librarians to promote their libraries and also groups and events that they run - <http://tinyurl.com/cbo3ae>

A number of authors and publishing companies have also created trailers to promote their books. For example, Alexander Gordon Smith author of *Furnace: Lockdown* (hosted on YouTube) is available to view on the main page of his site - <http://www.alexandergordonsmith.com>

The official Furnace channel is here:

<http://tinyurl.com/dgp767>

The Bookseller Magazine Book Video Awards are another example of how video can be used to promote books.

<http://tinyurl.com/blf5ck>

YouTube is not the only video sharing site that is available although it is the best known. www.Blip.tv is another site that is dedicated (according to their press release) to pioneering the next generation of video programming. They also have Teen Library content available to view here:

<http://tinyurl.com/cbcje6>

Library Manga Groups that run Cosplay events can provide eye-catching sessions dressed as their favourite manga or anime characters. Youtube videos can also be created by library users as a way of exploring creativity as well as literacy and making their creations available to a wider audience.

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Skellig

David Almond's Carnegie & Whitbread Award winning novel *Skellig* is being filmed by Feel Films for Sky1 and will be released over Easter.

Tim Roth plays the title role of the mysterious shed-dweller himself, *Skellig*, while Bill Milner ("Son of Rambow") plays the brave and adventurous hero Michael. John Simm ("Life on Mars") and Kelly MacDonald ("Trainspotting") play Michael's parents.

<http://tinyurl.com/c6sdno>

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Submissions

If anyone would like to submit an article or idea for inclusion in the newsletter, please send it to teenlibraryservice@gmail.com

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Subscription to TLM

Subscribing to TLM is free, just send an e-mail to: editor@teenlibrarian.co.uk and ask to be added to the mailing list.

Editor: *Matthew Imrie*

Contributors: *Jen Bakewell & Matthew Imrie*

Special thanks to *Lili Wilkinson* for giving up her time to answer the eight questions.

Eight Questions with... Lili Wilkinson

Q1. What made you decide to write for Teenagers?

I read a lot of Young Adult literature, and I love its immediacy and the way it combines big ideas with cracking stories and humour. I also love the intensity of teenagers. You never hate anything as much as you do when you're a teen, or fall in love as hard. And teenagers love language, love playing with it and experimenting with it and writing poetry and song lyrics. They're very enthusiastic and effusive readers.

Q2. How do you get into the heads of your characters?

Trepanation.

Q3. Do you know instinctively what will appeal to Teens or is it more a hit or miss process?

I think I know what appeals to a certain sort of teenager – the nerdy, bookish sort. Which is basically just what appeals to me now. I've got no idea what the cool kids are into, though. But then again, I think even the cool kids have an inner nerd that I can speak to.

Q4. What is the most satisfying part of the writing process for you?

I'm a meticulous planner, and somewhere towards the beginning of the process, there's this moment where all your half-baked, nebulous ideas really crystallise and fall into place. All those flitting thoughts and snippets turn into a real *story* - it's like magic. I also love getting the actual finished book, of course. And then trying not to look at it too closely in case I find a typo.

Q5. Do you ever read the works of other Teen/YA authors? If yes what can you recommend?

I read a *lot* of YA, and could go on all day. But I'll recommend *Nick and*

Norah's Infinite Playlist by David Levithan & Rachel Cohn, *The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks* by E Lockhart, *Everything Beautiful* by Simmone Howell, *Tales from Outer Suburbia* by Shaun Tan, *The Mostly True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie, and *Before I Die* by Jenny Downham. And anything by Margo Lanagan, Holly Black or Scott Westerfeld.

Q6. Are any of your novels based on personal experiences?

Scatterheart isn't really, although my 5xGreat grandmother was a convict with the same name as the main character. The book I'm writing now is *very* loosely inspired by my own teenage years. And I suppose to a lesser extent, I'm always scribbling down funny or insightful things my friends say, to use in a book.

Q7. What are you working on at the moment?

Two things. A historical novel about the Children's Crusade in 1212, called *Angel Fish*, and *Pink*, a more contemporary YA book about musical theatre and bisexuality.

Q8. 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 do *lots* in Australia! I'll be in the UK in August, though, and can be contacted through my website: www.liliwilkinson.com
