

TEEN LIBRARIAN

Monthly

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Editorial

Welcome to the second edition of Teen Librarian Monthly! I would like to welcome Paul Fisher to the Board of Contributors. This edition of Teen Librarian Monthly is the first that is going to all parts of the United Kingdom. There are now subscribers in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. I am based in London, so at times my view of the Teen Library Service may be coloured by a 'what's happening in London bias', to avoid this I am asking all members to send articles and information in so that we can see what is happening in the service from around the country.

Places to Visit



If you are fortunate to live in, or, near to Newcastle you have probably already visited Seven Stories, or plan to go there in the near future. I was fortunate enough to visit there with the London Youth Library Group Committee recently and I can honestly say that it is an amazing experience.

If you run a reading group for Teens/Young Adults and have funding it may be an idea to take them there for a visit, even if you just want to go for yourself. A train journey from London takes just over three hours but it is worthwhile.

Its mission:

Seven Stories aims to place children, young people and their books at the core of the UK's national literary culture. It is a place where children's books can be collected, explored and celebrated. Fostering the enjoyment of books and reading is at the heart of everything Seven Stories does.

You can find Seven Stories online at:

<http://www.sevenstories.org.uk>

Library 2.0 for Teens

Library 2.0 is the latest buzzword to come out of the discussion about the changing face of the library service globally. I am not going to go into an in-depth description and definition of what it is, for that you can have a look at *Web 2.0 – a new generation of services* by Phil Bradley in the May and June CILIP Update magazine. The focus of this section both now and in the future will be how technology can be used to enhance the Library experience for Teen users.

Playstation/Book club

Medway Libraries runs a fortnightly Playstation club for teenagers, which is also a book club, at Strood Library Hall. The games are projected onto a floor to ceiling screen, which makes it a much more sociable activity than playing at home. Refreshments are provided in the form of crisps, soft drinks and fruit, and the members browse books when they are not playing. All the members have become more frequent visitors to the library, have a better perception of the library, and are taking out more books. [GW]

Teenage Reading Groups

The TRG X Factor follow-up

There are times when things just go right.

This was one of those times. I had set up the open space in the Junior Library so that there was a stage area near the Teen books; and the judge's table placed diagonally a third of the way back from the Teen shelves and behind them were the chairs for the TRG members that were attending. 25 TRG members attended the event and four parents came along to watch.

There were three volunteer judges from the non-participating members who took the roles of Simon Cowell, Sharon Osbourne and Louisa Walsh (there was only one male TRG member who

volunteered - provided that he got to be Simon Cowell).

The youngest participant in the competition was *Rhoda* (8) a sister of one of the TRG members who sang two verses of 'Mary had a Little Lamb' and she had brought her toy lamb along as a prop. *Boys in Motion* are a trio and the only male participants in the competition, performed a dance that was ruined slightly by the fact that one of the members was afflicted by stage fright and couldn't stop giggling. *Victoria* performed solo, with perhaps the best performance of the evening that held the audience in stunned silence. *Three Little Angels* added a Gospel dimension with their singing, which included each of the angels performing rap solos through the course of their performance.

Another threesome, *Gash* performed a combination song and dance to rapturous applause. The final artist of the evening was *Ellen* who was also the only one to bring in a backing music compact disk, her singing had the audience clapping along in time to the beat as she sang and danced, her mother had come in to watch and applauded proudly as she finished.

Due to an unusually kind and polite panel of judges, probably kept in check by the fact that the audience booed loudly each time they gave a negative critique all the performers were given the thumbs up and were allowed to progress to round two which will be held after the summer holidays.

Library Service Teen website of the month

The second winner of this (ahem) prestigious recognition goes to 'The Zone' section of the Norfolk County Council Library website. Available to view here: <http://www.teenage.norfolk.gov.uk/>

Did you hear about the schoolgirl who was so excited about a book she found in the library called How to Hug?

It turned out to be volume eight of an Encyclopaedia

Question time

I received an interesting question via e-mail by one of the *TL Monthly* subscribers: **What age range do you class as teens?**

It is an interesting question and one that made me think. Personally, I would go by the traditional viewpoint of teens as those that fall between the ages of 13 & 19 but with a bit of leeway for the pre13 year

olds; as in my Teen Reading Group I have several members between the ages of 11 – 13 who are incredibly articulate and keen on reading books that are usually meant for older readers. Post 19 they are not classed as teens anymore but still fall under the banner of 'youth'.

What are your views? Could you please send your response to teenlibraryservice@gmail.com and I will summarise the results in the next edition.



Bloomsbury is launching a UK wide search to find the nation's favourite literary villain in a children's book. From Cruella DeVille to Moriarty, from Bill Sikes to Voldemort there have been hundreds of villains that readers have enjoyed hating. But which one is the ultimate baddie?

With the help of several Children's Books Experts, Bloomsbury has drawn up a list of 40 of those most vile villains. These can be found at www.bigbadread.co.uk where you can vote for your favourite. If there is a villain missing then there is also the opportunity to add to the list

Adult Books for Teens

Feeling bold? How about mixing things up a little and putting some adult books on display where your older teenage customers might find them? Here are a few suggestions of what you may like to include...or avoid!

Hot! *The Action Hero Workout* by Jorgen de Mey (Rodale, 2005)

A guide to looking great Hollywood style! This exercise manual is sure to appeal to teenage boys. Also listed in Bertram's Pimp My Read promotion (best name for a reading promotion ever!)

Hot! *Angels and Demons* by Dan Brown (Corgi, 2003)

Not exactly new, but kids who got inspired by the publicity surrounding the Da Vinci Code movie release, may well want to

check out Robert Langdon's first adventure in this great novel.

Hot! *The Zombie Survival Guide* by Max Brooks (Gerald Duckworth, 2004)

This hilarious book guides readers towards developing the survival skills we're all sure to need when that inevitable zombie invasion happens. Great for those into horror movies and/or satire, but references to firearms make this best for older teens.

Not! *Anime From Akira To Howl's Moving Castle* by Susan Napier (Palgrave, 2006).

Kids love Anime and Manga – but you won't when faced with parents who object to their precious little ones borrowing a book that contains some rather graphic images and text. **Avoid!**

Did you know..... That Kathy Reichs' Temperance Brennan books, the newest of which is *Break no Bones* (Heinemann, July 2006), feature the same characters as the hit Sky 1 TV show *Bones* that stars *Angel's* David Boreanaz. With the first season out on DVD in August, this series of books may be worthy of extra promotion to our younger customers.[PF]

PopCulturewatch

Movies

In case you are not aware: *Eragon* by Christopher Paolini has been adapted for the big screen. Although claims that it is derivative of Lord of the Rings, Star Wars and the Earthsea novels have been levelled against it, the book has proven to be popular with young readers.

Organising a Teen Reading Group visit to the cinema to see the film and after that discuss it in relation to the book would probably prove popular – reading a book for a free trip to the movies may tempt reluctant readers into at least trying to read.

Eragon hits the cinemas on the 15th December.

The Film version of *Stormbreaker* - the first Alex Rider novel by Anthony Horowitz is being released on the 21st July. As with *Eragon* the popularity of the book cannot be disputed and a movie discussion may work well within a Reading Group setting.

Big Blue's back this summer in *Superman Returns*, a hot new movie by X-Men Director Bryan Singer. Here's a few suggestions for graphic novels you might like to put at the forefront of your

collections while this movie burns up the Summer box office:

Superman: Birthright by Mark Waid (Titan, 2005)

A recent re-telling of Superman's origins by one of comics' hottest writers. Lush artwork and accessible story make this the perfect pick for those new to graphic novels and DC Comics' rich universe of mythology.

A Superman for All Seasons by Jeph Loeb (Titan, 2003)

A slightly whimsical anthology of tales by master storyteller Jeph Loeb, this book made a generation of comics fans fall in love with the character of Superman all over again! Two of those fans were Alfred Gough and Miles Millar who went on to create the hit TV show *Smallville!*[PF]

Website News

There has been some slippage in the new website schedule. At present I am still working on getting the new look finished and until that is done the site will stay at its present location.

Author events

Puffin Books

Puffin Books invite you to meet authors Rick Riordan and Paul Shipton on Wednesday 28th June 6:30pm for 7pm start.

Puffin Books, 10th Floor, 80 Strand, London WC2R 0RL

RSVP Katya Shipster on 020 7010 3375 or katya.shipster@uk.penguin.com

Spaces are limited so tickets will be allocated on a first come first serve basis.

Submissions

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

Subscription

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