

# TEEN LIBRARIAN

## Monthly

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Editor: Matthew Imrie

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### Editorial

Welcome to another edition of TLM. This month we have a quick look at the Unicorn Theatre, news from Their Reading Futures, find out more about Pink-World and the creative force behind it, plus the usual features on books and Technology. This month's 'Eight Questions with...' is answered by Garth Nix.

As always I am contactable via e-mail at: [editor@teenlibrarian.co.uk](mailto:editor@teenlibrarian.co.uk) for any comments and suggestions.

### Places to Visit



#### Theatre

The Unicorn Theatre is one of the leading producers of professional theatre for children in Britain. Founded in 1947, their mission is to create amazing shows for children which are fun, challenging and exciting – shows which rise to the challenge of a child's imagination.

Their belief is that theatre for children should have the same high standards as theatre for adults, and they are committed to providing children with opportunities to learn and play through the arts. The Artistic Team creates shows that both families and school groups come and enjoy at the theatre, and the Education Team takes projects combining drama, storytelling, music and the visual arts into schools throughout London.

They are now based in a new world-class theatre centre in the heart of London on the south bank of the Thames. It is comprised of two theatre spaces (the Weston Theatre and the Clore Theatre), education studio, cafe and other welcoming areas for families and schools. <http://www.unicorntheatre.com>

### News

Their Reading Futures has just gone live with new material on their website - [www.theirreadingfutures.org.uk](http://www.theirreadingfutures.org.uk). It includes: a section within Reader Development Skills 1 called 'Involving and Consulting with Young People', which aims to support library staff in involving young people in service planning, design and delivery.

Case studies and guidance notes within the Resource Library to highlight existing best practice amongst libraries across the country in working with young people. A new learning package to support Fulfilling their Potential.

More information on the wider policy agenda around young people, particularly Youth Matters.

All feedback and any additional case studies will be welcomed.

### People

*Lisa Clark*

Lisa Clark (in her own words) is: a writer, a dreamer, a wannabe 60's icon, a mod girl, a ray of sunshine, a book-reader, a lover of cosmetics and chocolate and a girl who thinks seeing the world through a very cool pair of Christian Dior pink shades.

She is also:

A teen life coach (agony aunt) for national teen magazine, *Mizz*; a teen consultant for brands and charities; a freelance journalist who produces sparkly, jaw-dropping content for both web and print based products – clients include teen titles such as *Mizz*, *J17*, *19*, *Teen*, *chicklit.co.uk*, *The News*, *Connexions* and *VTIS* A weekly columnist for *Portsmouth Evening News* – *Lily L'amor's Guide for Girls* Able to write and edit with particular interest in the teen market, career guidance and personal development.

Able to create new and exciting initiatives to encourage young people to fulfil their potential A workshop facilitator in journalism and creative writing Editor of the magazine for education and well-being initiative - *Discovery and Media* co-ordinator for *Portsmouth City Council*.

Lisa is editor of *Pink-World* an online magazine for girls (see below).

### PopCulture Watch

*Pink-World*

"...Welcome to *Pink-World* - the most exciting, sunshine-filled, full-to-the-brim world of fabulousness – a place where you can crown yourself princess and wear your tiara with your pyjamas and most importantly, a place where you can shine, because lets face it, you are a star!..."

While we adore fashion and showbiz gossip, we also know that being a teen girl in the world is about much more than that, which is why, through *Lola Love's* pink-tinted shades, we view a world of possibilities and opportunities. Each month there are interviews with girls doing amazing things, inspiring women with can-do attitudes, an active book section featuring a book club, new releases and an

author interview alongside bite-size features like how to be a 'Go-For-It girl'. Pink-world gives girls a new way of looking at their lives and encourages self-confidence, positive thinking, a can-do attitude, belief in themselves and the chance to be constantly inspired. [www.pink-world.co.uk](http://www.pink-world.co.uk) is the ultimate guide for go-for-it girls. The site is content rich with monthly updated editorial including interviews, reviews, chat and real life, it's currently top 5 site of most visited websites by girls in the UK, with over 8,000 subscribing Pink Ladies across the globe.

### Teenage Reading Groups

Pan-Macmillan Publishers provide free reading guides for a number of their titles, available for download via this link:

<http://www.macmillanreadingguides.com>

They also offer a facility whereby they will notify you when reading guides for new titles become available. The site is divided into two sections: eight – 12 year olds and Teenagers, so if you have some pre-Teens or reluctant readers in the group you will also be able to accommodate them.

### Question time

**Feedback to:** Destination Unknown

Feedback to this question was a bit sparse, but most of the people that responded had the same or similar views (positive and negative) to the report. Rather than summarise the responses here I will put them on the website in the soon to be launched forum section so that people will be able to comment on them and agree or disagree and discuss it further online.

*When a knight read a book, who was always at his side?*

*His page.*

### Adult Books for Teens

**HOT! The Rough Guide to the First-Time Around the World - Edition 2**  
by Doug Lansky (Rough Guides, 2006)

Adventurous teens will be fascinated by this guide to planning their first foray into the big wide world. Colour photos to whet the appetite, followed by detailed but accessible information gets would-be explorers thinking about where to go and how to do it.

**HOT! Wall and Piece** by Banksy (Century, 2005)

Fed up with your library buildings getting etched and tagged. Why not inspire the little devils to be a bit more creative with the work of iconic graffiti artist Banksy. O.K., so maybe those teens aren't the ones coming in for books, but you'd be hard pressed not to be impressed with the inventive urban art on display here. While its street culture theme is bound to appeal, a few slightly graphic images make this best suited to older teenagers.

**HOT! Wayne Rooney: My Story So Far** by Wayne Rooney (HarperSport, 2006)

Hot off the presses, this autobiography claims Rooney has packed in a lifetime's worth of experiences in just 20 years. Add this book to your teen friendly collections now to demonstrate currency and pick up on some post world cup buzz about this headline-stealing player.

**UPGRADE IT! The Homer Book** by Matt Groening (HarperCollins, 2004)

You may have a copy of this little gem sitting in your Junior sections. If so, then why not put it up front with your teenage displays. The Simpsons are as popular as ever with teens and this light, funny and compact book adds an appealing balance to a collection when placed alongside more weighty tomes.

### Technology

Technology can be a wonderful thing, specifically the advancement in applications of already existing devices that people have. Take mobile phones as an example; almost everybody seems to have one, sometimes more than one. They are more noticeable in a Library, especially when they go off and the owner starts having a conversation, something along the lines of: "Naaah I am in a Library, no problems innit?" before being told to take the phone outside or switch it off.

Mobile phones have had cameras, mp3 players and flashing lights (among other things) attached to make them more appealing. Recently a new company called I-cue has started up that allows readers to purchase and download books to their phones. This is how they are described on their website:

**I-CUE** is a new service that combines cutting-edge mobile technology with the latest research into reading techniques to provide you with the perfect way to read anything from books to newspapers and reports to emails – all on your mobile phone screen.

You can select the text to appear one word at a time, in phrases, or to flow across the screen from right to left. Either way, the text appears automatically – at a size and speed that you determine.

That means no more endless scrolling down the page, and, no more squinting at small text. You can download ICUE and any of the hundreds of books available to buy using your mobile phone.

<http://www.i-cue.co.uk>

### Website News

The site is still running well with approximately 25 hits per day. Several new sections have been added and new content is to existing sections on an almost weekly basis. A new online forum will be launched soon

### Submissions

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

**Q1. What made you decide to write for Teenagers?**

Actually I just write for myself and it turns out that teenagers (amongst other people) like what I do. It's basically just good luck that my natural storytelling voice seems to appeal to a broad cross-section of readers, with teenagers being a large part of the audience.

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

I usually don't know very much about my characters when I start writing. The story I want to tell pretty much dictates the characters I will need, and also shapes what they are like. I tend to find out more about my characters through the story. What happens and how I think they will react to what happens helps define their character.

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

I certainly rely on my storytelling instinct but again I am myself the test audience. If it works for me, I figure it will probably work for readers. Of course, quite often something I've written won't work at first and I need to revise or completely rewrite it. Sometimes it never works and is scrapped, but even that isn't a waste of time, because you need the experience of getting it wrong in order to be able to work out how to do it right.

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

I love the thinking time before I even start writing, when all the ideas are bubbling around and I'm excited about the story I want to tell. Then it turns into a hard slog to try and get the story onto the page. Then it gets exciting again about two-thirds of the way through when the momentum is building. I also really like getting to the end and finishing the book!

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

I read all kinds of books, both fiction and non-fiction and that includes other YA authors, though I am usually a few years behind everyone else in catching up with significant new books. I also re-read old favourites. Current(ish) books I've enjoyed include the MIDNIGHTERS trilogy by Scott Westerfeld and THE AMULET OF SAMARKAND by Jonathan Stroud.

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

None of my novels are entirely based upon my own experience, but there are parts of all of

them that draw on my own life. For example, I might draw on my experience of sailing, or skiing, or my time in the Australian Army Reserve, or simple things like being out on a cold night under a full moon or being dumped by a wave.

**Q7. What are you working on at the moment?**

I'm currently finishing LADY FRIDAY, the fifth book in my THE KEYS TO THE KINGDOM series. But I'm also slowly working on other things. I've recently finished a long short story called 'Sir Hereward and Mister Fitz Go to War Again' and I have a long and complex SF novel tentatively called A CONFUSION OF PRINCES partially underway.

**Q8. Do you ever do Library visits to Teen Reading Groups? If yes, what is the best way to get into contact with your or your agent about it?**

I really only do library visits as part of a tour to promote a new book. Typically I'm in the UK every one or two years to tour. I don't decide where I'll go, my UK appearances and promotional activity is all planned for me by the publicity department of HarperCollins Children's Books in Hammersmith in London. Contacting a publicist there and talking to them about what kind of event you might like to have and so on will at least get you on the list of possible venues when I next tour.

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Contributors: Matthew Imrie, Paul Fisher.  
With special thanks to Lisa Clark for the Pink-World article & Garth Nix for giving up his time to answer the eight questions.