

TEEN LIBRARIAN

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Editorial

Welcome to the final edition of TLM for 2008. If you are reading this newsletter - congratulations! It means that you have survived another year working with the most feared Public Library user group. Speaking personally there is no other group that I would rather work with.

This year was a good one for Teen Librarianship in the UK, manga made greater strides towards the mainstream and movies based on YA books made Teens that would not usually read pour into Libraries to demand copies (*Twilight* I am looking at you!).

In this issue: Leeds Central Library hosted over 100 otaku at their ReCon. Libraries in Northern Ireland have been running manga and fashion comic (excellent concept) creation workshops. The Reading Agency is preparing to launch *groupthing* their social networking site for young readers in January.

This month's Eight Questions With interview is with Sam Enthoven.

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Tokyopop ReCon: Leeds Central Library by Dawn Stanley-Donaghy

On 25th of November we held our second Tokyopop Recon event at Central Library in Leeds. For anyone that doesn't know, Tokyopop will come in to Libraries and Bookshops to run a Manga themed event, they promote the launch of their new Manga titles, they bring a Wii, a DS, hold a raffle, run a Japanese quiz, a Manga Art competition and hold a Cosplay competition. All with Tokyopop prizes. They also bring along their Tokyopop

Sneaks book to give away which has previews of their forthcoming books.

We had 115 young people turn up to the two hour event which was very successful and great fun, how many times do you get people cheering in the Library at the news of the launch of a new book? We had 20 people turn up in some great costumes, many playing the part from their arrival to leaving. The wii, played on a big screen, went down a storm, with people cheering each player on and two people running a racing commentary for Mario Karts. Nick from Tokyopop was great and ran everything, all we had to do was provide some Japanese snacks and ensure we promoted the event well. Tokyopop like to get as many people booked in for the event as possible. The evening even made the local newspaper.



Manga and Fashion Comics Workshops by Pamela McKee

We have run sessions in School and Public Libraries on Manga Comics Production. These have been very popular in School libraries in Term Time and Public Libraries in Summer Holidays.

I run a two-hour workshop using templates from current manga drawing books such as "The Monster book of Manga" – The young people produce a four page comic which incorporates a hero, a villain, an action and a conclusion. They use the books and templates for faces, hairstyles, expressions, clothes to produce their characters and they use simple ingredients for their storyboards.



The comics produced have been excellent. In schools the workshops have been used to support English, Art and Media Studies and in Public Libraries sheer enthusiasts. The sessions are as popular with boys as girls – 11-16 age group. I also take along a selection of Manga fiction – Series such as Peach Fuzz, Fruits Basket, Strawberry Marshmallow and Tokyopop - Elemental Gelade. We also promote the Manga Shakespeare titles.



In terms of the Fashion Design. The format is similar in that I use a

collection of new Fashion design template books such as "New Fashion figure templates" by Patrick John Ireland and New Essential Fashion Illustration. I also use storyboard as in Chick Flick literature – Characters, Situation, Problem Conclusion – usually with a romantic twist to produce the 4 page comic. As well as running workshops we also run Training days for School and Branch Librarians to facilitate their own sessions. There is one being held in January 09 with 20 Post Primary School Librarians attending.



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groupthing where creative things meet

groupthing is the Reading Agency's major new online initiative where young people aged 13 to 18 can creatively engage with reading and words. groupthing is available by subscription to libraries, schools, youth groups and organisations working with young people. By subscribing, you can get advice and support from other professionals, take part in debates, get young people involved in creating content and entering competitions, and find out about site offers.

Subscription package

groupthing.org is available to UK public and school library services, schools and youth services via subscription.

Subscribers to the site will be able to:

- Set up any number of exclusive group pages

- Create 'closed' (invited members only) or open (anyone can join) group pages.
- Advertise events, put in links, add a 'group' friend, do news updates, create polls and use the locator.

Through *groupthing.org*'s section for professionals:

- be part of an online 24/7 professional community
- get news and advance notice of what's coming up on the site
- read regular columns and features and be part of debates about what's affecting young people's engagement with reading, words and creativity
- access competitions, content partner offers and opportunities to engage young people in creating content

Subscribing to *groupthing.org* will help UK libraries, schools and youth groups develop young people's literacy and reading for pleasure. It can be the platform for regular participation in positive, creative activities and for involving and empowering young people.

"An engagement with reading and writing is crucial to young people's life chances.

Because they spend up to 20 hours a week on line we need to reach out to them on their own terms," says Miranda McKearney, Director of The Reading Agency "We're really excited by the potential of groupthing.org - it's going to be a fantastic tool for reaching out to young people who don't see themselves as readers and writers".

<http://www.groupthing.org/>

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YA Books made into Movies in 2008

Twilight
 The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas
 The Clique (direct to DVD)
 Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist
 The Sisterhood of the Travelling Pants 2
 The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian
 Jumper
 The Tale of Despereaux
 City of Ember
 Inkheart

Not forgetting the Comics

Batman: Gotham Knight
 The Dark Knight
 Iron Man
 The Incredible Hulk
 Hellboy: The Golden Army

Movies to look out for in 2009

Coraline
 The Spirit
 Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince

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Website News

The forum on www.teenlibrarian.co.uk is still there (and underused!). I am still interested in receiving reviews of recently published YA books and if anyone is interested in contributing to the website on a regular basis let me know and we can discuss the creation of multiple user accounts.

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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: Dawn Stanley-Donaghy, Pamela McKee & Matthew Imrie

Special thanks to Sam Enthoven for giving up his time to answer the eight questions.

Eight Questions with... Sam Enthoven

Q1. What made you decide to write for Teenagers?

When I was about to make the leap and go part-time at my job to pursue my writing I sent a short story of mine out to fifty literary agents, to see what they said. Most came back with rejection letters – I had a hundred and thirty-four of those before I got the one that said yes, btw! But one agent suggested I write for teenagers.

I was surprised at first, but when I thought about it, I realised this was one of the single best pieces of advice I've ever been given. I'm passionate about books - reading's as essential as breathing, to me - but it wasn't always like that: what made me that way were the books I happened to pick up when I was the age I write for. Books for teenagers *made me a reader* – and in doing so introduced me to one of the most important parts of my life. The idea that (if I work hard enough) one of my stories might conceivably have that effect on someone now...? Wow. That's a pretty inspiring goal to aim for, it seems to me.

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

It's not easy. I can take feelings from my own life, or things that I've read or heard about from others, and try to extend them, stretch them to fit whatever the story needs. But the empathy and imagination I need to do that in a truthful way takes a lot of hard work.

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

The first question I've learned to ask myself when writing or planning a story is, will it appeal to me? Truly thrilling writing only comes, I believe, when the writer themselves is passionately involved in what they're writing. So: I write what I would love to read now, and I write what I would have loved to

read when I was a Teen. But of course, that was a long time ago (I'm 34) so I also believe it's essential to take my writing out on the road and test it on its real audience. To that end, I'm always doing events at libraries, bookshops, schools - and anywhere else that will have me. If young people like listening to me or asking me questions about writing, that's great. But I'm sure I get at least as much out of listening to them!

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

Writers carve their work out of thin air. The feeling, afterwards, of having made something when before there was nothing – that's very satisfying. But... having people write in to me to say they've enjoyed a book? I'm delighted to say I've discovered that's even better!

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

Definitely! And I don't pretend it's just "research," either. I love good stories no matter who they're supposedly aimed at, but I truly believe that some of the best writing around right now is being done for Teen audiences.

Recommendations? Check [my LibraryThing profile](#) for FIVE HUNDRED of them – it's hard to narrow it down! But if I had to choose one, the best I've read so far this year (2008) is probably LITTLE BROTHER, by Cory Doctorow. Believe the hype, that book is absolutely outstanding.

Q6 Are any of your novels based on personal experiences?

My books are fantastical action thrillers, full of monsters, danger and destruction. That said, it's details that make a wild story believable, so anything in my life (or anyone else's, as I've mentioned!) is fair game as far as I'm concerned. As I say, I take

something I know about and stretch it, twist it, amplify it – that's a writer's job. But exactly what the sources are, how personal they are to me, I leave to you to decide!

Q7 What are you working on at the moment?

Right now? A horror story, for eleven- to fifteen-year-olds. It's a big tribute to things I love: films like ALIEN, THE THING, NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD and games like HALF LIFE and RESIDENT EVIL. It's due out early 2010, I hope. Bwha-ha, BWAH-HA-HA-HA! 'Scuse me: I'm rather excited. ;)

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?

Sure. For enquiries about visits, you can reach me on [my Contact An Author page](#). For any other reason, there's a bunch of ways listed at www.samenthoven.com

Thanks and best wishes to anyone reading this – Sam, 21st Oct 2008
