

TeenLibrarian

Monthly Newsletter

www.teenlibrarian.co.uk



Welcome to the final edition of TLM for 2010. This has been a bit of a bumpy year for Teen Librarian but the site and newsletter is still going and will be more regular in 2011.

With budget cuts now becoming a reality it is more essential than ever for librarians to stand together and share our resources and ideas at putting together inexpensive or free events in libraries to attract users. I will be posting links to resources on the main site as soon as I find them and would appreciate any ideas for events and links to be sent in to share. The amazing Emily at <http://yalibraryuk.wordpress.com/> is amassing some very useful links and ideas for UK-based Teen & YA Librarians.

Lastly I hope that everyone has a fantastic festive season and is looking forward to the new year. Remember it is standing together that will keep us strong and able to provide a fantastic library service for Teens and all our other borrowers!



Atom, the young adult fiction imprint of Little, Brown, is delighted to announce the creation of *The Atomics* – a brand new young reviewers programme for readers aged twelve to eighteen.

Atom has been busy expanding their list to include a wide-range of young adult titles, including mystery, adventure and humour alongside their more well-known paranormal series. And now they want to share it with everyone else!

Anyone who joins *The Atomics* will get the chance to receive pre-publication copies of new titles to review. The reviewers for each month will have their reviews posted in a new, dedicated section of the Atom website where they can be seen and commented on

by anyone else who is interested in Atom's books.

Atom is committed to making sure that every Atomic will get the opportunity to review a title they like the sound of, but hope that many more people will join in the conversation!

The intention of *The Atomics* is to provide a safe, dedicated space for under-eighteens to discuss books and hone their review skills, as well as giving our fans the chance to read books before they're published!

Read more and sign up at www.atombooks.net/atomics

Across the Board

A **free** course about gaming in schools & libraries.

Friday 21st January, 2011.

Burton Library, Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire. DE14 1AH

Find out:

- * Why you should encourage your customers to play games in the library.
- * How you can start, staff and evaluate gaming events and clubs on any (or no!) budget.
- * How to use all sorts of games with boys and girls from 9-99 (and older and younger too!)

Across the Board will be a fun interactive day with presentations and practical workshops as well as an opportunity to sample a broad range of games and talk to the adults and young people who play them.

The course is **FREE** but please book early as places are strictly limited.

<http://lanyrd.com/2011/acrosstheboard/>

Bookstash

Channel 4 Education are proud to introduce 'Bookstash', the bookclub application for facebook that allows young people to share,

tag and connect with others through the books they love.

Bookstash is a great online English literature resource for keystage 3 and higher, which encourages students to engage with and share in their reading experiences.

Students can create and expand their stash of books, review them with stickers, and tag them with keywords you chose. A great game for teens to show what they have been reading, reviewing as they go along and showing their book collection with pride, as you would with a music or film collection.

Connect to bookstash through Facebook at <http://apps.facebook.com/bookstash/>

For more info email: becky@publiczone.co.uk

60 Second Recap

From 1984 to Wuthering Heights, the 60 Second Recap team want to help teens engage with literature.

The site provides one minute video commentaries on plot, themes, characters, symbols, motifs, and other aspects of books that are commonly used in American secondary schools.

Despite accusations that it would put teens off reading altogether, teachers have claimed that they have found it useful in starting up classroom discussions. It has also been praised by teachers who work with students that have special educational needs, as it has aided the students with textual comprehension.

<http://www.60secondrecap.com/>

Alien Ink



Alien Ink is the first in a series of online graphic novels designed to tackle everyday teen issues, and provides a great resource of PSHE/citizenship and media studies teachers keystage 3, 4 and higher. It is based around the lives of Trinity and Ryder, who curiously arrive in Camden at the same time as UFO sightings on Primrose Hill, and

subsequently open a tattoo parlour that becomes a hang-out for local teens. Check out all the fantastic episodes at <http://www.alienink.co.uk>

For more info email: becky@publiczone.co.uk

Catalyst an Award winning Success for Linda Strachan



Third and fourth year pupils across North Lanarkshire have cast their votes in the quest to find the best in teenage contemporary fiction this year. At a fantastic awards ceremony on Thursday 28th October it was revealed they had voted Linda Strachan this year's winner, for her book "Spider"

Pupils from all 24 secondaries selected this year's winner of the Catalyst Book Award from a shortlist of 3 titles:

- *Blood Child by Tim Bowler*
- *Auslander by Paul Dowswell*
- *Spider by Linda Strachan*

On winning the award, first time winner Linda Strachan said: 'It is very special to win the Catalyst Book Award because it has been voted on by teenagers - the people Spider was written for. But what makes it even more special for me is that this is the first book award I have ever won.'

Now in its seventh year, the North Lanarkshire Catalyst Book Award is more driven by its readers than ever! Not only did young people vote for the winner in schools and public libraries but they also helped to select the final shortlisted titles.

This year also saw the unveiling of the new Catalyst blog, where teenagers could interact with others from across the authority, leave

book reviews and comments, and take part in a review competition to win an iPod or book tokens and an author visit for their school. Congratulations to St Aidan's High School for a fantastic collection of comments and to Keira Tollan and Mhairi Lachlan from Clyde Valley High School who won the individual prize. The girls only found out at the ceremony that they had won and were invited to meet author, Paul Dowswell, whose book they had reviewed.

The ceremony was hosted in its entirety by young people from schools across North Lanarkshire. Each author was introduced by pupils who also read an excerpt from their shortlisted title. The creativity of North Lanarkshire's youth was also celebrated with the showing of the LensHeads' film "Missing you" which is shortlisted for the Discovery Film Awards.

The Catalyst committee would like to thank all those who helped make this year's awards ceremony such a success. In particular, a huge thanks to the pupils who read, introduced and stage managed at the ceremony. Special thanks to St Aidan's for such exemplary hospitality.

Readers from across North Lanarkshire are now invited to suggest titles for Catalyst 2011. The new longlist will be out soon: find out more in your school and public libraries.

To find out more about Catalyst please visit our blog @ <http://catalystnlc.wordpress.com/>

Nicola Cameron Chair - Catalyst Committee

Smokescreen

Channel 4 Education are proud to introduce Smokescreen, the cutting-edge game about life online. Smokescreen challenges young people to analyse online language and behaviour in an effort to spot potential dangers.

Smokescreen is a great game with an important message about online safety. It encourages an analytical approach to social networks and forums and is great for supplementing PSHE, Citizenship and English language lessons.

Smokescreen is free to play, share and link to. Visit <http://www.smokescreengame.com/>

For more info email: becky@publiczone.co.uk

Figment

Figment is a community where you can share your writing, connect with other readers, and discover new stories and authors. Whatever you're into, from sonnets to mysteries, from sci-fi stories to cell phone novels, you can find it all here. <http://figment.com/>

Codes: Making & Breaking

Selsdon Library Teen Reading Group recently enjoyed a session on the joy of codes. They read and discussed *Aztec Code* by Steve Cole but the activities are adaptable to fit in with any spy themed book.

I asked them what other codes they had heard of and *pig Latin*, *ciphers*, the *enigma machine*, mores and sign language were all mentioned. I had printed out the Braille, mores and semaphore alphabets from the Internet as well as the Science Museum's code wheel activity sheet. They had loads of fun writing coded messages to each other.

Make a code wheel with the help of the Science Museum: <http://bit.ly/fU1rqG>

Liz Rose CYP Librarian Croydon

12 Months of Halloween

On the Teen Librarian website I am running a 12 month celebration of Halloween. If any subscribers to Teen Librarian Monthly would like to contribute a guest post on spooky workshops or library events, reviews on on of the many YA horror books that have been published or would just like to share their thoughts on horror-related teen titles please feel free to contact me.

There is also a zombie **competition** running giving you the chance to **win books**, to enter take a look here: <http://teenlibrarian.co.uk/?p=1349>

Edited by: Matthew Imrie

Articles by Liz Rose, Nicola Cameron & Rebecca Lee

Special thanks go to Jon Mayhew for answering the Eight Questions With... interview

All submissions of articles, reviews & ideas are welcome and can be sent to teenlibraryservice@gmail.com

Subscribing to Teen Librarian Monthly is free just send an e-mail to: teenlibraryservice@gmail.com

Eight Questions With... Jon Mayhew

What influenced your decision to write for Teenagers?

I don't think I ever made a conscious decision to write for a particular age group. I've worked with teenagers for 20 years now and have read a lot of what they read so I suppose that did influence me. I suppose the writing just 'came out' for that age group really.

How do you get into the heads of your characters?

Running helps. As I run I try to imagine scenarios involving the characters. They might not even be written but I know. I also write a lot of 'useless' passages that get me into the heads of the characters. For Mortlock I had whole scenes of dialogue between the ghuls and Lord Corvis. They were quite funny some of them but they didn't get into the book.

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

It's a hit and miss process I think. I write what I like and enjoy rather than trying to be topical or guess what a certain age group might like. I suppose I try to include certain elements such as a bit of gruesomeness as I know it will appeal.

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

The most satisfying part of the process for me is when the initial draft is complete. This means I have a secure amount of writing, something to hack up and shape. I also like watching it being copy edited and proof read when really clever publisher spot inconsistencies or make suggestions. That fascinates me.

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

No they're all rubbish, just read my books. Actually, I rather enjoy Eoin Colfer's work. Artemis Fowl is brilliant but I love The Wish

List too. Sarwat Chadda is a good friend of mine but I happen to like Devil's Kiss because it's a rip-roaring adventure. I can't wait to read The Dark Goddess. I love Darren Shan's Demonata stuff too.

Are any of your novels based on personal experiences?

Yes I was once chased down a foggy London street by a giant crow. I think the feelings are real. I try to think of times I was afraid as a child and what made that fear. So hearing bumps and bangs at night, the feeling that you are being followed. Do I sound paranoid? I think that's what young readers enjoy, recognising common emotions in the characters. The marshes in the book are very much based on the marshes close to my house with their mists and eerie light.

Are you working on anything new at the moment or do you have anything planned?

Book 2, The Demon Collector is being copyedited as I type this and will be out in March 2011. It is set in the same time 1854, same place: London and it has some crossover characters but new main protagonists. The Demon Collector concerns a young boy called Edgy Taylor who finds himself tangled up with the Royal Society of Daemonologie. The professors of the society take him on a demonic quest in which he discovers some terrible truths about them and himself.

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 have visited teen reading groups at my local library. It's a great honour to be asked to talk to people who have read my book and a real thrill. The best way to contact me is direct through my website.

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