



## Editorial

Well here we are at the tail end of July – this year is just flying past. There is still time to check out My Favourite Books U14's only promotion! We also take a look at the winners of the Redbridge Children's Book Award as well as some online resources and competitions and games that you can use in your libraries.

Teen Librarian has been in a constant state of flux lately, as some of you may know my job was swept away by the cuts affecting library services, I am now a librarian in a secondary school in SE London, Teen Librarian will continue under the name but I will be widening the scope somewhat to include items of interest to school librarians but the main focus will still be on offering services to our users. This is the perfect time to say that Teen Librarian needs you! Yes all of you, I have spoken to a lot of you over the past five years and know for a fact that most (if not all) are doing wonderful work, I am asking you to share what you are doing with everyone, from the big headline grabbing award programmes that are growing up around the country – these are more important than ever in the wake of the suspension of the Teenage Book Prize to the smaller group based activities that run around the country. If you have a good idea then let me know and I will put it out there for you (all credit will be attributed to you), share your successes, assist others with the foundations that you have built. The next few years may be dark ones for us all but if we stand together and share what we have we may be able to build a stronger Teen & Youth Library service!



This is the second year My Favourite Books blog will be hosting Under 14's Only Month. We were approached by some of our local librarians last year and told – confidentially – that a lot of younger readers are feeling very left out when it comes to books for the younger age group, as everyone seemed so focussed on all the teen novels coming out. Which they of course could not read as these were in some cases too mature for them.

This really worried us and as we are always happy to fight for a cause, we established Under 14's Only Month to review both old and brand new books that are out there for this large age-group. The publishers have been amazing and have inundated us with a variety of books for all ages within this broad spectrum we've chosen to showcase. Between the three of us – Mark, Sarah and myself – we are hoping to highlight some

great books and authors in July. I have roped in fellow bloggers and reviewers to make their case for their favourite books for younger readers and I've got interviews with authors set up to talk about inspirations, monsters and other shenanigans.

We know how hard librarians, parents and teacher work to get kids reading and to keep them reading – if we can hook readers young, we stand a great chance that they remain readers, especially the reluctant readers, be they boys or girls. We have received some great titles from Barrington Stoke, Macmillan Kids, Walker Books, Bloomsbury, Simon & Schuster, Random House Kids, Templar to name but a handful of publishers taking part in this. Their enthusiasm blew my mind and now all we ask for is an audience to share these amazing books with. Please come and visit the blog and comment and recommend us to everyone you know who may benefit from reading the reviews. And remember there is a chance to win two boxes full of books at the end of July. We are always hungry to hear about more titles and new authors we've overlooked. Come visit us for the month of July and enjoy our Under 14's Only Month celebration of fiction for younger readers.

<http://myfavouritebooks.blogspot.com/>

Liz, Mark and Sarah of My Favourite Books Blog

## Redbridge Children's Book Award

Budding young readers and writers celebrated the eighth annual Redbridge Children's Book Awards on Thursday 7 July 2011.

Students from 16 secondary schools across the Borough, 2 primary schools and Ilford reading group voted for their favourite Children's and Teenage book published in 2010.

Cathy Cassidy's book *Cherry Crush* won the Children's category and Malorie Blackman's book *Boys Don't Cry* won the Teenage

category.



A number of the shortlisted authors – Cathy Cassidy, Keren David, Tim Collins, Eleanor Updale and Joe Layburn read extracts from their books, answered questions from eager students and signed autographs.



It was also a chance for the winners of the writing and poetry competitions to be presented with their prizes by the Mayor, Cllr Chris Cummings.

Aashik Chhibber won the poetry competition, which was judged by David Fulton, lecturer in English at Brunel University. Scarlett Milner-Stopps won the short story competition, which was judged by author, Joe Layburn. Winners were presented with a book token and a fiction book. Both winners read their pieces to the audience. All shortlisted students were given an anthology containing their work.

The book award is organised and sponsored by Redbridge Schools Library Service.

Nina Simon  
(Redbridge Schools' Library Service)

## ComicMaster

is a really cool online comic creator; the interface is fun to use and very intuitive. It allows students to create their own graphic novel using pre-designed characters and backgrounds. The finished comic can be printed out in A4 size.

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

## We Are Writers

Scholastic's *We Are Writers* initiative offers a unique opportunity for children to see their writing published in a real book. It is an incredible way to enthuse and excite any child about writing – and it costs absolutely nothing for the school to take part!

Any school within the UK can sign up and create their own online book, to which pupils can add stories, poems, scripts...in fact any form of fact or fiction writing. Just a few easy steps later and a sample book is delivered to the school, with the opportunity for children to see their work in print and for their parents and families to buy their own copies of this special book.

Scholastic charge £5.00 for each final book that you order, subject to a minimum order quantity of 30 books. If you run *We Are Writers* book as part of a [Scholastic Book Fair](#) they will ask for a minimum order of 50 copies, at a cost of £5.99 per book.

<http://writers.scholastic.co.uk/>

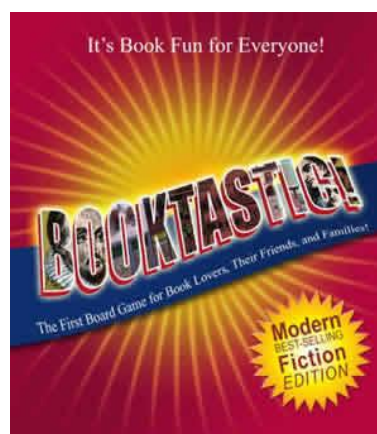
## Bookchase

Bookchase® is a board game about books. Important books & trivial books. Classic works and wonderful ideas for children. If it has been written & has any kind of relevance, you might find it in Bookchase®. Questions can be about anything - what pencil someone used to write with, to the name of an author's cat. From Homer to Horowitz, Proust to Pilkey, Dahl to Dickens, Nursery Rhymes to Crime fiction - all kinds of books and writing are here.

Who's qualified to play? Anyone! Never read a book - you could still win. Read all the best books in the world - you could still lose. Where's the fun if you knew who would win at the start and who's to say what might happen in the new, classic, fun, board game of chance and skill.

<http://www.bookchase.info>

## Booktastic



Booktastic! presents itself as "The first board game for book lovers, their friends, and families!"

Players walk around a small town by rolling a die. When stopping by a bookstore, players can buy (and in some places, sell) books to try improve their collection or earn money.

Each round a player also gets a question to answer. There are three levels of questions to choose from: Casual reader, avid reader, and collector. The more difficult level is answered, the more money the answer is worth.

At the start, each player gets a card with four "noteworthy books" from one year. Their task is to wander around the different bookstores trying to find these books. Meanwhile, money can be made by buying and selling other books. However, getting the right books does not necessarily win the game, but it does give a bonus. At the end, the player with the most money and most valuable book collection wins.

## Ex Libris

A subtle, yet hugely entertaining game, Ex Libris will challenge your literary acumen and test your bluffing and writing skills.

Each card gives you the title, author and plot summary of a novel or short story.

At the start of a round one player, taking a turn as *the reader*, picks a card and reads it out loud. The other players then have each to write a plausible opening or closing sentence to the work in an attempt to bluff fellow players into believing his or her 'script' to be the genuine one. These are all handed in to *the reader*, who has meanwhile written down the genuine sentence (given on the back of the card). The genuine and fake are shuffled together, and then each sentence is read out. Each player votes for the sentence he/she believes is the real one. Players win a point for each vote cast for his or her entry (while further points are won if you manage to identify the genuine sentence). *The reader* receives a point if no one manages to identify the authentic sentence.

One hundred authors representing widely different writing styles are featured in the game - from Charles Dickens to Harold Robbins, from Jane Austen to Barbara Cartland.

<http://www.oxfordgames.com/ex-libris.html>

## The Road to Canterbury

Greed, Pride, Gluttony, Wrath, Luxury, Idleness, and Envy – the infamous "Seven Deadly Sins". For the faithful, they instill horror. For you, on the other hand, they present a wonderful business opportunity!

In **The Road to Canterbury**, you play a medieval pardoner who sells certificates delivering sinners from the eternal penalties brought on by these Seven Deadly Sins. You make your money by peddling these counterfeit pardons to Pilgrims traveling the road to Canterbury. Perhaps you can persuade the Knight that his *pride* must be forgiven? Surely the Friar's *greed* will net you

a few coins? The Miller's *wrath* and the Monk's *gluttony* are on full public display and demand pardoning! The Wife of Bath regales herself in *luxury*, the Man-of-Law languishes in *idleness*, and that Prioress has *envy* written



all over her broad forehead. And the naughty stories these Pilgrims tell each other are so full of iniquity they would make a barkeep blush! Pardoning such wickedness should be easy money, right?

Not quite. For you to succeed as a pardoner, you'll need to do more than just sell forged pardons for quick cash. To keep your services in demand, you will actually need to lead these Pilgrims into temptation yourself! Perhaps some phony relics might help? There is also one big catch. The Seven Deadly Sins live up to their name: each sin that a Pilgrim commits brings Death one step nearer, and a dead Pilgrim pays no pardoners!

So much to forgive, so little time. Will you be able to outwit your opponents by pardoning more of these Pilgrims' sins before they die or finish their pilgrimage to Canterbury?

<http://www.bit.ly/getpardoned>