



Well the Summer holidays are nearing their natural end with September coming in to view. For those school librarians that have had time away I hope you have enjoyed them; to the public librarians who have had an influx of young people participating in the Summer reading Challenge, soon things will go back to normal.

This month TLM kicks off with a message from a colleague in Cornwall who wrote in to let me know about a programme she is running called Karate Reading. She very graciously gave me permission to publish it below.

The Carnegie UK Trust is looking for feedback from public librarians to help them update their advocacy resource databases, so please contact them about any and everything you are offering and running in your libraries!

Nottingham Trent University won the Teaching Excellence Award for *The Dawn of the Unread* online, interactive comic – a truly brilliant webcomic that will appeal to everyone that loves reading and libraries!

The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) branch of the American Library Association (ALA) has updated their list of competencies for librarians working with young people, it makes for interesting and educational reading.

I have included my library lesson focusing on introducing genre to year 7s for anyone that may be interested in using it. Any UK primary or secondary school offering full-time education where the normal admission age is 16 years or younger can register for a free Newspapers for UK schools account which will give them access to a database of UK newspaper articles dating back to 2006.

Author Jonathan Stroud has launched the Freedom to Think campaign calling for all children to be allowed time for unstructured thinking.

Karate Reading

A comment in the most July issue of Teen Librarian Monthly made me think you might be interested in something I've been doing in Cornwall.

It was this bit:

I am also playing around with the idea of Knowledge-Fu and making the Library a Dojo of learning

This is very similar to something happening at one of our local schools.

I actually have a number of different roles. My 'proper job' is Young People's Reader Services Officer for Cornwall Libraries and One Stop Shops – basically this means that almost everything to do with children and the public libraries in Cornwall comes under my role. It's much more interesting than it sounds; as well as having some control over children and teen stock, I help libraries make the most of their children's and YA areas, organise the Summer Reading Challenge, work with teen Headspace groups, run reading groups, liaise with schools, run themed school visits, handle reading assemblies, and help to arrange and take part in lots of activities and events. One day I might be meeting with an MP to discuss their possible involvement in the Summer Reading Challenge, the next day I could be building a 10 foot tall space rocket out of cardboard. It's never dull!

When I'm not working for the libraries, in the tiny bit of spare time I have, I run karate clubs. I specialise in teaching children and young adults.

So when a local school contacted me to see if I'd be prepared to help them launch 'Karate Reading' in their school, I was doubly excited!

The school had decided to introduce a special promotion to encourage the children to read more. They had purchased a number of coloured wristbands, and every time a child read a specific number of books, they progressed to the next wristband (or 'karate reading belt'). The

wristbands were the same colours as karate belts, so the children had to work their way up the 'belts' to get to their coveted 'black belt'. When one child progressed to the next 'belt' they handed the previous wristband back, so the school was able to keep costs down.

The particularly exciting bit was the launch. The whole school were invited to come in dressed in karate-style clothes, which the children (and teachers!) had masses of fun with. Some came in proper karate gis (uniforms), some wore white clothes with a bandana around their waist, others wore flowing robes and headbands – it was a real sight to see! I had been invited along to officially launch the challenge, along with a special twist... I came to the launch assembly when the system was explained, and then spent the whole day at the school, working with each class for half an hour at a time and teaching them basic karate! Every class got the opportunity to try out some fun self-defence moves and exercises. We also talked about reading and the children were all given time in the school library to start them off on their first 'karate reading belt'. The children had a brilliant time and went away enthused about reading (and karate!) and discussing how quickly they thought they could read enough to get their next 'belt'.

As this was only launched a couple of months ago, we don't have any knowledge of whether or not it has helped reading levels yet, although the figures for the younger children at the school taking part in this year's Summer Reading Challenge have risen from 8% of the school in 2014 to 25% of the school so far this year which is a huge improvement.

Although I know very few readers will be in the same position as me of wanting to promote both reading and karate, they may be able to adapt the idea to fit another topic to suit their particular school's interests, be it football (x amount of books read to move up the league?), running (x amount of books read = 1 mile?), or even computer games (x amount of books read to move to different game levels or become a game expert?).

I hope this is useful to someone – happy reading!

Jaime Dowling
Young People's Reader Services Officer

Crowdsourcing an Updated Library Advocacy Resource

The [Carnegie UK Trust](#) is looking for public librarians to tell them about the activities that public library or library service run. They are updating their Speaking Volumes resource databases and need feedback from any and all librarians working in public libraries in the UK.

For full details and to find out more follow this link: <http://bit.ly/1E33Sat>

Creating a Thirst for Knowledge: The Dawn of the Unread

Nottingham Trent University won the Teaching Excellence Award for *The Dawn of the Unread* online, interactive comic.

Incensed by the closures of libraries and low literacy in 21st-century Britain, the famous historical literary figures of Nottingham rise from the grave to wreak revenge.

Find out more about the project here: <http://bit.ly/1E0BkyG>

Visit the Dawn of the Unread website here and be inspired: <http://www.dawnoftheunread.com/>

The remit of Dawn of the Unread is not to thrust 'complex' books on people to read. It's to create a thirst for knowledge. To tease, tantalise and inspire. To use digital technology to enable numerous routes into literature knowing that our reading paths are ultimately solitary and taken at different speeds. And if kids go on to the library to get out books it will be because they want to learn more.

Read the full manifesto for Dawn of the Unread [here](#)

YALSA's Competencies for Librarians Serving Youth

YALSA's Competencies for Librarians Serving Youth: Young Adults Deserve the Best

If you are interested in becoming a teen librarian or helping out with working with young people in public libraries then check out YALSA's competencies, developed through decades of work with young people.

YALSA first developed these competencies in 1981, which were revised in 1998, 2003, and 2010. The competencies can be used as a tool to evaluate and improve service, a foundation for library school curriculum, a framework for staff training and a set of guiding principles for use when speaking out for the importance of services to teens in libraries.

Audiences for the competencies include:

- Library educators
- School and library administrators
- Graduate students
- Young adult specialists
- School librarians
- Library training coordinators
- Public library generalists
- Human resources directors
- Non-library youth advocates and service providers

Download the competencies here:

<http://bit.ly/1ii4IQV>

What's the difference between an accountant and a detective solving the Case of the Stolen Book?

One's a bookkeeper and one's a bookcaper

Library Lessons: Looking at Genre

This lesson will act as an introduction to Genre for Year 7 students.

Definition:

A particular type or style of literature, art, film or music that you can recognize because of its special features

(from: <http://bit.ly/1WC08Tz>)

Start with a general discussion on genres and look at some examples

Examples of Genre:

- Action
- Adventure
- Crime
- Drama
- Family
- Fantasy
- Historical Fiction
- Horror
- Humour
- Paranormal
- Romance
- Science Fiction
- Thriller

Discuss some of the features of each that make novels fall into that particular genre.

Questions:

- Can a book belong to more than one type of genre?
- Can you think of any books that may belong to a particular genre?
- Does the cover of a book give any indication as to what genre it could be?
- Do you have a favourite genre?
- Do you have a favourite novel if yes what genre does it fall into?

Activity:

Choose a book it can be your favourite book or the book you are currently reading, determine which genre it falls into then design and draw six alternate covers for it as if it was another genre. This can be done in library lesson time and also for homework.

Newspapers for Schools

The Newspapers for Schools 'News Library' database allows teachers and students to find newspaper articles as a PDF cutting or full page exactly as it was printed. The service offers the most efficient way of getting newspapers into the classroom whilst fully respecting copyright.

News Library contains over 35 million newspaper articles from over 140 UK national and regional

newspaper titles, from 2006 to present day.
Easy to use: Search for or browse high quality real-life material in a single online resource.
Sharable format: Bookmark articles you find, send links or project PDFs onto screen in class.
Broad coverage: Compare coverage and show how local areas are affected by national events.

Register for free access

The News Library database is free for any UK primary or secondary school offering full-time education where the normal admission age is 16 years or younger.

Register here:

<http://newslibrary.newspapersforschools.co.uk/>

Freedom to Think Campaign

Author Jonathan Stroud is calling for parents and carers to give children time to use their imaginations through his new 'Freedom to Think' campaign.

Stroud wants parents and carers to make sure children have at least one period each week for 'unstructured thinking time' where they can choose their activity or direct their own playing.

For more details on the Freedom to Think campaign follow this link: <http://bit.ly/1eSkVA8>

Visit the Freedom to Think Tumblr site here:

<http://freedomtothinksite.tumblr.com>

Write for Teen Librarian!

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

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Subscriptions to Teen Librarian Monthly are free! Email teenlibraryservice@gmail.com to be added to the mailing list.

Interested in sharing successful projects that you have run in your Library?

Had a good idea for a Teen Library Group and think that people should know about it?

Would you like to share tips on working with young people in Libraries?



Then

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