

TeenLibrarian

Monthly Newsletter

www.teenlibrarian.co.uk

Welcome to the final edition of Teen Librarian Monthly for 2015! I hope that everybody is starting to experience the joy and excitement that has been spreading across the UK as Star Wars: The Force Awakens is released. I hear that Christmas spirit along with its good friends tinsel and cut-out snowflakes have been making an appearance in libraries across the UK!

This month we revisit the Emoji Review Library Lesson that I have been working on with two stellar examples submitted by my students. Following on from that I have included a list of books about refugees for young readers. Amnesty International has highlighted the plight of a Russian Librarian that has been arrested for having banned books, please do get involved by signing the petition to put pressure on the Russian authorities to have her released!

In Dates to Remember I have included three events for January that no doubt everyone has already marked down on their calendars as they are fairly important (Burns Night, Holocaust Memorial Day & School Day of Non-Violence & Peace)

Under 'Something to Think About' I have asked a question about young people and their right to privacy when it comes to borrowing books, if you have any comments please do let me know!

As I was putting TLM to bed three interesting and important items came up that I have included under *Last Minute Quick Links*.

Seeing as it is December I have included a review of the wonderful *Refuge* by Anne Booth and Sam Usher as well as an interview with them about the creation of the book and the plight of refugees.

Lastly May 2016 marks the tenth anniversary of Teen Librarian Monthly and I am hoping to encourage librarians that have found it useful over the years to submit articles on what they have done and what has worked. If anyone is interested please mail me at: teenlibraryservice@gmail.com



Fleece Navidad!

Library Lesson: Emoji Reviews

No matter how many times I show examples of good reviews or give out review questions to help students write their reviews but from a large percentage of them all I get reviews like:

“I enjoyed this book”

“It is a good book”

“This book is funny it made me laugh”

I know for a percentage of the classes I work with reading is a chore and not something that they really enjoy so this coming year I will be trying something different.

Instead of a written review I spoke to my students about words and we discussed *Face with Tears of Joy* - the Oxford Dictionaries Word of the Year for 2015

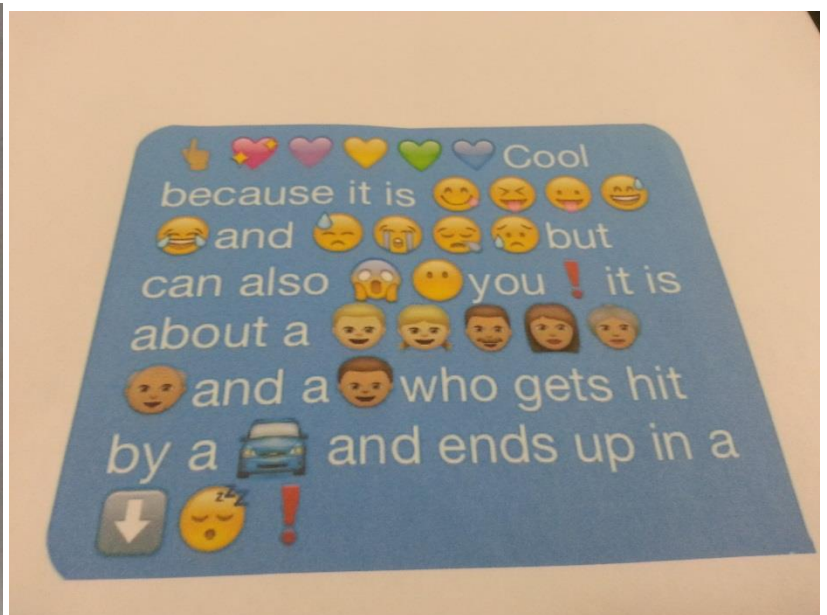
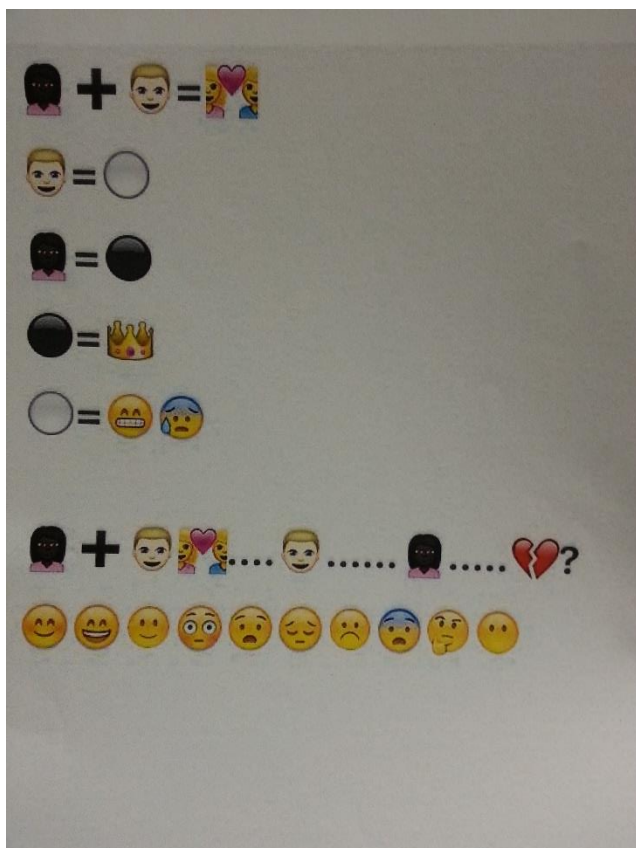


I asked them to use emoji to give an outline of what the book is about and what they thought about it. It forced them to actually think about what they have read and they had to engage their non-language communication skills as well as their creativity.

I allowed them to use their mobile phones in the lesson and gave them links to online emoji websites for those that do not have a smartphone.

These are two of the best submissions from students:

Noughts & Crosses by Malorie Blackman and *Cool* by Michael Morpurgo

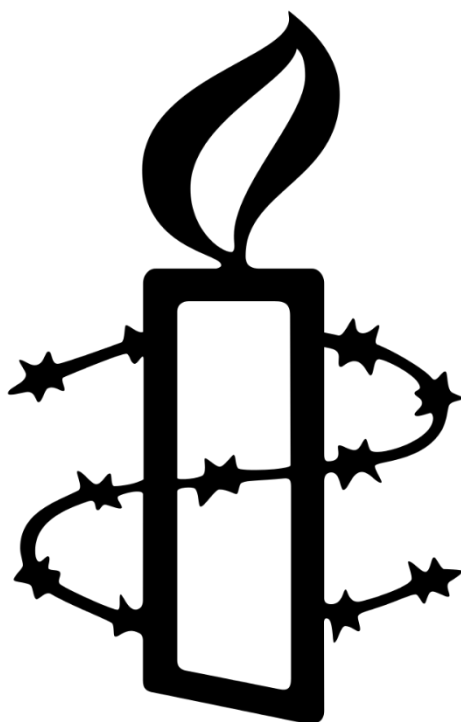


Booklist: Refugees

The Arrival by Shaun Tan
The Breadwinner
Mud City
Parvana's Journey
My Name is Parvana by Deborah Ellis
Looking at the Stars by Jo Cotterill
Close to the Wind by Jon Walter
Kiss the Dust by Elizabeth Laird
Little Soldier by Bernard Ashley
Mahtab's Story by Libby Gleeson
The Other Side of Truth by Beverley Naidoo
Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah
Boy Overboard
Girl Underground by Morris Gleitzman
Home is a Place Called Nowhere by Leon Rosselson
A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park
Bamboo People by Mitali Perkins
Now Is The Time For Running by Michael Williams
Out of Nowhere by Maria Padian
Where I Belong by Gillian Cross
Shadow by Michael Morpurgo
A Hare in the Elephant's Trunk by Jan Coates
The Milk of Birds by Sylvia Whitman
Refuge by Anne Booth & Samuel Usher
The Unforgotten Coat by Frank Cottrell Boyce
Azzi in Between by Sarah Garland
The Colour of Home by Mary Hoffman and Karin Littlewood

See also: The Letterbox Library list of books about refugees & migration

http://www.letterboxlibrary.com/acatalog/Refugees_and_Migration.html



Amnesty International UK
RUSSIA, FREE LIBRARIAN NATALYA SHARINA

Russian police raided the home of Natalya Sharina, director of the library of Ukrainian Literature in Moscow, after a tip-off from an ex-employee who was dismissed in 2010.

After searching her home for hours, the police went to the library to continue their hunt for 'extremist literature'.

Investigators claimed to find works by Dmitry Korchinsky – a Ukrainian nationalist – in a pile of books that had not been indexed or made available to the public.

Natalya is a prisoner of conscience – she has been deprived of her liberty for peacefully exercising her right to freedom of expression.

Ask the Russian Prosecutor General to release her and stop criminal proceedings immediately.

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/russia-free-librarian-natalya-sharina>

January Dates to Remember

25th Burns Night

A celebration of Robert Burns specifically and Scottishness in general

<http://www.robertburns.org/suppers/>

27th Holocaust Memorial Day 2016 – Don't stand by

The central vision of Holocaust Memorial Day is to learn from the past in order to create a safer, better future. HMD 2016 will enable people to learn about the ways in which bystanders created cultures in which genocides were able to take place, and about the rescuers and resisters who challenged this. HMD 2016 will encourage people today to consider the ways in which they can choose not to be bystanders

<http://hmd.org.uk/>

30th School Day of Non-violence and Peace

The School Day of Non-violence and Peace (or DENIP, acronym from Catalan-Balearic: Dia Escolar de la No-violència i la Pau), is an observance founded by the Spanish poet Llorenç Vidal Vidal in Majorca in 1964 as a starting point and support for a pacifying and non-violent education of a permanent character.

Its basic and permanent message is: "Universal love, non-violence and peace. Universal love is better than egoism, non-violence is better than violence, and peace is better than war"

<http://denip.webcindario.com/denip.english.html>

Something to Think About

Does sending home overdue letters to parents violate a child's (or teen's) right to privacy with regard to borrowing books?

Last Minute Quick Links

Read All About It! (SLG Conference)

<http://www.cilip.org.uk/school-libraries-group/events/read-all-about-it-slg-conference>

Sean Taylor's 13 Thank-yous for Librarians

<http://blog.seantaylorstories.com/index.php/2015/12/save-libraries/>

Studio Ghibli Announces a New Animated Film *The Red Turtle* for 2016

<http://designtaxi.com/news/382820/Studio-Ghibli-Announces-New-Animated-Film-The-Red-Turtle-For-2016/>

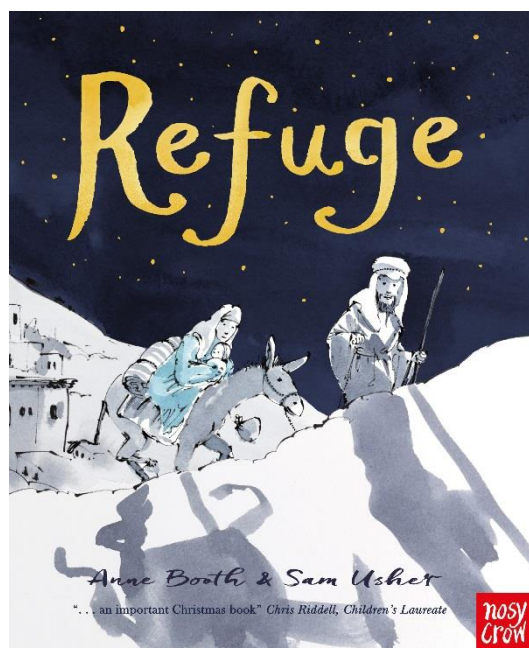
Write for Teen Librarian!

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

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Refuge: A Review and an Interview with Anne Booth & Sam Usher



Refuge is the story of the Nativity and the flight into Egypt, told from the perspective of the donkey and shorn of all mysticism and religious overtones, it instead focuses on the warmth, hope and the kindness of strangers. It is the story of a small family seeking succour and refuge; and having to travel great distances to find it. Anne Booth's text is deceptively simple and moving but is only part of the whole; her words when paired with Sam Usher's art transforms a story into a masterpiece!

The story is recognizable to anyone with a passing interest in Christianity and the Christmas story but is accessible to those of other faiths and none. *Refuge* is perfectly placed to initiate a conversation with children about what they see in the news regarding refugees and particularly Syria and the Middle East where this story is set.

I am not sure if it is because I am now a father but *Refuge* moves me to tears each time I read it (around seven times now), it is short and beautiful and is one of the first books I have chosen for my daughter's bookshelf, I am looking forward to being able to share it with her when she is old enough. I seriously love everything about this book and although it is small it has had a mighty impact on me and I am sure that it has had and will have a similar effect on many others!

This year I have noticed an explosion of Christmas books and while I have read and enjoyed a number of them, *refuge* is by far my favourite and I recommend it highly for schools, libraries and anyone who has children or was once a child themselves!

Anne what inspired you to retell the story of the Nativity & flight into Egypt?

(Anne)I have been seeing images of refugees for a long time now, and watching heartbreaking interviews, like the one with the Syrian mother who saw her three little daughters drown. I've always been aware of how lucky I am to live in safety with my family, and I cannot imagine the fear and grief of those families who try to escape danger & see their loved ones drown or die of cold. I have been feeling helpless and trying to pray about it. I gave some money and bought some sleeping bags, but the images keep coming, and I knew I wasn't a politician or an aid worker and I wanted to do something myself. As a Christian myself I was very aware of the bible account of Jesus being a refugee. I wrote 'Refuge' because I felt so sad about the situation and wanted to meditate on Love and how people were kind, and I also wanted to draw attention to the fact that baby Jesus was a refugee, in the hope that this would raise empathy for refugees and change people's perspectives

Sam how you came to be involved in the creation of this beautiful book?

(Sam)Nosy Crow liked my previous work and asked me if I would be prepared to illustrate this within a very tight turnaround.

I read that you visited the Jungle Camp in Calais prior to working on the art for the book, I have yet to meet anyone who has seen what is going on there so I hope you do not mind if I ask you just how bad are conditions for refugees over there?

(Sam)It was distressing to see people so dehumanised. A man I met there – SB – was from Sudan; he fled war, his family were killed; he travelled across Libya, across the Mediterranean and up through Italy to Paris, then Calais. He was an accountant and had a

dream of continuing his studies at Cambridge – that was what drove him. Yet he is completely stuck – he has no money, no way of earning money; can't move forward, or back. He along with a few thousand other people are living in Limbo. Feels like a problem with literally no solution.

How did your visit inform the work you did in crafting the illustrations for Refuge?

(Sam)Nothing specific inspired the visuals, but the experience has stayed with me.

How long did it take the two of you to create this story & illustrations?

(Anne) The story I wrote basically in one go (with some editorial tweaks), but after months and years of thinking and praying and reading about refugees in the world and also the fact that Jesus was one. When I actually wrote it was written very quickly.

(Sam)Had to work a lot quicker than usual – normally a picture book might take 6 months. Had 12 days for Refuge. We planned the book - thumbnails - in a couple of hours, the morning after I accepted the project, then that evening I drew up full sized roughs. We spent the weekend finessing the roughs – including a trip to the British Museum to consult an expert in the Ancient Middle East, then I had 4 or 5 days to do the final artwork.

What do you think would happen to the Holy Family if the story of the Nativity happened today?

(Anne)I would like to think they would be welcomed, but I worry they would have experienced the same hardships and tragedy that so many other refugee families are experiencing, and I think it is so important that we try to make sure every refugee family is welcomed and helped, just as we would welcome Jesus, Mary and Joseph

In order to write for children there has to be Hope, and I do believe that Love is stronger than Hate - and that is why I love Sam's illustrations so much - for the words 'and we found refuge' he has provided a warm, whole hearted welcoming meal full of love in a home - not an overcrowded camp or a prison-like detention centre - and that is what we need to give to the refugees and refugees.



Do you have any suggestions on how libraries and librarians can widen awareness of the plight of refugees to library patrons?

(Anne) Well, there are some wonderful stories about refugees - both in the past and now. So making those books - and DVDs associated with them - available is very important. They can be stories set in WW2 like *When Hitler stole Pink Rabbit* by Judith Kerr or *The Silver Sword* by Ian Serrailler - but also stories imagining what would happen if we in this country needed to be refugees - like the brilliant 'After Tomorrow' by Gillian Cross. Then there are books like Shaun Tan's *The Arrival* or *Azzi in Between* by Sarah Garland. I have not read this yet but 'Mohammed's journey - a refugee diary' by Anthony Robinson and Annemarie Young, illustrated by June Allan, has been recommended to me.

But I also think that librarians can also help by making good books and journals and DVDs available about geography and politics and the arms trade and current affairs and international development and history of the countries - so many of us don't even know where many of the refugees' countries are or why they are refugees. At the moment we focus on one country at a time and then move on to another - Afghan refugees are being sent back even though it is still not safe, for example. We need to access publications which give background to the crises - so perhaps libraries (who are under such financial strain) can display publications and posters and information from charities in the field, and also invite refugee charities and asylum seekers to come and talk in libraries so we understand the global perspective and personal experiences.

I think libraries can also be a place where refugees can share their culture with others - share stories and clothes and music and even food. How about a display of books about Syrian cooking, for example? Or beautiful photographs of Afghanistan. This will help refugees celebrate their culture but also help us appreciate the riches of what they have left behind and the enormity of the experience and loss.

Libraries can also show refugees who have come here as success stories - people who have contributed to British culture - like Judith Kerr for example.

Lastly - perhaps our libraries can be refuges themselves for refugees - places where they can read books in their own language but also learn English. Places where they can meet other children who love stories, and share funny, inspiring stories they would love whether refugees or not.

After reading the book if parents would like to guide their children in finding out more about refugees do you know where they can start?

(Anne) I think it depends on the age and personality of the children. It is very important they are not overwhelmed. So I hope that *Refuge* is gentle enough for very little children as well as appropriate to be read as a poem by older children and adults. I think for little ones, simply learning about being kind to people in trouble is a good start. For older ones, charities' websites are very good - but I think parents need to check them out first so that the material there is age and personally appropriate to their particular child. I googled this and found that various Book Trusts have compiled reading lists like this one:

<http://www.scottishbooktrust.com/reading/book-lists/refugee-children> and a good librarian would be able to recommend appropriate material.