

TeenLibrarian

Monthly Newsletter

www.teenlibrarian.co.uk

Editorial

November is upon us and with it the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness. However, libraries care not for seasons except to add a bit of colour to displays and for a general moan of leaving work and it is dark already, but we fear not the dark of evening for we library workers together have faced the darkness of swingeing cuts and the attempted destruction of the library service.

This month we bring sad news that Voices for the Library have decided to call it a day although the work they have done will live on in the inspiration they provided to a whole army of library activists.

Fake News is Collins dictionary word of the year, we bring you a list of links to resources you can use with your young people to help them recognise falsehoods and fake facts.

Counter terrorism Policing in association with a number of groups including the Girl Guides has created a training program to teach young people how to react when faced with gun, knife or terror attacks.

Alt-Write is a group of 50 authors and illustrators who have banded together to create a collection of stories and artwork to raise funds for the UNHCR.

Not covered in this month's TLM is news that the 81st nominations lists for the CILIP Carnegie & Kate Greenaway Medals have been released. These lists are truly amazing, so if you are in need of a fantastic read take a look here:

http://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/press.php?release=pres_2018_nominations_announced.html

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Voices for the Library

For the past seven years one of the loudest voices of protest for saving the UK's public library service came from the Voices for the Library collective. Sadly at the end of October they called time on the group. If you were not aware of the group's work or had not heard that they had disbanded then visit their site here: <http://www.voicesforthelibrary.org.uk> to learn about the magnificent work they did and then go here for their last post: <http://www.voicesforthelibrary.org.uk/2017/10/an-announcement-and-final-blog-post-from-voices-for-the-library/>

I was always in awe of the work they did and was inspired to get more involved where possible with the fight to save libraries.

Fake News

Collins Dictionary has chosen "Fake News" as their word of the year.

Defined as "false, often sensational, information disseminated under the guise of news reporting", "fake news" will now be added to the next print edition of Collins Dictionary.

As educators Librarians whether in schools or public libraries, have a duty to help students and other library patrons discern between what is real and what is fake. A number of organisations have put together resources to help with this endeavour.

The National Literacy Trust: <https://literacytrust.org.uk/resources/fake-news-and-critical-literacy/>

New York Times: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/19/learning/lesson-plans/evaluating-sources-in-a-post-truth-world-ideas-for-teaching-and-learning-about-fake-news.html>

Common Sense Media: <https://www.common sense media.org/blog/how-to-spot-fake-news-and-teach-kids-to-be-media-savvy>

IFLA: <https://www.ifla.org/publications/node/11174>

First Draft News: <https://firstdraftnews.com>

Humane Education Pinterest page:

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/humaneeducation/teaching-about-fake-news-and-news-literacy/>

Dear John Glen

Back in October I wrote a letter to John Glen, MP and Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport). I was hoping to encourage him to be more publicly supportive of Public Libraries. You can read the letter here:

<http://teenlibrarian.co.uk/2017/10/17/are-you-there-john-it-is-me-matt/>

I received a response from his ministerial team at the beginning of November, composed largely of restating the letter I sent and sundry other pieces of waffle there were some useful nuggets, particularly:

...the Government is committed to ensuring that there remains a strong library service.

and

...volunteers are not a substitute for expertise of professional librarians, who are key to the public library service.

I am planning on pushing forward with writing to people in power (in local and national government) about libraries and using this letter, or portions thereof, to attempt to elicit a response



Counter Terrorism Policing (CTP) have collaborated with specialists from the PSHE Association and Girl Guiding to take terrorism safety advice into the UK's classrooms and youth organisations for the first time.

Security experts from CTP have commissioned the creation of an animated core film designed to teach young people how to react if caught up in an a gun or knife terror attack. The film aimed at 11 to 16 year olds will also show them what to do if they see suspicious behaviour or a suspicious item.

Versions of the new film for Key Stage Three and Four pupils, (ages 11-14 and 15-16), will be the cornerstone of teaching material, specially-designed by the PSHE Association and available to Schools and Youth organisations from today.

Once young people understand the RUN HIDE TELL advice they can progress to TREAT, which has been created in conjunction with St John Ambulance. This age-appropriate First Aid guidance has been specifically designed to allow a teacher or youth leader to show young people how to deliver trauma first aid to an injured person or themselves whilst HIDING and waiting to be rescued by the police.

For full details of this program and to access the training materials, follow this link: <http://www.npcc.police.uk/CounterTerrorism/actforyouth.aspx>

Alt-Write

50 leading authors and illustrators have come together to produce a crowd-funded collection of stories, poetry and artwork with all profits going to UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency.

Alt-Write: creative reactions to uncertain times is a collection of new previously unpublished stories*, poems and illustrations from leading names in the children's book world.

The past year has delivered a tumultuous series of world events that has left people reeling. Authors and illustrators asked themselves what they could do to help and the answer was to do what we do best, to write and draw and create.

When you don't like the story the world is telling, tell a different story.

Our role is to debunk xenophobic myths and make people think, help them discover the natural human quality of empathy.

- Alan Gibbons, author

It's wonderful that so many great literary voices are contributing their creativity and compassion to this project, and showing that they stand with refugees

- Laura Padoan, a spokesperson for UNHCR.

Contributors to this new collection include

- Carnegie award-winning author Frank Cottrell Boyce
- Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy
- Scottish Makar and Guardian-award winning poet Jackie Kay

- Winner of the Waterstones Children's Book Prize for Older Children 2017 and The Bookseller prize, Patrice Lawrence
- Rising star and multiple award winning illustrator Sarah McIntyre
- Carnegie and Guardian prize winning novelist Susan Price
- Former Children's Laureate and three-times winner of the Kate Greenaway award, Chris Riddell
- Celebrated poet and former Children's Laureate Michael Rosen.
- Best-selling illustrator Nick Sharratt
- Guardian prize winning novelist and poet, Alex Wheatle the Brixton Bard
- Winner of a World Fantasy Award for Life Achievement, Jane Yolen
- And a host of other leading, award-winning and talented authors and illustrators

In the first week of our campaign

9 of our authors have been nominated for this year's Carnegie award and 1 for the Greenaway award. They are: Alan Gibbons, Mary Hoffman, Patrice Lawrence, Tanya Landman, Irfan Master, Piers Torday, Michael Rosen, Chris Priestley, Alex Wheatle and Jane Ray.

Neil Gaiman and Cory Doctorow have both tweeted about the book

2 of our illustrators (Chris Riddell and John Shelley) have been nominated for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award

What's new?

- Original Jane Ray artwork as a crowd-funding reward.
- Promotional video from Alex Wheatle reading his hard-hitting new *poem And I Still Hear Nina Singing Mississippi Goddam*

The #altwrite team

Editors Mary Hoffman and Rhiannon Lassiter are a mother and daughter team with a proven track record in publishing. In 2003 they co-edited *Lines in the Sand: New writing on war and peace* published by Frances Lincoln in the UK and The Disinformation Press in the US. All the contributors' royalties and the publishers' profits went to UNICEF's emergency appeal for the children of Iraq.

Links

Campaign page on IndieGoGo: <http://igg.me/at/alt-write>

Website: <http://www.alt-write.org>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/altwriteproject>