

Teen Librarian

Monthly Newsletter

www.teenlibrarian.co.uk

Editorial

Welcome to the latest issue of Teen Librarian Monthly! The more eagle-eyed amongst readers will have noticed that there was no issue in August, due to a variety of factors but mostly because I have spent most of my time attending interviews for library posts. It worked though, after seven interviews I have landed my first job in an American Library – part-time for now but it is in an area that values its libraries and uses them!



My fellow editor Caroline Fielding and I, along with many colleagues in the UK library world have added to the top 500 influencers in Picture-book and Children's Publishing in the UK and Ireland by Alan O'Rourke:

<http://www.spoiltchild.com/picturebook-childrens-publishing-influencers-uk-ireland.htm>

There is a lot going on in this month's issue of TLM, from the opening of nominations for the CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medals 2019, a reminder about Lucas Maxwell's new newsletter for school librarians, news of free resources from the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education to support the research in Reflecting Realities and a link to a fantastic post on building a culture of reading in schools.

The largest article this month is by a colleague and brilliant librarian on a project that can be run in any school library with a librarian – The Librarian's Bookshelf by Suzanne Bhargava – I urge everyone working in a school library to give it a try this year!

I have also included an idea I picked up in libraries in the US – letting borrowers know how much they have saved by borrowing library books at the bottom of the receipt they receive when they have borrowed books, it is so simple and ingenious!

Talk Like a Pirate Day is coming up once again, as is Banned Books Week and Hispanic Heritage Month (a US observation that should be celebrated up all over the world).

Teen Librarian Monthly exists because library workers around the world subscribe to it or download it directly from the website. If you are running activities that you would like to share with colleagues, or have compiled lists or created resources you would like to share then please drop me a line at

teenlibraryservice@gmail.com

I would also love to hear from colleagues around the world who have tips on what is happening in their local libraries or would like to publicise events that have happened or are coming up!

To all school librarians that returned to work this week – I hope that you have a great school year and to all librarians working hard in the face of cuts and staff reductions – thank you and remember you are not alone even if it feels as if you are sometimes!

Nominate Books for the CILIP Carnegie & Kate Greenaway Medals now!



Nominations are open for the CILIP Carnegie & Kate Greenaway Medals

#CKG19



The CILIP Carnegie & Kate Greenaway Children's Book Awards

For all members of CILIP, the time to nominate the books you think most worthy of being awarded the CILIP Carnegie & Kate Greenaway Medals is now!

Find out about the awards, the eligibility criteria and how to nominate here:

<http://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/awards-process.php>

Diverse and Inclusive Books for your Library

CILIP has identified a selection of books from diverse and inclusive authors, illustrators and small publishers that are eligible for the 2019 Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medals.

https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/diverse_books

The Portable Magic Dispenser – a reminder

I mentioned this in the previous issue of TLM but now that schools in the UK are back in session I bring it up again! The Portable Magic Dispenser is a new monthly newsletter that gathers Library and Classroom program ideas and initiatives from around the globe. If you'd like to be added to the mailing list, you can email Lucas Maxwell at lml@glenthorne.sutton.sch.uk or find him on Twitter @lucasjmaxwell

Reflecting Realities: Free Resources

To celebrate the launch of Reflecting Realities - A Survey of Ethnic Representation within UK Children's Literature 2017, the CLPE is giving away teaching sequences from their lists that represent a range of realities and perspectives. <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/free-resources>

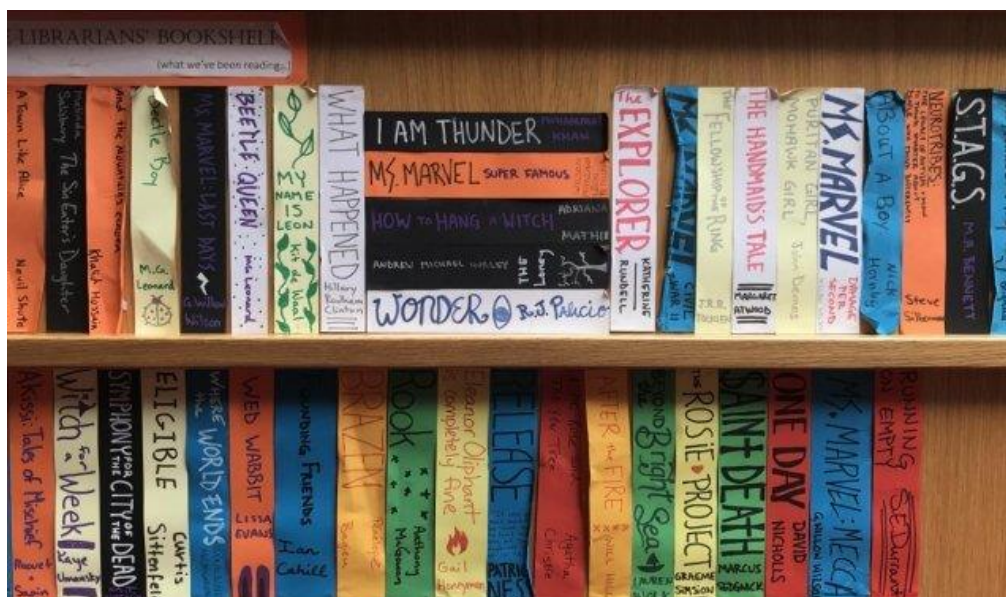
A Reading for Pleasure Manifesto by Andy Seed

A fantastic post on building a culture of reading in schools:

<https://www.andyseed.com/2018/08/a-reading-for-pleasure-manifesto/>

The Librarians' Bookshelf

Suzanne Bhargava



When my school built its new library, it was designed with no walls or ceiling. Just shelves forming the perimeter, lots of tables and chairs for sixth form study, two giant trees and an extremely expensive sculpture in the centre. It is stunning. A showpiece. The bit of the school that is always shown to visitors. It's a powerful message about our values. I mean, I was still annoyed of course, about the lack of display space. But oh well. It's an awesome space anyway.

Ages ago, I came across a book display idea on Pinterest, but never knew how to riff on it or where to put it. Last summer the lightbulb moment finally arrived: I would create a sort of "What we're reading" display to go with the little "Your librarian is reading..." chalkboard which was already on my desk.

I had the perfect space for it – the flat, blank front of my desk, which sits at the entrance to the library. The idea was that every time my colleague or I finished a book, we would update the display so it would be full of a wide range of book titles by the end of the year.

I started the year by making a little, unobtrusive sign saying "The Librarians' Bookshelf (what we've been reading)". Then I cut a stack of different coloured paper and card to roughly the size of a bookmark. When I finished reading a book, I wrote the title and author on one of the strips of paper and fixed it with blutac to the front of my desk. As the year went on, the "shelf" filled up and I started a new row beneath.



[First Day of School]



[Last Day of School]

I received lots of positive responses from staff and students. Staff would point to one of the titles and ask what I thought of it; or share their own opinions if they'd read any of them. In this way, I managed to get a lot of teachers to read *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* and *My Name is Leon* (my two favourite grownup reads this year). It became a sort of unofficial bookclub that never meets.

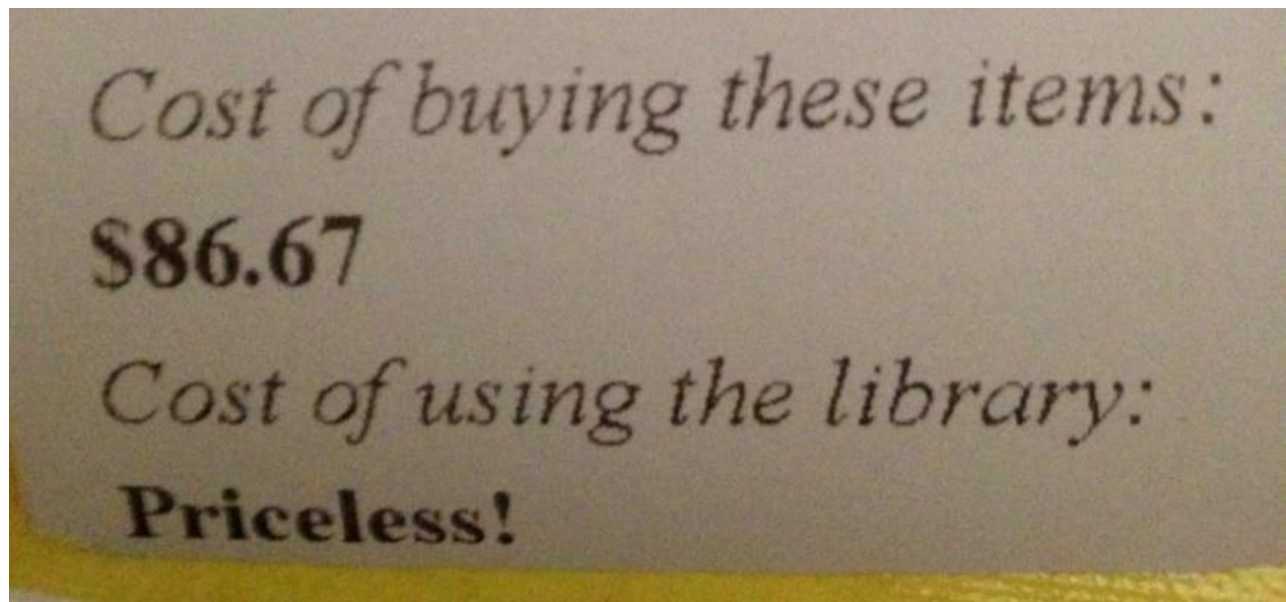
Students interacted with it in a very different way. They didn't use it for choosing their next read (except maybe with *Ms Marvel* – there's a strong little Kamala Khan fan base amongst the Oratory boys now), but took a keen interest in my reading habits: "How long does it take you to read a book, Miss?" "Why do you read kids' books, Miss?" "What are you reading right now, Miss?" "Have you read _____ yet Miss? Well you have to." "What's your favourite book ever, Miss?" That one always stumps me.

I will definitely do this again next year, as it has been one of my most successful efforts to date. Next academic year I'll be in a primary setting, so I will definitely be including picture books this time. Other than that, there are only a few practical changes I'd make:

- Use only card. It won't tear or roll up so much when students inevitably pick at it! Also, paint pens are better on card.
- Take time with the design of each bookmark. I scrawled some out when I was pushed for time, and they just don't look as good.
- Get student library assistants to create their own shelf too! Peer recommendations can be a very powerful thing.

Promoting Library Services

One of the biggest things libraries do for library patrons is that they save them money, this is also one of the most overlooked things. Since moving to the US I have joined several libraries, and something I have noticed when I check out books is that the receipt has the cost of the books at the bottom, letting the borrower know how much money they have saved just by borrowing books



International Talk Like a Pirate Day 19 September

ITLAPD is an annual event that I have celebrated many times in the past, it is great to don an eye patch and sing a shanty or two to young people in the library to confuse or delight them.

It is also a good in during library lessons on or around this day to discuss piracy in modern society, from ships being boarded off Somalia and why people do this to why downloading books and music is wrong and morally indefensible; depriving creators of their livelihood, as contrary to what many believe, digital piracy is not a victimless crime.

If you wish to find out more about the lighter side of this day then visit:

<http://talklikeapirate.com/wordpress/> arrr!

Banned Books Week 23-29 September

The 2018 theme of Banned Books Week is Banning Books Silences Stories a reminder that everyone needs to speak out against the tide of censorship. To find out more about BBW visit the websites, in the US: <https://bannedbooksweek.org/> and in the UK: <https://www.bannedbooksweek.org.uk/> or follow them on twitter: <https://twitter.com/BannedBooksWeek> (US) or <https://twitter.com/BannedWeekUK> (UK)

Hispanic Heritage Month 15 September – 15 October

Hispanic Heritage Month was established in 1968 and enacted into law in the US in 1988. September 15 was chosen as the starting point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. All declared independence in 1821. In addition, Mexico, Chile and Belize celebrate their independence days on September 16, September 18, and September 21, respectively. While primarily (and possibly exclusively) an American observation, it is worth considering extending Hispanic Heritage Month beyond the borders of the USA as citizens of Latin American countries can be found worldwide and Spanish is a global language (the 2nd most widely spoken language in the world).

To find out more about Hispanic Heritage Month visit: <https://www.hispanicheritagemonth.org/>