

**OCT  
2018**

# HIGH LIGHTS

Tasty morsels from your Education Library Service

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## BACK TO SCHOOL- AUTUMN TERM!

Welcome to a new term, and a new school year! Whether you are an NQT, a seasoned regular, new in post or with a different role, a new academic year is always exciting and full of fresh possibilities. We are your first friendly stop for brilliant resources to support literacy and learning, so do get in touch with our team to find out how we could help you.

## A TRIP TO PETERS (AND DON'T FORGET YOUR 26% DISCOUNT!)

Just before the end of the summer term, we took a group of librarians all the way to Birmingham to the Peters showroom, where they were able to browse the bookseller's vast shelves and select titles for their school libraries at a fantastic discount of 30%. Below are two accounts from the day and remember: ELS customers receive 26% discount on books ordered from Peters- get in touch to find out more!

*What more could a school librarian want? A book buying trip to the Peters showroom in Birmingham, retail therapy at its very best! The journey there, in a chauffeur-driven mini-bus organized by Peter's, flew by, as it provided the ideal opportunity for networking with the other librarians and the wonderful ELS staff.*

*On arrival, we were issued with trolleys and the frenzied book buying began, which was reminiscent of a supermarket sweep. It was a treat to be able to browse the huge amount of stock on offer, get up to date with the latest titles and receive recommendations of popular books from the other librarians. The Peters staff couldn't have been more helpful and we were even provided with lunch. A perfect way to spend the day – my only criticism is that it wasn't long enough! Thank you Caroline, Harriet and the Peters staff for organizing this. When's the next trip?- **Cathy Berry, Litcham School***

*None of us appeared too perturbed by the early start for our book buying trip to Peters. This is what we librarians dream of - a full day in a book suppliers to peruse stock at your leisure, an empty trolley and a budget to spend; throw in a buffet lunch and you have the makings of a perfect day! We all enjoyed browsing the tremendous selection of books and recommending titles that were popular in our various schools, invaluable sharing of information from all on reading habits and ideas to promote the wonderful books. Time raced by as we all appeared in a frenzy for the last 15 minutes filling our trolleys- it was reminiscent of an episode of Supermarket Sweep! Harriet and Caroline were on hand to assist with suggestions and lively chit chat on the minibus, providing the odd wine gum to quench our thirst in a very warm minibus and even warmer welcome.- **Lorraine Gill, Dereham Neatherd***



# OUR HIGH SCHOOL UNCONFERENCE & YOUR READING RECOMMENDATIONS

Toward the end of July, Taverham High School welcomed nine school librarians to their lovely light library on a warm Friday afternoon. We began with a demonstration of a new high school management library system from Libresoft, and followed it with a general discussion and sharing of opinions on a variety of systems. Libresoft has been successful as a primary school system, and is now developing its high school offer.

We moved on to other issues, including sharing some ideas about just HOW to get those overdue books back! Given the regularity of this problem popping up, there is probably no single magic wand answer, but we thought emailing and texting could help. One school has a 'swap book' scheme, whereby if a pupil claims to have lost a book they may donate another in its place.

We had to end and say thankyou to our host Julie Glasel, before having time to respond fully to a request for Challenging Reads for KS3 particularly Year 9s. Below are some ideas sent in by the librarians; very many thanks to them and we hope you enjoy reading and recommending these to your students.

Kathryn Elliott, Library & Careers Facilitator, Attleborough Academy

## **The Book Thief by Markus Zusak**

Death is the narrator of this inventively and beautifully told story of Liesel, a young German girl during World War II - and the book-thief of the title.

## **Noughts & Crosses by Malorie Blackman**

A dystopian take on the story of Romeo & Juliet, where Sephy (from the ruling Crosses) and Callum (a member of the Noughts underclass) have to navigate their relationship through a world divided by the colour of their skin.

Amanda Allen, Thorpe High

## **The Sacrifice Box by Martin Stewart**

This is a horror story set in the 1980's. During a long, hot summer five friends discover an ancient stone box, each of them places something in it which is special to them. The rules are simple, never take back your sacrifice. But when one of them does, it sets in motion a devastating chain of events.

**The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas** - one of this years Carnegie short-listed titles, covers racism from the point of view of 16 year old Starr who finds herself involved in a police shooting.

Paul Wilson, City of Norwich School

## **Life: an Exploded Diagram by Mal Peet**

This is a substantial and mature read for young people, and adults too. Set in rural Norfolk in the 1960s (where Mal Peet himself grew up) it is a story of first love between two very different young people. The local backdrop of a rather inward looking rural community is contrasted with the potential horror of nuclear war over the Cuban missile crisis, and other great events which affect us even as we are trying to cope with our own small lives.

# YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS...CONTINUED!

Julie Aldous, Flegg High

## **The Deviants by CJ Skuse**

Five childhood friends discover deep hidden secrets when they reunite. This is a thriller with depth. Julie says she 'Loved the characters, their individual personalities and the way they interacted with each other.' . (NOTE : Includes swearing, drinking, drug taking and descriptions of a miscarriage)

## **The Testing by Joelle Charbonneau**

First of a trilogy. Dystopian. Better than The Hunger Games, The Maze Runner and Divergent. Candidates are chosen to participate in a series of gruelling physical and psychological tests to see if they are suitable as potential leaders in a war-stricken future world.

## **Department 19 by Will Hill**

First of a series. Those that like Gone by Michael Grant and The Dead series by Charlie Higson could be recommended these. A teenager discovers his family ties to a secret government agency that fights vampires, but creatures worse than even vampires are stirring...

And **Kim Bowles from King's Lynn Academy** recommends the following, for year 9s who would like something a little lighter:

## **We Are All Made of Molecules by Susin Nielsen**

Thirteen-year-old Stewart and mean-girl Ashley must find common ground when his dad moves in with his new girlfriend, Ashley's mum, whose gay ex-husband lives in their guest house. The plot contains mild sexual references.

## **Smart by Kim Slater**

Kieran becomes a detective to find out how the homeless man he found in the river died, as well as what's happened to his grandma.

## **Fat Boy Swim by Catherine Forde**

Teased and abused for being grossly overweight, Jimmy, a fourteen-year-old Scottish teenager, who has a poor self-image, turns his life around by overcoming his fears and learning to swim. In the process he finds out the truth about his parents.

## **Jinx: The Wizard's Apprentice by Sage Blackwood**

An orphaned boy named Jinx encounters magic and danger as he grows up in the deep, dark forest known as the Urwald and discovers that the world beyond and within the Urwald is more complex than he could imagine.

## **Darkside by Tom Becker**

Tom Jonathan's father is in an asylum and his home attacked. While running away from kidnappers, he stumbles upon Darkside, a terrifying and hidden part of London ruled by the descendants of Jack the Ripper, where Jonathan is in mortal danger. Book One.

For more reading recommendations, from early years to teen, make sure you visit our blog **The Book Trolley**, where we share lots of news and reviews: [norfolkels.wordpress.com](http://norfolkels.wordpress.com)

## KIDS' LIT QUIZ: THE NATIONAL HEAT

Winners of the Norfolk regional heat, City of Norwich School, took part in the overall UK final last December, and librarian Paul Wilson sent us this account of their experience of taking part in the competition:

*On 5th December 2017 four Year 7 students from City of Norwich School travelled to the City of London School for Girls to represent Norfolk in the National Final of the 2018 Kids' Lit Quiz. The format was somewhat more challenging than in the heat, with a 'first to the buzzer' system including point deductions for incorrect interruptions (quite similar to University Challenge). The elements of anticipation and risk in addition to book knowledge definitely added to the tension! Taking on teams from all around the UK the CNS team did the school (and the region) proud in the quiz, but the most important thing about the day was that the girls had a wonderful experience to remember.*

We'll be sharing info about the upcoming 2018 Kids' Lit Quiz soon, so look out for that...

## TEEN LIBRARIAN

If you've not signed up to this very useful newsletter then do so straight away! Its chief contributor and creator Matt Imrie passes on good ideas, other useful websites and blogs etc, favourite books including excellent book lists, pieces of news and observations. Not to be missed- head to <http://teenlibrarian.co.uk/> to find out more!

## NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WRITING

NCW has a Korean writer in residence staying at Dragon Hall until the end of November, who is a published young adult author. Jun Sung Hyun is keen to visit schools, talk to students about her books and answer questions. If you would like to invite her, please email Learning and Participation manager Hannah Garrard to arrange your visit.

[Hannah.g@nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk](mailto:Hannah.g@nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk) and for more general info about what the centre does for schools, visit [www.nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/working-with-schools](http://www.nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/working-with-schools)

## YOUNG NORFOLK ARTS FESTIVAL: EXPLORING NORFOLK'S RURAL BLACK HISTORY



During half term, Young Norfolk Arts Festival have partnered with Norfolk Black History Month to deliver 'Unravelling': FREE art workshops in Norfolk Libraries.

Children and families will be able to explore Norfolk's rural black history with local artists at sessions taking place at Great Yarmouth, North Walsham, Poringland, Downham Market, Thetford, and Dereham branches of Norfolk Libraries.

Workshops are free but booking is advisable, either by popping into the libraries noted above or by calling them directly. Contact details can be found at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries)

Alternatively, check out the Young Norfolk Arts twitter page where they share up to date info about their year-round programme of events: [www.twitter.com/yn\\_af](http://www.twitter.com/yn_af)