

SLS High-Lights

September 2013

New year, new term

New term, new year, new staff, new pupils (even new libraries in some cases!) – and a new and exciting High-Lights to welcome you back to the wonderful world of children's reading and learning.

New arrival...the new School Library Service blog!

Entitled 'The Book Trolley', the Wordpress site is a new location for book news, thoughts and reviews as well as updates about our services. We'll also be encouraging Schools and their

students to contribute, so if any of your children or classes have reviewed a great book or just want to tell us how much they love reading (and their library!) then get in touch and we'll pop it on the blog!

'The Book Trolley' can be found at <http://norfolksls.wordpress.com> - please bookmark it and check back to read regular updates! If you want to find out more about using Wordpress, ask at your local library about training courses!

High School Libraries Survey

Thanks to those of you who contributed to our survey monkey last term. We had a good response rate with 36% of High Schools replying. What you said:

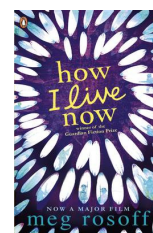
- What we offer in terms of support and opportunities to network and share from each other is about right
- You prefer to have the opportunity of a whole day for INSET, Networking and Teen fiction book group combined where possible
- There is no one good time for meetings (school INSET days, holidays and Saturdays as well as during the school day were all suggested)
- 100% of those who have borrowed our stock recently found it useful and good value
- You would welcome mentoring and 'coaching', and support towards ACLIP qualifications
- You like visiting each other's libraries
- You asked for curriculum resources and manga and graphic novels.

What we will do:

- Continue to offer a range of inset, network and teen book group meetings, combined where possible and spread across the county
- Aim to visit as many of your libraries as possible for meetings
- Continue to make mentoring and support towards ACLIP (or new equivalent qual.) available
- Constantly review our stock and purchasing policies to reflect current demand.

Meg Rosoff's book *How I Live Now* will be released as a film in October, starring Saoirse Ronan. Read the blog about a day on the film set, won by a lucky teenager in a competition run by 'Spinebreakers':

<http://www.spinebreakers.co.uk/2012/08/behind-the-scenes-of-the-how-i-live-now-film-with-meg-rosoff-and-saoirse-ronan/>



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Email: school.library.service@norfolk.gov.uk

Project Boxes

Reading for Pleasure

With Ofsted's increased emphasis on Reading for Pleasure don't forget that you can order a project box of 24 books for your KS3 students which includes books chosen for browsing and/or sharing. Books include graphic novels, leisure non-fiction, picture books for older readers, novelty books and puzzle books. Projects are sent and collected by courier for all schools including Academies, and are yours for one term. Cost is one token.

Manga/Graphic Novels

You could borrow a whole box of Manga and graphic novels if you wish. If enough schools are interested in borrowing we may purchase more sets.

Please contact Gail at SLS (gail.arnold@norfolk.gov.uk) if interested. Do you know that the public library has whole sets of Manga which can be reserved free on students' own library cards.

INSET this academic year—promoting your school library

Taking note of your comments in the survey monkey, we are planning to offer you a 'promotion' themed series of inset opportunities for this year. We intend to offer a course on quick and easy publications this term, something on Social media next term, following up with something on 'Delicious books' – hopefully with an author and/ or publisher, masses of lovely books and the chance to share how you have used the skills you have learned to promote your library.

We will get some dates for your diaries as soon as we can.

In the meantime, there are a few spaces left on the repeat of our popular 'Making Reading Attractive for pupils with SEN' on 6th November. This is a full day course aimed at KS2 & 3 and is run by Anne Harding, an independent trainer. Cost: 2 tokens (£140). Ring SLS for further details and to book.

Author visits

We are delighted to be able to offer you non-fiction Author Steve Parker for visits to schools in Norfolk. Steve has published many information books for children including "Science Crazy" which is currently shortlisted for the SLA Information Book Award. Steve can do class sized workshops as well as larger sessions.

He says: "Fancy a change from poets, storytellers, illustrators and novelists? Non-fiction is 'literacy plus' – fact-finding, research, teamwork, negotiation, co-operative learning, and more". These visits would be suitable for KS3. See his website www.steveparker.co.uk

We will charge 3 tokens for a half day or 5

tokens for a whole day.

Alexander Gordon Smith, author of the Furnace series, (and he came to Kids Lit Quiz) is also still happy to book visits in 2014. SLS acts as broker, and he could come to your school for a whole day or be shared between 2 schools for a morning and afternoon session. You would need to do some preparatory work with students so they get the most out of it and have a bookshop on the day.

Gordon does a talk to the whole school / year group, followed by some workshops for smaller groups. The talks and workshops are aimed at raising aspirations, and letting the students know that they can do anything they want to if they put their mind to it.

Kids Lit Quiz

The annual fun quiz is fast approaching! Lots of schools have already signed up but we can still take a few more teams at this year's venue, City Academy, Norwich. We're planning an author team as last year, with book buying/signing in the break. We'd also like to have a librarian team – anyone interested?? Contact SLS to sign up your team. See www.kidslitquiz.com for practice

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SLS Teen fiction Book Group

Our group is open to all High School Librarians and teachers, and this term we will experiment and open it up to Norfolk Library and Information Service public libraries staff. We meet once a term after school by teleconference to have what is always a lively, yet relaxed and informal meeting to review six recently published paperbacks that we feel are particularly suited to young people. It is really easy to take part in the conference call - no travelling or time wasted and yet still a good discussion of the books!

The titles are generally pre-selected by the School Library Service - though we welcome your suggestions. We select new, interesting fiction for all ages and across all genres and we keep you informed of Teen Fiction Awards, new trends and series and those books that you might not otherwise get to know about that are a little bit different but that will hopefully appeal to your students. This group is free for schools who are customers of the School Library Service. You need to obtain your own copies of the books.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 3 December 2013 - 3.30pm to 4.30pm. This will be a conference call ...easy peasy! **Telephone number: 0844 762 0 762 Passcode: 222265**
To join the call, please dial in and then enter the Passcode when prompted followed by the # key. For a group of people you need a phone with a speakerphone facility. Standard call charges apply.

Book choices for this meeting:

Eve Edwards - Dusk

Gillian Cross - After Tomorrow

Claire McFall - Ferryman

Emily Diamond - Ways to see a ghost

Sita Brahmachari - Kite Spirit

Niccolo Ammaniti - I'm not scared

Andy Mulligan Visit

"Last period on a Friday, students in a state of fervour, craving the weekend; yet author Andy Mulligan stood before all of the Hewett School Year 7s and claimed their absolute, dropped-jaw attention. His book, *Trash*, is set in the Philippines, which is off our cultural radar, but Mulligan invited one proud student to march onto the theatre stage and confidently point out the location of Manila on a massive world map. Mulligan told our students of his extensive teaching experience, explaining that this qualification is a passport to travel and work anywhere you like. This experience was evident in the way he spoke to his audience, encouraging frequent interaction, and praising intelligent responses. He had a strategy of feigning fear that his books may be too gruesome and horrifying for these young readers before him, pensively remarking, 'perhaps my book is too scary for you guys. I probably shouldn't be telling you all this'. That of course sparked the knowledge-thirsty attitude of students hankering to learn more about the grim realities of their peers thousands of miles away, who swim naked in oceans of junk and human excrement.

When Andy Mulligan announced that he may move on to speak about another book, there was a murmur of distress in the crowd, and a few whisper-chants for 'Trash... Trash... Trash!' Once Andy began to explain about a little boy called Richard who develops a 'growth' on his neck which has two burst-pimple eye sockets, a terrible temper, and unrelenting mood swings, the students registered that *The Boy with Two Heads* (his latest book) represented their competing child and adult personalities, their learnt good manners versus their latent desire to rebel.

More copies of Andy Mulligan's books were bought or requested by students than on any other occasion of an author visit at this school; certainly, a resounding success, and a fantastic event to engage more of our students in reading. Many thanks to Jarrolds, SLS and Random House for arranging this visit."

You're very welcome! Author visits anyone? Just get in touch!

Thank-you to Daniel Whitehouse for this report from Andy Mulligan's visit to the Hewett School Library

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