

# SLS High-Lights

January 2014

## Happy New Year!

We'd like to wish a Happy New Year to all High School Library Staff and an enormous **WELCOME** to anyone new out there.

Do get in touch if you are new (and not so new of course!); even if you just want a bit of a chat, there is someone in the office at the end of a phone 5 days a week between 8am and 4.30pm. If you are wanting to speak to one of us in particular then of course you can always email as between us we do get out a bit!

## Kids Lit Quiz: Another Fun Year

We had a record number of teams (31) participating in November 2013's Norfolk heat of the Kids Lit Quiz plus a new author and librarian team comprising Sarwat Chadda (author of the Ash Mistry series), Helen Gage, Julie Glasel, and Helena Last whose team gained a fantastic score!

The quiz was held in the wonderful atrium of City Academy Norwich, and there was a real buzz of excitement in the air as Wayne Mills, the quiz master from New Zealand, asked his questions. Students answered 10 rounds of questions based on themes such as numbers, mythology, and owls, all drawn from books new and old. The scores were close but in the end a team from last year's winners, Thetford Grammar, took the cup once again, followed closely by Litcham School team B in 2nd place and Culford prep in 3rd.



Thank you to City Academy for hosting this year– we're pleased to announce that they'll be hosting the 2014 heat so we hope to see many of you there!

## Recognise your boys?

Broadcaster and children's author Simon Mayo joins the National Literacy Trust in calling for a renewed focus both at school and at home on ways to get boys into writing.

The National Literacy Trust's third annual literacy survey of 35,000 8-16 year olds shows that boys are much less enthusiastic about writing than girls and the charity's report *Children and Young People's writing in 2012* outlines that:

- almost a third of boys say they never or rarely write outside of class (30.2%): half as many girls admitted the same (17.3%) and a third of girls write outside of class daily (32.6%)
- Boys are twice more likely than girls to say that they don't enjoy writing at all (20.9% vs. 8.6%)
- 1 in 5 boys (19.5%) admits "I would be embarrassed if my friends saw me write", compared with 1 in 8 girls (12.7%).
- More girls than boys say that "writing is cool" (girls 35.2%, boys 26.8%).
- Boys are also more likely than girls to agree that "if you can use a spellchecker, there is no point in learning spelling and grammar" (boys 30.6%, girls 21.7%)

(source: Literacy Trust [http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/news/5721\\_simon\\_mayo\\_supports\\_drive\\_to\\_get\\_boys\\_writing](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/news/5721_simon_mayo_supports_drive_to_get_boys_writing))

We know that reading and writing go hand in hand so we need to work especially hard to captivate boys as readers - Simon Mayo's 'Itch' and 'Itch Rocks' would be a good starting point! SLS offer a KS2 Motivating Boys course regularly– get in touch to find out more if you would be interested in a twilight session to look at stock and book trailers for years 7 and 8.

**Norfolk School Library Service—01603 222265**

**Email: [school.library.service@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:school.library.service@norfolk.gov.uk)**

## Carnegie/Greenaway Children's Book Award 2014

A bit of background those in the know can skip...

The **Carnegie Medal** is a very long established prize, awarded by librarians for the best children's novel (long or short, whatever age) of the year published in the UK from 1st September 2012–30th August 2013. In recent years shadowing groups of pupils have been encouraged to vote alongside (although ultimately their votes will not count in the final decision making), and there is now an extremely wide network of reading groups (usually in high schools, as the majority of the shortlisted novels are teen level), and a fab website which enables each group to have their own customised page.

The **Kate Greenaway Medal** was set up a few years after the Carnegie to celebrate the best illustrated children's book of the year. Increasingly, picture books are becoming more sophisticated in both style and content, and are eminently suitable for enjoyment at KS3 level. With this in mind, we encourage high schools to look at these too, either purely for their own sake or for sharing in transition events with primary children, or with special needs pupils, or on child development courses...just a few suggestions!

For more information and longlists, why not take a look at <http://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/>

## Important for everybody: SLS NEEDS YOU!

For the past few years we have run a lovely shadowing event for high school reading groups on the morning of the CARNEGIE/GREENAWAY AWARD CEREMONY hosted by a high school library. We have shared views, had a quiz, refreshments, seen displays, and held our very own Norfolk vote before the 'real' one has been announced.

We are currently looking for a high school who would be happy to host the forthcoming event. You would need to:

- Be running your own shadowing group.
- Be available on a morning in June (the actual date is TBC)
- Have a spacious, flexible library for break-out groups, bags, and coats.
- Have sufficient parking for cars and minibuses for visitors.
- Be prepared to serve refreshments (whether these are provided by the school or SLS).
- Alert local media for some publicity.

SLS will:

- Supply each **participating** school with a free set of Greenaway titles.
- Co-ordinate the event in collaboration with the host school and their staff.
- Supply the quiz and lead the event.
- Provide refreshments should the school be unable to do so.
- Supply certificates of attendance for all students.
- Reward the host with a **FREE** SLS token!

All participating schools need to:

- Be existing SLS customers (i.e. to have bought just one token in the financial year of the event)
- Provide their own Carnegie shortlisted titles (to be announced on 18th March 2014) - Remember, there is a 22% discount with Peters for SLS customers!
- Try to ensure that the participating pupils have read as much of the shortlist as possible!
- Be prepared to bring a display, and/or have pupils who are prepared to do a very short presentation of a title (no pressure!)

**So...if your school is interested in hosting the event or taking part– get in touch!**

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## Spring Term INSET

### Social Media in High Schools

**Bev Humphrey**, Literacy, School Libraries and Technologies Consultant

**1st April 2014, County Hall Annex, Norwich**

Bev Humphrey is an expert on the digital age in libraries and will be looking not just at Twitter, Facebook and so on, but LinkedIn and other tools to support the promotion of the Library.

**Ann Harding** will be returning due to popular demand to repeat her session on **Making Reading Attractive to Pupils with SEN – 12th June at the County Hall Annex**

**Jerry Hurst** will be running his challenging course on School Library Advocacy on **3rd June at County Hall**.

For more details: look out for future emails or get in touch with us directly to discuss further.

## Newsflash: Peters Discount!

Our book suppliers, Peters Books & Furniture have a great spring offer: 25% discount on books and 5% on furniture for visits booked between 6/1/14-28/2/14 and for visits taken by 31/3/2014.

## Teen Fiction Discussion Group

Over the years we have tried various formats for the Teen Fiction Discussion Group but recently the take up has dropped despite us trying out meetings by phone conference. Thanks to Carol at Ormiston Venture Academy for the most stalwart support!

We know you are all reading teen fiction out there; perhaps there is another way you would like to share with us what you and your pupils are enjoying? Do give us your thoughts!

## Reading For Students with Visual Impairments

**Load 2 Learn** is run by the RNIB and the Dyslexia Association and provides free downloadable 'accessible' books and resources for those who find ordinary print difficult to read. They have resources – including textbooks for KS1,2,3, & 4. The service can be set up by a school or library to give teachers, parents and (where appropriate) students permission to download resources.

You will need a CLA Schools or Print Disability licence (<http://schools.cla.co.uk>) to access the resources and you must also own a copy of the book you would like to download. To find out more, have a look at their website: <http://load2learn.org.uk>

## Our Blog and Other Websites...

<http://www.norfolksls.wordpress.com>

This is the address of our very own blog which we've enjoyed working with since its inception in August 2013. We are always looking for ways to expand our content and would LOVE to add contributions from schools – if you would like to see more teen stuff posted or simply have something to share, do please email us as we'd like to share what our schools are doing.

<http://www.readingzone.com>

Our blog is featured on this website! There is a dedicated section for 'Young Adult' (not so very adult actually– it is fine for KS3), and it is also home to nice reviews, competitions and newsy features.

<http://wesatdown.blogspot.co.uk>

This mother and daughter-authored blog has its finger on the pulse of the latest Teen/YA book trends and provides wonderfully in depth responses and reviews of the books they read.

<http://www.literatureforlads.com/>

A blog dedicated to those books aimed at 'lads and dads', it also hosts author interviews, app reviews and competitions, and is run by a former school librarian of the year, Duncan Wright!

<http://bookzone4boys.blogspot.co.uk/>

Another blog posting brilliant reviews about books that may appeal to your male students.

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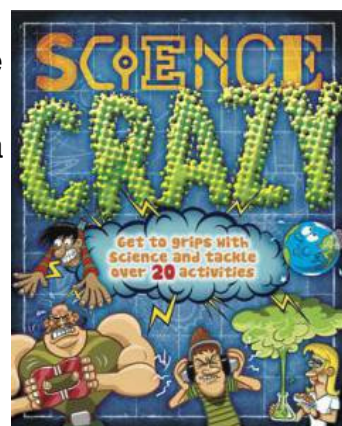
# authors authors authors

This is to let you know about a range of opportunities to work in partnership with Norfolk School Library Service to bring well known, published authors into your school. The benefits to Students include inspiration to read and for some it can be a transformative experience.

**We are continuing our very successful partnership with Steve Parker, award winning author of over 250 non-fiction books.**

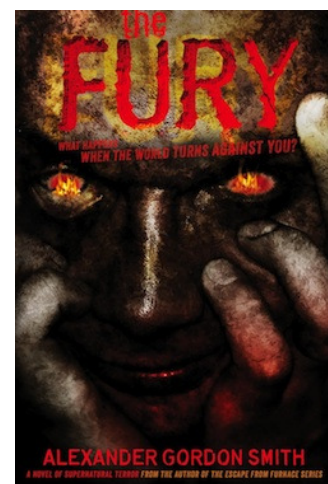
Steve has dates available in the summer term and can work with large and small groups. He will leave copies of some of his books in school at the end of the visit. Meeting an Information book author gives quite a different spin and may work well for your reluctant readers.

He says: *"Something different from poets, storytellers, illustrators and novelists? Try non-fiction. It's 'literacy plus': fact-finding, research, team-work, negotiation, co-operative learning, and more. There's no set routine, each visit is tailored. But a full day is assured, as many sessions as we can fit in. We choose science topics from your current list – I'm familiar with many aspects, from dinosaurs and volcanoes to chemicals, conservation and space, or go elsewhere. We select topics such as research and information-gathering (often a knotty problem these days), design, artworks and photos, and general publishing on screen and on paper. Plenty of interaction and fun, with group work to emphasize – perhaps unexpectedly – the team nature of my work".*



**Also continuing are our visits with Alexander Gordon Smith, author of the 'Escape from Furnace' series and 'Fury', purveyor of Zombies and other such horrors!**

Alexander Gordon Smith says "Yes, I would love to work with some local schools. I often do events with a big talk to the whole school / year group, followed by some workshops for smaller groups. The talks and workshops are really aimed at the idea of raising aspirations, and letting the students know that they can do anything they want to if they put their mind to it."



# authors authors authors

## Supporting the visits

SLS co-ordinates the visit, and authors can be shared between 2 or more schools for a morning and afternoon session, or go to a central venue and bus smaller groups in. You would need to be prepared to do some preparatory work with students and to have a bookshop on the day.

**Prices: A whole day visit is 5 tokens; Half a day is 3 tokens.**

Tokens are £70 when bought as part of an Early Bird offer, £77 outside of this period. The costs can be shared between schools and can be paid for with any funds available to the school, including your Cluster or Pupil Premium funding.

**Please use the attached “Yes please, we’re interested!” form if you would like more information about these very special opportunities**

You would need to:

- Timetable and publicize the visit in your school.
- Prepare students so that some have seen or read the visitor’s books- many of you will have something by these authors in your libraries- borrow some from us if not!
- Organise time and space for a ‘bookshop’ for the visitor to sign and sell some of their books

## **We are interested in an author visit in 2014!**

School.....

Named Contact:.....

(phone)..... (email).....

Interested in a visit from (please select):

Steve Parker

☐

Alexander Gordon Smith

☐

We are also talking to Sarwat Chadda, author of the Ashmistry series, about possible visits for KS3. He was on our Author Team at the Kid’s Lit Quiz and has some great ideas to encourage Creative Writing. See his blog at <http://www.ashmistry.com/>

If you have a specific term or date in mind please specify: .....

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