

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



I hope you have spent the Summer, or at least part of it, in relaxation and catching up on all the things you can't find time to do in a busy term time, and are coming back to the new term (and I know Scotland are already well into their new term!) refreshed and invigorated. There are quite a few SLA dates for your diaries already.

Get your school, parents, pupils, reading groups to think about entering the **SLA Read 80** photo competition. There are some super prizes from sponsors – and the photos will be used in a variety of ways during our 80th birthday year in 2017. Competition closes on Friday 23 December 2016. See more at

<http://www.sla.org.uk/slaread80.php>

Children's Choice voting for **Information Book Award** closes at noon on Friday 4 November – don't forget to vote!

<http://www.sla.org.uk/iba-vote.php>

Announcements of the Information Book Award Winners will take place on Wednesday 9 November at 6.30pm.

School Libraries Celebration Day on Monday 3 October will see the winner of the SLA **School Librarian of the Year Award** announced at our exciting new ceremony. Watch out for all the Honour List profiles being published on the website every week from now on.

We are delighted to enclose the new Regional Training brochure for you – do have a good look and see if there is something that you want or need – we'd love to see you at a course near you! We are also offering a one day conference in Cardiff on 14 November – **Reading Outside the Box** – there are a group of high profile speakers who, I am sure, will leave you with lots of new ideas and plans for helping inspire your school's reading agenda. (More details on the back cover and in *The School Librarian*.)

I know I am looking forward to seeing many of you at Branch meetings that I already have in my diary for later in the year. If I haven't been to your branch recently – and you would like to invite me – I'd be delighted to work out a suitable date to meet you face to face! Do contact me direct and let's see what we can do.

Remember, we are here to support you, and will keep updating our website with useful and practical information – but if there's something you can't find, do ask – we'll try and help!

Tricia Adams



## TAKE PART – INFORMATION BOOK AWARD



Have you looked at the fantastic titles that make up the Information Book Award shortlist? Do have a look at the poster with your mailing (also available to download) – which has useful hints on using information books in your school on its reverse.

To help you kick-start your involvement with the Children's Choice voting we have created a downloadable booklet that contains loads of ideas that can be adapted and used with your reading groups. Eleven pages all packed full with tips and suggestions can be downloaded here – [www.sla.org.uk/resources-for-iba.php](http://www.sla.org.uk/resources-for-iba.php). Do try some of them out and register your school to vote for the Award – the authors and illustrators all love receiving an Award voted for by young people! Voting opened back in June, but it is open right up to the week of the Award Ceremony, closing on 4 November. Check the shortlist and details for voting here – [www.sla.org.uk/iba-vote.php](http://www.sla.org.uk/iba-vote.php)



[www.sla.org.uk](http://www.sla.org.uk)

School Library Association

## What your Association has done in the past year...

- Showcased best practice in librarianship by commissioning wide-ranging feature articles for our quarterly journal, *The School Librarian*
- Worked to improve the status of school librarianship and school library staff by representing SLA members in partnership with CILIP, ATL and others to campaign for school library statutory recognition
- Provided time saving lesson plans and information on running school libraries in our updated and expanded members' section of the website
- Saved time and money for our members by recommending purchases through our comprehensive book reviews in *The School Librarian*
- Responded to our members' requests for CPD which can be undertaken without having to leave school by maintaining and expanding our online CPD courses
- Enhanced over 300 school librarians' understanding and practice through organising and running 24 regional training courses
- Provided superb networking and CPD opportunities for all school library staff through our annual weekend training course – "Empowerment, Empathy, Engagement: The Impact of School Libraries" – in Gloucestershire in June
- Brought new ways of working and fresh ideas for using in school by publishing seven major new titles in our Guidelines, Riveting Reads and Voices series
- Enabled local networking and training opportunities by supporting 19 regional and three national branches of SLA members and helping our members in East Midlands and Kent to set up new local Branches
- Continued to support our new international branch for SLA members worldwide so that they can encourage and help each other to improve their own services
- Highlighted exemplary school librarians and school libraries by holding the twelfth annual School Librarian of the Year Award and the third SLA Inspiration Award as part of School Libraries Celebration Day. A day which recognises innovation, creativity and resourcefulness in school library design and staff
- Supported the role of information books in school libraries by holding our fifth annual SLA Information Book Award
- Helped to promote the Kids' Lit Quiz, getting youngsters excited about reading



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# Schools Video Competition

## MY MARSH: VIDEO REVIEW COMPETITION

Pre-registration is now open for the English-Speaking Union's **My Marsh** competition, which celebrates the best of children's literature in translation.

The Marsh Award for Children's literature in Translation, awarded biennially since 1996, was founded to celebrate the best translation of a children's book from a foreign language into English and published in the UK. It aims to spotlight the high quality and diversity of translated fiction for young readers. The Award is run by the English-Speaking Union on behalf of the Marsh Christian Trust.

We invite schools to upload a video review of their favourite shortlisted title for this year's Marsh Award for Children's Literature in Translation. Prizes for the competition include a subscription to *The Week Junior* (<http://theweekjunior.co.uk>), a copy of all the entries for this year's Marsh Award, a discount voucher for a particular course or conference offered by the School Library Association, coverage of their entry in *The Week Junior*, and a £100 voucher for Browns Books for Students. Sets of the shortlisted texts can be purchased from our supply partner, Browns Books for Students, at a special rate.

Once the shortlisted texts have been selected by our judging panels, we will officially open the **My Marsh** competition on 20 October 2016. Our supply partner for this competition, Browns Books for Students, will contact all registered schools with regard to sourcing the shortlisted texts. Schools will have until the closing date of 20 December 2016 to upload a short video review of their preferred book. These will be judged by an ESU panel and prizes will be awarded to the winners. The winners will be announced on 9 January 2017.

Rules:

1. The introductory part of the video should include: a) the reviewer's name, age and school, b) the title of the book, the name of the original author and the translator, c) a brief summary of the plot and main characters. This section should be approximately 1 minute in length.
2. The main part of the video should include the reviewer's personal response to the book. This section should be approximately 2 minutes in length.
3. The maximum length of any entry is 4 minutes.
4. Reviews can be read from a script but the reviewer should take into consideration that the review is being delivered to a camera and endeavour to engage the viewer accordingly.
5. Reviewers should be aged 16 or younger. Other than this, there are no age restrictions for participation. The age of the reviewer will be taken into account when entries are judged.



ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION  
discovering voices

## Reading for Pleasure

### Engaging children with stories in UK primary schools

Research by Oxford University Press has revealed teachers' concerns around reading for pleasure in the classroom.

- More than half of UK primary school teachers (56%) don't have enough time for books in the classroom
- Over a third of teachers (36%) want more time to dedicate to reading and books.

The survey, carried out by OUP as part of its ongoing research programme, reveals that more than half of UK primary school teachers (56%) say that they don't have enough time to share and talk about books in the classroom, and that more than a third (36%) believe that having more time to dedicate to reading and to books would make the biggest difference to promoting a love of reading in their school.

OUP research also demonstrates the importance that teachers place on classic stories. 93% of teachers surveyed agreed that having access to classic stories was vital to

develop a love of reading. Refreshingly, many teachers were inspired themselves by these stories as a child and now use them to teach the next generation of school children with Roald Dahl and fairy tales demonstrating particular appeal.

Despite almost all teachers (92%) believing that reading for pleasure is essential for a pupil's future success, 63% said that they thought only half or fewer of their pupils read for pleasure outside of class time. The research also showed that for many current teachers it was their own childhood teacher who inspired their love of reading – highlighting the importance of reading for pleasure in the classroom.

**Michael Morpurgo**, former Children's Laureate and award-winning author of *War Horse* says: 'For many children it is their teacher who will be the first to try to engage children with stories. The best of them – and there are many – tell the stories they love, tell them with a passion. However, we have to make this possible; we need to give them the time they need to enjoy stories, poetry and literature – particularly in the early years.'

# Research Articles

## COMEDY FROM THE NATIONAL LITERACY TRUST

Did you know that a third of children read comedy outside of class? The NLT has undertaken a survey in readiness for the **BBC Comedy Classroom** launch and has published a summary here:

[http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/assets/0003/3477/National\\_Literacy\\_Trust\\_Comedy\\_2015.pdf](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/assets/0003/3477/National_Literacy_Trust_Comedy_2015.pdf)

## R4P FROM CHATTERBOOKS

The Reading Agency's **Chatterbooks** programme is an extracurricular reading initiative that aims to increase a child's motivation to read by providing schools with tools and resources to encourage reading for pleasure. We were commissioned by The Reading Agency to evaluate the impact of a delivery model that focuses on school-based rather than library-based activities on children's reading enjoyment, reading behaviour and reading attitudes.

Data were analysed from 114 schools that ran Chatterbooks between September 2015 and April 2016, with responses from 1,430 children aged 8 to 11 to an online pre-survey and 1,141 children aged 8 to 11 to an online post-survey.

This evaluation shows that:

- Children hold more positive attitudes towards reading after taking part in Chatterbooks activities. In particular, fewer say at the end of Chatterbooks that they read only when they have to and that they cannot find things to read that interest them.
- Children read more frequently after taking part in Chatterbooks. For example, there was a 22% increase in the number of children who said that they read daily over the course of the project, increasing from 35.9% to 43.9% at the end of project activities.
- Children also discovered some new genres and reported a shift in their reading preferences. Some of the genres the children said they enjoyed more in the post-survey include adventure, mystery, war or spy stories, fantasy worlds and family and friends.
- More children also said that they enjoy reading at the end of Chatterbooks activities, but the increase was not statistically significant.
- There was a significant difference in children's perceptions of their own reading ability over time, with 49.1% of children feeling that they are very good readers at the end of Chatterbooks compared with 41.1% before.

- Twice as many children say that they are a member of their local library after Chatterbooks than before (54.8% vs. 33.9%). In addition, 30.9% of children said in the pre-survey that they never go to the library, a percentage that dropped down to 19.3% at post-survey.

The full report is available here:

[http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/research/nlt\\_research/7240\\_the\\_impact\\_of\\_chatterbooks\\_on\\_childrens\\_reading\\_enjoyment\\_behaviours\\_and\\_attitudes](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/research/nlt_research/7240_the_impact_of_chatterbooks_on_childrens_reading_enjoyment_behaviours_and_attitudes)



## THINKING DIFFERENTLY

Do pupils who use **Accelerated Reader** (AR) think differently about reading, do they enjoy reading more and do they do it more often than pupils who do not use AR? Research by National Literacy Trust explored this question using two sources of data.

The first utilises data from our 2014 annual literacy survey in which more than 32,000 children and young people aged 8 to 18 participated. 3 in 10 of participating pupils said that they use AR.

The second source uses data from a longitudinal study we set up in 2011. We followed 1,500 pupils who were aged seven to eight (Year 3) in 2011 until they were aged 10 to 11 (Year 6) in 2014. 37% of these pupils said that they used AR in 2011. All pupils completed our attitudinal survey each year, and each year schools also sent us their attainment data. These data uniquely allow us to compare AR pupils with non-AR children over time on their reading enjoyment, reading behaviour and reading attitudes.

Both cross-sectional and longitudinal data sets unanimously show that more pupils who use AR enjoy reading, read frequently and think more positively about reading than their peers who do not use AR.

The analyses also show that reading enjoyment is the only variable in a complex interplay of variables that has a strong bi-directional influence, regardless of gender and whether children use AR or not, not only highlights the importance of reading enjoyment as a variable that matters, but also underlines the need to develop effective methods to encourage children and young people to read for enjoyment. See the full report here:

[http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/research/nlt\\_research/7195\\_reading\\_enjoyment\\_behaviour\\_and\\_attitudes\\_in\\_pupils\\_who\\_use\\_accelerated\\_reader](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/research/nlt_research/7195_reading_enjoyment_behaviour_and_attitudes_in_pupils_who_use_accelerated_reader)

# Libraries in Action

## ECLIPSE MOVES TOWARDS FULL HTML 5

The development team at MLS have been busy working on HTML 5 replacements of the student and management interfaces for Eclipse.net – each of which currently utilise the Silverlight plug-in for Internet Explorer.

While Silverlight has always been visually impressive, it is no longer supported on all web-browsers and Microsoft do not intend to support the technology beyond 2021, so our team – always wanting to be ahead of the curve – hoped to complete the HTML 5 versions by mid-2017.

The good news is they're ahead of schedule, and anticipate a staged release starting in October 2016, with all Hosted customers gradually moved to the new HTML5 version over a few months. The HTML 5 management interface has been in beta testing now since April, receiving fantastic feedback, and all Hosted schools currently using Silverlight Management now have the option to switch their version to HTML 5 to try it out, prior to its general release.

There's already an HTML 5 student interface option in the form of Reading Cloud, the uptake of which has seen a huge surge in recent months as more and more schools embrace the social and community elements of the software. But for schools yet to upgrade to Reading Cloud, there will also be a HTML 5 student interface released alongside the HTML 5 management interface.



Our Hosted customers will as always be the first to gain access to the full HTML 5 experience. There are now only a small number of schools using the non-hosted version of Eclipse.net, so for those who aren't yet familiar with the hosted service – while there are cost implications, a lot of our customers report that they have found the hosted service to save time and money in the long-run, compared with the expense associated with maintaining and replacing server infrastructure.

Here's what some schools have had to say about the service:

"I think the IT Manager was particularly relieved when we switched to Eclipse.net Hosted as he no longer had to perform updates. I have the peace of mind knowing that we are always using the most up to date system"

"Students are now able to easily access the Library system at any time, in school or at home on PC, Laptop, iPhone or iPad. The many features students/parents are able to access are hugely beneficial when improving Literacy"

"The hosted version now allows parents and students to access the system from home, and indeed anywhere in the world! I look forward to having the children review the books, be able to reserve books and see all that the Library has to offer, from the comfort of their own homes!"

"I am delighted with Eclipse.net Hosted and would certainly recommend it to anyone looking for a modern easy to use system which appeals to students"

For more information visit <http://www.microlib.co.uk/newsletter/mls211/index.html>

*Chris Lunt MLS Business Development Manager*



£1

## SUPPORT THE SLA

£1

### GIVE&WIN LOTTERY

### TICKETS NOW ONLY £1

A reminder that the SLA has joined **GiveAndWin**, the fundraising lottery. For every £1 ticket sold, the School Library Association receives 50p and if you win, we do too! Drawn every Saturday, GiveAndWin has a top prize of £25,000, But that's not all, if you win, the School Library Association wins £25,000 also! Play just once or every week – as long as you are over 16 all you need to do is sign-up online.

For full details please visit the School Library Association page at **GiveAndWin** - <http://voluntary.giveandwin.co.uk/charitypage/school-library-association/> – or find out more about **GiveAndWin** at [www.giveandwin.co.uk](http://www.giveandwin.co.uk)



## \*Poster Offer\*

### A CHILD OF BOOKS UNLOCK THE IMAGINATION – FOR IMAGINATION IS FREE

From New York Times bestselling author-illustrator Oliver Jeffers and typographical artist Sam Winston comes an exceptional new picture book, *A Child of Books*.

This inspiring, lyrical tale about the rewards of reading and sharing stories will inspire readers of all ages to create, to question, to explore, and to imagine. Combining elegant images and typographical landscapes, shaped from excerpts of children's classics, including *Treasure Island*, *Little Women* and *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, this stunning prose poem is an immersive and unforgettable reading experience that readers will want to pass on to others.

To watch the trailer and to find out more, visit [www.iamachildofbooks.com](http://www.iamachildofbooks.com).

For your *A Child of Books* poster, simply contact [jo.humphreys-davies@walker.co.uk](mailto:jo.humphreys-davies@walker.co.uk)



## SLA People

### NEW MEMBERS ON THE BOARD

The following officers of the Association were confirmed at the SLA's Annual General Meeting held at Tortworth Court on 25 June 2016.

CHAIR: **Annike Dase**

VICE CHAIR: **Carl Cross**

TREASURER: **Susan Staniforth**

PAST CHAIR: **Karen Horsfield**

The AGM also saw the confirmation of four appointments by ballot to the Board of Trustees (Executive Committee) for 2016–2019: **Sally Dring** and **Lesley Martin** return for another term with the SLA and we are also delighted to welcome two new faces, **Darren Flynn** and **Margaret Pemberton**.

We are very grateful to our retiring Board members for their help and commitment to the Association: **Sally Harrison**, **Rachael Hine** and our departing Past Chair, **Lin Smith**.

## SLA Cardiff Conference



**SLA** School Library Association

One-Day Conference • Monday 14th November 2016  
The Doctor Who Experience • Cardiff Bay

**READING OUTSIDE THE BOX**

#slabox

For full information and online booking, see [www.sla.org.uk/cardiff-2016](http://www.sla.org.uk/cardiff-2016)



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