

Devon School Library Service News

Tell us about a book



Thank you to Emily age 9, Conor age 10 and Emily age 11 from Exminster Primary School

Children around Devon have been writing some excellent reviews for us to display on our mobile library vans, encouraging other youngsters to read some of the brilliant books we bring out to schools. The mobile librarians find that children are enthusiastic about reading the recommendations from their peers across the county.

Would you like to join in?

Would you like to see your class's work displayed in our vans and in the school library centres?

Phone 01392 384340 for copies of our colourful review sheets, which are also available on the mobile libraries and in the centres. We would be pleased to display any book-related pictures your children would like to send to us. **Help us to help you to promote reading for pleasure.**

Tell us about a book

"the Twits is one of the best books I have ever read"
Emily aged 11



"it's exciting and you can't guess what's going to happen next."
Felicity aged 11

Author: Evilke, Cornelia
Title: Dogman
Illustrator: _____

"a story that keeps you glued to the book"
Erin aged 10

Would you recommend this book to others? Why?

This book is good because it's exciting and long so it will last longer than other books. Its words are unique and slow like a stream with nothing in its way. This will pull you deep into the heart of the book. You will be enchanted by this book's contents. I would give it 10/10.

"fantastic world of imagination"
Charlotte aged 10

"explosive, thrilling and action packed"
Oliver aged 11

How many stars would you give this book?



"this is a very good book if you like ambitious twelve year old criminals"
Conor aged 10

Thanks to all the schools who have already participated so enthusiastically.



Devon
School Library
Service

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www.devon.gov.uk/school_library_service



Devon County Council

Talking about books

On the front page of our last Newsletter we featured a couple of schools who had shadowed the Carnegie/Greenaway Book Awards. As several schools have shown interest in this, we thought we'd tell you more.

The **Carnegie** prize is awarded for an outstanding book written for children or young people and the **Greenaway** prize for an outstanding book in terms of illustration. A shortlist (around 6 books for each category) will be published on 5th May, on the website www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk.

The website also gives useful information about how to shadow the award, with the children at your school reading the books and making their choices based on the same criteria as the judges, and lots of exciting ideas to inspire you and your pupils.

Any schools who are interested - and it fits brilliantly with encouraging wider reading - can pre-order the shortlisted books through **Peters Bookselling Services** via the School Library Service (discounted at the usual rate 11% and fully serviced). There is a cost involved but you can be sure that the school gets a selection of outstanding books.

Primary schools usually choose to shadow the Greenaway prize as the Carnegie list often contains books more suitable for teenagers. Any secondary schools planning to shadow the Carnegie, can find a set of lesson plans written by the KS3 English Consultants on the dcs website www.devon.gov.uk/dcs/ (click on secondary strategy, click on English, scroll down the page to fiction project revisited, click into that and scroll down until Shadowing the Carnegie).

There will be a shadowing event in each area. The full details are not available yet but in South the venue is KEVICC at Totnes, for Central area the venue will be QECC at Crediton and in North it will probably be Barnstaple School Library Centre. Contact your local centre for more details.

The national winners will be announced on 7th July.

Modern Foreign Languages

We have put together a small collection of around 40 French, Spanish and German 'real' books, eg. *The very hungry caterpillar* aka *La chenille qui fait des trous!*

These books, selected with the help of **Jenny Smith**, MFL consultant, are available to browse in each of our three Centres and we will provide an order form for European Schoolbooks if you wish to purchase any.

.The collection will be checked each term to ensure the books are still in print, since occasionally titles may be come unavailable. Bonne chance!

Symbolised Text Books

Good news: we have added some new titles to our special collection, both fiction and non-fiction. Check out our website for an annotated list of all the titles in this special format.

Even better news: we now have some specially-produced Widgit Rebus Symbol books from Merry Publications. These are interactive books designed to provide literacy support and language practice for students with severe learning difficulties, helping to increase sentence length and vocabulary and assisting social interaction. We think these books will be a very useful asset to teaching in special and mainstream schools and they complement the popular Widgit storybooks we produce ourselves.

PLUMS meetings

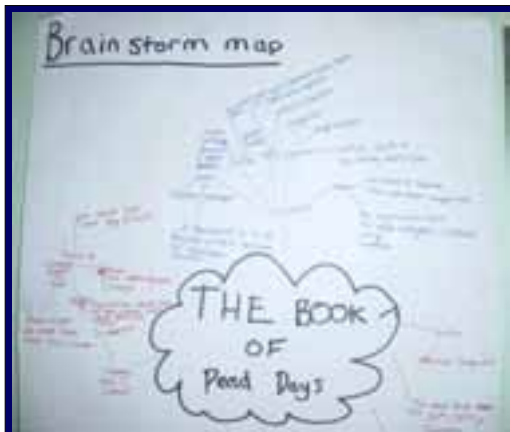
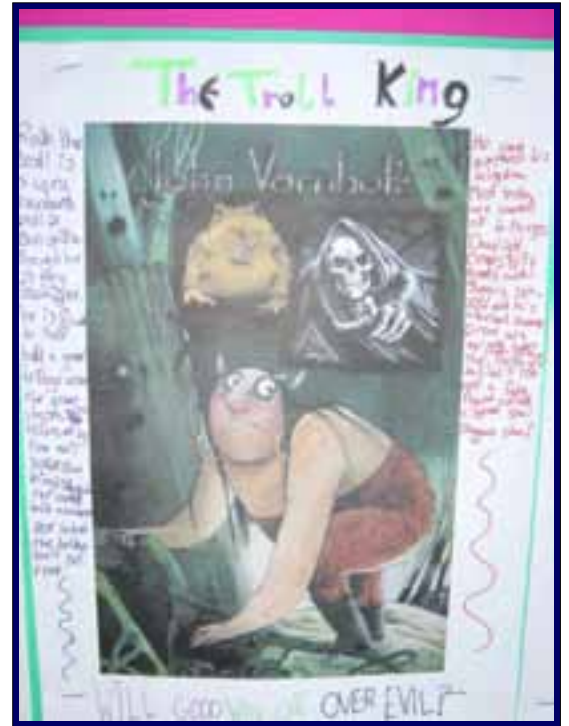
South area's PLUMS meetings are blossoming, with many librarians and library volunteers from Torbay and South Devon schools attending. In November we met at **Foxhole Junior School**, where Tina Authers (TA with responsibility for the library, amongst other things) described how the library had been transformed from a dark, uninviting classroom into a vibrant and welcoming area. Tina uses the *Junior Librarian* computerised system. Discussions were wide-ranging, lively and fruitful. The next meeting will be at **Exminster Primary on Tuesday, 21st March at 10.00 a.m.** Do come along!

READY for change

When the Exeter schools reorganisation took place last summer, Year 6 & 7 pupils were given books to read during the holidays, with a leaflet suggesting a range of reading activities. The idea was to use those books and the pupils' work in a series of English lessons in their new schools. Some stunning work resulted, like these examples from **Isca College**.

The gift books were funded by the **Hele's Trust** and SLS was involved with the selection and share-out, helped by pupils from **Pinhoe Primary School**.

Jenny Lloyd (KS3 English Consultant) and other teaching colleagues devised some brilliant transition activities, and **St. Luke's College** and feeder primary schools are now involved in writing a Year 6 component to create a full transition unit to promote wide, independent reading. The materials will be made available to all schools through the dcs webpages for the summer term 2006.



Scary titles fly out of the Library!



Giant spiders, a creepy skeleton and other spooky paraphernalia appeared in the library for the Halloween display. We aimed to encourage students to borrow more books by showing off some of the scarier titles the library has to offer.

It proved an immediate success, students found the display fascinating and books flew off the shelves faster than Mrs Lamacraft could replace them, even by riding on her broomstick!

**Sue Frost, KS3 English Co-ordinator,
West Exe Technology College**

Recommended websites

Two book-related websites this term to go with the 'promoting reading' theme of the Newsletter. Our own website has links to author websites and other book-related sites. There are two sets of links, those suitable for primary schools and those for secondary schools. The lists are checked and updated regularly. www.devon.gov.uk/school_library_service

www.achuka.co.uk is an attractive magazine-style site with information about new books, author interviews and a chatroom, but you need a password. It is run by Amazon, so buying books is one of the features but there is no heavy sell. For all ages.

The Carnegie and Greenaway Awards

Once again we are picking our favourites for Devon's nominations for the national shortlists. Here are some "tasters" of a few of the titles we are currently debating.

CARNEGIE

Frank Cottrell Boyce *Framed*

Another gem from this author finds 9 year old Dylan helping to run the failing family garage. He is soon cast as the man of the household when dad leaves home. This is a subtle comedy with an endearing hero. Upper KS2

Kate Thompson *The new policeman*

This Whitbread Award-winning title goes right to the heart of Irish magic, folklore and music. Who is the new village policeman and why is he an excellent fiddle player but useless as a policeman? The scene is set for an intriguing mystery..... Upper KS2/KS3

Jeanne Willis *Rat heaven*

A warm satisfying read that subtly deals with the issues of early adolescence, friendship and death as told from the point of view of a pet rat. Have your hanky ready! KS2

GREENAWAY

Ian Beck *The little mermaid*

This classic tale of a mermaid who seeks love on the land is adapted from the original by Hans Christian Andersen. Ian Beck's evocative and magical illustrations complement the expressive text..... KS2

Emily Gravett *Wolves*

Follow a rabbit as he reads about wolves in a library book borrowed from West Bucks Public "Burrowing" Library. A simple but clever tale interspersed with black humour. It's not for the oversensitive, as rabbit comes to a nasty end..... or does he? An alternative ending has the vegetarian wolf sharing a jam sandwich with rabbit! But check those endpapers! KS2/KS3

Mini Grey *Traction Man is here*

The household adventures of Traction Man, a young boy's action toy, as he deals with the perils of daily life. This picture book appeals to both young and older readers and will have you laughing out loud through the humour of its text and illustrations. Great boy appeal too! KS2/KS3

Average book prices:

Primary - £7.69

Secondary - £10.66

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