

Welcome...

...to the summer 2010 edition of *Hullabaloo!*. In this issue we've chosen to focus on storytelling, with information about the new *Laureate for Storytelling* Taffy Thomas, some great storytelling resources, and a special article by Storysack® creator Neil Griffiths. We also say happy birthday to Charlie and Lola and Puffin Books, reveal the winners of two local book awards and our recent quiz, tell you what we purchased with the 2010 OSA Award, and find out why English lecturer Sibylle loved Bambi when she was a nipper.

Have a great summer!

Emma & Janice



Reading Research

Research just published by the National Literacy Trust (NLT) reveals that whilst 86% of young people in the UK own a mobile phone, only 73% have books of their own. These statistics are from the paper *Young People's Reading: The Importance of the Home Environment and Family* which shows a strong link between reading ability and access to books at home. The paper, which expands on the findings of the NLT's 2009 report *Young People's Reading and Writing Today*, explores several issues: the types of resources young people have at home; how this is affected by demographic background; how they relate to reading enjoyment and attainment; who in the family encourages them to read; and how frequently young people talk about reading with their family. Read the paper in full on the NLT website at:

<http://tinyurl.com/2c5l4f7>

To be a person is to
have a story to tell.

Isak Dinesen (1885-1962)

And The Winner Was...

Earlier this year we ran a children's literature quiz which was publicized around the University College in the last issue of *Hullabaloo!*. We set 40 challenging questions about children's books, characters, and authors, and gave you just over a month to get your entries in. The closing date was April 28th and the lucky winner was research student Sarah Bell, who received a £25 book token and 2 fabulous new books about children's literature. A big thank you to everyone who entered: we raised an impressive £60 for the IBBY Children in Crisis Fund which runs storytelling projects around the world for children affected by conflict, natural disaster, or civil disorder.

Awards Roundup

The overall winner of the **Blue Peter Book Awards**, and winner of 'The Book I Couldn't Put Down' category, was *Frozen in Time* by Ali Sparkes (OUP, £5.99). Winner of 'Best Book with Facts' was *Why Eating Bogeys Is Good For You* by Mitchell Symons (Red Fox, £4.99), and of the 'Most Fun Story with Pictures' was *Dinkin Dings and the Frightening Things* by Guy Bass (Stripes Publishing, £4.99).

The **Waterstone's Children's Book Prize** was awarded to Katie Davies for *The Great Hamster Massacre* (Simon & Schuster Children's, £5.99).

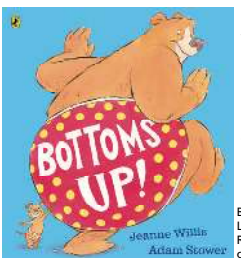


Rebecca Stead won the American Library Association's 2010 **John Newbery Medal** for *When You Reach Me* (Wendy Lamb Books, £5.99) and the ALA's **Caldecott Medal** for the most distinguished American picture book for children went to *The Lion and the Mouse* (cover image on left), written and illustrated by Jerry Pinkney (Little, Brown, £11.99).

The CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal was awarded to Freya Blackwood for *Harry & Hopper* (written by Margaret Wild, Scholastic, £6.99) and the CILIP **Carnegie Medal** to Neil Gaiman for *The Graveyard Book* (Bloomsbury, £6.99).

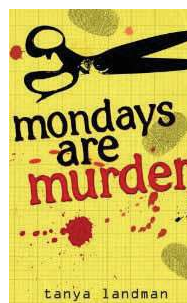
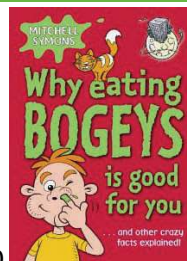
The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award went to author and illustrator Kitty Crowther (who is half-British, half-Swedish and lives in Belgium!).

The overall winner of the 2010 **Red House Children's Book Award** was Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games* (Scholastic, £6.99), with the award for younger children going to Tanya Landman for *Mondays Are Murder* (Walker Books, £4.99), and the award for younger readers going to Jeanne Willis and Adam Stower for *Bottoms Up!* (Puffin, £5.99).



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IBBY's **Hans Christian Andersen Awards** are awarded every two years. Britain's own David Almond was the recipient of the 2010 author award, whilst Germany's Jutta Bauer received the illustrator award.



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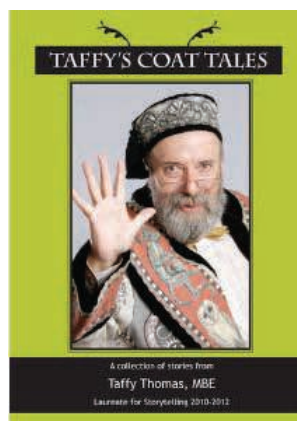
Written by Janice Morris and Emma Sansby

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Hullabaloo!

Featured Storyteller: Taffy Thomas

A 1kg bag of dried beans. A compass. A packet of sweets. A clear glass bottle. A tall white candle. A silver lucky charm bracelet. And a whistle. That was the odd collection of objects that Taffy Thomas was awarded when he became Britain's first ever *Laureate for Storytelling* earlier this year during National Storytelling Week. It was Birmingham's Poet Laureate Adrian Johnson who first suggested the idea of a Laureate for Storytelling and whose production company *kindandgenerous* went on to organise and support the award. During his two years as Laureate Taffy will travel the length and breadth of the land sharing his stories with children and adults (and there is little chance of him repeating himself as he has a repertoire of over 300 of them!).



Taffy began his career in the West Midlands, training as a literature and drama teacher at Dudley College and teaching for several years in Wolverhampton. He founded and directed several touring theatre companies including *Magic Lantern* which performed folk songs using shadow puppets. After suffering a stroke in 1986 Taffy began to concentrate on storytelling and fifteen years later in 2001 he received an MBE for services to storytelling and charity. In an interview last year he told the Guardian: "Storytelling happens all over the country – in schools, at festivals – but most importantly it happens in the home. The stories people choose to tell and to listen to are a statement of who they are, of their identity, and it is very important to have that."

Taffy is artistic director of the Northern Centre for Story Telling in Grasmere where you will find not only the enchanting 'Storyteller's Garden' (what looks like a fabulous venue for storytelling) but a storytelling resource centre too. His books include *Taffy's Coat Tales* (see image above) and, with Steve Killick, *Telling Tales: Stories as Emotional Literacy*, both of which have received excellent reviews. Find out more about Taffy at www.taffythomas.co.uk.

Local Award Winners

We reported the shortlists for the Lincolnshire Young People's Book Award (LYPBA) and the READ Amazing Adventures Series Book Award back in autumn 2009. The winners of both awards were announced in June.

The LYBPA, for the best books published in 2009 and voted for by Lincolnshire schoolchildren, went (in the 9-11 category) to Sheridan Winn for *Circle of Power* and (in the 12-14 category) to Chris Higgins for *It's A 50/50 Thing*. Sheridan was at the ceremony to receive her award and Chris sent a message of thanks. Special guest at the ceremony was local author William Hussey (of the *Witchfinder* novels).

The READ award ceremony took place at Bourne Grammar School with special guest Joe Craig, author of the Jimmy Coates series, contributing what one guest described as 'laughter, chaos and inspiration'. The winner of the award was Anthony Horowitz for his *Alex Rider* series, and the best review of a nominated book (judged by Marilyn Brocklehurst from the Norfolk Children's Book Centre) was awarded to Ross Smart from Spalding Grammar School.

Our Pick of Four Fantastic Storytelling Resources

1. For everything you ever wanted to know about storytelling check out Tim Sheppard's **Storytelling for Storytellers** site. It is truly amazing. Comprehensive and easy to use, it must be the biggest collection of storytelling resources on the web! Find it at www.timsheppard.co.uk/story.

2. The **Society for Storytelling** was set up in 1993 to promote, discuss, practice and bring together people interested in the art of storytelling. It also organises National Storytelling Week each year. To join in the fun in 2011 check out the

Society's website where you'll find lots of help and advice.

Examples include what a storyteller can do for your school, a checklist of things to consider when organizing a storytelling event, and advice on preparing for events. You'll also find a directory of storytellers working in the UK (by county), a programme of storytelling events, and links to other useful websites.

3. **The Story Museum** in Oxford was opened in 2005 to highlight the importance of story for children and is well on the way to becoming a world centre for storytelling. Outreach programmes in schools and communities involving parents,

teachers, artists, and children demonstrate the power that stories have to transform children's lives with the current focus on developing children's language skills through oral storytelling. A generous donation is allowing the museum to expand and by 2014 there will be a permanent centre in central Oxford where children and adults will be able to explore stories across many periods and places. In the meantime the Museum's website has lots to offer (particularly the '1001 stories' section) at www.storymuseum.org.uk.

4. **Storyspinner** (pictured below) is a set of 7 DVDs containing 42 stories, each one told by master storyteller Phil McDermott. The stories, which are suitable for children from Reception age up to Year 6, are from a range of cultures and include both fairytales and folktales. They have also received rave reviews: teacher Patricia Horsnell says "Just walking into the classroom holding one of the DVDs causes a ripple of excitement to run through the class." Judge for yourself by borrowing one from the Library.



Celebrations at Puffin



There are so many birthdays and anniversaries this year that we can't fit them all into the normal back page spot, hence this extra burst of birthday best wishes (70 of them!) to the

little bird that so many of us have grown up with. There's loads we could say but we're a little short on space so we instead recommend that you take a look at Puffin's very colourful birthday website:

www.happybirthdaypuffin.co.uk

(especially 'Puffin through the decades').

Don't forget that our Library also takes the fabulously fun *Puffin Post* - you'll find a new issue displayed every 2 months with our other children's literature magazines.

Old Students Association Award 2010

Over the years the OSA, through its generous annual donation to the Library's Children's Collection, has allowed us to extend the range and variety of resources that we offer. Puppets, graphic novels, and pop-up books are some of the items that we have been able to purchase with past OSA gifts.



This year we decided to use the donation to extend our historical and religious resources and have purchased several new artefact collections including ones about life in Aztec and Victorian times, as well as others on the Buddhist and Sikh religions.

Artefacts offer children the opportunity to learn about other times and other cultures through a close examination of objects, rather than from books and other written resources. All children, even those whose reading and writing skills are limited or for whom English is a second language, can handle and respond to artefacts. In the process children develop their ability to observe, classify, identify, and make deductions. In addition, they are able to explore concepts such as chronology, design, fashion, preservation, and conservation.

Neil Griffiths on Storytelling

Neil Griffiths, honorary graduate of BG and author of 'Are You Sitting Comfortably? Then I'll Begin: Exploring the Role of Storytime and its Impact on Young Children', shares some thoughts on storytelling in this article written especially for Hullabaloo!...

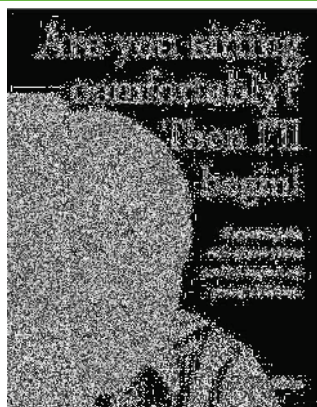
Storytelling and reading in this country are no longer the feature of daily life they once were. The introduction of computers, the compulsory television in a child's bedroom with DVD facility and, of course, pressure on valuable time, have eroded once precious moments together 'telling tales'.

A glance back into our history shows that story telling and story reading were a treasured part of family and community life. Stories were often passed on from one generation to another and regular re-telling created unique family memories.

The tradition of storytelling is still alive and well in many other countries and cultures, particularly those where books and written material are not easily available. Such cultures have the most wonderful collection of oral stories to be shared and passed on. To a large extent, we have lost this tradition in this country. Whilst some may still hold on to the dream that life is like *The Walton's* television series with Grandpa's nightly story to the family, reality paints a different picture. Fewer and fewer children are being told or read stories and, despite the easy access to a range of wonderful reading materials, many homes still have a sparse collection of books.

In far too many pre-school and school settings, story time is still a limited activity that conveniently fills a fifteen-minute gap before lunch or home time. 'Time' is, of course, regularly given as a reason. It is, however, an excuse, as time can and must be found both at home and school. Story sharing is a key activity and a crucial component of a child's development into a mature reader.

"The gift of reading can best be given by another reader who models what it is like to get pleasure from reading" (Sheldrick, McKechnie, & Rothbauer, 2005).



So what makes a good storyteller?

Firstly, the potential to tell stories well is in all of us. Some have a natural ability, in my case acquired from a magical storytelling father. Others can be taught the techniques and strategies for telling stories well. A prerequisite, however, is that all effective storytellers must be passionate about stories themselves and believe in the importance and value of exposing children to them.

To be a storyteller and work with children requires the word 'actor' in their job description.

Whilst I could offer pages of advice on how to deliver a story well here are my top five tips for a successful story time.

- 📖 Ensure each story time is "one I prepared earlier". You cannot read a story effectively if you have not read through it at least once in your head and once out loud.
- 📖 Plan an unforgettable introduction. The moment a story begins is vitally important, as it can create the mood for the whole session. Give hints, offer clues, ask questions, tempt with props.
- 📖 Deliver the story with plenty of movement. Don't sit like a 'chicken in a nest' movement will add drama and provide images for the children.
- 📖 Ensure your voice is not 'mono-tonal'. Change its volume, pace, tone and pitch.
- 📖 Imagine a large magnifying glass has been placed in front of your face throughout the story. Thus every expression is greatly exaggerated. (Remember, there is no place for inhibition!)

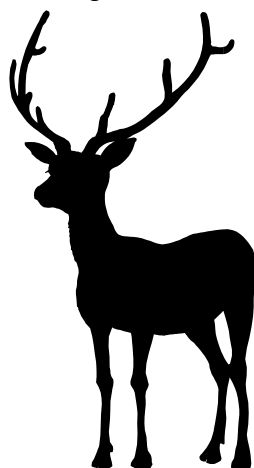
If we want to prevent a generation of children failing to discover the joy of reading, we must reverse the trend. The challenge is to convince parents, families and practitioners alike that story time is a child's right, not a privilege, and one of the most precious gifts that they can give their children is to find time to share a story together.

Neil's latest book, published in June 2010, is 'Fatou, Fetch the Water' (Red Robin Books, £6.99).

When I Was A Nipper...

This edition's nipper is Sibylle Erle, lecturer on the University College's BA (Hons) English Literature programme...

When I was little I lived on a farm, my best friend was a dog and my favourite book was *Bambi* (1923). It entered my life in form of a record. Not so long ago my mother told me how I would forget everything around me, sit very still and listen, time and again, to the story of the little roe deer. I guess it was normal to me that animals could talk. After all, the animals around me were doing just that. When I was old enough I read the old paperback copy on my parents' bookshelves and discovered a whole new world through this coming of age story. The farm was near some woods and I remember walking there, tasting the air and listening to how 'the forest' was coming to life. To this day I think of days as the early



warning system of the forest.

My favourite character was not Bambi but his father the old Prince, because he could walk without making a noise. There are two episodes which I remember as if I read them yesterday. One is when Bambi first leaves the forest to play on the meadow and the second is when he gets shot. Bambi would have died had it not been for the old Prince. I remember talking to my father, who loves the forest and still spends a lot of time in it, about the ways of the roe deer. When I sat down to write this piece, I discovered that *Bambi* wasn't written for children and I realised that Felix Salten (1869-1945) was not a forester but an Austrian novelist who worked in publishing. Looking back, I think, it was this book which ignited my love for literature. Encouraged by my dad I tried to differentiate between fact and fiction.

The First Words Competition

Last issue's winner was Christopher Brown (BA Hons Education Studies and English) who will receive a £10 book token for correctly spotting that our quote came from Judith Kerr's *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*. Our new first words are:

I first read Grandma's letter over ten years ago, when I was twelve.

E-mail the title and author together with your name to us at hullabaloo@bishopg.ac.uk by October 31st and that £10 book token could be yours.

...if speaking were more important than listening, we'd have two tongues and one ear.

Taffy Thomas MBE

Books For Keeps Moves Online

In our last issue we reported that children's literature magazine *Books for Keeps* was also available online. The latest news is that the May 2010 edition was the magazine's final print edition with all subsequent editions being only published online. All of *BfK*'s regular features are included as well as video interviews and other features made possible by the new digital format. Find out more at www.booksforkeeps.co.uk.

What's in your Bookstash?

Bookstash is a new Facebook application developed by Channel 4 Education. It's designed to get teenagers talking about books and sharing recommendations and is already proving popular. Members add books to their 'stash' as 'stickers' and can then choose to share them. Each sticker displays the cover image and comments about the book and the bigger your stash the more badges you earn. Find out more at <http://bookstash-facebook.channel4.com>.



Happy Birthday Charlie and Lola! (2000-2010)

Charlie and his little sister Lola have become something of a phenomenon over the past decade. From an original series of three books—*I Will Never Not Ever Eat A Tomato*, *I Am Not Sleepy And I Will Not Go to Bed*, and *I Am Too Absolutely Small For School*—there are now several spin-off books, a TV series, a stage play, an album, and of course a lot of very cute merchandise.

Charlie (7, very patient) and Lola (4, very particular) are the creations of talented author and illustrator Lauren Child MBE, who also writes the *Clarice Bean* stories. *I Will Never Not Ever Eat A Tomato* was first published in 2000 and won Child the Kate

Greenaway Medal. She says she based Lola on a little girl with "very blond hair and pointy eyes like an elf" that she observed on a train in Denmark. Child was so taken with the little girl that she drew her, created a story around her (based on her own fussy childhood eating habits), and imagined her a big brother, Charlie. On her website Child says that she's always thought of the siblings as living in Copenhagen in a slightly retro 70s world (Child is a fan of all things Scandinavian, including the wonderful Pippi Longstocking).

Charlie and Lola made their TV debut in 2005. Their programme is now shown

around the world and has itself been nominated for numerous awards.

To celebrate Charlie and Lola's birthday Orchard Books are publishing special editions of all three of the original books and Lauren Child hopes to publish a fourth new title later in the year.

We would also like to acknowledge the birthdays of two other favourite characters in 2010: Eric Hill's *Spot* turned 30 and Judith Kerr's *Mog* 40. (If only there was a 20 to complete the pack!).

