

TeenLibrarian

Monthly Newsletter

www.teenlibrarian.co.uk

Editorial

Welcome to the January issue of Teen Librarian Monthly! A new year chock full of potential lies ahead and we as librarians and library workers are the ones to gently encourage our patrons, whether it be in a public or school library to try something new.

On the subject of trying something new, I would like to give a quick shout out to all the librarians currently running Bookflix displays in their libraries! This eye-catching memetic display crept into UK School Libraries via Lucas Maxwell and The Portable Magic Dispenser – his brilliant newsletter, I have mentioned it once or twice here on TeenLibrarian and I can't stress enough that I really recommend subscribing if you have not already, it is a fantastic piece of work. Find out more about it here:

<https://glenthornelrc.blogspot.com/2019/01/the-portable-magic-dispenser-vol-1.html>

As always there is a lot going on in the January issue, we kick off this month with two posters that will hopefully spark joy if you use them in your libraries – the first tells observers that Books are Lit(erature) and the second, inspired by Marie Kondo reminds people that library books can be used to fill spaces created by the KonMari method.

This American Life is a podcast that I have been enjoying for quite some time now, one of their latest episodes, called The Room of Requirement focuses on Libraries and how people use them. It is only about 30 minutes and really worth a listen.

For Burns Night this year I have created a craft activity that will allow participants to cut out and dress their own doughty Scotsman in a variety of clothes fit for the 21st century. Hot on the heels of that is Holocaust Memorial Day – an important observance to ensure that we do not forget our history and become doomed to repeat it!

I want to take a moment to say that I am really annoyed with the British Museum – they waited until now to put on the biggest ever display of Manga outside of Japan – it looks like it will be heaven for fans of manga and anime and a great introduction to the art-form for those that know nothing about it.

By now you should have heard about Library Planet – a crowd-sourced Lonely Planet for Libraries, if not then good news! I am mentioning it in this issue of TLM! Perfect for all library folk that visit libraries on our holidays – most, if not all of us then!

Coram Voices is back for its fourth year, offering children and young people in care the opportunity to showcase their creativity.

February marks LGBT History Month in the UK and Black History Month in the US, I have included links to ideas and activities that can be run in Libraries for both celebrations in this newsletter, so please feel free to use them if they appeal.

Last year was tough but you made it through and together we can make sure that this year is better – in our libraries and our lives and with those two things we can help inspire others to do and be better as we strive to do!

Happy 2019 – you have got this!

Posters

I have created two posters for Library use, the first, called Books are Lit (erature) is available here: <http://teenlibrarian.co.uk/2018/12/11/poster-books-are-lit/>

The second I based on the new Netflix hit show *Tidying up with Marie Kondo*: <http://teenlibrarian.co.uk/2019/01/14/does-this-poster-spark-joy/>

The Room of Requirement

Noooo! Not the one from Harry Potter (although it is named for that) rather this is a podcast from the awesome people at This American Life about Libraries.

Libraries aren't just for books. They're often spaces that transform into what you need them to be: a classroom, a cyber café, a place to find answers, a quiet spot to be alone. It's actually kind of magical. This week, we have stories of people who roam the stacks and find unexpected things that just happen to be exactly what they required.

You can take a listen here: <https://www.thisamericanlife.org/664/the-room-of-requirement>

Crafty Scotsman Activity (Perfect for Burns Night)

If you are looking for a quick and relatively easy activity to run for Burns Night, may I recommend my Crafty Scotsman activity? Full details available here:

<http://teenlibrarian.co.uk/2018/12/07/crafty-scotsman-activity/>

Holocaust Memorial Day

Every year, the 27th January marks Holocaust Memorial Day, people are asked to pause and remember those lost in the Holocaust of the Second World War as well as more recent events from Cambodia to Darfur to Bosnia and Rwanda. If you have never marked this occasion I highly recommend visiting <https://www.hmd.org.uk/> for more information and resources so that we do not forget.

British Museum Manga Exhibition

In association with The National Art Center, Tokyo and the Organisation for the Promotion of Manga and Anime; The British Museum is putting on the LARGEST display of Manga to ever take place outside of Japan!

I have been a huge fan of manga (and anime) for years and am also a big fan of the British Museum – they have done some of my favourite exhibitions over the years and the Manga Exhibition looks like it will be amazing!

It is typical that they would wait until I left the country, but even though I will be unable to go – you should really take the time to book tickets and immerse yourself in one of Japan's best-known exports!

The exhibit will run from 23rd May until 26th August and will introduce the historical roots of manga, including woodblock prints by Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849), and their influence on anime, games and cosplay.

Among the original manga pieces to be put on display is the late Osamu Tezuka's *Tetsuwan Atomu* (*Astro Boy*), Eiichiro Oda's *One Piece*, Moto Hagio's *Po no Ichizoku* (*The Poe Clan*) and Akiko Higashimura's *Kuragehime* (*Princess Jellyfish*).

For more details follow this link: https://www.britishmuseum.org/whats_on/exhibitions/manga.aspx

Library Planet

Founded and edited by Christian Lauersen of Roskilde Libraries and Marie Engberg Eiriksson of Gladsaxe Libraries, Denmark; Library Planet is like a crowdsourced Lonely Planet for libraries of the world, meant to inspire library travelers to open the awesome book that is our world of libraries, cities and countries.

Visit Library Planet here: <https://libraryplanet.net/>

If you want to share your library or libraries you have loved then you can contribute to Library Planet here: <https://libraryplanet.net/contribute/>

Coram Voices

The Coram Voices competition now in its fourth year, is a platform for the voices of children in and around the care system. It promotes a positive image by showcasing young people's creativity and improving understanding of their experiences. The theme for 2019 is *Growing up*.

To learn more about the competition, including how to enter, follow this link:

<https://coramvoice.org.uk/young-peoples-zone/how-enter-voices-2019>

Ending Library Fines

How do you feel about library fines? Personally I am against them - and so are many more colleagues around the world. Check out this site dedicated to ending them: <https://endlibraryfines.info/>

UK LGBT History Month

February in the UK is LGBT History Month, last year I put together a pack of posters celebrating UK LGBT authors; these can be downloaded here:

<http://teenlibrarian.co.uk/2018/01/29/celebrating-british-authors-during-lgbt-history-month/>

I have also put together a list of LGBTQ+ books that I had hunted down and purchased for my school library, this list is available here : <http://teenlibrarian.co.uk/2018/06/13/lgbtq-books-a-list/> - on the off-chance that anyone is looking for suggestions to enhance their library collection.

Visit <http://lgbthistorymonth.org.uk/> for more ideas and to promote celebrations across the country.

US Black History Month

In the US, February is Black History Month, I have been planning events and activities to celebrate in my Library. Including a weekly story-time, over three weeks with stories from Southern Africa in the first week of February, stories from West and Central Africa during week two and for week three African-American folk tales. Each of the activities will feature a related activity.

I have been working on a number of tent-pole activities as well, three of which are on TeenLibrarian. The first, celebrating the Tuskegee Airmen: <http://teenlibrarian.co.uk/2018/12/18/black-history-month-ideas-the-tuskegee-airmen/>, the second looking at the contribution African-American spies have made to the art of spy-craft from the Civil War until today <http://teenlibrarian.co.uk/2018/12/18/black-history-month-ideas-african-american-spies-from-the-revolution-to-the-cia/> and finally a mash-up of the life of Junius Groves, the Potato King of the World and an introduction to Kente weaving: <http://teenlibrarian.co.uk/2019/01/08/black-history-month-ideas-the-potato-king-of-the-world/>