

Ifield CC Times Magazine

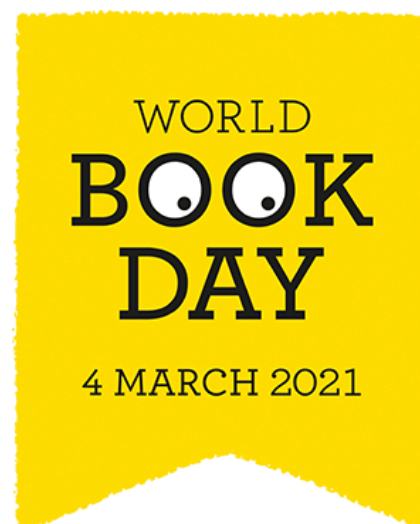
Issue 3 | March 2021

General

This month, World Book Day is on 4th March! We have loads of activities and contests going on, so take a look at the library catalogue (Accessit) for more information as well as communication from your teachers and the librarians.

This year you can also access your £1.00 **book token** digitally. A link to this is also available via the catalogue and will also be emailed to all students. Alternatively, if you do not have a printer at home, come to the Library Reading Room (S/18) once the school is back to collect it! Please note that vouchers expire on 28/03/21.

Thank you to all the students who entered our Creative Writing Competition. The standard has been especially high and Mrs Mitchell currently has the very difficult job of judging a winner.

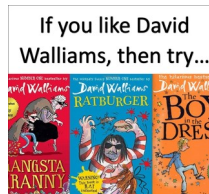


Library Catalogue: <https://uk.accessit.online/ifl00/>

Do you like books by David Walliams? Why not try one of these...



To find books that are like your favourite authors, series or subjects and that are within your reading range, why not try the **AR Search** feature on the catalogue. After selecting your reading range, in addition to seeing options to browse books by genre, you will also see options to select 'if you like this author, series or book, they try...'. More options will be being added soon, so give it a go!



An Exclusive (and very bizarre) Interview with Award Winning Author Philip Ardagh

Roald Dahl Funny Prize-winning author Philip Ardagh is the author of *The Grunts* and *National Trust: The Secret Diary* series. He is probably best known for his *Grubtown Tales*, but has written over 100 books. He is a “regular irregular” reviewer of children’s books for *The Guardian*, and is currently developing a series for television. Philip Ardagh is two metres tall with a ridiculously big, bushy beard and size sixteen feet, making him an instantly recognisable figure at literary festivals around the world (where Mrs Mitchell has had the pleasure of meeting him).



PHILIP: I’m thrilled that they’ll be thrilled...

MRS MITCHELL: Which books would you say you’re most famous for?

PHILIP: That’s a tricky question.

MRS MITCHELL: Why?

PHILIP: Because you asked it in French.

MRS MITCHELL: No I didn’t.

PHILIP: Really? Sorry about that. My ears must have been listening in French.

MRS MITCHELL: But that doesn’t make any sense.

PHILIP: If you say so. In English... No, the reason why it’s a tricky question is that my most successful books – translated into, I think, 37 different languages - are the Eddie Dickens adventures, which began with *Awful End*, which is 21 year’s old this year.

MRS MITCHELL: Happy anniversary.

PHILIP: Thank you. Did you bring a card?

MRS MITCHELL: No, but--

PHILIP: No buts... But many of today’s readers won’t know necessarily know the Eddie Dickens books but may know me for the *Grunts* books, illustrated by that little-known author Axel ‘The Gruffalo’ Scheffler.

MRS MITCHELL: But didn’t you know? there’s no such thing as a Gruffalo!

PHILIP: You have a point there. Be careful not to poke anyone’s eye out with it.

MRS MITCHELL: Okay. But you write nonfiction – fact books – too, don’t you?

PHILIP: Yes and, to make matters MRS MITCHELLn more confusing, I write books which are part fact and part fiction, too: my *Secret Diary* series for the National Trust. It MRS MITCHELLn says on the covers: ‘Only The Facts Are True’.

MRS MITCHELL: But, if they weren’t true, they wouldn’t be fa--

PHILIP: Precisely. Or not, as the case maybe.

MRS MITCHELL: Can I ask some more questions now?

PHILIP: Fire away... just as soon as I’ve got my bulletproof vest and pants and socks on.

MRS MITCHELL: Which is your favourite book of all time?

PHILIP: I find that really difficult to answer, too. I don’t know about you, but I enjoy different books at different stages of life, or in different seasons or MRS MITCHELLn when I’m in a different mood. I loved reading Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s *Sherlock Holmes* stories – especially the short ones –

when I was younger. They have a clear beginning, middle and end and the plots race along. I still read them nowadays. My grandmother died in the house where Sir Arthur Conan Doyle used to be buried in the back garden.

MRS MITCHELL: I’m sorry?!?

PHILIP: Don’t apologise. He was dead when they buried him.

MRS MITCHELL: B--

PHILIP: And I also loved Tove Jansson’s *Moomin* books, my favourite being *Comet in Moominland*. I’ll let you into a secret: they’re as much written for adults as for children. They’re wonderful stories.

Interview Continued...

MRS MITCHELL: Who or what inspired you to write?

PHILIP: I think I was born a writer. I used to do squiggles in old out-of-date diaries and pretended they were 'sentences' before I learnt to read and write. I reckon I was born telling stories – "It was dark in there!" – and also love the mechanics of writing. I've lived through writing in

pencil, then pen – longhand – on manual typewriters, electric then electronic typewriters, Amstrad word processors with green text on a black screen, then PCs, laptops and iPads. I've lived through all these

changes. Then again, I've been published for 30 years.

MRS MITCHELL: So, if you weren't a writer – weren't ALLOWED to write – what would you be?

PHILIP: Aha! I get asked this one quite a lot, so I've had a chance to think about it over the years. I like goats and I like stained-glass windows, so I think I'd quite like to be a saint who works with goats and gets depicted on stained-glass windows. Failing that, I'd like to be an archaeologist. I love exploring the past, and the detective-work of

archaeology. I once wrote 'The Hieroglyphs Handbook. Teach Yourself Ancient Egyptian'. The first children's book to take the subject seriously. I'm very proud of that one.

MRS MITCHELL: What are you reading at the moment?

PHILIP: Your mind!

MRS MITCHELL: I wondered why you were staring at me funny.

PHILIP: I always look this way. I won the Roald Dahl Funny Prize, remember... What am I reading? I read a real mix of books. Quite a bit of foreign fiction, translated into English. I enjoy the different flavour – the different approach and slant on life – non-British authors bring to their writing. For Christmas, apart from chocolate, ALL my gifts were books

or book tokens. Children's publishers also send me a lot of children's and YA fiction to read.

MRS MITCHELL: Are we allowed to know what book you are working on next?

PHILIP: Yes.

MRS MITCHELL: ?

PHILIP: --

MRS MITCHELL: What book are you working on next?

PHILIP: I was wondering when you were going to ask me that. I have a series called The Nine Lives of Furry Purry Beancat where, Beancat wakes up to find herself in the middle of the action in one of her nine lives, having no memory of having been there before. In the first book,

she wakes up to find she's a pirate captain's cat. In the second, a Victorian railway station cat. The third – The Library Cat – is being illustrated by Rob Biddulph – of Draw-With-Rob fame – and I've just finished The Witch's Cat. In The Library Cat, the library is under threat

and Furry Purry Beancat must find a way to help, despite being a cat on all-fours and humans not understanding a word she says.

MRS MITCHELL: You campaign a lot for libraries, don't you?

PHILIP: Yes, I've been involved in many 'Save Libraries' campaigns and marches and I'm the first Lifetime Ambassador for the Schools Library Group of CILIP, the library and information association, which is why I'm

so happy to answer your questions.

MRS MITCHELL: Great. Are there more Beancat books in the pipeline?

PHILIP: Well, I write picture books too, such as Bunnies on the Bus, illustrated by Ben Mantle, which is like Snakes on a Plane but with bunnies instead of snakes and on a bus instead of on a plane... and YouCan't Count on Dinosaurs, illustrated by Elissa Elwick, which warns of the problems trying to count animals which are inclined to eat each

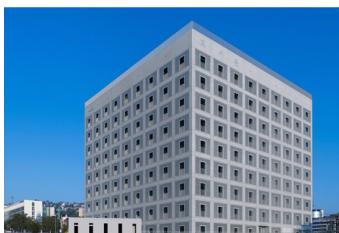
other, and I've just written Bunnies in a Boat and another stand-alone picture-book... so, to be honest, I'm not QUITE sure what I'm up to at the moment.

MRS MITCHELL: Philip Ardagh, thank you very much.

PHILIP: Thank you, MRS MITCHELL/Ms Mitchell. It's been a pleasure. You do know you've been sitting on the end of my beard all this time, don't you?

Libraries of the world

THE STADTBIBLIOTHEK STUTTGART, STUTTGART IN GERMANY.



This is the public library of the city of Stuttgart in Germany. The architects chose to physically express the importance of this cultural centre by giving the building a grand physical presence. The building takes the form of a cube with an edge length of 45 metres. It is constructed out of pale grey fair-faced concrete that visually frames an array of 9 x 9 frosted glass bricks.

Book Quiz

1) Where and when did the first public library open in the UK?

- a) London, 1894
- b) Manchester, 1852
- c) Winchester, 1920

2) In *A Series of Unfortunate Events* by Lemony Snicket, what does Violet do to help her think?

- a) Tie up her hair
- b) Pace
- c) Jump up and down.

3) In *Wonder* by R J Palacio, what award does Augie win at the end of the school year?

- a) Henry Wilfred Betler medal
- b) Harold C Beecher medal
- c) Henry Ward Beecher medal

4) How many staircases does Hogwarts have?

- a) 142
- b) 153
- c) 167

5) What is the first book in the *Alex Rider* series by Anthony Horowitz?

- a) Stormbreaker
- b) Skeleton Key
- c) Point Blanc

Why not try coming up with a book quiz yourself and sending it to Mr Austin Locke and Mrs Mitchell? We may even feature it in our next issue!

Also, please keep submitting book reviews through the library catalogue. The best will be published in future issues!

Puzzle Solutions to Issue 2 | February 2021

1	5	2	4	8	9	3	7	6
7	3	9	2	5	6	8	4	1
4	6	8	3	7	1	2	9	5
3	8	7	1	2	4	6	5	9
5	9	1	7	6	3	4	2	8
2	4	6	8	9	5	7	1	3
9	1	4	6	3	7	5	8	2
6	2	5	9	4	8	1	3	7
8	7	3	5	1	2	9	6	4

L	E	D	L	D	E	S	R	S	N	A	R	S	U
U	W	E	S	W	I	R	T	C	L	E	C	N	
K	D	A	A	E	N	T	E	A	E	E	K	E	I
E	A	T	L	U	C	A	S	R	E	I	L	N	K
W	R	H	L	R	O	A	A	M	L	A	A	I	A
H	T	S	O	E	W	B	C	A	A	D	W	O	N
E	H	T	B	E	O	D	C	R	D	R	Y	O	A
O	V	A	I	R	O	F	A	S	O	O	K	T	W
L	A	R	W	N	K	O	B	I	V	I	S	A	H
O	D	S	A	T	I	R	W	S	U	D	R	T	I
S	E	T	N	W	E	C	E	W	U	J	E	D	I
N	R	D	I	S	E	E	H	C	I	K	L	H	Y
A	I	B	O	N	E	K	C	H	T	I	S	I	I
H	O	R	E	M	P	I	R	E	O	E	H	S	N

Book Quiz Answers

- 1) B
- 2) B
- 3) A
- 4) C

Contact your school librarians Mrs Mitchell and Mr Austin Locke via email: emi@ifieldcc.co.uk & aal@ifieldcc.co.uk

Please follow us on Instagram (@ifieldcc_lrc), Twitter (@Ifieldcc_LRC) and YouTube

