

More House Messenger

The Library Newsletter – November 2011

Welcome back for the second half of term, and it looks like being one where curling up with a good book rather than going out in rain will be a sensible idea! There were a large number of entries for the Roald Dahl quiz last month (don't forget we have many of his books here in the library). Madeleine P (UVI), Elizabeth F (10M) and Elinor V (9R) tied in first place with Grace G (7D) only one point behind. Well done to the winners, who should have received their prizes by now, and congratulations to all those who took the time to enter.

The answers to the quiz were -

- 1 BFG stands for Big Friendly Giant
- 2 George mixed his marvellous medicine for his grandmother
- 3 Willy Wonka hid 5 golden tickets in his chocolate bars
- 4 Mrs Twit Put her glass eye in Mr Twit's beer
- 5 Matilda's headmistress was Miss Trunchbull
- 6 James did not have an aunt called Aunt Stodge
- 7 Esio Trot was a tortoise
- 8 In *Fantastic Mr Fox* Boggis, Bunce and Bean are farmers
- 9 The Grand High Witch wanted to turn all the children into mice
- 10 Roald Dahl wrote most of his books in a hut in his garden

Don't forget to enter this month's quiz and, as always, do remember to put your name at the bottom of the quiz page. No name on the quiz means that you can get everything right but still receive no prize (your librarian does not know how to recognise your individual handwriting!). Hand your entry into the office or email your answer to librarian@morehouse.org.uk

A Poem For November

November

There is wind where the rose was,
Cold rain where sweet grass was,
And clouds like sheep
Stream o'er the steep
Grey skies where the lark was.

Nought warm where your hand was,
Nought gold where your hair was,
But phantom, forlorn,
Beneath the thorn,
Your ghost where your face was.

Cold wind where your voice was,
Tears, tears where my heart was,
And ever with me,
Child, ever with me,
Silence where hope was.

Walter de la Mare (1873-1956)

New books in the library for November include *Don Quixote* (Cervantes), *Look Into My Eyes* (Lauren Childs), *Hunger Games* (Suzanne Collins), *Hell* (Dante), *The Lady of the River* (Philippa Gregory), *Warhorse* (Michael Morpurgo) and *The Eagle of The Ninth Chronicles* (Rosemary Sutcliffe)

The worst thing about new books is that they keep us from reading the old ones.

Joseph Joubert

More House Focus on Roald Dahl

In view of the popularity of last month's quiz, along with the number of Roald Dahl books borrowed from the library, here is a little information about Roald Dahl himself.

Roald Dahl was born in Llandaff in Wales in 1916, the child of Norwegian parents. His father died when Roald was only 3 and his mother had to bring up Roald and his 3 sisters as well as two step children. His mother was, in his words 'a real rock' and he based the character of the grandmother in *The Witches* upon her as a tribute.

During World War 2, he served as a fighter pilot in the Royal Air Force and was also involved in Intelligence Work. After the War he began to write short stories for magazines and in 1948 published his first novel, *Sometime Never*, about global nuclear war and its aftermath. However, it was as a writer of children's books that Dahl achieved his greatest fame. He wrote 19 of these, including *James and the Giant Peach* (1961), *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (1964), *Fantastic Mr Fox* (1970) and *Danny the Champion of the World* (1975). Almost as successful were *The Twits* (1980), *George's Marvellous Medicine* (1980) and *The BFG* (1982).

Some people have been unhappy with Dahl's constant reference to greed, and revenge and all matters gruesome but many readers believe revenge it may actually be the reason for his popularity with so many readers. "I never get any protests from children," he claimed. "All you get is giggles of mirth and squirms of delight. I know what young children like."

He has been referred to as "one of the greatest storytellers for children of the 20th century". In 2008 The Times newspaper placed Dahl 16th on its list of "The 50 greatest British writers since 1945".

A Quiz For November

There are lots of stories written with horses in them – how many do you know? Circle the correct answer or fill in the blanks. Write your name at the bottom of the page.

1 What is the name of the horse in the *Pippi Longstocking* series by Astrid Lindgren?

Alfred Alfonso Almanzo

2 Arod was the horse belonging to which character in horse in J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*?

Legolas Aragorn Arwen

3 Who owned Barnum and Skip, in Laura Ingalls Wilder's *Little House* books?

Charles Ingalls Laura Ingalls Almanzo Wilder

4 What was the name of Death's horse in Terry Pratchett's *Discworld* novels?

Blacky Banky Binky

5 Which horse did Anna Sewell write about in a book of the same name?

Black Beauty National Velvet Black Dawn

6 Name one of the horses from *Animal Farm* by George Orwell

7 Who was the winged horse in *The Magician's Nephew* by C. S. Lewis?

Flidge Fledge Flodge

8 What was the name of Don Quixote's horse in *Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes?

Racine Rocinante Roussignon

9 Who rode Shadowfax in the *The Lord of the Rings* by J. R. R. Tolkien?

Bilbo Baggins Aragorn Gandalf

10 Name Michael Morpurgo's book about a horse which is now a play as well.

Name _____ Form _____