Article archived from Barrington Stoke website, 2016

EXPLORING YOUNG EDITORS WITH THE SWANSHURST SCHOOL LIBRARY

Posted on 11th July 2016, updated on 12th July 2016 by Barrington Stoke Team



Our Young Editors Scheme has been an integral part of the way we work with schools and young people throughout much of the 18 year history of Barrington Stoke. It enables us to gain valuable insight and honest feedback into what works – and perhaps more importantly what doesn't work, for all students who love a good story and amazing illustration, as well as any students with any form of reading reluctance or accessibility issues. Hearing about story, language and cover design, among the many other comments that regularly come our way, is always lots of fun and can make a real difference to what we do in our future books.

Our current scheme incarnation is as an online resource: a place where teachers can register a group of students, their particular interests and reading requirements and then have access to a number of manuscripts, ready for comment and feedback. (You can read more, and sign up here.)

In addition to regular feedback via upload of reviews, cover designs and comments, we also hear about school Young Editors projects via social media, and it was the lovely comments made by the staff and students at Swanshurst School Library on Twitter that prompted us to ask them to write us something about their experience for the blog; so you can hear first hand what the scheme is like to participate in.

> **'The idea of giving your comments and rating the story is so good!'**
>
> **– LAIBA, YEAR 10**

We have participated in the Young Editors Scheme run by Barrington Stoke for over three years at Swanshurst School Library. We have incorporated it into a Reading Buddies intervention scheme which we run during pastoral time at the school, providing targeted literacy intervention for students in Year 7-10.

Young Editors sessions are held on a weekly basis with up to twelve students in each group. This year around thirty students have taken part. We use an annotation app called Notability to edit the manuscripts on iPads.

Students take turns to read the book aloud to the group. We highlight key passages, comment on characters and events in the story and indicate where pictures might aid the book when published. Often students will comment on unfamiliar vocabulary, making suggestions on how passages might be paraphrased. At the end of most chapters we give marks out of ten. Lively discussions are common! Laiba in Year 10 says of the process, 'the idea of giving your comments and rating the story is so good!'

This year we have particularly enjoyed reading Anne Cassidy's **Thicker Than Water**, appreciated by students who had no knowledge of the original George and Lennie in *Of Mice and Men*. Anisah in Year 10 said, 'I like the book because it is interesting and has a message at the end that makes you want to read more'. The students were delighted to see the published version recently, and strongly approved of the front cover!



Inayah (left) and a fellow student at Swanshurst School participating in the Young Editors Scheme

More recently we have read **Unboxed** by Non Pratt, which the girls have loved without exception, often ignoring the school bell to read 'just one more page'!

We have contacted a number of the authors directly through our Twitter account @SwanshurstLib and have found them very supportive in answering students' questions and giving immediate feedback during the year.

Our students were very positive about their experiences when reflecting on their Young Editors experience. Chloe said, 'I like the books that I've read. All the books were interesting.' Lauren said, 'We learn a lot about the language and it helps us to understand more'. Qurat and Zainab said, 'It's a special chance to read a book before everyone else.' Kalsom commented, 'I am really lucky to read these books'. Sadia added 'It is special to read books that not a lot of people are reading'. Paghunda said, 'I think it's an amazing idea...it gives benefits to both the author and people like us who have the opportunity to analyse the text, learning new vocabulary that you can use in your written work.'

At the end of the Young Editors scheme each year participating students are awarded with a certificate from Barrington Stoke. We are already looking forward to starting the 2016-17 books!

***

We'd like to thank Emma Hopkins and Angela Yates of the Swanshurst School Library in Birmingham for this lovely post!

This entry was posted in Blog, Guest blog, Reading and tagged young editors. Bookmark the permalink.

← Celebrating Michael Morpurgo
New Books! New Books! July New Titles →