



Literacy News

January 2016

Kelmscott Literacy department

Are soundtracked books a stunt or the future of ebooks?

Soundtracked books are eBooks with sound effects. They started to appear about four years ago but research shows Britain is now the second-keenest nation, after the US, to embrace this new medium.

Soundtracked books have not been welcomed by book buyers, though, predictably, traditionalists have insisted that piped-in sounds distract from the written words and stamp on the imaginations of readers. Many publishers believe readers want to immerse themselves and let their imagination run free, not be bombarded with interferences.

A study conducted by New York University, Reading with Sound, found that concentration levels actually benefitted from the immersive experience.

Will books without soundtracks one day seem as archaic as silent films? It seems unlikely, but the rise of soundtracked books speaks volumes about the way we like to be informed and entertained in an increasingly digital world.



Apple turns stores into classrooms

Apple is using all of its worldwide network of stores as temporary classrooms in December to teach coding. The technology firm is using its 468 stores as bases for tutorials in the annual "Hour of Code" project. Craig Federighi, one of Apple's top executives, says he wants to "set off a spark" in young learners. He also wants to dispel the geeky image of "solitary" computer programmers, saying "it's an incredibly creative medium, not unlike music".

The **Hour of Code** is an international project giving people an introductory lesson in computer coding. It runs in about 180 countries, backed by technology firms and national governments, and last year claimed to have reached more than 100 million people.

Mr Federighi says that when modern lives are so immersed in digital technology, understanding the language of computers has become an essential form of **literacy**.

"These devices are so much a part of our lives, we have a computer in some form wherever we go, that the ability to create in that medium is as fundamental as the ability to write," he said.

Mr Federighi says programming should be seen as a "language and a way of thinking". And while many young people have a great facility in using devices, he says being able to programme them is the **"next level of literacy"**.



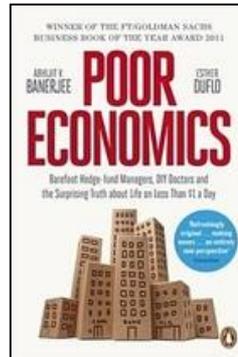
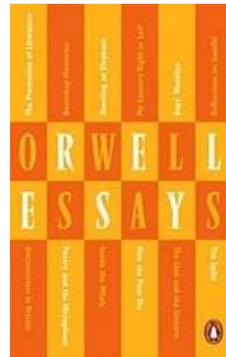
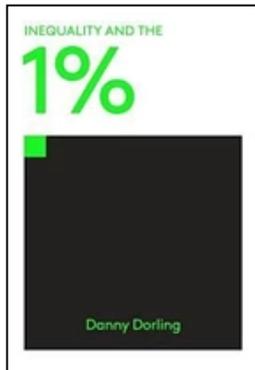
To read the full story go to the BBC education website:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-34996389>

Top 10 political books to inspire action

From *The Hunger Games* to *To Kill a Mockingbird*, it's easy to think about how fictional reads can be catalysts for change - yet there are also many mesmerising true stories that can inspire action and amazing non-fiction works that can help expose problems we never knew existed.

- 1) *The Establishment and How they get away with it* by Owen Jones
- 2) *I am Malala: The Girl who Stood up for Education and Changed the World* by Malala Yousafzai
- 3) *Inequality and the 1%* by Danny Dorling
- 4) *Common Sense* by Thomas Paine
- 5) *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank
- 6) *Honourable Friends?* by Caroline Lucas
- 7) *Syriza* by Kevin Ovenden
- 8) *Essays* by George Orwell
- 9) *Poor Economics* by Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo
- 10) *Suffragette: My Own Story* by Emmeline Pankhurst

"Evil only succeeds when good people do nothing"
Martin Luther King Jr.



Poor Economics - Captioned A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty, there is an immediate suggestion of action throughout; an activeness not just to change a system but the very way we think. It's beautifully written and well-researched book that will be influential in challenging poverty for many years to come and one that will inspire you to take action.

All books available to borrow from Kelmscott School library

Liz Lochhead: Writer and winner of the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry 2015

Trouble is not my middle name

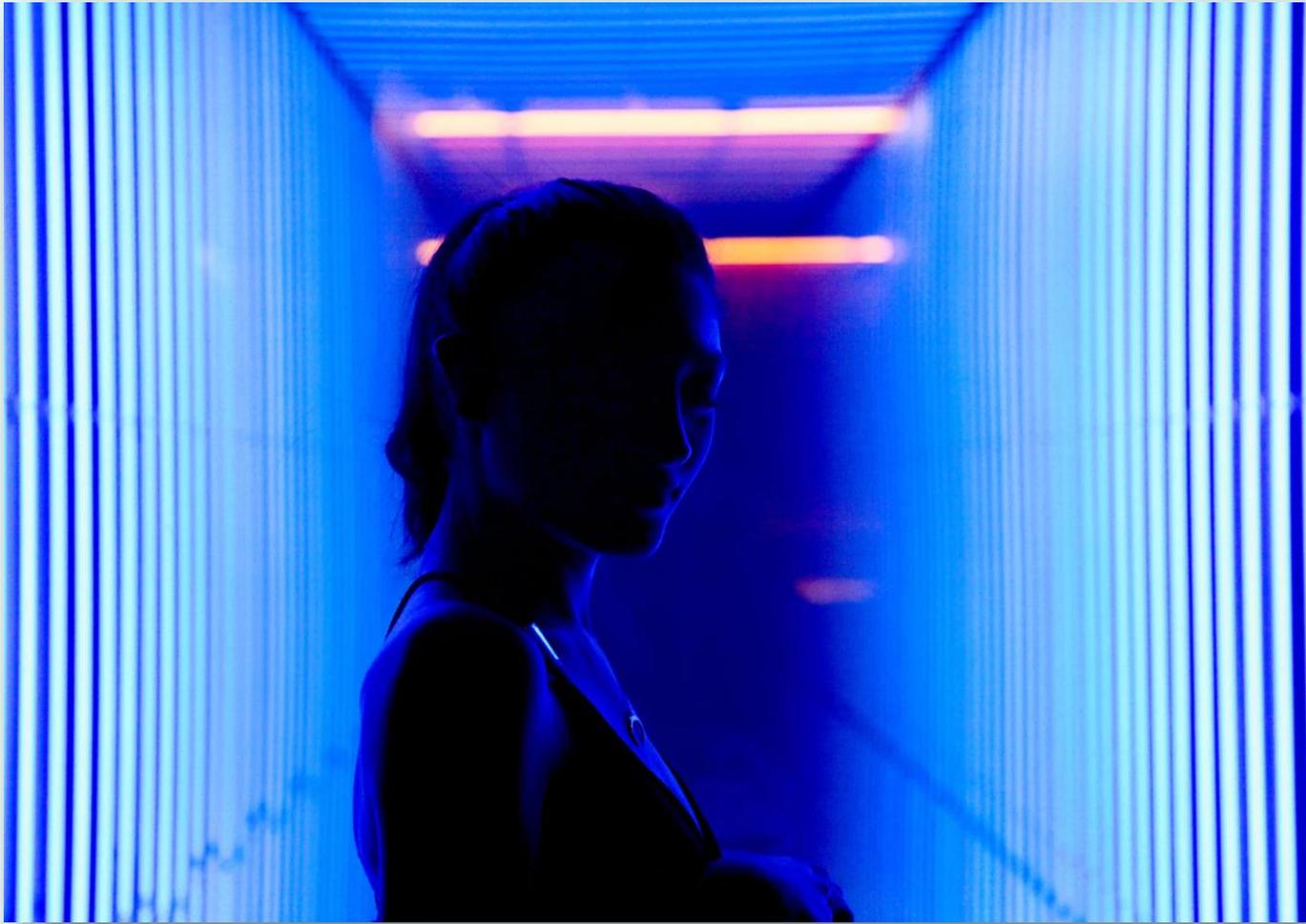
Trouble is not my middle name.
It is not what I am.
I was not born for this.
Trouble is not a place
though I am in it deeper than the deepest wood
and I'd get out of it (who wouldn't?) if I could.

Hope is what I do not have in hell -
not without good help, now. Could you
listen, listen hard and well
to what I cannot say except by what I do?

And when you say I do it for badness
this much is true:
I do it for badness done to me before
any badness that I do to you.

Hard to unfankle this.
But you can help me. Loosen
all these knots and really listen.
I cannot plainly tell you this, but, if you care,
then — beyond all harm and hurt -
real hope is there.

Library theme for January is Sci-fi

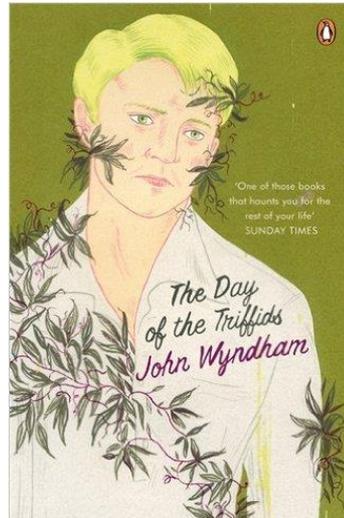
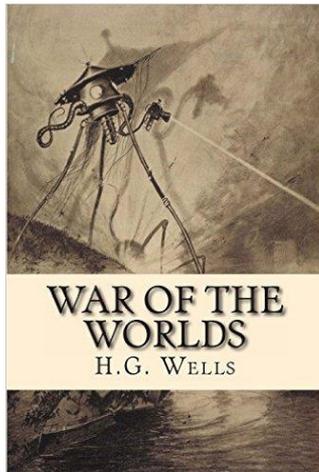
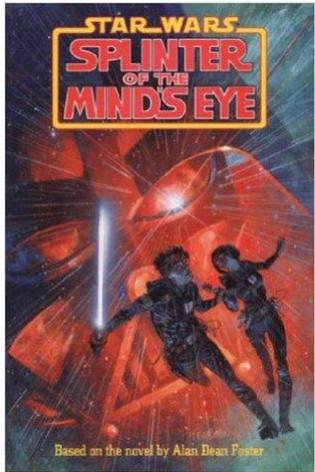


Come in and have a look at the great selection of Sci-fi books available to borrow.
January's film evening: *The Hunger Games*
Competition to win amazing Sci-fi books.

Sci-fi and Parallel worlds in fiction

Splinter of the Mind's Eye by Alan Dean Foster

Star Wars in back but here was the very first sequel, a tense and exciting drama on a deadly swamp world that pitched Luke and Leia and the droids against Vader and his troopers. I was eight in 1978 when this came out and I was agog. Reading this was like being let into secrets about what happened after that first, brilliant movie.

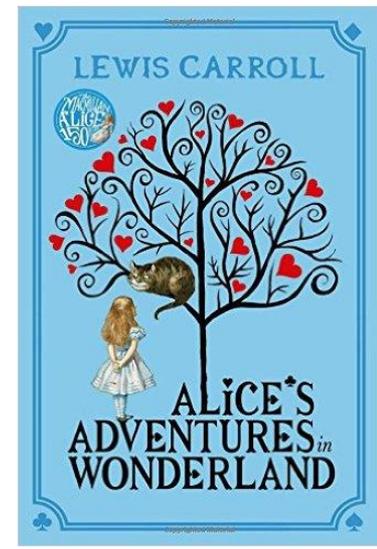
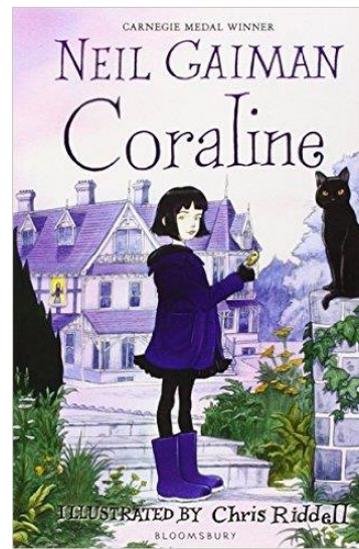
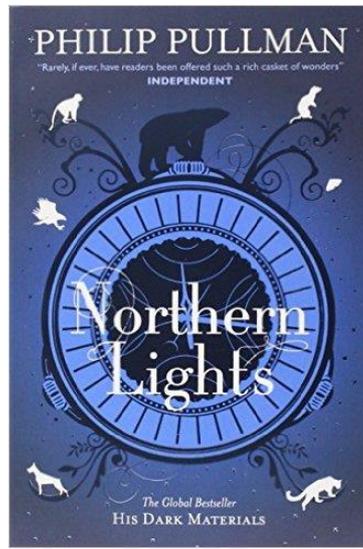
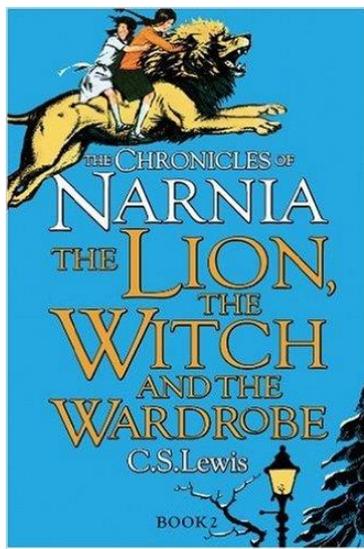


The War of the Worlds by HG Wells

The book starts with the narrator mentioning that the people of Earth never expected Martians to attack. Then Martian cylinders come crashing down into the English countryside. The cylinders open, revealing Martians that don't move so well - that is, until they build their tank-like tripods and go striding around the countryside on those, burning everything in sight with their Heat-Rays.

The Day of the Triffids by John Wyndham

When a freak cosmic event renders most of the Earth's population blind, Bill Masen is one of the lucky few to retain his sight. The London he walks is crammed with groups of men and women needing help, some ready to prey on those who can still see. But another menace stalks blind and sighted alike. With nobody to stop their spread the Triffids, mobile plants with lethal stingers and carnivorous appetites, seem set to take control.



Coraline by Neil Gaiman

There is something strange about Coraline's new home. It's not the mist, or the cat that always seems to be watching her, nor the signs of danger that Miss Spink and Miss Forcible, her new neighbours, read in the tea leaves. It's the other house - the one behind the old door in the drawing room. Another mother and father with black-button eyes and papery skin are waiting for Coraline to join them there. And they want her to stay with them. For ever. She knows that if she ventures through that door, she may never come back.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

The novel follows Alice down a rabbit-hole and into a world of strange and wonderful characters who constantly turn everything upside down with their mind-boggling logic, word play, and fantastic parodies.

Northern Lights by Philip Pullman

"Without this child, we shall all die." Lyra Belacqua and her animal daemon live half-wild and carefree among scholars of Jordan College, Oxford. The destiny that awaits her will take her to the frozen lands of the Arctic, where witch-clans reign and ice-bears fight. Her extraordinary journey will have immeasurable consequences far beyond her own world...

The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis

Four adventurous siblings—Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy Pevensie—step through a wardrobe door and into the land of Narnia, a land frozen in eternal winter and enslaved by the power of the White Witch. But when almost all hope is lost, the return of the Great Lion, Aslan, signals a great change . . . and a great sacrifice.