

# PROMOTION OF READING

## YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

**DATE: MAY 30, 2012**

**TIME: 14:30 – 17:00**

**VENUE: EDB KLN TONG EDU SERVICES CENTRE,  
19 SUFFOLK ROAD, KOWLOON TONG**

**SPEAKER: MRS ANNIE LAU**

Young-adult books are books marketed to adolescents, roughly between the ages of 12 and 17, and usually feature main characters in that age range.

## Ten actions for creating a reading culture

- Don't judge the readers
- Offer a wide range of reading materials
- Provide time for discussion
- Give readers plenty of support
- Let readers read at their comfortable pace
- Let readers read at the level they can manage
- Allow time for browsing and re-reading
- Encourage readers to read with passion
- Motivate readers to **to be in charge of** their own reading lives
- **JOY matters**

## Fiction Genres (by format)

- [Autobiographies](#) Chinese Cinderella
- [Diaries and Journals](#) Bridget Jones's Diary/ Anne Frank, the diary of a young girl
- [Graphic Novels](#) Maus/ Superman for all reasons
- [Science Fiction & Fantasy](#) Lord of the Rings/ I, Robot
- [Satire](#) Animal Farm
- [Short Stories](#) H.G. Wells short stories/ Rudyard Kipling short stories

## Fiction Genres (by subject)

- [Coming of Age](#) Bridge to Terabithia
- [Cult Books \(Realistic novels\)](#) The outsider/ Generation X
- [Mystery and detective Stories](#) The curious incident of the dog in the night-time/ The Sherlock holmes stories/
- [The Future](#) Brave New World/ Ender's game
- [Historical Fiction](#) The kite runner/ the other Boleyn girl
- [Horror and Ghost Stories](#) Dracula/ Frankenstein
- [Love, Sex and Relationships](#) Forever/ Doing it
- [Pink Lit](#) Girls in Love/ Princess Diaries
- [Race in YA Fiction](#) Roll of thunder, hear my cry/ the Helper/ Does my head look big in this
- [Survival](#) The Hatchet/ Island of the blue dolphins
- [War, Conflict & Peace](#) The Boy in the striped pyjamas, The Book Thief/ Number the Stars

## Coming of Age

- A story which stirs up the readers' emotion;
- A story which leaves the readers with many questions to think about;
- A story which allows the readers to explore their growing sense of identity.

## Examples of Coming of Age titles

- This boy's life by Tobias Wolff
- A boy's own story by Edmund White
- Empire of the sun by J.G. Ballard
- The Go Between by L.P. Hartley
- A separate peace by John Knowles
- Goodbye, Columbus by Philip Roth

## Cult Books (Realistic Novels)

- Books about forbidden or dangerous ways of life;
- They allow readers to learn about characters which could be crazy and reckless;
- They take the readers out of the comfort zone and show them all those riskiest things out there in the real world.

## Examples of Cult Books

- Catch-22 by Joseph Heller
- A clockwise orange by Anthony Burgess
- Trainspotting by Irvine Welsh
- The outsider by S.E. Hinton
- Generation X by Douglas Coupland
- The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

## Love, Sex and Relationships

- As the title suggests, it deals with issues like first love and sexuality, which are of interest and concern to the teenage readers;
- The taboo issues are dealt with in a realistic, honest and usually unromantic way.

**Doomed Love**  
Tess of the d'urbervilles  
by Thomas Hardy  
Wuthering Heights  
by Emily Bronte

**Exploring Sexuality**  
Boy Meets Boy  
by David Levithan  
Sugar Rush  
by Julie Burchill  
Strange Boy  
by Paul Magrs  
Orange are not the only fruit  
by Jeanette Winterson

**First Love (or first sex...)**  
Forever  
by Judy Blume  
Doing It  
by Mervin Burgess  
Lost and Found  
by Valerie Mendes

## Pink Lit

- The 10-16-year-old version of adult chick lit;
- Recognizable by their bright-colored 'girlie' covers;
- Light and easy reading, providing leisurely escapism;
- Characters and situations are familiar and easy to identify with;

## Pink Lit (...continued)

- Realistic enough to deal with serious contemporary teenage girl issues; like relationships (esp. with the opposite sex), embarrassing parents, school life and friends;
- With an emphasis on the importance and affirmation of friendship;
- Wide appeal to many (even boys in secret);
- Dismissed by critics as trivial or facile.

## Examples

- The sisterhood of the travelling pants by Ann Brashares
- Girls in Love series by Jacqueline Wilson
- Confession of a Teenage Drama Queen by Dylan Sheldon
- LBD series by Grace Dent

## Science Fiction & Fantasy

- Emerged from the traditional myth genre;
- Tangled with ghost stories, sci-fi, witches, supernatural monsters, legends and psychological archetypes;
- Full of adventure and cosmic issues;
- The common theme of which is the exploration of the human condition, and it involves the main characters to battle evil and restore justice;
- Classic fantasy genre: Homer / Beowulf;
- Modern fantasy genre founded by J.R.R. Tolkien, author of the Lord of the Rings;
- Recognizable by its dark and mystic cover.

## Popular teen fantasy authors

- Susan Cooper
- Alan Garner
- Robert Holdstock
- Robert Silverberg
- Philip Pullman
- Terry Pratchett
- Tanith Lee
- Mervyn Peake
- Diana Wynne Jones
- Brian Jacques
- Stephen King

## Why is fantasy immensely popular among young adult readers?

*Are young readers,  
living in such serious and  
scary times,  
eager to escape  
into a fantastic other world?*

Fantasy IS escapism.  
Its purpose is to take the everyday,  
commonplace world,  
turn it around  
and show it from a new perspective.

## The attractive features of fantasy

Fantasy is very popular because it's like playing out a story. They offer very immersive worlds with highly developed plots and characters, stunning graphics, and tons of secrets and hidden side quests that expand on the appeal of an already solid main storyline. Readers love the good guys and hate and fear the bad guys. Each new plot brings a new world with new characters, readers don't get tired of the same stories told over and over again in a slightly different setting.

## Theme in Fiction

- Theme is why fiction matters, because it is the quality that gives the story a **universal appeal**.
- Theme enriches and inspires the readers while saying something profound about the human condition.
- Theme is timeless, because there is no time restraint.
- Theme is not the characters or the plot. (A writer may begin with the idea of exploring family relationships, but his theme is forgiveness and understanding.)

## POPULAR AUTHORS

	Authors
1	Anthony Horowitz
2	Eoin Colfer
3	Meg Cabot
4	Suzanne Collins
5	Sarah Dessen
6	Stephenie Meyer
7	Christopher Paolini
8	Rick Riordan
9	Mike Lupica
10	Cornelia Funke
11	J.K. Rowling
12	Orson Scott Card

## Popular Series

- [The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants – Ann Brashares](#)
- [The Chronicles of Narnia – C.S. Lewis](#)
- [A Series of Unfortunate Events - Lemony Snicket](#)
- [The Clique - Lisi Harrison](#)
- [A Wrinkle in Time – Madeleine L'Engle](#)

## Classics

- Animal Farm
- Lord of the Flies
- Anne of Green Gables
- Matilda
- The Charlie Chocolate Factory
- The Giver

## Banned Books

### Literature suppressed on

- **Political grounds**
  - My brother Sam is dead
  - 1984
  - The grapes of wrath
- **Religious grounds**
  - The Age of Reason
  - Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone
  - The Bible
- **Sexual grounds**
  - The Arabian nights
  - Forever
  - Sophie's choice
- **Social grounds**
  - Anne Frank: the diary of a young girl
  - Brave new world
  - Captain underpants series
  - Catch-22
  - The catcher in the rye
  - Go ask alice

## Book Awards

### United States Awards

- [Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards](#)
- [Caldecott Medal](#)
- [The National Book Awards](#)
- [Newbery Medal](#)
- [Michael L. Printz Award](#)

### United Kingdom Awards

- [Booktrust Teenage Prize](#)
- [Carnegie Medal](#)
- [Children's Laureate](#)
- [Costa Book Award](#) [Formerly known as Whitbread]
- [Guardian Children's Fiction Prize](#)
- [Kate Greenaway Medal](#)

### International Awards

- [Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award](#)
- [Hans Christian Andersen Awards](#)

## Explore the Online World of Young Adult Literature

- Readergirlz  
[www.readergirlz.com](http://www.readergirlz.com)
- Reading Rants!  
[www.readingrants.org](http://www.readingrants.org)
- Skype-an-Author Network  
<http://skypeanauthor.wetpaint.com>

**A READING CIRCLE IS A SMALL GROUP OF STUDENTS WHO COME TOGETHER TO DISCUSS A PIECE OF LITERATURE.**

**THE CIRCLE ENABLES STUDENTS TO LEARN FROM EACH OTHER IN A POSITIVE AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT.**

## Reading Circles

- In groups of 5, S.1 students met regularly for 5 sessions under the guidance of a mentor who is a senior form student/ parent to discuss about a book they choose to read;
- Students are assigned different roles in the discussion session: Facilitator, Researcher, Story Mapper, Word Wizard and Summarizer;
- The mentors are trained and supervised by teachers/parents;
- Reading Circles Book Sets of multiple copies of 6 to 8 are available in the school library.

## Resources for conducting Reading Circles

Literature Circles Resource Centre

<http://www.litcircles.org/>

Literature Circles/ Reading Groups

<http://www.det.wa.edu.au/education/cmis/eval/fiction/classroom/class3.htm>

Literature Circles\_suggestions for planning

*literature circles*, as well as charts for tracking

[http://www.abcteach.com/directory/basics/reading/literature\\_circles/](http://www.abcteach.com/directory/basics/reading/literature_circles/)