

BritLit Update

Orange Juice Missing

It's a fact. Every morning the orange juice goes missing. Ask Michael Rosen, he knows. Michael (Children's Laureate) Rosen says:

We get orange juice
delivered to our door
with the milk,
on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
We get one pint of milk
one carton of orange juice.

So,
one Monday morning
I go out there
and there's one pint of milk
and
no orange.

So I go,
'Damn - the milkman's
forgotten to deliver the orange.
I love orange juice for breakfast.'

That's how this poem starts, and that's where the new kit – 'Orange Juice' – starts, with the milkman delivering milk and other things to the doorstep. That's a cultural gem straight away and soon the writers of the kit materials have engaged us in the whole process of how the orange juice-less breakfaster got his revenge.

The latest of the kits from BritLit is available later this week on the website. It's the second of the kits from last year's NILE trainees. The third and final one, 'The Hand That Feeds Me', will be available at the beginning of March.



New BritLit Coordinator starts in Barcelona

The nice people at the British Council in Barcelona have just appointed Joanna Dossetor as the BritLit coordinator based in that wonderful city. The appointment has happened now to make sure that the plans for the BritLit extravaganza at the forthcoming

APAC Conference in Barcelona – also coinciding with Louise Cooper’s first visit to the region – goes without a hitch. So welcome to the team, Joanna, and we wish you well for events you are planning.

Levi Tafari Tour Started

The latest tour of perennially popular ‘dub’ poet, Levi Tafari, has begun in Portugal. He’s visiting ten venues for BritLit, plus another five in Portugal for the Integration and Diversity Project (INDIE) as part of their Europe-wide INDIE school’s activities. Levi’s direct and entertaining way with students and teachers alike has gained him thousands of friends across the world over the past few years, many of them as a result of BritLit related activities from Europe to China. Ideally we’d like Levi to visit every school in the world, but even we at BritLit accept that that might be a wee bit ambitious. Levi is about to launch his first CD on which he is performing 16 of his poems. These are accompanied by lots of ideas and activities for using them in the classroom, so while it might not be quite the same as having the poet in flesh and blood in your school, it is bound to provoke a lot of interest amongst students. For information on where to purchase a copy contact plasticfantastic.cd@gmail.com



We’ll be reporting on Levi’s visit in the next issue. Meanwhile remember that the writer of the immensely popular ‘Short and Scary’ stories, Louise Cooper, will be in Barcelona for the APAC conference, and she’ll also be visiting a few local schools, at the end of February and beginning of March. Contact joanna.dossetor@britishcouncil.es for details.

What Next? Still Uncertain

With the clock ticking down to BritLit’s closure at the end of March, we still aren’t too sure what will be taking its place – if anything. There’s a lot of uncertainty about in the world these days – the economic meltdown won’t have escaped your attention! – and perhaps this is just

another manifestation of it. However, peer through the window of any BritLit office window and you’ll see happy, smiling faces, simply brimming with optimism because that’s the kind of people we are. That said, we hope to bring you glad tidings in the March issue of this Update.

CDROM: available in March

As announced in the last edition of Update, the new BritLit CDROM will be available from March. If you want to receive your free copy, then join those who already have and simply send your postal address to brit.lit@pt.britishcouncil.org and we’ll pop it into the post when it’s ready