



# LIBRARY INFORMATION & NEWS. ISSUE: NO. 78

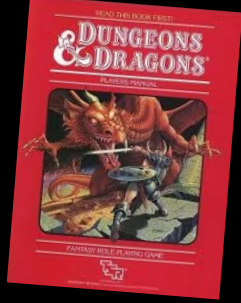


"It's going to be a long, hard, cruel winter, son... There's no doubt that the dark's growing in power and there's a particularly baleful influence up on that moor. So stay close to your master. He's the only real friend you've got. You must help one another" **Mam, to her Son Tom Ward - *The Spook's Secret* - Joseph Delaney**

JANUARY/EARLY FEB: SWORD & SORCERY FORTNIGHT, WINNIE THE POOH DAY, HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY, LIVE Q&A HOLOCAUST EDUCATIONAL TRUST WEBCAST, NATIONAL STORYTELLING WEEK, READATHON, JEFFREY BOAKYE Q&A, NLT 'BLACKPOOL BANQUET' BOOKS, DAISY EDUCATION-FESTIVE POEM COMPETITION ENTRIES.

"ALL THAT IS GOLD DOES NOT GLITTER, NOT ALL THOSE WHO WANDER ARE LOST: THE OLD THAT IS STRONG DOES NOT WITHER, DEEP ROOTS ARE NOT REACHED BY THE FROST. FROM THE ASHES A FIRE SHALL BE WOKEN, A LIGHT FROM THE SHADOWS SHALL SPRING; RENEWED SHALL BE BLADE THAT WAS BROKEN, THE CROWNLESS AGAIN SHALL BE KING." **J.R.R. TOLKIEN - *THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RINGS***

IT'S THE TIME OF YEAR WHEN WE CELEBRATE **SWORD & SORCERY**, IN HONOUR OF THE LATE GREAT **JOHN RONALD REUEL TOLKIEN. (03/01/1892-02/09/1973)**. OUR 2026 DISPLAY CONTAINS ANOTHER WIDE SELECTION OF AUTHORS, STORIES, LORE AND GAME GUIDES FROM THIS WONDERFUL ADVENTURE FILLED GENRE. ANIME & MANGA FANTASY WILL TAKE CENTRE STAGE. WE WILL ALSO BE PROMOTING OUR GREAT COLLECTION OF FANTASY **ROLE-PLAYING**, BOARD BASED AND **DIGITAL TEXT GAMES** THROUGHOUT THE MONTH. THE LIBRARY WILL BE ENCOURAGING STUDENTS TO JOIN IN WITH SOME OF OUR EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS **DUNGEONS & DRAGONS**, **QUEST: A TIME FOR HEROES**, **DUNGEON SAGA**, **MUNCHKIN**, **AI DUNGEON**, **SJ'S SORCERY** AND **BANNER SAGA**.



**Winnie the Pooh Day.** On Monday January the 19th, we will commemorate author **A.A. Milne's** birthday (18th January 1882). He brought the honey loving bear to life in his stories, which also featured his son, Christopher Robin. Alan Alexander Milne (18th January 1882-31st January 1956) was an English writer best known for his books about the teddy bear Winnie the Pooh, as well as for children's poetry. Milne was primarily a play wright before the huge success of Winnie the Pooh overshadowed all his previous work. He served in both world wars, as a Lieutenant in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in the First World War and as a captain in the Home Guard in the Second World War. Various Winnie the Pooh resources are available for collection from the Library.



The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 2026, is 'Bridging Generations', is a call-to-action. A reminder that the responsibility of remembrance doesn't end with the survivors - it lives on through their children, their grandchildren and through all of us. This theme encourages us all to engage actively with the past - to listen, to learn and to carry those lessons forward. By doing so, we build a bridge between memory and action, between history & hope for the future.



**Holocaust Memorial Trust Webcast 2026 - Thursday, 22nd Jan 10:00 - 11:00.** The Holocaust Memorial Day Webcast is the Holocaust Educational Trust's largest outreach event of the year. This significant event brings together hundreds of schools, sports clubs, and other organisations to commemorate this pivotal day. Participants have the unique opportunity to listen to the testimony of a Holocaust survivor and engage in a meaningful question and answer session. Survivor testimonies are at the heart of the Trust's mission, offering a personal connection to one of history's darkest chapters. Hearing these first-hand accounts turn listeners into witnesses of history, inspiring and empowering them to share these important stories and stand against antisemitism and all forms of hatred.



Change your story

**National Storytelling Week**  
**Soundtrack your story**

2-8 February 2026

The theme for 2026 is **Soundtrack your story**. Everyone has their own musical story in the songs we love and the music we dance to, through Sign Language and the rhythms we feel. Music connects us to words. It helps us to express who we are and how we see the world around us.

**Jeffrey Boakye, ex-teacher turned writer, speaker, broadcaster and educator offers a dynamic online workshop to celebrate National Storytelling Week 2026 for KS3.** This online, interactive workshop will be uncovering how music and lyrics tell stories that matter. Build lyrics with Jeffrey and explore what songs can tell us about the world around us.



**Jeffrey Boakye**  
**4th of February**  
**10:00-10:45am**

## Read for Good 'Readathon'

Young people who read for pleasure are more likely to do well at school, have better jobs, be happy and lead fulfilled lives. All through the magic of a humble book or story. Join in with the RFG Readathon & help buy books for children's hospitals. **Collect your sponsor card from the library.**






"I believe in process. I believe in four seasons. I believe that winter's tough, but spring's coming. I believe that there's a growing season. And I think that you realize that in life, you grow. You get better."- **Steve Southerland**



NLT Blackpool sent us several copies of 'A Blackpool Banquet'

## Daisy Education Festive Poem Competition

Entrants had to submit a poem based on the theme "Festive Feelings". The Poems could be **rhyme**, **free-verse** or **acrostic**. Our students had complete creative freedom. Finished entries had to be **12 lines in total**. Here are a selection of the works that we entered. Some students submitted **Christmas Stories** that weren't entered due to not fulfilling the competition criteria, these still **deserve recognition**. The national winners are announced on **Thursday the 8th of January**.



**Poetry Competition**  
Submit a poem with the theme of 'Festive Feelings'. You have free creative rein! They can be fun, silly or sentimental.  
Poems can be acrostic, rhyming or non-rhyming, and must be no longer than 12 lines

The colours of autumn float away as the emptiness and sorrow returns,  
With the fireplace crackling slowly, as my heart starts to burn.  
Why is it back, I don't want it here, I begin to fear,  
The colours of joy fade, bringing anything but cheer.  
The angel atop of the tree isn't me this day,  
As the twinkling lights bring me nothing but dismay.  
I didn't hear his jingle bells, nor his pearly sleigh,  
Just as my mother turned to me, and she began to say:  
"Check beneath the tree, maybe there's something there,"  
And so my eyes widened, as the paper began to tear.  
Giggles filled the room, with as they <sup>blessed</sup> my ear  
I was happy to know I was on his good list this year.

**EK 80**

**KW 11U**

Beneath the twinkling, golden light,  
Warm laughter hums through the night,  
Candles flicker, hearths embrace,  
Joy and cheer fill every space.

Snowflakes dance on windows wide,  
Echoing wishes hearts confide.  
A symphony of bells resounds,  
Where friendships and hope abound.

Gifts of kindness brightly gleam,  
Filling the air with a merry dream.  
In every smile, in every song,  
The festive spirit lives lifelong.

Snow falls in heaps and heaps  
Lights are strong, gleaming bright  
The Christmas spirit slowly creeps  
Trees stand towering in height  
Decorated proudly, brightened in gold  
The fire crackles and dances about  
Here comes Christmas as old as old  
The children are happy, they have no doubt;  
Santa is coming with his presents and sleigh  
Delivering Christmas to the entire world  
With reindeer that jingle, jingle and neigh, neigh  
So when you're in your bed warm and curled;  
Know Christmas is <sup>right</sup> near;  
Let us cheer, cheer, cheer  
Merry Christmas to all, As I wave goodbye  
and to all a good year And say to your ear  
Merry Christmas to all and to all a good year!

As the snow gingerly floated down on this bleak town of sorrow, a little girl thundered down a letter right in her grasp. Her loose plaits flailed in the freezing wind, her cheeks and nose thoroughly ripped by Jack Frost, a determined grin pasted on her face. She was on a mission. The closer she got to that sacred red box of letters, the faster she ran and the tighter she gripped onto her cream-coloured letter. Finally she was stood in front of the box, panting heavily, and shaking slightly, she reached high and slipped her letter through the mouth of the box. She clasped her hands, closed her eyes tight and stood still in front of the box. Opening her eyes, she squealed with delight as she pounded back through the dull array of houses and dreamed and dreamed.

The next morning, as the snow paused and the town was just as miserable as the night before. But something felt... different. As the townsfolk just as miserable inhabitants gradually pored out of their homes for their daily chores, they were met with something magical. Bright, beaming lights stretched the whole streets; bundles of tinsel snaked round lamp posts, bawbles, candy canes and decorations gave life to the streets, and wreaths were hung on every door. Everyone looked around at this magical spectacle, how did this happen? The little girl too was witnessing this scene of whimsy, her breath stolen, her eyes wider than her mouth, mouth gaping with awe. It didn't take long for the girl's spirit to spread across the bewildered crowd. Children trailed the snowy streets, making snow angels and men as they went. People gathered around the trees humming songs

of festive fun. Mothers traded lessons, fathers told stories, aunts and uncles laughed and chatted, cousins loudly sung, and the little girl stood shocked. She gazed out onto this array of glee, family and magic ~~and~~ full of joy. Today was Christmas day the first in a while but to the little girl this love, fun and beauty never went away. It just had to be brought out again.

**KMD 100**

Although it's snowing outside, it's also a exciting time of the year. It's Christmas. Mrs Ruth was having dinner with her four children named Daniel, David, Lily and melody. When Lily started acting strange she picked up the knife and stab David on his arm, the mom rushed to check up on him, followed by the rest siblings. The mom asked what have you done. She picked up the knife and said "mom what happened?" melody ran up to get the first aid kit. She looked up and saw a shadow smiling at her. She screamed like a newborn baby, "mom this house is haunted. We need to get out!" she immediately picked up the car key and came David on her arm they all do the car and drove to her friend house. they got down and banged on the door, open open the friend opened the door and they ran inside gasping for air. She saw blood on the ground, she looked at them and called the ambulance.

**TO 70**

**Winters Embrace ❄️ LAG 70**

In winters hush, were snowflakes softly fall,  
A festive spirit answers Freedom's call,  
Candles flicker, shadows start to play,  
As carols echo, brightening the day.

The scent of pine, a fragrant, sweet delight,  
Adorns the halls, a welcome, warming sight,  
Beneath the mistletoe, hearts feel so glee,  
Sharing laughter, for all to see.

Gifts are exchanged, with ribbons tied so neat,  
A season of giving, oh so complete,  
In every heart, a warmth that does increase,  
A tapestry of memories, sealed with peace.

**KMD 100**

Carols rejoice and sing holy tunes  
Happy times approach, let us rejoice!  
Reindeer jingle, bells shinging like clowns  
Igloos of snow, sprinkled with poise  
Santas cookies wait to be eaten  
Trees sparkle with beauty and pride  
Mounts of presents, they can't be beaten  
Angels bless us, our holy protectors of blight  
Scream with joy for this time of year...  
Ho Merry Christmas and a happy new year!