

Hello St Peter and St Paul Primary!

It was lovely to see you all last time, when I came to tell stories! As your **Patron of Reading**, I thought I'd send you this **Newsletter** – to tell you what I've been up to, to remind you about some great books, and to give you some reading ideas for summer!

Where Alec's been?

In April, I was in London for a meeting about the **Kids Lit Quiz**, an international book quiz for Y6-8s. If you like quizzes, try some of the 'test questions' on the Home Page of [their website](#) (where you might be able to spot me, along the top edge!). When I looked just now, the question was:

Who was the television-mad boy that visited Mr Wonka's factory?

(In case you've forgotten, look at the end of this Newsletter!)

Also in April, I spoke at a **conference for 250 teachers in Turkey**. Here's the big hall; the red dot on the map shows where I was:



Do you like cats? Maybe you have one as a pet. Turkish people *really* love cats, which is probably why, when I was there, I saw...



...a cat in the hotel at breakfast ...and a 'cat hotel' in the park!

You may have seen a '**Punch and Judy**' puppet show at the seaside (if not, look it up and you'll see what they were about). Turkish people have similar puppet characters called **Karagheuz** and **Hadschiewad**, who get up to mischief, pulling each other's beards when they fight! You can see them on these big pots:

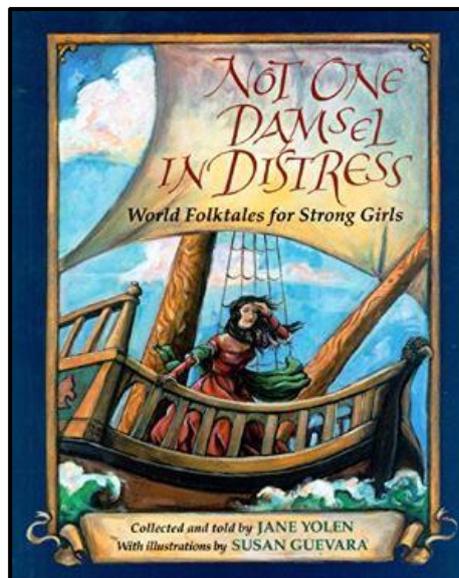
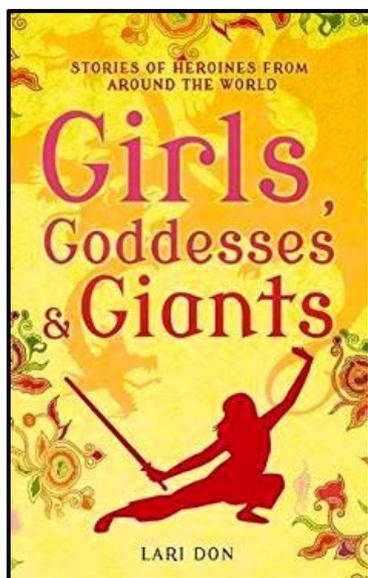


As well as visiting other schools in Britain when I got home, I also did a 'question and answer' session with young children in Istanbul using **Skype**, so that we could see each other on screen. One boy sent me a joke later: "What do you call bears with no ears?" (The answer is at the end of this newsletter!)

The last thing I did was probably the scariest thing for a storyteller to do – I spoke to an audience of **other storytellers**! These people tell stories to very poorly children in hospitals, and they're soon going to be telling stories in schools. Find out more at their '[Read for Good](#)' website.

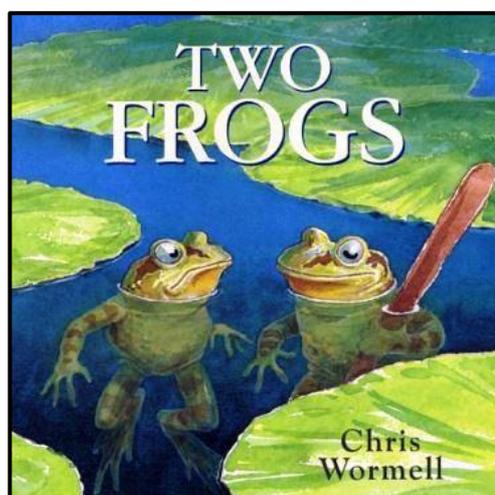
What's Alec been reading?

Girls at your school will be pleased to hear that I've decided to learn more stories with girls as the main characters! To help me, I bought two books of stories:

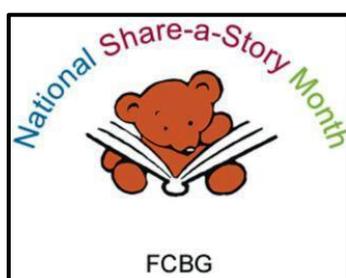


Look out for stories of girls fighting seven-headed dragons, soon!

I also bought a book of **Viking stories**, and one of **Stories from Yorkshire**, where I live. Do you know any stories from your part of the country? I bought a poetry book called '**Moon Juice**', and one called '**Things you find in a poet's beard**' – plus a new copy of the '**Two Frogs**' picture book, one of my favourites!!

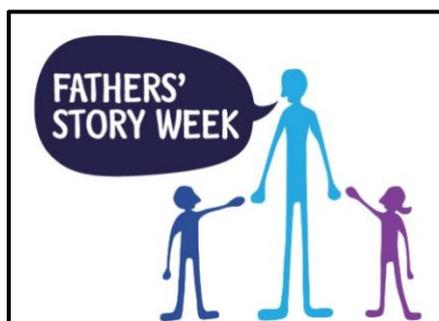


Alec's Reading Ideas!



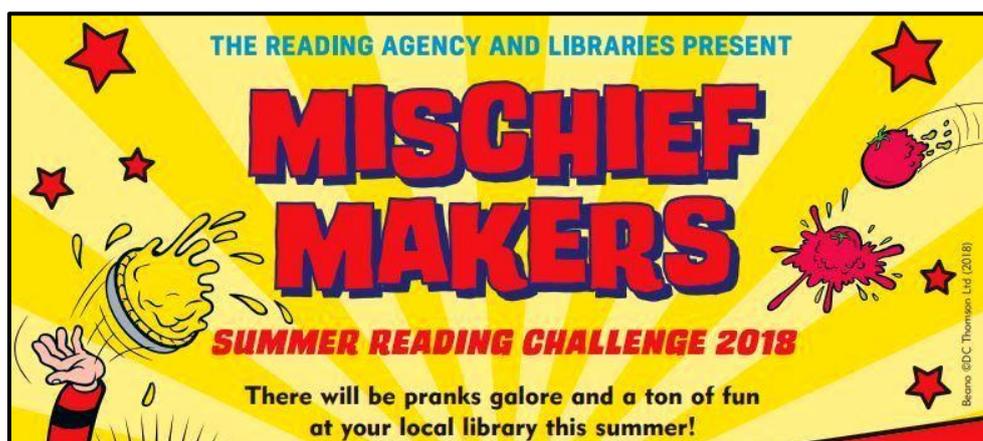
May is always '**Share-a-Story Month**', so look at a book with your Dad; share a picture book with your Mum; or read one aloud to your brother or sister (or your cat or dog!)

As I'm typing this, it's about to be **Elmer Day!** Everyone's favourite patchwork elephant has a special day in late May each year. Try an Elmer story again at any time, or show one to someone who doesn't know it – maybe a little brother or sister!



Give Dad a chance! With **Fathers Story Week** coming up (11th-17th June), it's a reminder to get Dads sharing stories with their children. A lot of Dads quite like showing off different voices, and doing animal noises too!

Finally, you'll be hearing soon about this summer's **Summer Reading Challenge!** Either your teacher, or someone from the local library, will be telling you about this great idea for keeping up your reading in the long holiday. Just read six books, and there are lots of prizes to win! This year's theme celebrates 80 years of *The Beano*, and is called:



...so have fun with reading, and watch out for flying custard pies!

Best wishes, **Alec**

*The answer to that quiz question? It was **Mike TeeVee**.
What do you call bears with no ears? 'B'. (Look at the spelling of 'bears')*