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Newsletter No 19  
Sept 2004

Dear readers,

**September's Reviews** feature crossovers – books with appeal to both older children/teens and adult readers. We review: *How I Live Now* by Meg Rossoff, *Le Grand Meaulnes* by Alain – Fournier, *I Capture The Castle* by Dodie Smith, *The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night Time* by Mark Haddon and *Riddley Walker* by Russell Hoban.

**Bookgroup of the Month** is The Friendliest Group in The World, (they say 100% guaranteed!) They meet in Manchester and have a very good time.

How do you compare? Does your group like to specialise in a particular genre of writing e.g. crime, non – fiction or classics? Would you like to be our next Bookgroup of the Month? Simply send an email to [info@bookgroup.info](mailto:info@bookgroup.info) with your responses to the questions, and if you are featured we will reward you with a £10 voucher to buy books.

**July's competition winners are** Geraldine Wilson of Blackburn, Angela Aouane of Alicante Spain, Bella Williams of Brighton, Ferelith Horton of London SW18 and Claire Richards of Devon.  
Congratulations!

**September's competition winners** will receive hardback copies of *How I Live Now* (see review) so click the button...

**Please tell us about yourselves!**  
Please register your group at [www.bookgroup.info](http://www.bookgroup.info) where you can also exchange ideas and information on the forum. Let's keep the contact and good discussion going. Bookgroups thrive on word-of-mouth, often avoiding all the hype. **So please use us to pass on those ideas!**

**As always, your comments** about our reviews are very important. Please send us your opinions. Does your rating system match ours?

**R4 Bookclub** has an exciting upcoming menu of featured writers – Paul Auster (September), Will Self (October) and Pat Barker (November) Go to [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk) for all the details, and to apply to be part of the Bookclub audience.

**Liverpool Reads.** Launched this month, this new scheme aims to get all Liverpool reading the same book. This year's chosen title is *Holes* by Louis Sachar. Libraries have stocked up and *Holes* will be on sale half price all over Merseyside. Seattle and Bristol have already

done it, and Liverpool intends to keep the scheme going for some years.

**Children's fiction** is definitely on a roll... Michelle Paver has been paid an amazing £2m advance for her first children's novel *Wolf Brother*. At the Frankfurt Book Fair Paver said she was "over the moon". Go to [www.guardian.co.uk/books](http://www.guardian.co.uk/books) for the full story.

**Shirley Hughes** has won the Kate Greenaway medal and £5,000 prize for *Ella's Big Chance* a modernisation of the Cinderella story. The Cilip Carnegie medal went to Jennifer Donnelly for *A Gathering Light*.

**The Book People** sells books in workplaces and via catalogues and has a new catalogue called The Reading Group, which as the name suggests is specifically targeted.

**Racketeers' Top 10 Books** is a varied and interesting list, with some surprises, and defies stereotypes. The list is: 1. *Waterland* by Graham Swift. 2. *The Honorary Consul* by Graham Greene. 3. *Brick Lane* by Monica Ali. 4. *Surfacing* by Margaret Atwood. 5. *Black Boy* by Richard A Wright. 6. *Franny and Zooey* by JD Salinger. 7. *The Secret History* by Donna Tartt. 8. *The Golden Age* by Gore Vidal. 9. *Stars and Bars* by William Boyd. 10. *Cheaters* by Eric Jerome Dickey. Read more at [www.observer.co.uk](http://www.observer.co.uk) 15.8.04

**Guardian Children's Fiction Prize & Competition:** 4 novels have made the shortlist: *Millions* by Frank Cottrell Boyce, *How I Live Now* by Meg Rossoff, *No Shame, No Fear* by Anne Turnbull and *Last Train From Kummersdorf* by Leslie Wilson.  
Note we are featuring an interview with Meg Rossoff on the website.

There is still time for young, aspiring critics to give their views of the books and win the entire longlist for their schools. Deadline for competition entries is September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Go to [www.guardian.co.uk/books](http://www.guardian.co.uk/books) for all the info.

**Guardian First Book Prize** A longlist for the £10,000 prize has been drawn...the award intends to recognise and reward writing by first – time authors. This year had a bumper crop of entries. Go to [www.guardian.co.uk/books/firstbook/2004](http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/firstbook/2004) for the full story.

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