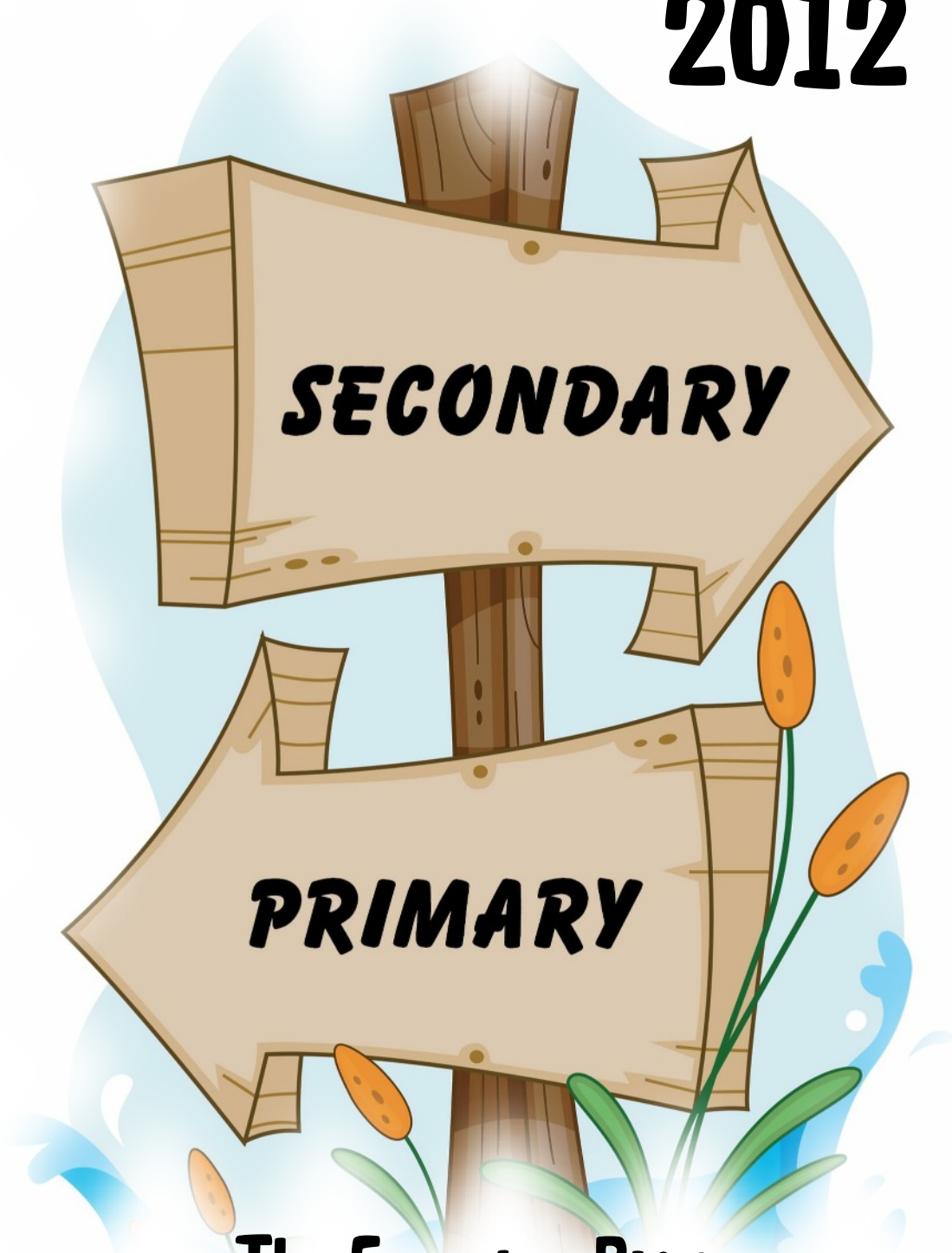


Leap Into Books

2012



The Crossing Place...
Laisterdyke Business & Enterprise College
April 2nd-5th

Guests - who you'll meet!

Jo Blake, Storyteller

Award-winning young storyteller in 2007, Joanne has been performing throughout the UK for over 5 years. Taking the art form by storm, Joanne's recent work includes appearances at the London's Barbican, the Soho Theatre, the Tristan Bates Theatre, and Northampton's The Royal & Derngate, where she has just been appointed Storyteller in Residence for 2011. Joanne has also performed with multidisciplinary theatre companies, appearing at the Edinburgh Fringe and the Bath Shakespeare Festival. She recently co-directed a 5-star rated production for the Lighthouse Theatre in Poole as part of the Pockets Progression team - and she's here to do workshops and storytelling sessions on Monday, April 2nd.



Pete Chand, Storyteller



Peter has been storytelling since 1999, and has entertained audiences all over Britain and further with his tales from the Indian Subcontinent. His parents migrated to Britain from the Punjab region in the 1950's, and though he was born in the Midlands, Peter grew up using Punjabi as his first language. He combines these two cultures seamlessly to tell stories full of life, wisdom, and humour. He'll be here on Tuesday to tell some great stories, and may do a show (open to parents as well as children) inspired by the 200th anniversary of Grimm's Fairy Tales (It's called 'Sheesha' - mirror) on the afternoon of Monday, subject to availability.

Dave Cryer

Dave Cryer, writer, poet, and all round good-guy will be working with all four groups on Thursday this year. He be doing some great Drama activities related to books, and whatever he does at LIB, it's bound to be great!



Alan Gibbons, Writer

Alan Gibbons has been writing children's books for seventeen years. He is the winner of the Blue Peter Book Award 2000 'The book I couldn't put down' for his best-selling book Shadow of the Minotaur. He was a judge of the 2001 Awards.

He has also been shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal in 2001 and 2003 and twice for the Booktrust Teenage Prize. He has won the Blue Peter Book Award 'The Book I Couldn't Put Down', the Catalyst Award, the Leicester Book of the Year, the Angus Book of the Year, the Stockport Book Award, the Birmingham Chills Award, the Salford KS4 Award, the Hackney Short Novel Award and the Salford Librarians' Special Award. His books have been published in Japanese, German, Italian, French, Thai, Spanish, Danish, Dutch, Swedish and other languages.

Alan has been a teacher for 16 years, working with KS1, KS2 and KS3. He has made numerous visits to schools and libraries, colleges and education conferences. He is a popular speaker at the Edinburgh Festival, the London Book Fair, the Northern Children's Book Festival, the Hay-on-Wye Festival, the Cheltenham Festival and many others.

Pupils' achievement is very good. This is due to the effective deployment of the talented Author in Residence, and the focused teaching of skills in dedicated writing lessons.

Alan has also appeared on the BBC Education programme Writer's Block, the Blue Peter Book Awards, Radio 4's Front Row, The World Tonight and The Message programme. He is a regular contributor to TES, Junior Education, Carousel, Books for Keeps and other journals. Alan writes an occasional column for the Liverpool Echo.



Nick Hennessey, Storyteller and Musician

"I didn't know it as a child of course, but looking back now I see that there was something magical about the village in which I was brought up. With the benefit of 35 years hindsight I understand that something of the myths and legends that curl and whisper round the woodlands of Alderley Edge were seeping into my bones from a very early age.

Although I was born in Macclesfield, Cheshire it was in Alderley Edge, about 10 miles south of Manchester, that I bridged my life from childhood into adulthood. In fact the village of Alderley is, itself, something of bridge. On the one side the dynamic, unrelenting city of Manchester and on the other the rich, flat fields of the Cheshire plains.

And although Manchester has its stories too, it was Alderley's legends - of a man, a sleeping king and of a mysterious guide who leads the way through Iron Gates deep into the heart of the hill - that made the most profound impression on me.

Of course I didn't truly begin to understand the story until much later. My first true love was music. Piano at five years old - to conquer the mysterious power of those dots and notes on the page - and saxophone at nine opening me up to an extraordinary free world of musical improvisation. "



Bev Humphries

Bev, former school librarian, is now a literacy consultant working with children and teachers across the country to increase access to literacy, and unleash the creativity of the children who work with her. She specialises in Web 2.0 applications (that's the very latest collection of educational and literacy-promotion websites), and she's bringing her massive knowledge of the area to Leap Into Books to let children produce creative, original work using our computer systems.



Jon Mayhew, Writer

Jon is a teacher, and writes books which, he likes to think, scare people! This is what he says about himself:

"I live on the Wirral Peninsula with my wife and four children. We have a whole menagerie of dogs and cats and chickens and tortoises. My house overlooks the forbidding marshes of the Dee Estuary which is great for wildlife, spooky mists and wet feet.



I love writing but also enjoy running and playing the mandolin. Running is great because it keeps me fit and I can eat as many chips as I like without worrying about putting on weight... I think!"

We don't think he's going to bring the Mandolin...

Fran O'Boyle, storyteller (and illustrator)

Fran is a professional storyteller and illustrator, who over the years has perfected his storytelling art in all sorts of venues such as, schools, libraries, festivals, village events, prisons and stately homes and gardens. His distinctive illustrations have appeared in various locations and books.

He doesn't always dress like this, though!



Richard O'Neill, Storyteller



I'm sure most storytellers will get asked the question:

'So how long have you been doing this then?'

There are two answers I can give to that question the first is since I was five so that's forty one years and the second one is four years professionally.

I was born into a large Romani Gypsy family in the North East in 1962, in a modern caravan, my dad in 1925 in a horse drawn wagon and his dad before him in a tent. My ancestors came into this country 500 years ago they were believed to be from Egypt hence the term Egyptians which was eventually shortened to Gypsy. Irish and Scottish Travellers also have histories going back as far. Literacy levels were always low but training in people skills, buying, selling and telling stories for fun and profit were very high.

I grew up listening to stories around camp fires, at family camps and fairs, in caravans at weddings christenings and funerals. When I was five years old buoyed by having learned to read at school I did my first performance, some reading (which amazed many of the older people) and a little selection of tales about my school and the Gorja (non Gypsy) people I met there. I carried on telling my tales whenever I was asked, developing new ones especially for my children and their many cousins who seemed to have a voracious appetite for them...

Richard came to Leap Into Books in 2010, and we've been waiting for a chance to invite him back!

Bali Rai, Writer

I was born in Leicester in 1971 and grew up in a multicultural, multi-racial community close to the city centre. As a child I dreamt about three things – playing football for Liverpool FC, being Bob Marley and becoming a writer. At the age of eleven I read the book that would inspire me to write. It was The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole by Sue Townsend. Other authors had inspired me to write for fun (Roald Dahl in particular) but it was Sue Townsend who became a true role model. From that point writing became an important hobby and I practiced almost every day. I read countless books, often copying an author's style in order to find my own.

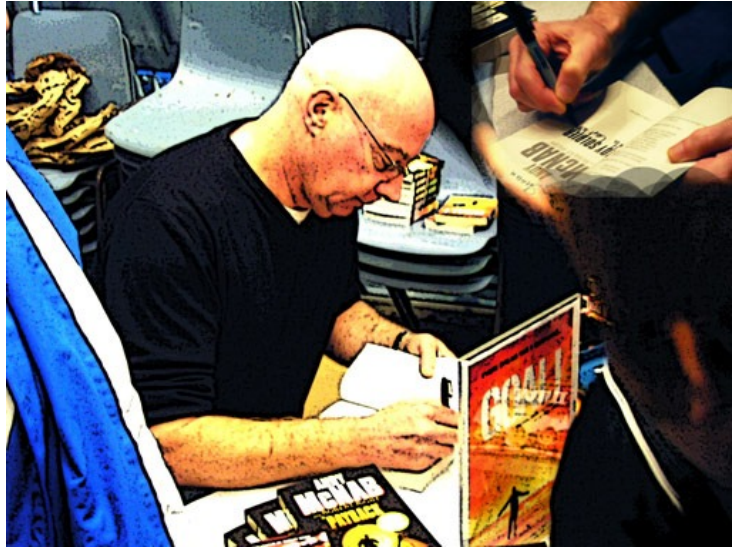


In 1991, after being schooled at Judgemeanow Community College and QE II Sixth Form, I moved to London to attend Southbank University. I graduated in 1994 with a degree in Politics. For the next two years I moved from one awful job to another until personal circumstances (and a lack of money) forced my return to Leicester. Over the next few years I worked for a large supermarket, sold random things over the phone, and eventually settled as the manager of a bar and then assistant manager of a nightclub. It was during this latter period that I began to write my first novel, (un)arranged marriage. Since then Bali has written many books, for many different age groups, and we're happy to welcome him back to Laisterdyke!

Robert Rigby, Writer

Robert began his career as a journalist, then spent several years in the music business as a songwriter and session musician. In 1978 independent label Flight released a single by Robert and the following year Fusion Records released Robert's "Let The Music Play" single. Around this time Robert also wrote the Rock Star musical, based on the Nativity story.

He turned to writing for radio, television and the theatre and has also directed and performed in children's theatre throughout the country. He has become an established young people's playwright and his award-winning work with youth theatre companies has been seen in Britain, Europe, the USA and Africa. He wrote the novelizations of the movies, Goal! and Goal II, and his scripts for television include the long-running BBC children's drama series, Byker Grove. Robert worked with Andy McNab to produce the Boy Soldier series of books. He's also writing the official London 2012 Olympic tie-in novels. Robert is here for two days, over Monday and Tuesday.



Plus!

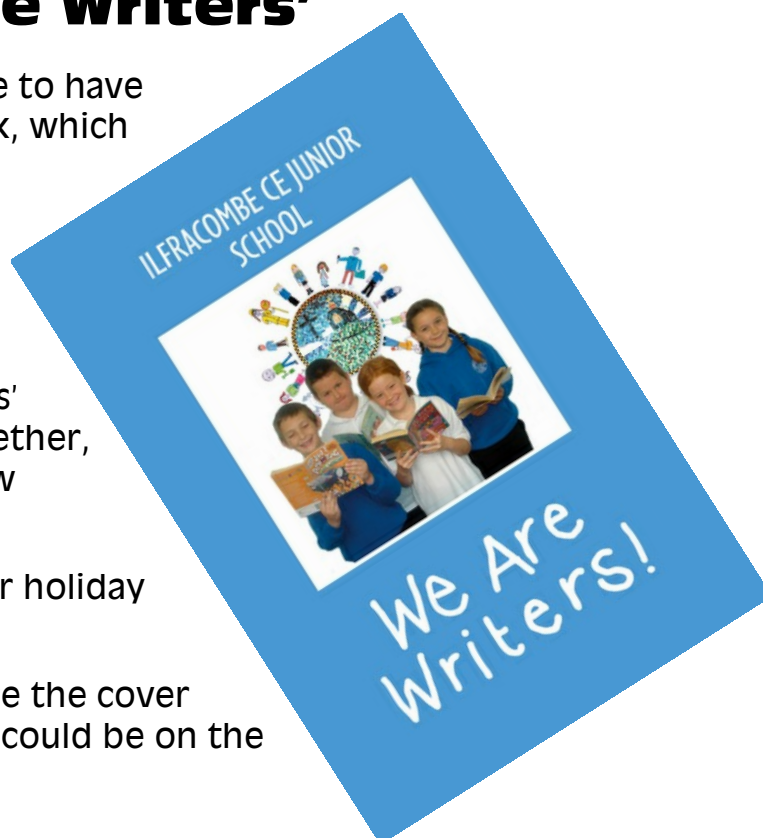
Scholastic's 'We Are Writers'

We Are Writers offers you the chance to have your work printed on a 'proper' book, which you can then have a copy of.

There will be a session during the week which offers you an hour to write something - anything from a story to a rap or poetry - which will then be added to the 'We Are Writers' book. The book itself will be put together, proof-read, and sent out to you a few weeks after the event finishes.

You'll have until the end of the Easter holiday to complete your bit!

Also, someone will be able to produce the cover image for the book - so your picture could be on the cover of all the books!



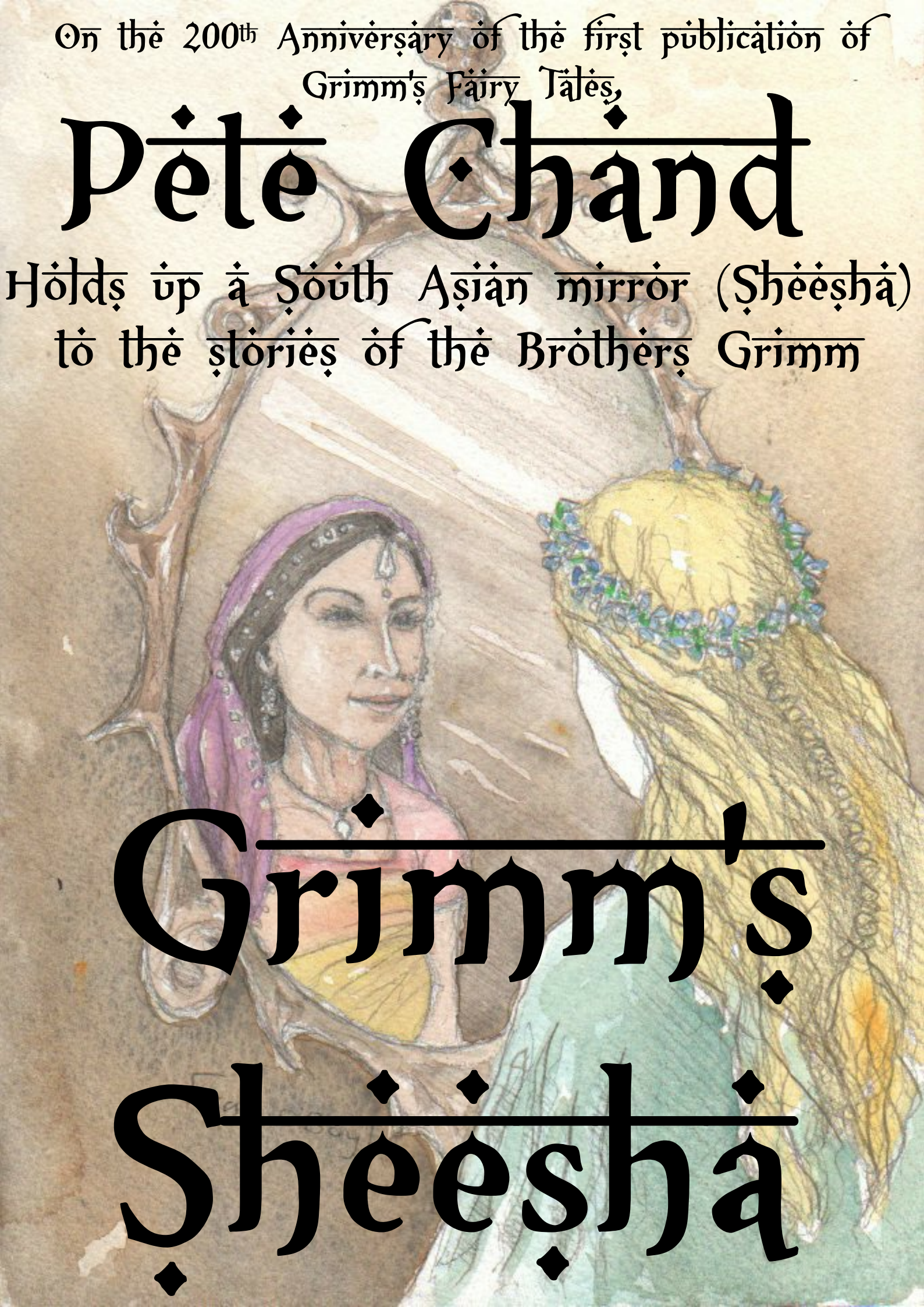
Plus! A Scholastic Book Fair, with a £5 voucher to spend on anything in the fair.



On the 200th Anniversary of the first publication of
Grimm's Fairy Tales,

Pète Chand

Holds up a South Asian mirror (Shēeshā)
to the stories of the Brothers Grimm



Grimm's

Shēeshā