



Hello, and welcome to the December edition of the Words Worth Reading Ltd newsletter. Here comes seasonal festivities and of course the arrival of a new year. All very exciting and one of the most creative months of the year, well we think so anyway. Given our submission rate many of our customers feel the same way! We're focusing on creative manuscripts, and stylised documentation this month...

Is this the end of Austin and Orwell?

In *The Guardian* Polly Toynbee dismisses Michael Gove's intention to strip English Literature out of the core English GCSE examinations as leaving it with nothing but grammatical corrections and straitjacket language. [1.]

Toynbee says English literature is to be regarded as an optional extra and not a highly regarded one. The new English literature examination will become more rigorous, concentrating on pre-twentieth century texts, which may deter all but enthusiasts.

She feels high achievers will be more clearly set apart, rewarding those who already thrive under any system.

Toynbee believes that Gove's plans will see drama, dance, art and literature slipping away despite the fact that in further education colleges, it is often these subjects that provide second and third chances for those failed by schools the first time around.

She challenges that drama is low value but notes that ever fewer schools employ specialist drama teachers. Shakespeare is on the curriculum but no longer to be examined.

In Gove's schools, whatever might seize the imagination, give pleasure and stay in the heart and mind for a lifetime longer than rote learned facts, is being rooted out.

Toynbee compares Gove to a Dickens character obsessed with teaching boys and girls 'facts'. She draws attention to an array of writers, artists and academics (including Michael Morpurgo, Robert Harris, Sheila Hancock, Miriam Margolyes, and professors John Carey and John Sutherland) that have sent a letter of protest to *The Sunday Times*. She, and they, feel[s] when everyone has to study some literature it is more accessible to all and humanises all.

No school should be judged good or outstanding unless it's good at arts and she guesses that Gove wouldn't send a child of his to any school that regards arts as a waste of time.

In her Response [2], Liz Truss states that Polly Toynbee is wrong to claim that our reforms will narrow education to serve exams. Study of our greatest dramatists is to be enhanced, and the study of literature for all 11 to 14 year olds requires wider reading now than ever before.

[1] Toynbee. P - 5th November 2013 - In Michael Gove's world, Jane Austin, Orwell and Dickens will die out - *The Guardian* [2] Truss. E - 13th November 2013 - Response - Literature is not going to be stripped out of English - *The Guardian* Illustration - Pudles. D 5th November 2013 - *The Guardian*

Spotted on Twitter



The Guardian

@guardian Why 2013 was a golden year for Hip-Hop
gu.com/p/3yczj/tw



HealthServiceJournal

@HSJnews
Best of 2013: Leadership and NHS Governance
ift.tt/1eH6Jcp



@EMASNHSTrust

Tips to keep you safe this New Year #999wise

Facebook heads home...

The Guardian has reported that Facebook confirmed in November that it is opening a Boston-area office just a couple of miles away from where the website was initially founded in Mark Zuckerberg's Harvard University dorm room. Facebook's current headquarters is in Menlo Park, California.

The team, which will be in Cambridge, the town just outside Boston where Harvard is located, will focus on infrastructure projects in areas including storage, networking, security, and language runtimes.

"The tech community here is world class, from the incredible academic institutions to the vibrant start-up ecosystem to the bevy of global companies who have teams here," said Ryan Mack, who will lead the office. "We are thrilled to have found a new home here and hope we can help the community continue to thrive."

Mack and a couple of other Facebook employees have been in the Boston area for a couple of years, working "from a series of coffee shops, libraries, and co-working spaces," including a basement in Chinatown, he said.

How lovely to see this social media giant return to its roots.



Our remote external auditing service for the Information Governance Toolkit is a huge success! There is still time to order this service before the March 14 submission deadline. If you have completed your organisation's IGT, you will have to demonstrate in-year evidence of maintaining Level 2 compliance, and our latest service can help you do just that.



In other news...

- CQC fines Selby Care Home £8,000 for consistently failing to comply with national standards.
- The Centre for Public Scrutiny has highlighted the importance of capturing and ensuring the quality of client and patient satisfaction when delivering health and social care standards. Furthermore, the CQC has embraced this key criterion in its Hospital Intelligent Monitoring Arrangements. For more information on this, please visit our blog: <http://www.wordsworthreading.co.uk/blog/?p=1734>

Things that we like this month



Knitting and crochet ideas and patterns from this little blog

<http://www.inverleith.blogspot.fr/>



This 'quote of the month' on pinterest

<http://www.pinterest.com>



A little reading nook

<http://www.outwestside.com>

Contact us:

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