



*We are inspired by children's literature and strive to inspire all those who study and work with the Centre to engage further with children's books in their own lives and careers. Threading through our work are two central areas of concern: the critical study of children's literature and the practice of writing for children.*



## Inspiring practice no. 5

### National Centre for Research in Children's Literature

The National Centre for Research in Children's Literature at the University of Roehampton promotes academic excellence in research into children's literature. Literature for young people is culturally, socially and historically important and this dynamic literary field requires the close attention afforded it at the NCRCL through a research culture of intellectual and creative engagement.



The NCRCL was established in 1991 (then the Children's Literature Research Centre) and was awarded a Queen's Prize for Further and Higher Education (2000-2004). Now part of the Department of English and Creative Writing, the NCRCL continues to deliver the longest running MA in Children's Literature in the UK (offered on-site and via distance learning), which allows students to choose between academic and creative writing pathways as they come to a deeper understanding of children's books.

The Centre offers a stimulating research environment for its large cohort of PhD students, facilitating meetings with doctoral students from other institutions and running a regular programme of research talks and conferences, drawing together specialist practitioners from higher education, schools, archives, publishing houses, museums, theatres and arts associations. The NCRCL reaches into many related areas of children's literature, working closely with partners, such as the Marsh Award for Children's Literature in Translation and the annual conference with IBBY UK (International Board on Books for Young People).



The NCRCL team is made up of specialists in children's literature, publishing regularly on diverse areas of children's literature, such as translation, philosophy, fantastic realism, reading and memory, multi-culturalism and landscape. A number of prominent research

fellows also work alongside NCRCL staff, extending the reach and professionalism of the Centre. Dr Penni Cotton's European Picture Book Project has exposed children all over the world to European culture and language, for example. Reflecting the NCRCL's concern with creative writing, Dame Jacqueline Wilson (Professorial Fellow) and Melvin Burgess (Honorary Research Fellow) offer illuminating workshops and lectures to students across the department on the craft and process of writing for young people.

