

*...as a society, the value we place on the culture of children's literature is a measure of how much we value children...*

## Who would like a Children's Literature Centre in Brisbane?

**Book Links Qld Inc. and CBCA Queensland believe that Brisbane needs a dedicated Children's Literature Centre**

### What is a Children's Literature Centre?

Here are some photos of one in the UK that we would like to use as a model for ours:

**The Seven Stories Centre for Children's Books**, in Newcastle, has an ever-changing program of exhibitions and events designed to expose children to good children's literature, spark the imaginations of children and adults and inspire ideas and exciting new work.

*...reading books makes your mind an interesting place to be...*

Its name derives from the seven levels in the building and some people's belief that there are only seven stories in the world, but thousands of ways of telling them.



This front new section is ogee or wave-shaped to give the impression of the pages of an opened book. End windows resemble pages, and the lift shaft is inside a structure shaped like an illustrator's roll of paper.

The centre houses:

#### **5 galleries of interactive exhibitions**

These are forever changing and are developed around particular books and creators, last for a year and are then toured nationwide.

Example:

Celebrating 100 years since the publication of Kenneth Graham's *'The Wind in the Willows'*, and the Centenary edition illustrated by Robert Ingpen (whose work is featured)





*"It is a great honour for me to be able to be associated with Seven Stories. To be part of a plan to help the famous characters of Ratty, Mole, Badger and Toad, escape from the pages of their book into the imagination of modern children is a rare and memorable experience."* Robert Ingpen



***"The building and all that we do is designed to enable children to enjoy the art form created for them, an art form which gives them their earliest memories and has a part to play in shaping the rest of their lives."*** Kate Edwards, CEO



*"It does feel rather weird to have an exhibition focussed on my work! But the great thing is that it's not just about me, and doesn't just exhibit my work.*

*It's about the writing process.*

*It helps to explain where stories come from and how they get written.*

*I hope that it will encourage visitors to write for themselves, and to discover the roots of their own stories. We all have extraordinary imaginations."*

David Almond.

### Story Lab

A classroom sized space for small exhibitions

Children and adults can explore original material from the archive (including on-line computers). Children are inspired to be creative.



*"Writing your own story made you feel like an actual author, like a grown up, because it was like*

*your own thing, it was just you making it ... Doing it at home didn't feel like homework because you just wanted to see how good you could make it, you wanted to succeed. It was miles better than what we normally write ... Tommy made it seem more simple, so that you felt you could do it."* Year 8 student.

Particularly at weekends and in school holidays there is always a wide choice of activities on offer:

Dressing up Dramatic fun Creative writing and wordplay Illustration Crafts

Children who enjoy poetry and rhyme are more likely to become confident and expressive speakers and writers.

*"It's great to see how much the children are enjoying this project. With Wonderwords, they're active, playing games and exploring words and ideas. So when it comes to writing their own poems, they've got loads to say. From what their teachers tell us, the children are choosing to read poetry books, too. And we always love to hear about children reading for pleasure."* Carey Fluker, Creative Development Manager, Seven Stories

*“All children, including the Year 6 boys, were enthusiastic about the project and chose to read poetry books in their own time, whereas, prior to the project they would not have.”*

*“...It also helped to develop confidence in quieter pupils” Teachers*

### **Book Den**

This is a quiet space with books scattered for reading - much used and enjoyed.

It is also used to exhibit community generated and children’s artwork.

It is used for small scale storytelling, too.



### **Artists Attic**

Stories old and new for all the family.  
Local storytellers - first Sunday in the month in the Artists’ Attic



### **The Boiler Room**

A flexible space for play/craft based activities

It is used for author/illustrator talks, small scale events and performances.



The centre has an **'artist in residence'** and **'author in residence'** program



*This boat was created from ideas provided by children when working with an author in residence.*

### Archive collection and its use in Exhibitions



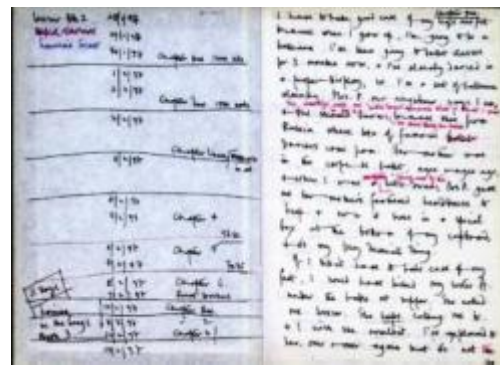
The archive of original artwork and manuscripts, and conservation department, are integral and important aspects of the Centre, though not housed in the same building – only due to lack of space. Ideally they would have been included in the main building.

The archive tells the story of children's literature from the 1930's to the present day, and is a nationally and internationally important resource.

The archive can be used by students and documents such as original notes, sketchbooks, drafts and plans handled under supervision. This can inspire children to create their own stories through writing and drama, building up an archive of notes, drafts and rough plans to document their own creative process.

*"Doing drama helped you to find out more about how a character might react. It was quite hard at first, but then it got you to think a bit deeper ... It felt like it was getting better all the time, so you knew you were improving, which made you more confident. I learnt*

*about how you might have to keep changing your ideas and we had to listen to each other."*  
Pupil (Taken from the Newsletter)



## Workshop:

A program of special events – for example:

### Dr Who Monsters and Masks in the Attic (All day)



Ray Phillips, make-up and mask designer for Dr Who will take up residence in The Attic, working on new masks and moulds. Ask questions, try masks on and take photos with some of his creatures. Make and create your own monsters in the Creation Station (?Engine Room)

### Halloween Special with Tommy Donbavand (Friday afternoon)

Creative writing workshop for 8+ (2 hours)

Hear from Tommy how to get ideas, put them on paper and begin to write your first book in this fantastic opportunity for children to work with a published author.

... Plus Storytelling session for all the family (1¼ hours)

Tommy will read from his new *'Scream Street'* series and the very special, very spooky story he has written for Seven Stories, *'Ghostwriter'*. Questions and answers to follow + book signing. ((Sponsored by Walker Books))

### Different Worlds Drama Workshop

Become an intrepid explorer and discover strange new lands in this daring drama workshop – but beware, witches and armoured bears could be around every corner!

**The bookstore** (award winning) stocks over 10 000 books from all countries.

Children say that this is the only bookstore in which they feel welcome.



Stories are told here every day

Visitors can meet an author and illustrator team

Explore how they work together to create their books

Listen as they talk through their inspiration and ideas

It has received 15 regional and national awards related to

- Tourism
- Business
- Bookselling
- Education
- Arts
- Architecture.

