

<p>Interview Summary Sheet  Project: <b>Memories of Fiction: An Oral History of Readers' Lives</b></p>
<p>Reference No.</p>
<p>Interviewee name and title: Ferelith Hordon</p>
<p>Interviewee DOB and place of birth: Khartoum, Sudan.  Interviewee Occupation: Children's librarian  Book group(s) attended: Alvering</p>
<p>Date(s) of recording: 13<sup>th</sup> November 2014  Location of recording: Roehampton University  Interviewer: Shelley Trower  Duration(s): 01.46.15  Summariser: Alison Chand</p>
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<p>Key themes: Education, family, holidays, reading, intertextuality, reading groups, children, time.</p>
<p>All books mentioned (those discussed for &gt;20 seconds in bold):  <i>Old Lob, The Good Little Christmas Tree, <b>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</b>, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Brother Dusty Feet, Monday Adventure, Tuesday Adventure, The Castle of Adventure, The Famous Five, The Secret Seven, <b>The Rubadub Mystery</b>, The Agony and the Ecstasy, Emma, <b>Jane Eyre</b>, Rebecca, Pride and Prejudice, <b>Wuthering Heights</b>, <b>Heidi</b>, At the Back of the North Wind, The Wonderful Adventure of Nils, <b>The Eagle of the Ninth</b>, <b>The Left Hand of Darkness</b>, The Dispossessed, <b>Regency Buck</b>, <b>The Nine Tailors</b>, <b>The Lord of the Rings</b>, To Kill a Mockingbird, <b>Lucky Jim</b>, <b>The Sprig of Broom</b>, <b>Nine Coaches Waiting</b>, My Brother Michael, The Crystal Cave, The Moon-Spinners, Mills and Boon novels, Jabberwocky, <b>Alice in Wonderland</b>, <b>The Jungle Book</b>, <b>Winnie the Pooh</b>, The Woman Who Went to Bed for a Year, Now We Are Six, Buckingham Palace, The Wind in the Willows, The Enchanted Castle, The Railway Children, Swallows and Amazons, Peter Duck, The Heroes, <b>Rewards and Fairies</b>, <b>Young Bess</b>, <b>Mrs Frisby and the Rats of NIMH</b>, Art and Illusion, The Lemon Princess, Jack and the Beanstalk, East of the Sun and West of the Moon, <b>Enduring Love</b>, Atonement, <b>The Beach</b>, Bilgewater, <b>The Queen of the Tambourines</b>, <b>Old Filth</b>, Music and Silence, The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry, <b>Their Eyes were Watching God</b>, Cold Mountain, The Hundred-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out of the Window, Perfume, <b>The Blood of Flowers</b>, The Snow Child, The Night Circus, Cover her Face, <b>The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society</b>, <b>The Little Laundress and the Fearful Night</b>, <b>The Zigzag Path</b>, <b>Witch Wood</b>, The Eclipse of the Century, Postcards from No Man's Land, The Unequalled Self, Fleshmarket,</i></p>

**Jonathan Strange and Mr Norrell, 'A' for Alibi, The Company of Ghosts, Memoirs of a Geisha, Beacon Readers, Carbonel, Green Smoke, Pippi Longstocking, Eagle, Girl, Robin, Swift, The Snow Maiden, Disgrace, The Island, Idea of Perfection, 'H' is for Hawk, The Invisible Woman, An Officer and A Spy.**

**[01:46:15] [Session One of Two: 13 November 2014]**

00:00:00	Introduction to interview.
00.00.30	Remarks on childhood reading, mother telling interviewee she was reading by age of two, not learning phonically, learning photographically. Comments on mother worrying about learning style, mentioning concerns to Khartoum kindergarten teacher. Comments of lack of memory of learning to read.
00.01.20	Comments on reading scheme in Sudan, character of Old Lob. Remarks on Oxford University Press readers/pamphlets containing folk/fairytales/Greek myth. Memories of <i>The Good Little Christmas Tree</i> (Ursula Moray Williams), illustrations.
00.02.20	Remarks on first novel read, <i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i> (C. S. Lewis), reading at age of eight on holiday in Italy with cousins, reading a chapter at a time to restrain eagerness. Remarks on subsequent non-stop reading, greater access to books back in Britain, reading father's Edwardian collections, mother's books.
00.03.20	Remarks on favourite books, set of Shakespearean plays published by Heinemann, comments on illustrations, mention of <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> . Comments on reading Shakespeare books aged nine/ten in Edinburgh, mention of Perthshire holiday house.
00.04.15	Comments on joining Edinburgh library aged nine, joining for brother and sisters, parents not belonging to library. Remarks on walking dog to library, visiting children's section, borrowing for whole family, being able to borrow 16 books instead of four, borrowing Rosemary Sutcliff, <i>Brother Dusty Feet</i> . Comments on enjoyment of Cynthia Hyatt, Ronald Welch, Pat Smythe, Jane Oliver, John Pudney. Remarks on <i>Monday Adventure, Tuesday Adventure</i> (John Pudney). Comments on library not having Enid Blyton, persuading classmates to lend <i>The Castle of Adventure</i> , adventure books, reading books under desk at school. Mention of dislike of <i>The Famous Five</i> and <i>The Secret Seven</i> , enjoyment of <i>The Rubadub Mystery</i> . Comments on Enid Blyton plot and characters.
00.06.30	Remarks on being given books at home, winning books as school prizes. Comments on receiving <i>The Agony and Ecstasy</i> (Irving Stone) as prize, reading at age 11/12.
00.07.10	Remarks on reading Arthur Lee's work. Comments on not having reading guidance, being

	cautious reader, reading books backwards, reading first paragraph then last paragraph, knowing what will happen.
00.07.40	Further comments on <i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i> sparking interest in reading, remarks on story pattern, connections in book, links to the Bible, Greek myth, importance of intertextuality in reading, intertextuality in C. S. Lewis. Comments on Christian background. Remarks on lack of memory of book cover, reading hardback edition in 1957-1958, close to original publication date, remarks on paperbacks not really existing. Comments on feelings reading <i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i> , idea of going into another world, not identifying with characters.
00.12.05	Remarks on re-reading <i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i> , reading it to two sons, comments on construction of novel, C. S. Lewis's standpoint, admiration of Lewis as author.
00.13.10	Remarks on importance of plot and characters when reading, not being able to read <i>Emma</i> (Jane Austen), reading Jane Austen in teens.
00.13.30	Comments on mother's view that every girl should read <i>Jane Eyre</i> (Charlotte Bronte), <i>Rebecca</i> (Daphne du Maurier), <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> (Jane Austen).
00.13.40	Memories of <i>Jane Eyre</i> , reading aged around 12, mother's edition covered in brown paper. Remarks on feeling that book was old-fashioned, being 'swallowed up' by book, liking character of Jane.
00.16.00	Remarks on having to make sure characters were alright, mention of <i>Wuthering Heights</i> (Emily Bronte), taking long time to read book, finding tragic path of Cathy and Heathcliff difficult. Comments on re-reading <i>Wuthering Heights</i> , reading book at school.
00.16.45	Comments on re-reading in general, re-reading <i>Heidi</i> (Johanna Spyri), deciding whether or not to cry when reading book, skipping chapter where Heidi sent to Frankfurt if not wanting to cry. Remarks on reading sections of books, missing out disturbing/unhappy sections. Comments on plot of <i>Heidi</i> , illustrations.
00.18.00	Remarks on other childhood books, <i>At the Back of the North Wind</i> (George MacDonald), <i>The Wonderful Adventures of Nils</i> (Selma Lagerlof), enjoying fairytales. Comments on other books, <i>The Eagle of the Ninth</i> (Rosemary Sutcliff), remarks on plot.
00.19.00	Comments on fragmentary nature of memories, remembering excitement. Remarks on mistaken memories. Remarks on reading <i>The Left Hand of Darkness</i> (Ursula Le Guin) at university, mention of <i>The Dispossessed</i> , memories of <i>The Left Hand of Darkness</i> , comments on plot, fractured relationships, memories of

00.21.20	<p>winter landscape, gender issues. Remarks on reading group members mostly disliking book.</p> <p>Remarks on reading Georgette Heyer through teens, re-reading books, comments on <i>Regency Buck</i> as first Heyer novel read, extended remarks on love of Georgette Heyer, wanting to be like heroines, lively nature of lead characters.</p>
00.22.25	<p>Further remarks on detective fiction, father's interest in detective fiction. List of detective fiction writers, Margery Allingham, Dorothy Sayers, discussion of <i>The Nine Tailors</i> as most memorable Dorothy Sayers book, remarks on plot. Remarks on other detective fiction, Agatha Christie, Ngaio Marsh, Edmund Crispin, Dick Francis. Comments on love of Dick Francis.</p>
00.24.00	<p>Comments on preferring books to stand alone, not minding having same characters, wanting stories to finish in individual books, boredom with trilogies. Remarks on love of <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> (J. R. R. Tolkien), first reading book at age of 13/14, reading book every year until age 19. Discussion with interviewer about <i>The Lord of the Rings</i>, comments on intertextuality, recognition of myths, Tolkien's wordy style of storytelling, extensive remarks on Tolkien's skill in writing, creating benchmark in fantasy literature, creating real world with sense of past/future.</p>
00.26.40	<p>Remarks on difficulties with magical realism, modern trends to create surface worlds, not real world.</p>
00.27.30	<p>Comments on continuing to read detective fiction in twenties as 'comfort reading', continuing to read fantasy, further mention of Dick Francis. Remarks on becoming children's librarian, discovering new books.</p>
00.28.00	<p>Comments on school work preventing reading mid/late teens, stopping going to library. Remarks on lack of set reading in Scottish education, mention of <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> (Harper Lee), having to read Kingsley Amis, dislike of <i>Lucky Jim</i>, reading Elizabeth Bowen.</p>
00.29.00	<p>Remarks on starting children's librarian course because of opportunities for reading, discovering Barbara Willett, Jane Gardam, Joy Chant, 1960s, 1970s, 1980s writers. Comments on meeting Joy Chant, reading Nicholas Stuart Grey plays, seeing Grey plays at theatre, mention of Eleanor Farjeon. Further comments on love of Nicholas Stuart Grey.</p>
00.30.40	<p>Comments on hazy memories of reading in early career, further mention of Barbara Willett, books about family tensions. Remarks on <i>The Sprig of Broom</i> by Barbara Willett, intertextuality, sense of jeopardy/danger. Comments on Mary Stewart, <i>Nine Coaches Waiting</i>, <i>My Brother Michael</i>, <i>The Crystal Cave</i>, mention of links to Rosemary Sutcliff. Remarks on <i>The Moon Spinners</i> and</p>

	<p><i>Nine Coaches Waiting</i> as stand out Mary Stewart novels. Comments on liking quotes at beginning of chapters, quotes in <i>Nine Coaches Waiting</i>, liking romanticism of book. Mention of Mills and Boon books.</p>
00.33.40	<p>Remarks on not remembering many words from books, some quotations standing out. Comments quotes from <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> and <i>Jabberwocky</i> (Lewis Carroll). Remarks on quotes from <i>Winnie the Pooh</i> stories, <i>Now We Are Six</i>, <i>Buckingham Palace</i> (A. A. Milne).</p>
00.35.00	<p>Comments on parents not reading aloud to children. Remarks on mother starting to read <i>The Jungle Book</i> in Sudan, horror at Mowgli's expulsion from jungle. Comments on reading <i>The Jungle Book</i>, Sudan childhood reading, stories in <i>The Jungle Book</i>. Comments on father's love of <i>Alice in Wonderland</i>, <i>Winnie the Pooh</i>, <i>The Wind in the Willows</i> (Kenneth Grahame). Remarks on parents' view that interviewee could read fluently and did not need to be read to. Comment's on mother liking Edith Nesbit, remarks on <i>The Enchanted Castle</i>, <i>The Railway Children</i>, otherwise finding Nesbit embarrassing. Mention of love of Beatrix Potter.</p>
00.37.30	<p>Elaboration of embarrassing situations in books, playing tricks on adults, mention of never reading <i>Swallows and Amazons</i> (Arthur Ransome), recollection of reading <i>Peter Duck</i>, preferring fantasy books.</p>
00.38.10	<p>Comments on father reading <i>The Heroes</i> (Charles Kingsley), <i>Rewards and Fairies</i> (Rudyard Kipling). Remarks on re-reading books, preferring sideways look at history. Mention of <i>Young Bess</i> (Margaret Irwin), books about Queen Elizabeth. Remarks on dislike of knowing fate of Mary, Queen of Scots, in books. Further comments on enjoying Kipling's approach to history, further comments on Georgette Heyer.</p>
00.40.20	<p>Remarks on remembering quotations because of re-reading habit. Comments on hazy memories of important books, wanting to re-read to re-capture emotions, re-reading Rosemary Sutcliff, noticing new things, not missing girl characters in Sutcliff's work.</p>
00.42.30	<p>Remarks on reading in thirties and forties, work taking up lots of time, having children and working, looking after dogs, ephemeral reading. Discussion of daily schedules. Comments on reading children's books, writers for teenagers, <i>Mrs Frisby and the Rats of NIMH</i> (Robert O'Brien), Robert Cormier, Robert Leeson, Alison Prince, Jill Paton Walsh, John Townsend. Remarks on reading few adult books.</p>
00.44.10	<p>Comments on reading to children, storytelling, reading anthologies, Ruth Manning-Saunders, fairytales, folk tale collections, Joseph Campbell, remarks on central ideas of</p>

	Joseph Campbell books, collective social and cultural patterns. Remarks on Ernst Gombrich, <i>Art and Illusion</i> . Further comments on years of thirties and forties as blurred.
00.46.10	Remarks on moving away from old style of book selection, no longer reading and reviewing approvals, remaining connected to books in library. Remarks on learning quickly by dipping into books, recommending books to children.
00.47.10	Comments on gentler pace of work at Alvering library, starting to read adult books again in fifties. Further comments on hazy memories of thirties and forties, lack of memory of reading for pleasure, tiring nature of reading with busy schedule. Further comments on telling stories to sons on train – <i>The Lemon Princess, Jack and the Beanstalk, East of the Sun and West of the Moon</i> .
00.48.40	Remarks on starting reading group at Alvering library in 2000, opening up reading of adult fiction, re-established reading of children’s books.
00.49.20	Comments on promoting Carnegie prize, having to read books on shortlist.
00.49.40	Further comments on reading books would not have otherwise have read in reading group. Remarks on not enjoying <i>Enduring Love, Atonement</i> (Ian McEwan), not liking Ian McEwan. Comments on preferring second book, <i>The Beach</i> (Alex Garland), recommending to older teens, remarks on plot.
00.51.40	Comments on other reading group books, re-discovering Jane Gardam, mention of <i>Bilgewater, The Queen of the Tambourines</i> , remarks on book as exploration of old age. Comments on <i>Old Filth</i> . Remarks on reading <i>Music and Silence</i> (Rose Tremain).
00.52.30	Further comments on Jane Gardam’s style. Comments on other book club books, <i>Cold Mountain</i> (Charles Frazier), <i>Perfume</i> (Patrick Suskind).
00.53.50	Remarks on personal discoveries of books, <i>The Blood of Flowers</i> (Anita Amirrezvani), remarks on book cover. Remarks on frequent boredom/distaste about book covers.
00.54.50	Further comments on reading group books, <i>The Snow Child</i> (Eowyn Ivey), <i>The Night Circus</i> (Erin Morgenstern), being attracted by covers.
00.55.20	Remarks on feeling more attached to books than electronic Kindle versions, keeping books, difficulty of throwing books away, feelings of guilt, trying to get rid of ‘ephemeral’ books, comments on books belonging to particular times, keeping books with particular attachment.
00.56.40	Remarks on membership of the Folio Society, remarks on folio, bindings, illustrations, buying only books for

	keeping. Comments on lack of interest in first editions, liking beautifully illustrated copies. Mention of <i>Cover her Face</i> (P. D. James). Comments on books as way of retaining past.
00.58.00	Comments on difficulties with appearance of paperbacks.
00.58.20	Remarks on keeping childhood books, collecting books from library work. Further comments on reasons for keeping particular books, books being important in their particular times.
00.59.30	Remarks on books as way of remembering past, not taking photographs, comments on boxes of books after mother's death, remembering pleasure as child.
01.00.30	Comments on buying books for memories. Memories of <i>The Little Laundress and the Fearful Knight</i> (Bertram Bloch), comments on illustrations, similarities to cartoonist work, extensive remarks on plot, dated nature of book.
01.02.40	Remarks on buying other books from childhood, mention of <i>The Zigzag Path</i> [another title mentioned but unsure]. Remarks on plots, similarities to Enid Blyton.
01.03.20	Comments on recent retirement in last year, continuing to read and review children's books, receiving copies, continuing to attend reading group, picking up books in library, keeping reading list, not diary, resolution to write notes about books.
01.04.40	Remarks on attending conference in 2000, listening to Aidan Chambers speak, comments on Chambers, subject of speech, advocating asking about books to MPs in parliament, requiring MPs to keep reading diary. Comments on keeping own reading list from 2000, remembering titles would otherwise have forgotten.
01.06.30	Comments on reading 12 to 15 books a month on average, many children's books. Comments on reading being less tiring for children than adults, further remarks on tiring nature of reading, preference for television after long day, unrealistic expectations of children's reading.
01.07.40	Comments on disliking reading by electric light, Kindle enabling reading with light off, making reading more comfortable. Remarks on reading on trains/in queues (in supermarkets – Sainsbury's).
01.08.25	Remarks on reading relatively fast, benefits of re-reading, attending speed reading course in Oxford, reading John Buchan, <i>Witch Wood</i> , memories of book/plot.
01.09.30	[Rustling of sorting through boxes of reading lists]. Comments on boxes of reading list books, doing some for binding course. Remarks on starting 7 <sup>th</sup> July 2000, first book entered <i>The Eclipse of the Century</i> (Jan Mark). Comments on other books entered, including <i>Postcards from No Man's Land</i> (Aidan Chambers), <i>Enduring Love</i> (Ian McEwan), Alex Garland, sometimes filling in early

	entries retrospectively, difficulties of remembering books if not filled in immediately.
01.11.30	Remarks on memories of stories/plots, talking through boxes, comments on entering month of reading. Memories of <i>The Unequaled Self</i> (Samuel Pepys), not remembering <i>Fleshmarket</i> (Nicola Morgan), remembering <i>Jonathan Strange and Mr Norrell</i> (Susanna Clarke), comments on film of book to be televised, extended remarks on plot, juxtaposition between history and imaginative world. Comments on lack of memory of 'A' for <i>Alibi</i> (Sue Grafton), 2004-2005, disliking Stefan Wolff [title mentioned but not sure of it].
01.15.00	Remarks on serial reading, finishing a book on the bus, <i>The Company of Ghosts</i> (Berlie Doherty), remarks on cover, plot, immediately wanting to start new book. Remarks on carrying four books at a time in case stuck for long period of time.
01.16.30	Comments on reading group newsletters from 2000, first newsletter recording <i>Enduring Love</i> , <i>The Beach</i> , <i>Memoirs of a Geisha</i> (Arthur Golden). Remarks on progress of newsletters, information about people's opinions of books, impact of Aidan Chambers' speech on starting reading list.
01.17.50	Remarks on early reviews written for libraries' approvals lists on joining Wandsworth library, not writing regular reviews.
01.18.20	Comments on laziness, moving on to new books, reading group enabling talking about books, newsletter acting as anchor, comments on process of writing newsletter. Further comments on reading list, recording author, title, date.
01.19.20	Further comments on Aidan Chambers' speech on importance of reading/books, anxieties about reading, views of reading as obsolete, reading as marker of rounded human being, enabling access to thoughts of other people, lives of others, overcoming prejudice.
01.21.50	Remarks on selling childhood books, mention of <i>Carbonel</i> (Barbara Sleigh), reading aged nine, comments on suitable material for young, competent readers, <i>Green Smoke</i> (Rosemary Manning), <i>Pippi Longstocking</i> (Astrid Lindgren) [another title mentioned but unsure of name].
01.22.40	Remarks on buying books, trying not to buy from Amazon, remarks on power of Amazon, preferring to use aid books or buy from book shops, mention of preferred book shops, buying from independent and chain shops, including Waterstone's, Blackwell's, Foyles for picture books. Comments on getting books through publishers.
01.26.00	Remarks on liking physical book copies, not understanding buying books from Amazon, preferring to see/feel/weigh books. Comments on continually renewing

01.27.40	books from library, returning books if requested. Memories of going to Morningside library, reading story about seahorse, crystal city under sea, requesting story again to find it had been thrown away, realisation that libraries throw books away, comments on horror, loss of memories.
01.29.40	Remarks on not being great reader, colleagues reading more, physically enjoying reading/words. Remarks on not enjoying graphic novels, liking illustrations.
01.30.30	Remarks on childhood reading of comics, <i>Eagle</i> , <i>Girl</i> , <i>Robin</i> , <i>Swift</i> , preferring comics with solid text. Further comments on not enjoying graphic novels, liking words.
01.32.00	Remarks on book prizes other than Carnegie, doing library display in Alvering on Orange Prize, reading <i>The Idea of Perfection</i> (Kate Grenville), choosing books from Orange Prize to read.
01.32.50	Remarks on reading group veto on reading books on prize shortlists, difficulties of getting hold of enough copies, waiting a year to read shortlisted material. Comments on regularly reading prize winners, shortlisted books, reading Booker prize winners, comments on Booker Prize, Samuel Johnson Prize, reading Samuel Pepys, <i>The Invisible Woman</i> (Claire Tomalin), <i>H is for Hawk</i> (Helen MacDonal), remarks on plot of <i>H is for Hawk</i> . Mention of having to wait for paperbacks to come out.
01.35.40	Comments on desire to judge another prize, being asked to judge for Theakstons crime award, clash with Carnegie prize. Remarks on different categories of prize, crime, historical fiction, children's literature. Comments on teenage prize folding.
01.36.30	Remarks on reading Richard and Judy books, <i>An Officer and a Spy</i> (Robert Harris), <i>The Island</i> (Victoria Hislop). Comments on wariness of books presented as reading group books. Mention of <i>Memoirs of a Geisha</i> , <i>Cold Mountain</i> , <i>Disgrace</i> (J. M. Coetzee), coming up regularly, disliking reading group labels.
01.38.10	Remarks on process of suggesting books, <i>The Snow Maiden</i> . Comments on Waterstone's Book of the Year. Remarks on not suggesting some books, not suggesting <i>The Night Circus</i> . Comments on using reviews and newsletters to help with suggestions, considering some reading group suggestions, not dismissing Richard and Judy books, covers showing books aimed at middle market, mention of <i>Their Eyes were Watching God</i> (Zora Neale Hurston), further mention of <i>An Officer and a Spy</i> . Remarks on wanting to read <i>The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry</i> (Rachel Joyce), comments on <i>The Hundred-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out of the Window</i> (Jonas Jonasson), <i>The Woman who went to Bed for a Year</i> (Sue

01.42.00	Townsend), extended comments on <i>The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society</i> (Mary Ann Shaffer). Further comments on being put off books by covers, wrong expectations.
01.42.30	Comments on process of being interviewed about memories of fiction, ease of process. Remarks on experience of recommending books to children. Comments on discussing views of reading with other people. Further comments on <i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i> , <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> .
01.44.20	Remarks on lack of memory of reading in Sudan, not remembering reading in summer holidays before age of eight, uncertainty whether memories belong to right ages. Further comments on excitement at reading books that created worlds, love of Roman myth, story of Scarface, remarks on <i>Beacon Readers</i> .
01.45.30	Remarks on important ages for reading – two, four, eight – definite reading shifts.
01.46.15	END