

<p>Interview Summary Sheet Project: Memories of Fiction: An Oral History of Reader's Lives</p>
<p>Reference No.</p>
<p>Interviewee name and title: Jean and Stuart Wynn</p>
<p>Interviewee DOB and place of birth: 28th March 1955, Hammersmith (JW), 31st December 1988, Roehampton (SW). Interviewee Occupation: Office work/teaching assistant (JW); Librarian (SW) Book group(s) attended: Roehampton</p>
<p>Date(s) of recording: 7th January 2015 Location of recording: Wandsworth Interviewer: Amy Tooth Murphy Duration(s): 02.23.20 Summariser: Alison Chand</p>
<p>Copyright/Clearance:</p>
<p>Key themes:</p>
<p>All books mentioned (those discussed for >20 seconds in bold): <i>The Secret Garden, Lost Souls, The Shell House, The Bloody Chamber, Black Venus, Fireworks, American Ghosts and Old World Wonders, A Game of Thrones, Courtney Love autobiography, Strange Boy, Harry Potter, Treasure Island, The Corrections, White Teeth, The Poisonwood Bible, Rosie and Jim books, Rupert Bear, Spot the Dog, The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry, Perfect, The Legacy of Elizabeth Pringle, Northern Lights, Home, The Women's Room, Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl, Black Beauty, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, The Catcher in the Rye, The Wind in the Willows, Pride and Prejudice, Me Before You, The Island, One Hundred Years of Solitude, Midnight's Children, The 'Big Read': Book of Books, Little Women, Rebecca, Jamaica Inn, The Paying Guests, Brick Lane, The Kite Runner, A Thousand Splendid Suns, Room, The L-Shaped Room, Up the Junction, Woman in Love, Sons and Lovers, Lady Chatterley's Lover, Female Tars, Wuthering Heights, Oliver Twist, David Copperfield, Persuasion, Middlemarch, Jane Eyre, Behind the Scenes at the Museum, The Time Traveler's Wife, The Help, The Chronicles of Narnia, The Famous Five, Swallows and Amazons, The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe, The Magician's Nephew, Alice in Wonderland, Saturday Shillings, Jackie, Fab 208, Bambi, Sam Sparrow, The Little Mermaid, The Land Before Time, Silverwing, Sunwing, The Animals of Farthing Wood, Firewing, The Slaves of Solitude, Hangover Square, Twenty Thousand Streets Under the Sky, Humphrey Bogart autobiography, My Family and Other Animals, Gormenghast, The Lord of the Rings, The Little Stranger, The Hunting of the Snarks, The Bird's Nest, The</i></p>

Sundial, The Lottery, The Haunting of Hill House, The Turn of the Screw, Raising Demons, The Thorn Birds, Away to the Woods, The Cement Garden, Flowers in the Attic, Scoop, War and Peace, Pollyanna, Fifty Shades of Grey.

[02:23:20] [Part Two of Two: 7th January 2015]

00:00:00	Introduction to interview, interviewer introduces plan for interview.
00.01.40	JW describes herself as mother with two sons, comments on previous office jobs, leaving work to have children, starting work as teaching assistant at sons' schools, retiring, attending knitting and reading group, enjoyment of gardening curtailed by arm problems. Description of spiritual nature of gardening, closeness to believing in God in garden. SW comments on going to garden centres with mother, JW comments on growth to love gardening, missing garden when children young. SW remarks on mother watching <i>Ground Force</i> .
00.05.00	Remarks on not reading <i>The Secret Garden</i> (Frances Hodgson Burnett) as child, SW comments on <i>The Secret Garden</i> , enjoyment of book on second reading despite 'twee' image.
00.05.40	JW remarks on not reading gardening books, not following gardening rules, lack of realism in gardening depicted by Alan Titchmarsh, comments on looking forward to spring, daffodils as first sign of spring. JW/SW comments on favourite seasons.
00.07.10	SW remarks on himself as shy, loner, eccentric, trying not to be stereotypical librarian, comments on love of books, love of work as librarian. Comments on working at library at school, loving reading from young age rather than going out to play, preference for indoor activities, interest in art.
00.09.10	SW remarks on own writing, description of own writing as individual, quirky, attending writers' group in Putney, comments on Poppy Z. Brite's lifestyle, Leonora Carrington's lifestyle, remarks on surreal, 'bonkers' lives of writers/artists.
00.11.40	JW remarks on SW's knowledge of books.
00.12.00	SW remarks on social pressure to conform/fit in, mention of health problems, desire for life to be easier. Remarks on being able to be extrovert when reading.
00.13.20	SW remarks on main books to open eyes to world, <i>Lost Souls</i> (Poppy Z. Brite), Angela Carter's short stories, <i>The Shell House</i> (Linda Newbery), comments on <i>The Shell House</i> themes, relating to aloneness of characters, coming back to reading aged 14/15 (2002-2003).
00.15.30	SW remarks on childhood reading, using school library, internet to find books, interest in American books, further comments on shyness, further remarks on Angela Carter stories, <i>The Bloody Chamber, Black Venus, Fireworks, American Ghosts and Old World Wonders</i> , comments on reasons for interest in Angela Carter, dislike of fantasy, lack of interest in <i>A Game of Thrones</i> (George R. R. Martin).
00.17.40	SW further comments on <i>Lost Souls</i> , finding book in Borders book shop in Kingston, link to listening to Courtney Love album, reading Courtney Love biography, memories of reading about author, description of book. Comments on memories of reading

	book in bedroom, at school, trying to hide book from school librarians.
00.19.30	SW remarks on <i>Strange Boy</i> (Paul Magrs), book being removed at school aged 13 (2001), JW questioning of SW about removal of book. Comments on plot of <i>Strange Boy</i> , buying another copy, re-reading book after removal.
00.21.20	JW anger at removal of book from SW.
00.22.30	JW remarks on not monitoring reading of SW, further annoyance at removal of book from SW.
00.23.10	Further comments on <i>Lost Souls</i> plot, style of writing [phone rings], further comments on link to Gothic music, Courtney Love, The Cure. Remarks on feelings of rebellion reading book, subversive nature.
00.26.10	Remarks on reading books to be different, not liking bestselling books, preferring controversial publications. Comments on initial refusal to read <i>Harry Potter</i> books (J. K. Rowling), enjoying films, starting to enjoy books.
00.27.00	Remarks on not wanting to be 'book snob', mention of Martin Amis, remarks on suspicion of 'high brow' fiction, Guardian books. Remarks on intellectual people reading 'high brow' fiction.
00.28.10	SW remarks on feeling like he 'should' read particular books, classics, <i>Treasure Island</i> (Robert Louis Stevenson), <i>The Corrections</i> (Jonathan Franzen), <i>White Teeth</i> (Zadie Smith), discussion of modern classics. Comments on not enjoying books when told to read them, lack of interest in personal recommendations.
00.29.20	SW comments on Goodreads website, lack of involvement in forums, taking internet recommendations, dislike of feelings of obligation to read books recommended personally.
00.30.00	Remarks on recommending books to people, hoping that people gain same sense of connection. SW comments on recommending books to JW, wanting JW to read <i>The Poisonwood Bible</i> (Barbara Kingsolver), comments on JW reading Kate Morton.
00.31.20	SW remarks on JW's influence on reading, individual tastes in reading.
00.31.50	SW remarks on first book read alone, <i>Rosie and Jim</i> books (John Cunliffe). SW remarks on reading books with mother, <i>Rupert Bear</i> books, keeping some <i>Rupert</i> books.
00.33.00	JW remarks on nostalgia of holding childhood books, love of reading to children, comments on <i>Spot the Dog</i> books (Eric Hill), anecdote about SW pretending to bounce ball when reading.
00.34.00	JW remarks on reading similar books to another reading group member, comments on reading <i>The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry</i> , <i>Perfect</i> (Rachel Joyce), comments on differing views with other reading group member. Comments on differences between plots of <i>The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry</i> and <i>Perfect</i> .
00.36.10	SW comments on dislike of far-fetched material. SW comments on both SW and JW reading <i>The Legacy of Elizabeth Pringle</i> (Kirsty Wark). SW remarks on plot of <i>The Legacy of Elizabeth Pringle</i> .
00.38.20	JW remarks on keeping notes about books read for reading group, difficulties of finding balance between not giving too much away and giving enough detail about story. SW remarks on writing reviews on Goodreads. JW/SW comments on information

	given by other reading group members, remarks on book about Land Girls.
00.40.00	JW/SW remarks on influence of book covers, examples of off-putting book covers, not wanting pictures of films on book covers.
00.41.20	SW/JW remarks on film adaptations of books, disappointment with character portrayals, example of Daniel Craig in adaptation of <i>Northern Lights</i> (Philip Pullman).
00.42.10	SW remarks on book/film illustrators, JW/SW comments on imagining characters, SW remarks on difficulties of imagining landscapes/spaces.
00.43.20	JW comments on dislike of too much description, remarks on too much detail in Charles Dickens.
00.43.40	SW comments on <i>Home</i> (Marilynne Robinson), remarks on plot, comments on too many soliloquies.
00.46.40	SW remarks on not needing books to have meaning, just needing good story.
00.47.00	JW remarks on reading books from sense of obligation, sister reading <i>The Women's Room</i> (Marilyn French), JW struggling with it. JW/SW remarks on difficulties of reading <i>Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl</i> .
00.47.40	SW remarks on being too late to read <i>Black Beauty</i> (Anna Sewell), <i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i> , <i>Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> (Mark Twain).
00.48.20	SW/JW comments on TV programme about books, famous people talking about books, Ruby Wax talking about <i>The Catcher in the Rye</i> (J. D. Salinger), Bill Oddie talking about <i>The Wind in the Willows</i> , others discussing <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> (Jane Austen). SW goes to get books to show interviewer.
00.49.20	JW further comments on reading recommendations from others, difficulties of getting through library books with time limits on borrowing.
00.50.00	JW remarks on emotional books, reading <i>Me Before You</i> (Jojo Moyes) on holiday, comments on plot, crying over story, admiration of Moyes's writing ability.
00.51.30	JW comments on enjoyment of good read, trying to read <i>The Island</i> (Victoria Hislop), coming to enjoy book after initial difficulties, books for certain periods of life.
00.52.00	SW on wanting to read <i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i> (Gabriel Garcia Marquez), <i>Midnight's Children</i> (Salman Rushdie).
00.52.10	SW remarks on <i>The 'Big Read': Book of Books</i> , JW/SW remarks on books listed: <i>Little Women</i> (Louisa May Alcott), <i>Rebecca</i> (Daphne du Maurier). Remarks on <i>Jamaica Inn</i> (Daphne du Maurier), JW remarks on plot.
00.53.10	JW remarks on difficulties of remembering books, SW on wanting books to continue, JW comments on <i>The Paying Guests</i> (Sarah Waters), SW on reasons for dislike of <i>The Paying Guests</i> , JW on not wanting to reach end of book.
00.54.20	JW on flipping to end of book to find out what happens, SW on preferring not to, JW remarks on <i>Brick Lane</i> (Monica Ali), <i>White Teeth</i> , getting bored with books and wanting to find out end, SW on need to reach end of books.
00.55.30	JW remarks on enjoyment of <i>The Kite Runner</i> (Khaled Hosseini), disliking follow up book, <i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i> .

00.56.00	SW remarks on not wanting to read about modern issues, books about Middle East, current affairs. Comments on <i>Room</i> (Emma Donoghue), remarks on plot, depressing nature of story, comments on desire for stories to change perspectives. SW remarks on <i>The L-Shaped Room</i> (Lynne Reid Banks), JW/SW comments on plot, feelings that book was rebellious/controversial. SW/JW comments on <i>Up the Junction</i> (Neil Dunne), certain books changing attitudes.
00.59.00	SW further remarks on books one 'should' read, <i>Woman in Love</i> (Katie Hartfiel), <i>Sons and Lovers</i> , <i>Lady Chatterley's Lover</i> (D. H. Lawrence), controversial nature of <i>Lady Chatterley's Lover</i> , JW remarks on reading book in twenties (1975-1985), description of book as timid.
00.59.40	JW remarks on liking books about men in lighthouses, comments on Robert Louis Stevenson, liking different kinds of real life books. JW comments on <i>Female Tars</i> about women working on boats, non-fiction book, remarks on women at sea.
01.01.40	JW/SW remarks on <i>Wuthering Heights</i> (Emily Bronte), extensive comments on plot, JW mention of film version, JW connection to Prince Charles and Camilla Parker-Bowles, SW/JW remarks on rugged landscape/relationships.
01.04.40	SW remarks on Penguin classics, <i>Oliver Twist</i> , <i>David Copperfield</i> (Charles Dickens), <i>Wuthering Heights</i> , <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> , <i>Persuasion</i> (Jane Austen), <i>Middlemarch</i> (George Eliot), <i>Jane Eyre</i> (Charlotte Bronte).
01.05.00	JW/SW remarks on listening to books on CD, SW comments on <i>Behind the Scenes at the Museum</i> (Kate Atkinson), differences between listening and reading, importance of narrators'/characters' voices. JW/SW preference for reading over listening, going at own pace. SW remarks on enjoying listening to <i>The Time Traveler's Wife</i> (Audrey Niffenigger), listening to <i>The Help</i> (Kathryn Stockett). Further remarks on differences in reading and listening to <i>The Time Traveler's Wife</i> .
01.07.00	Remarks on <i>Jane Eyre</i> , memories of reading book, JW comments on friend giving away plot, SW discusses <i>Jane Eyre</i> plot, mention of <i>David Copperfield</i> similarities.
01.10.30	JW/SW remarks on people reading into books too much, SW on lack of memories of <i>Jane Eyre</i> , reads written description of book, comments on character of Jane, reasons for liking story, preference for rough nature of story.
01.14.50	JW remarks on teenage reading, Danielle Steele, Catherine Cookson, changing nature of reading material on growing up, no longer wanting to read Catherine Cookson novels, JW/SW remarks on Catherine Cookson stories.
01.17.20	SW remarks on dislike of 'posh' children's books, <i>The Chronicles of Narnia</i> (C. S. Lewis), Enid Blyton books, mocking quotes from Enid Blyton books, mention of <i>The Famous Five</i> . JW remarks on Blyton representing different social class, SW comments on <i>Swallows and Amazons</i> (Arthur Ransome), preference for reading about working class/everyday people, comments on TV adaptations of <i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i> , remarks on plot of <i>Chronicles of Narnia</i> books, <i>The Magician's Nephew</i> , problems with plot. JW comments on SW not being interested in 'pretend' games.

01.21.30	SW comments on imagination, feelings of lacking original thoughts, mention of <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> .
01.22.00	JW comments on lack of interest in science fiction, SW objections, JW remarks on lack of interest in <i>Harry Potter</i> , SW comments on problems with <i>Harry Potter</i> plot.
01.23.00	JW comments on <i>Saturday Shillings</i> (Penelope Farmer), remarks on plot, reading aged 12/13 (1967-1968), aunt buying books during JW's stay in hospital, SW looks up details of book on internet. JW remarks on not remembering other books in hospital, reading magazines, <i>Jackie</i> , <i>Fab 208</i> . Comments on <i>Saturday Shillings</i> cover, length, colour.
01.26.20	JW memories of reading <i>Bambi</i> (Felix Salten), not seeing film before reading book, watching <i>Disney Time</i> programme at Christmas/Easter.
01.27.10	JW/SW comments on <i>Sam Sparrow</i> (Jane Pilgrim), stealing copy of book from hospital after SW hospital stay. SW mention of other books read in childhood, <i>The Little Mermaid</i> (Hans Christian Andersen), <i>The Land Before Time</i> (unsure of author), SW anecdote about drinking Lucozade in middle of night, further comments on taking <i>Sam Sparrow</i> from hospital (1995).
01.28.40	SW comments on reading during periods in hospital, remarks on books read, Robin Jarvis books, reading <i>The Simpsons</i> TV guide, reading <i>Silverwing</i> , <i>Sunwing</i> , <i>Firewing</i> (Kenneth Oppel), JW mention of <i>The Animals of Farthing Wood</i> (Colin Dann), SW comments on plot, reading books aged 12 (2000). SW/JW comments on SW's reading when having dialysis, problems with eyesight, difficulties reading <i>The Slaves of Solitude</i> (Patrick Hamilton), desire to read more Patrick Hamilton work, <i>Hangover Square</i> , <i>Twenty Thousand Streets Under the Sky</i> . SW further comments on eye problems, difficulties with cross stitch.
01.32.00	SW comments on recovery period from kidney transplant, continued recovery, medication, dialysis processes, difficulties of going on holiday.
01.38.50	SW comments on relationship difficulties, internet dating.
01.40.30	SW remarks on Jacqueline Wilson, meeting Jacqueline Wilson in hospital, reading Jacqueline Wilson books, conversing about books and authors.
01.44.00	Interview pauses and restarts, clarification of JW date of birth, same day as Humphrey Bogart, JW remarks on reading Humphrey Bogart autobiography, contents of book. SW remarks on book [unable to identify], JW comments on reading autobiography in twenties (1975-1985).
01.45.50	SW/JW comments on desire to read <i>My Family and Other Animals</i> (Gerald Durrell).
01.46.00	JW remarks on trying again with books when interest lost, not giving/throwing books away. JW further remarks on biography/autobiography, use of poetic license. SW/JW preference for autobiography over biography.
01.48.00	SW/JW comments on hearing other opinions on books, dislike of reading too much into books, listening to interview with over-analysis of <i>Jane Eyre</i> , <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> .
01.49.30	SW comments on different copies of <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> owned, different illustrators, remarks on Mervyn Peake work, <i>Gormenghast</i> , poetry.

01.50.10	SW comments on father's liking for Mervyn Peake, father's shared interest in science fiction, <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> (J. R. R. Tolkien), Ray Bradbury books.
01.51.00	SW remarks on wanting easier reading during illness, needing to be in right mood, listening to <i>The Little Stranger</i> (Sarah Waters) on audio book, listening to <i>The Hunting of the Snark</i> (Lewis Carroll).
01.52.00	JW comments on reading during SW's illness.
01.52.40	SW remarks on returning to darker reading material after transplant, reading Shirley Jackson material, comments on sitting in on book group, telling members about Shirley Jackson material, remarks on <i>The Bird's Nest</i> , <i>The Sundial</i> , comments on plot, description of book as cross between Noel Coward and Stephen King, remarks on Shirley Jackson story, <i>The Lottery</i> , book <i>The Haunting of Hill House</i> , comparison to <i>The Turn of the Screw</i> (Henry James), comments on <i>Raising Demons</i> (Shirley Jackson), non-fiction book, remarks on story, reactions of book group members to Shirley Jackson feedback. SW comments on relating to outcasts in book.
01.58.00	JW remarks on parents not reading to JW, reading comics, lack of memory of books in house, comments on mother reading after retirement, reading Maureen Lee books, SW mention of <i>The Thorn Birds</i> (Colleen McCullough), JW remarks on mother reading Lena Kennedy books, <i>Away to the Woods</i> , remarks on Lena Kennedy starting to write books in her sixties, visiting house where Lena Kennedy wrote, description of changes to house, comparison to Catherine Cookson, SW mention of Virginia Andrews.
02.01.40	JW remarks on reading same books as mother in law, <i>Flowers in the Attic</i> , remarks on book plot, SW comments on <i>The Cement Garden</i> (Ian McEwan), remarks on darkness of themes. JW further remarks on <i>Flowers in the Attic</i> .
02.03.20	SW remarks on reading Anne Tyler books, Jacqueline Wilson recommendation.
02.03.50	JW remarks on starting to read at college, role of parents in life, father opposing JW moving out of home.
02.05.30	JW remarks on prejudice because of use of wheelchair, men losing interest on realising she was in wheelchair, SW remarks on prejudice against disability, JW/SW comments on improvements in disabled access to buses/toilets, JW comments on people speaking to husband/son instead, anecdote about doctor speaking to husband instead [husband confirms]. SW remarks on comments about hearing aid, further comments on relationship difficulties, desire to be settled.
02.12.00	SW remarks on LGBT social scene, going to LGBT book club in pub.
02.13.20	Further comments on 'high brow' material, mention of <i>Scoop</i> (Evelyn Waugh), Anthony Trollope, description of writing as dry, slow, from male, privileged perspective. SW mention of <i>War and Peace</i> (Leo Tolstoy), stories not changing attitudes/entertaining, idea of reading books as chore. JW description of 'high brow' material as fake/pompous. SW remarks on privileged audience for 'high brow' material.
02.17.20	SW remarks on 'low brow' material, Katie Price books, cheap

02.19.00

books, mention of Deborah Smith, *Pollyanna* (Eleanor Porter), animal books, ghost written books, celebrity authors. SW remarks on *Fifty Shades of Grey* (EL James), celebrity autobiography. JW comments on not distinguishing between 'high brow' and 'low brow' material as teenager.

JW/SW remarks on social class, teenage pregnancies, immigration. JW comments on working class background, SW remarks on changes in meaning of 'working class', loss of traditional working class jobs, automation of jobs, other social changes.

02.22.30

JW/SW comments on experiences of interview process.

02.23.20

END