

<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: Johanna Williams</p>
<p>Interviewee DOB and place of birth: 18th October 1951, Enfield Interviewee occupation: Doctor Book group(s) attended: Putney</p>
<p>Date(s) of recording: 9th June 2015 Location of recording: Putney Heath Interviewer: Amy Tooth Murphy Duration(s): 02.04.18 Summariser: Alison Chand</p>
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<p>Key themes: Childhood, culture, career, transport, books, reading, education, sentimentality, reading group, family.</p>
<p>All books and authors mentioned (those discussed for >20 seconds in bold): Enid Blyton, <i>Malory Towers</i>, <i>The Famous Five</i>, Noddy Elinor Brent-Dyer, <i>The Chalet School</i> AJ Cronin, <i>Dr Finlay's Casebook</i> Pearl Buck <i>National Geographic</i> Arthur Conan Doyle, <i>Sherlock Holmes</i> Robert Louis Stevenson, <i>Treasure Island</i> Henry Rider Haggard John Buchan, <i>The Thirty-Nine Steps</i> <i>Thomas the Tank Engine</i> Hugh Lofting, <i>Doctor Dolittle</i> Gerald Durrell Evelyn Waugh Beatrix Potter Rosemary Sutcliff, <i>The Eagle of the Ninth</i> <i>Rapunzel</i> <i>Sleeping Beauty</i> <i>Cinderella</i> R. M. Ballantyne, <i>The Coral Island</i> Khaled Hosseini, <i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i>, <i>The Kite Runner</i> Jung Chang, <i>Wild Swans</i> David Guterson, <i>Snow Falling on Cedars</i> Erich Kastner, <i>Emil and the Detectives</i></p>

Pinnocchio

John Wyndham, *The Kraken Wakes*, *The Day of the Triffids*, *The Chrysalids*

J. R. R. Tolkien

Irene Nemirovsky, *Suite Francaise*

Samuel Pepys

Claire Tomalin, *Samuel Pepys: The Unequalled Self*, *Jane Austen: A Life*

Hilary Mantel

Mary Hollingsworth, *The Borgia Chronicles*

John Steinbeck, *Of Mice and Men*, *Grapes of Wrath*, *Cannery Row*, *Travels with Charley*

Gervase Phinn

Tom Sharpe, *Porterhouse Blue*

Arnold Bennett

George Orwell, *The Road to Wigan Pier*, *Down and Out in Paris and London*, 1984, *Animal Farm*

John Le Carre

Robert Harris

Alistair Maclean

Ian Fleming, *James Bond*

Guy de Maupassant

Roald Dahl, *Tales of the Unexpected*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Boy*

P. D. James

Ruth Rendell

Zadie Smith, *NW*

Jane Austen, *Emma*, *Persuasion*, *Sense and Sensibility*

Louis de Bernieres, *Birds Without Wings*, *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*

Alfred Edward Housman, *A Shropshire Lad*

J. M. Barrie, *Peter Pan*

Heinrich Hoffmann, *Struwwelpeter*

Andrew Lang, *The Blue Fairy Book*

Donna Tartt, *The Goldfinch*, *The Secret History*

J. Meade Falkner, *Moonfleet*

Thomas Hardy, *Far from the Madding Crowd*, *A Pair of Blue Eyes*

Daphne du Maurier, *Jamaica Inn*, *Rebecca*

James Herriott

Emily Bronte, *Wuthering Heights*

Charlotte Bronte, *Jane Eyre*

George Eliot, *Middlemarch*

Charles Dickens

Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*

Jules Verne, *Journey to the Center of the Earth*, *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*, *Around the World in Eighty Days*

George R. R. Martin, *A Game of Thrones*

Anna Sewell, *Black Beauty*

Pat Smythe, *Jump for Joy*

Neil Gunn

Dick King-Smith, *The Hodgeheg*, *The Sheep Pig*

E. B. White, *Charlotte's Web*

Jack London

Alice Munro

Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale*

Interviewer/Summariser comments:

Part two of two

00:00:00	Introduction to interview.
00:01:40	Remarks on girls' boarding school books, interviewer mentions <i>Malory Towers</i> (Enid Blyton), <i>The Chalet School</i> (Elinor Brent-Dyer), interviewee mentions reading <i>The Famous Five</i> (Enid Blyton).
00:02:30	Remarks on reading from adolescence, A. J. Cronin, <i>Dr Finlay's Casebook</i> in late teens, extended comments on Pearl Buck, interest in Chinese setting of books, remarks on episode of washing in bowl of water, reflections on how others live.
00:04:50	Comments on moving house as child, finding <i>National Geographic</i> copies in attic, interest in other countries and cultures, memories of reading about apartheid in <i>National Geographic</i> articles aged 13 (1964).
00:06:30	Further comments on <i>Dr Finlay's Casebook</i> , impact on medical career, remarks on book plots, memories from radio broadcasts, difficulty of distinguishing between memories of reading/listening to radio.
00:07:30	Remarks on other childhood books, <i>Sherlock Holmes</i> (Arthur Conan Doyle), reading <i>Treasure Island</i> (Robert Louis Stevenson) at school, Henry Rider Haggard, <i>The Thirty-Nine Steps</i> (John Buchan), extended remarks on <i>The Thirty-Nine Steps</i> , memories from film adaptations, further comments on Rider Haggard, looking for books of interest by preferred authors. Further comments on <i>Treasure Island</i> , reading book aged eleven (1962).
00:09:10	Comments on set school texts, brown covers on books, further comments on plot/characters in <i>Treasure Island</i> , not being frightened by book.
00:10:30	Further comments on Enid Blyton adventures, aspiring to have friends/dog, lack of realism in adventure stories from childhood.
00:11:40	Memories from <i>Thomas the Tank Engine</i> , comments on characters, watching and re-reading with children. Comments on lack of interest in cars/trains, brother's interest in cars/trains, watching trains at great aunt's house in Dorchester, watching trains at Weymouth. Remarks on travelling by train to great aunt's house in Dorchester, being met by aunt, travelling by steam train.
00:14:10	Remarks on view of <i>Noddy</i> as being silly, not being interested in dolls, preferring stories about people to animals on the whole, remarks on liking <i>Doctor Dolittle</i> (Hugh Lofting), books by Gerald Durrell.
00:15:20	Comments on reading to own children, <i>Thomas the Tank Engine</i> , children's reading in older life, Evelyn Waugh, sons' lack of interest in Enid Blyton, reading Beatrix Potter to children, further comments on Beatrix Potter tales, remarks on visiting Lake District with children, link to Beatrix Potter, remarks on Beatrix Potter characters.

00.18.40	Remarks on preference for books about people/situations, interest in historical novels, mention of <i>The Eagle of the Ninth</i> (Rosemary Sutcliff), reading book aged nine/ten (1960-1961), memories of plot, casual interest in ancient Rome.
00.20.10	Comments on childhood book of fairytales, stories read, <i>Rapunzel, Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella</i> .
00.21.10	Remarks on reading <i>The Coral Island</i> (R. M. Ballantyne) aged around 10 (1961), taking book from library, books tending not to be illustrated, comments on section of library for slightly older children, comments on plot of <i>The Coral Island</i> , further comments on interest in adventure stories/other countries, books read about other countries, <i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i> (Khaled Hosseini), <i>Wild Swans</i> (Jung Chang).
00.23.50	Comments on <i>Snow Falling on Cedars</i> (David Guterson), memories of book/film, setting.
00.25.20	Comments on remembering impressions from books more than endings, impressions from <i>Snow Falling on Cedars</i> .
00.26.00	Further mention of <i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i> and <i>The Kite Runner</i> (Khaled Hosseini), remarks on film adaptations, interest in watching films of books, further comments on <i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i> and <i>The Kite Runner</i> , settings/plots.
00.28.30	Remarks on finding some subjects difficult, child cruelty, stopping reading newspaper articles because of harrowing content, not choosing books with upsetting content.
00.29.30	Memories of brother receiving <i>Emil and the Detectives</i> (Erich Kastner), setting abroad, memories of reading book, brother receiving book after operation to remove appendix.
00.30.50	Remarks on receiving <i>Pinnocchio</i> as prize aged eight (1959), disappointment with story.
00.32.40	Comments on fantasy/science fiction, interviewer mention of J. R. R. Tolkien, remarks on John Wyndham books, <i>The Kraken Wakes, The Day of the Triffids, The Chrysalids</i> .
00.35.00	Remarks on discussions of books at reading group, picking up on different aspects of books to other reading group members, mention of <i>Suite Francaise</i> (Irene Nemirovsky), pressure of finishing books on time, not usually re-reading books, remarks on reasons for re-reading particular books, mention of history of Samuel Pepys, being given <i>Samuel Pepys: The Unequalled Self</i> (Claire Tomalin) as present, remarks on reading abridged version of Pepys diaries.
00.38.30	Further comments on historical fiction, remarks on Hilary Mantel, remarks on 'accuracy' of historical fiction, interviewer mention of <i>The Borgia Chronicles</i> (Mary Hollingsworth).
00.40.00	Remarks on reading John Steinbeck material read, <i>Of Mice and Men, The Grapes of Wrath, Cannery Row, Travels with Charley</i> , enjoyment of humour in <i>Cannery Row</i> , further comments in <i>of Mice and Men</i> , setting, darkness of themes in some books. Remarks on interest in situational humour/characters, comments on Gervase Phinn, further remarks on Gerald Durrell.
00.43.40	Remarks on reading Tom Sharpe books, humour in books, <i>Porterhouse Blue</i> . Comments on emotions when reading, laughing out loud, getting frustrated, not crying while reading, not getting angry.
00.44.40	Comments on reading Arnold Bennett work in twenties and

	thirties following move to Lancashire, husband's family links to Staffordshire, comments on themes covered in Bennett's work, interest in social settings, remarks on <i>The Road to Wigan Pier</i> , <i>Down and Out in Paris and London</i> (George Orwell), further comments on George Orwell, interviewer mention of <i>1984</i> , <i>Animal Farm</i> , further comments on <i>Animal Farm</i> .
00.47.00	Remarks on socialist politics, being brought up with socialist ethos without parents being political, being brought up with work ethic, not seeking out authors dealing with political issues, sometimes reading political books by chance.
00.48.40	Comments on John Le Carre, enjoyment of plots, different threads to follow, interest in similar authors, Robert Harris, reading Alistair Maclean in late teens, getting Ian Fleming books from library, reading Ian Fleming short stories, interviewer mention of <i>James Bond</i> books.
00.50.30	Remarks on not being particular fan of short stories, reading short stories by Guy de Maupassant in reading group, intelligent nature of de Maupassant stories, twists to stories, chronological nature of stories, reading group responses to de Maupassant/short stories. Remarks on reading Roald Dahl's short stories, <i>Tales of the Unexpected</i> .
00.52.20	Comments on random nature of reading, liking twists to tales, interviewer remarks on <i>Tales of the Unexpected</i> .
00.53.00	Remarks on reading Roald Dahl with children, reading <i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i> , comments on Roald Dahl's declining popularity, reading Roald Dahl's biography, <i>Boy</i> , Roald Dahl's need to write to earn a living, listening to programme about Roald Dahl on radio.
00.55.40	Comments on steering clear of books with medical content because of work, lack of realism in some books/TV programmes about medicine.
00.56.40	Remarks on crime fiction, P. D. James, Ruth Rendell, wanting to read books not requiring concentration [phone rings]. Comments on times for choosing weightier/lighter reading material, choosing lighter material when working, reading weightier material on long plane journeys.
00.58.40	Comments on reading since retirement, impact of reading group, reading books would not otherwise have read, further comments on Guy de Maupassant, <i>NW</i> (Zadie Smith), not finishing <i>NW</i> , irritating nature of characters, not being inclined to read any further Zadie Smith material, other reading group members disliking Zadie Smith.
01.01.40	Remarks on not disliking many books.
01.02.00	Comments on <i>Jane Austen: A Life</i> (Claire Tomalin), remarks on Jane Austen, Claire Tomalin's approach to Jane Austen's life.
01.03.10	Remarks on disappointment with unlikeable authors/actors, listening to book clubs on radio to hear authors speak, being inspired to pick up particular books.
01.05.00	Remarks on <i>Birds Without Wings</i> (Louis de Bernieres), reading book around 2007, comments on plot, realistic depictions of places. Comments on <i>Captain Corelli's Mandolin</i> . Remarks on hype surrounding particular books.
01.07.30	Comments on Richard and Judy book club recommendations, being inspired to read books when hearing them talked about on

01.08.00	radio, reading book reviews in newspaper. Remarks on not often browsing books online, choosing books as result of recommendations, sometimes buying books, sometimes borrowing, sometimes sharing, buying books approximately every two months.
01.08.50	Comments on receiving books as gifts from family members, passing good books around, friends having better idea of reading tastes than family members, comments on similar reading tastes to sister. Remarks on giving books as gifts, trying to find books to suit particular people. Comments on reading some books out of obligation when given books.
01.10.40	Remarks on reading when travelling with Kindle, Kindle being broken, Kindle not replacing physical books. Remarks on getting rid of books when moving house, having sentimental attachment to some books, owning great uncle's wartime copy of <i>A Shropshire Lad</i> (Alfred Edward Housman), father's wartime copy of Italian dictionary, being sent copy of <i>Peter Pan</i> (J. M. Barrie) by great uncle, reading <i>Peter Pan</i> with aunt.
01.12.00	Remarks on aunt working in book shop, having children's books, further comments on <i>Peter Pan</i> , copy of book produced [long pause while interviewee looks for book]. [Interviewee brings copy of <i>Struwwelpeter</i> (Heinrich Hoffmann), goes to look for <i>A Shropshire Lad</i>]. Remarks on copy of <i>Struwwelpeter</i> , illustrations on book, description of book, interviewer describes stories in books, gruesome nature of stories/illustrations, well known nature of book at time of publication, interviewer continues to list stories in book, remarks on not reading book to own children, interviewer comments on price/date in book.
01.18.30	Remarks on book belonging to husband, <i>The Blue Fairy Book</i> (Andrew Lang), description of book, illustrations, cover. Remarks on other story books owned as child, comments on stories in <i>The Blue Fairy Book</i> , date of book given as 1889.
01.20.00	Comments on wartime Italian dictionary, uncle bringing book back from war. Further comments on books having sentimental value.
01.21.20	Remarks on keeping some books read with children, illustrated book of cars/vehicles, books children received as prizes, keeping books around house for visits by family members, comments on not having grandchildren, brothers and sisters not having children, neighbour lending books to own grandchildren.
01.22.50	Comments on <i>The Goldfinch</i> (Donna Tartt), reading other Donna Tartt material, <i>The Secret History</i> . Remarks on plot of <i>The Goldfinch</i> , comments on length of book, tedium of some sections.
01.27.00	Remarks on being put off by length of some books, further mention of <i>Pinnocchio</i> , greater prevalence of modern children's books, improved access to/choice of children's books.
01.27.50	Remarks on <i>Moonfleet</i> (J. Meade Falkner), reading book as child in late primary school, comments on plot, link to Dorset location, historical nature of book.
01.29.40	Comments on link between Thomas Hardy and Dorset, Thomas Hardy books read, <i>Far from the Madding Crowd</i> , Dorset connection providing reason to read Thomas Hardy books, gloomy nature of Hardy material, sad endings, remarks on <i>A Pair of Blue Eyes</i> . Remarks on plans to visit Dorset, affinity with area,

	recent visits.
01.32.30	Remarks on first reading <i>Jamaica Inn</i> (Daphne du Maurier) aged thirteen/fourteen (1964-1965), remarks on reading <i>Rebecca</i> , comments on plot of <i>Rebecca</i> , plot of <i>Jamaica Inn</i> .
01.36.00	Comments on reading James Herriott at university, medical links to veterinary school, links to Yorkshire location, interest in realistic depictions of people in communities, liking particular authors for a 'good read', watching James Herriott TV show.
01.37.20	Comments on <i>Wuthering Heights</i> (Emily Bronte), greater enjoyment of <i>Jane Eyre</i> (Charlotte Bronte), remarks on plot of <i>Jane Eyre</i> , film/TV adaptations of book.
01.40.30	Remarks on not having read George Eliot, plans to read <i>Middlemarch</i> .
01.41.00	Further comments on Jane Austen, reading <i>Emma</i> , <i>Persuasion</i> , <i>Sense and Sensibility</i> , plans to re-read Jane Austen following reading biography. Remarks on lack of understanding of Jane Austen at time of reading, further comments on <i>Wuthering Heights</i> , darkness of themes, book being less memorable than <i>Jane Eyre</i> , reading books in teens (1964-1965).
01.44.20	Comments on not having read much Charles Dickens, desire to read more, expectations of Dickens, further comments on interest in historical fiction.
01.45.00	Remarks on <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> (Jonathan Swift), plot, interviewer remarks on plot, differences with children's versions of books.
01.47.30	Comments on reading Jules Verne books, <i>Journey to the Center of the Earth</i> , <i>Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea</i> , remarks on unnamed book about island, reading <i>Around the World in Eighty Days</i> , being open to fantasy material, further mention of John Wyndham, remarks on lack of interest in <i>A Game of Thrones</i> (George R. R. Martin).
01.49.10	Comments on <i>Black Beauty</i> (Anna Sewell), interest in horses in childhood, reading <i>Jump for Joy</i> (Pat Smythe), further comments on plot of <i>Black Beauty</i> . Remarks on cruelty in <i>Black Beauty</i> , sadness in children's books, further remarks on <i>Struwwelpeter</i> , aunt and uncle not having children, interviewer remarks on familiarity of some stories from <i>Struwwelpeter</i> , remarks on moral nature of stories.
01.53.30	Remarks on Neil Gunn, reading books in hospital, not being off work much with children.
01.54.10	Remarks on retirement, moving house, getting to know people in new area, retiring in 2012.
01.54.40	Comments on reading some books from sense of obligation, further comments on Dickens, desire to read Claire Tomalin's biography of Dickens.
01.55.20	Remarks on Dick King-Smith, reading books to children, <i>The Hodgeheg</i> , <i>The Sheep Pig</i> . Remarks on <i>Charlotte's Web</i> (E. B. White), reading book with children.
01.56.10	Remarks on children learning to read, children bringing books home.
01.56.30	Comments on learning to read at school, large class, books used to learn to read at school, reading to teacher from reading book. Comments on school spelling tests, not taking work home from school.
01.58.50	Remarks on not keeping reading diary/journal.

01.59.10	Comments on library membership in Lancashire.
01.59.50	Remarks on reading Canadian authors, Jack London, Alice Munro, reading First Nations stories when living in Canada, Margaret Atwood, further comments on Margaret Atwood, <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> , remarks on unnamed books.
02.02.20	Comments on process of being interviewed, hoping that libraries stop closing, remarks on libraries offering 'window' to future reading for young people.
02.04.18	END