

Personal profile I have more than a decade's experience in literary journalism, notably as Books Editor of *The Times Educational Supplement*, and all-round editorial expertise in print and online: editing, commissioning, building relationships with contributors, interviewing, feature and case study writing, quality control, production.

I work with publishers to generate and advise on web content, edit catalogues and assess author submissions. I am familiar with mainstream trade and educational publishing generally, and have specialist knowledge of children's literature and the creation of reading cultures in schools and communities. I have judged several literary awards, participated in events at book festivals (most recently the 2009 Jewish Book Week) and conducted panel interviews. I am a trustee of the extended learning charity ContinYou and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. My online role at *The TES* has consolidated my expertise in evaluating digital and print educational resources.

**Current work as
 freelance journalist
 and editorial
 consultant**

Key clients in 2008-9 include

Optimus Education: maternity cover for print production editor, overseeing Optimus's three magazines for teachers (*Special Children*, *Teaching & Learning* and *PE & Sport Today*). This meant liaising with off-site editors and the in-house design team to ensure deadlines were met and high editorial standards maintained. Since the maternity cover ended I have been commissioned to write features for *Special Children*.

Barrington Stoke (children's publisher): Writing and producing *Story Power*, a termly briefing for teachers, exploring issues related to children's reading difficulties while promoting good practice in schools and highlighting Barrington Stoke's books and authors.

The Children's Book Show: Writing and producing support materials aimed at the child audience of this touring literary festival to inspire sustained interest in the participating authors and illustrators.

Puffin Books: Online resources based on the life and works of Roald Dahl to help schools plan projects around Roald Dahl Day in September 2009. Print materials for primary schools based on the Charlie and Lola characters. Online content aimed at families about reading and environmental issues.

The Guardian: Feature on emotional abuse of children

The Times Educational Supplement: Feature writing

The Observer: Reviewing fiction for teenagers.

The Times Body & Soul section: Subbing

Insurance Times: Subbing/production editing

Acomar Films: Consultancy on content for website based on the Bing Bunny character



Recent (August 2006-August 2007) Resources and Reviews Editor, Times Educational Supplement
 Responsible for commissioning reviews of books, software and other publications for the *TES* website, www.tes.co.uk, and *TES* Magazine. Managed the website's Resource Bank of 7,000-plus free classroom resources shared by teachers.

Key achievements

Devised the concept for the *TES* Review Bank, working alongside a developer and designer, and launched the new section of the site in November 2006. Contributed to the general online editorial product and its future strategy, initiated editorial newsletters to drive traffic, commissioned reviewers and bloggers and sourced images.

Meanwhile I continued my previous role as Books Editor, *TES* (since January 1998; Children's Books Editor since November 1996), maintained the title's reputation for excellence in reviewing and created synergy between the online and print reviews and resources content.

Books Editor, Times Educational Supplement 1998-2006
 Commissioned book reviews, author interviews and features for the paper and its two magazines, *Friday* and *Teacher*. My role also included:

- Writing the weekly books diary.
- Negotiating serial rights for the paper and its magazines.
- Building expertise in areas such as innovative work with writers in education, the creation of reading cultures in schools and communities and reading as a tool for tackling social exclusion.
- As a senior member of a small team, supporting the magazine editor in forward planning, quality control and liaison with design and production.
- Generating ideas and copy for other print sections including news, opinion pages, the specialist primary teachers' pages, resources and posters.
- Contributing to tes.co.uk by supplying stories, writing the Bookmarks blog and setting up an online Book Club.
- Editing the Review section in *Friday* (late 1999 to launch of a new *TES* classroom teachers' magazine, *Teacher*, in April 2002), which embraced coverage of books, curriculum resources, ICT developments, broadcasting and arts in education. In this role, managed five other commissioning editors.
- Editing the Read On children's books and literacy supplements 1998-2002.



Related activities *Media*
Numerous contributions to programmes including Newsnight and BBC Radio.

Literary awards

Judge, New Voices award for diversity in children's literature (forthcoming);
Judge, 2006 Costa (formerly Whitbread) Children's Book of the Year Award;
Judge, 2006 Branford Boase Award (for new writers for children);
Chair of judges, 2005 Booktrust Teenage Prize (for teenage fiction);
Judge, 2005 Waterstone's Children's Books Prize
Judge, 2004 Nestle Children's Books Prize.

Other

Summer 2005 Guest lecturer, Bath Spa University
(MA in Writing for Young People).

Previous employment **1993-97: News sub, TES**, later part-time **Children's Books Editor**.
I reviewed adult fiction for the Observer and the New Statesman during this period.

1990-93: Sub, Observer (features, arts, news).

1985-89: Freelance subbing and writing. Regular employers included The Times features pages, Radio Times (writing a column about local radio), Management Today, the New Statesman and The Illustrated London News.

1984-85: Sub, Radio Times.

1980-81: Reporter, Evening Argus, Brighton.

1978-80: Reporter, Wokingham and Bracknell Times, Berkshire.

Professional training 2008 Podcasting (National Union of Journalists Training)
2007 Presentation skills and voice coaching (Central School of Speech & Drama)
2007 Delivering appraisals (TES in-house)
2006 Budgets for non-finance managers (TES in-house)
2005 Public Speaking (Central School of Speech and Drama).
2001 1977-78: NCTJ Journalism course, Highbury Technical College, Portsmouth.

Education 1981-84: University College London. BA in English (2:1)
1970-77: Convent of Mercy High School, Liverpool.

Personal Trustee, Continyou (education charity); my responsibilities have included supporting the organisation through a cultural change and appointing a new Chief Executive.

Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

