



To all those involved in the School Library Inquiry,

As an English teacher of 30 years I am appalled that those who have been voted in by the trusting parents of our country are even considering obliterating Teacher Librarians from our schools. As my school moved into changing the well-loved library into the IRC - the Independent Resource Centre it lost the friendly, welcoming ambience that it had nurtured within the school community. In came the computer labs, the interactive whiteboards and out went trawling the shelves for fiction that would enrich the future lives of the students.

By not having a librarian, children are at the mercy of some teachers who do not have a creative or fiction-oriented bone in their body. There are so many today who find reading tedious as the 'quick-fix' read of LOL language takes over. Don't take away the inspiring teachers who live and love books and encourage and inspire the future generations. I sit here at my computer as I now have moved into the field of freelance writing. I am surrounded by three walls of books, both fiction and non-fiction. I also tutor and bring my students into my own library where they are welcome to borrow my own books, which they devour. They then take the knowledge gained from reading - sentence structure, word meanings, imagery, plotting, characterisation into their own writing. If the opportunity to have someone who they can trust to guide their reading is taken away from them, then kiss goodbye future creativity.

It's up to you to treasure this gem and not to sell out. You need to work for the greater good, not give in to the lesser evil.

Marian Smith