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IATEFL Young Learner Special Interest Group @ www.iatefl-ylsig.org

Alan Maley: What price literacy?

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Alan Maley has lived and worked in PR China, India and Singapore, as well as in Thailand. He has over 30 books to his credit, as well as many articles. He is series editor for the Oxford Resource Book for Teachers, and author of "He Knows Too Much" in the Cambridge English Reader. Alan is Director in Intensive Reading Foundation (ERF). His particular interests are in the area of creative materials design, and teachers' professional and personal development.

Questions for discussion:

1. What does Literacy signify in an age of digital and visual information flow?
2. Are new modes of literacy evolving? if so, what are the implications for us as language teachers?
3. How can we best move learners from the decoding stage to the interpreting/fluent processing stage?
4. What experience do we have of successful Extensive Reading programmes?
5. What are the key factors in becoming a 'committed' reader?
6. Much of the writing learners do is mechanical and formulaic. What are views on more creative types of writing activity?
7. If, as is claimed by many researchers, Extensive reading is the single most effective way of acquiring and maintaining a language, why is it so little practised?

Future discussions:

Jayne Moon: **Children's L2 writing development : a neglected skill ?**

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