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extracts from

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Celebrating 24 years of
Mick & Brita



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BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

MICK MANNING & BRITA GRANSTRÖM

Explore Inside the
GREATEST
Library on Earth

Welcome



The British Library, in London, is the national library of the United Kingdom and the largest public building to be constructed in the UK in the 20th century. It was built between 1988 and 1998, using 10 million bricks and 180,000 tonnes of concrete. Inside it has 625km (400 miles) of shelves, which would stretch almost from London to Edinburgh! And when you stand on the ground floor, there are nine floors above your head and five floors beneath your feet. **It's a giant** – just like Eduardo Paolozzi's sculpture of the famous scientist, Isaac Newton, in the courtyard.

The British Library holds one of the largest collections of books, prints, letters, drawings, maps, stamps, newspapers, plays and music in the world... over 150 million items, from the earliest printed books to books printed this year. So the British Library collection is a unique history of the book.

Are you ready to go inside?

WELCOME to the greatest library in the world! We're going to take you on an amazing tour of its treasures – including some that are so rare they are kept under lock and key!



Then there are stories about some of the earliest super-heroes, like the Swedish warrior, **BEOWULF** – a hero so strong he tore off a man-eating monster's arm in single combat!



Beowulf comes to help a Danish king, whose men are being attacked by a man-eating monster known as Grendel.



Beowulf lies in wait for Grendel and, in a brutal wrestling match, he tears off the monster's arm. Grendel flees, bleeding to death.



Grendel's mother is even fiercer! But Beowulf tracks her to the bottom of a lake and kills her with a sword.

Beowulf is the oldest surviving long poem in Old English. The British Library's copy, 3,000 lines long, was handwritten in the 11th century. Set in Scandinavia, and brought over to Britain by Anglo-Saxon settlers, the poem is a thrilling adventure story which would originally have been told out loud at feasts and gatherings.

Are you hungry after all that drama? Do you fancy a cod shoulder or a sheep's head? There are enough COOKERY BOOKS in the British Library to give you serious tummy-ache!

TOFFEE, RUSSIAN.

INGREDIENTS.—½ of a lb. of loaf sugar, ½ of a pint of cream, flavouring.

METHOD.—Dissolve the sugar in the cream, stand the stewpan in a bain-marie or tin of boiling water, and stir and cook until the mixture thickens and leaves the sides of the pan. Remove from the fire, stir in the flavouring essence, pour on to oiled or greased tins, and when cold cut into squares.



From medieval recipes to cookery books by modern TV celebrities, the whole history of British cooking and eating is in the British Library. You can find recipes to create a 14th century dinner, or discover that children drank beer for breakfast in the 1600s.

Mrs Isabella Beeton was the superstar cookbook writer of Victorian times. Her *Book of Household Management*, published in 1861, was a huge bestseller. More than a cookbook, it gives advice on everything from cleaning the silver to getting rid of rats!

And there are nature books,
like this one by the 18th century
writer Oliver Goldsmith.



Oliver Goldsmith's hugely popular *A History of the Earth, and Animated Nature*, first published in 1774, was republished in 1824, illustrated with many beautiful engravings.

Of course the genius Charles Darwin
is here, too. His five-year voyage
round the world 200 years ago led him
to make tremendous discoveries about
evolution in his 1859 masterwork,
On the Origin of Species.



Darwin was inspired to write *On the Origin of Species* after his five-year world voyage as a young scientist aboard HMS Beagle. The book challenged the traditional view of how the world was created, with discoveries about how animal species had evolved over time, including the revolutionary idea that humans were descended from apes.

After all that science, what about something very unscientific – Lewis Carroll's unforgettable story of a little girl called Alice, who falls down a rabbit hole and discovers a magical world...

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.



Alice's Adventures in Wonderland is about a little girl who shrinks and travels to the weird and fantastic world of Wonderland to meet a White Rabbit, a sleepy Dormouse, a Mad Hatter, a crazy Queen of Hearts and lots of other amazing characters. It was written in 1865 and not only changed the way many people thought about children's books but was read by many adults too.