

# The Proof Angel Summary of

## Bits and bobs: March 2015

Here is another contribution to the debate on whether [printed books are better than e-readers](#). I still think there is a place for both. For me, it depends on what sort of book it is, and how I'm going to use it. As Stephen Fry says, there is room in the world for both stairs and escalators.

### Literary terms and definitions

This isn't the prettiest web page you will ever see, but it is functional. If you are puzzled by a literary term, this is a [good place to look](#).

### London's 10 unmissable literary locations

If you are planning a trip to London, [this list](#) might have some places you could add to your itinerary.

### Some interesting word origins

Here are some facts about [word origins](#). I like the one about awkward best.

### Are these the greatest storytellers?

Do you agree with this list of [great storytellers](#)? It is a hard choice to make, isn't it?

### The origins of English

I like the fact that the English Language has so many different influences, so I like [this diagram](#). The article is interesting as well.

### Why do people keep accents?

This is fascinating stuff. Find out why we [keep our accents](#) even after years of living in a different part of the country. Or, I suppose, a different part of the world.



The Proof Angel is the trading name of Sarah Perkins, freelance editor and proofreader.

## Tis the 12th day of Christmas...

...so get those decorations down, and prepare for Epiphany tomorrow. And to cheer you into the task, have a look at the [12 days of editing](#).

For anyone who thinks they can leave the decorations until tomorrow, the logic is that they come down on the 12th day, counting the 25th as number one.

## Britain's silliest place names

I like these maps. They show detail of 9 areas of the UK, only marking the [places with odd names](#). Some of them are very odd. Nice to know that they haven't succumbed to the temptation to re-brand!

## How book sculptures work

Have you ever wondered how book sculptures are made? [Find out how here](#). I had a go last summer. Mine looked nothing like these!

## Being an artist...

Some words change very subtly over time. A couple of centuries ago "artist" meant "a skilled person". Now it tends to signifying "a special kind of person", working in the "imaginative" or "creative" arts.

Here is a collection of links about being an artist

- [Do you know who you are](#) as a writer, as an artist, or, even as a person?
- [Comfort doesn't create great art.](#)
- [Does the world need more artists?](#)

## Do you know the difference between a psychopath and a sociopath?

If your story involves one of these complex characters, a lack of research could ruin the success of your book. Here is a very simple guide to [keep you on the right lines](#) for credible characters.

## Do children still read for pleasure?

I find this a bit depressing. There has been a sharp decline in the number of [children reading for pleasure](#).

I suppose I shouldn't be surprised. While we have been in the process of moving house, I've been reading a lot of home making magazines. Few of the pictures involve book cases. Sometimes people mention the need for a shelf for their "collection" of books. The collection can often be picked up with one hand. That is sad. They are missing out.

## **The hardest languages to learn**

I've always suspected that some languages are harder to learn than others. I'm not really placed to judge, because I've never found it easy to learn languages. So I was interested to find this post which confirms my suspicions.

If you are considering learning another language, but don't know what to choose, [this post might help](#).

## **Safety for ereaders**

With any new gadget, there are new hazards. Some are more obvious than others. This post has some tips for [staying safe with your ereader](#).

## **How 'X' became the universal symbol for a kiss**

Here is a good one for [Valentine's Day](#). The theories about written kisses. And some cuddles.

## **A crude background...**

Well, the [background to the word](#) "crude", anyway.

## **15 signs to prove you're a book addict**

I suspect that if you really are a book addict, you won't need to [check this list](#) to know about it. But some of it is quite amusing.

## **How Oxford Dictionaries decide which words to include in their children's dictionary**

Compiling a dictionary must be a long process. Producing a normal book often takes longer than people think, but there must be more stages in the dictionary process.

Here is a post about how Oxford Dictionaries decide [which words to include](#) in their children's dictionary.

## **Putting the fears around texting into historical context**

We've seen that there is no evidence to show that texting is destroying the ability to write full sentences. This post shows that there is [nothing new in these fears](#).

## **Which Thomas Hardy novel is the bleakest?**

I know Thomas Hardy was an excellent writer, and tells a good story. That doesn't make me like his work.

I'm always waiting for disaster to strike. I can't really enjoy the good times, because I know that this is Hardy, so any moment now, almost everyone will be cast down into abject misery.

Which is why this post caught my eye. This [infographic analyses the plot elements](#) in categories of gloom:

- death
- violence
- misery
- financial trouble
- miscellaneous

The conclusion is that Hardy is indeed more likely to focus on bleak events than his contemporaries.

It also shows an amazing result. There is one Hardy novel with no sadness in it at all. I must put *The Hand of Ethelberta* on my reading list.

## **Bad reviews given to classic books**

Do you ever feel that the world is against you, and your book will never be appreciated?

Harsh words from the first people to review a book are difficult to deal with, but you are not alone.

Have a look at these [bad reviews](#) given to books we now see as classics.