

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June

LO: Comprehension

In 2007, Malorie collected a selection of short poems and stories on the theme of slavery for a book entitled 'Unheard Voices'. The book commemorated 200 years since the British Parliament had passed an act that led to the abolition of slavery. In the foreword, Malorie writes that she made the collection because 'more often than not, the only way to move forward is to first look back and learn from the lessons of the past.'



### Children's Laureate

Between the years of 2013 and 2015, Malorie was awarded with the title of Children's Laureate. This award – given every two years – celebrates the incredible achievements of writers and illustrators of children's books. A panel of judges work together to consider nominations from a range of people – including librarians and children – before making their final decision.



Malorie speaks fondly about her tenure as Children's Laureate and says that she wanted to bring books and teenagers together. During her time, she aided with setting up the first YALC (Young Adult Literature Convention). This brought alternative worlds from television, film, books, video games and graphic novels together in one space.

During her two years as Children's Laureate, Malorie also travelled across the UK, giving talks to children and young adults about reading for pleasure. When reflecting on her time as Children's Laureate, Malorie talks about how grateful she is to have met so many amazing and talented young people as she visited different parts of the country.



In her spare time, Malorie enjoys playing the piano – although, she admits that she may not be the best pianist – and playing video games. She is still writing books and continues to speak openly about issues that she believes strongly in.



1. What is Unheard Voices ?
2. What does Malorie think you need to do before you can move forward and change things ?
3. What is a Children's Laureate ?
4. What was Malorie grateful for in her role as Children's Laureate ?
5. Name two things Malorie likes to do in her spare time.
6. What do you think Malorie's next book might be about. Fully explain your answer based on what you have learnt about Malorie.

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