In this episode, I speak to Dr Alison Waller about the powerful act of rereading books from childhood. Alison is the author of *Rereading Childhood Books: A Poetics* (2019), in which she explores what it means to return to texts from our childhood and develops a new model for understanding lifelong reading.

For many of us, the events of the past year have challenged how we perceive the passage of time. In our discussion, Alison and I explore how and why we return to the same texts throughout our lifespans. Alison tells me what first kindled her interest in rereading and how readers make memories of texts and shares the methodology that she used to undertake this work. We discuss the powerful emotions that can arise during the rereading experience, and Alison explains the particular “rereading attitudes” that she uncovered over the course of her research. Alison has also applied her expertise on rereading in a co-creative project, working with Gemma Seltzer and Wallis Eates on “Lifelong Reading: New Stories”, an initiative that invited older adults living with dementia to explore their childhood reading.

Finally, Alison offers some tips on how we can all enrich our own rereading experiences, be it for those who might be about to embark on rereading for the first time, or for the avid re-reader who wants a little bit more.
Siobhán’s frequent (re)reads

People:
Siobhán Callaghan; Irish Research Council Postgraduate Scholar, TCD School of English; @SibCallaghan (twitter)

Dr Alison Waller; Reader in Children’s Literature, English and Creative Writing, University of Roehampton, Editor of International Journal of Young Adult Literature; @alisonwaller (twitter)

Resources:
For information about the children’s books in Ireland today, check out the Children’s Books Ireland website: https://childrensbooksireland.ie/
The National Collection of Children’s Books is a database that examines children’s literature collections in five libraries across Ireland – the book with the title that you can’t remember might be hidden here: https://nccb.tcd.ie/

For more information about and updates on Alison’s projects: https://www.alisonjanewaller.com/

*The International Journal of Young Adult Literature:* https://www.ijyal.ac.uk/