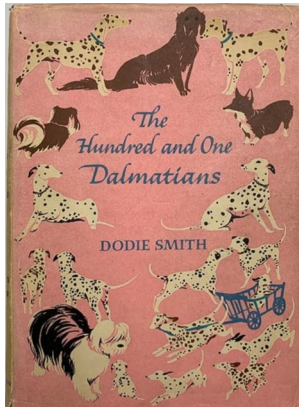




# Ripping Reads No 41 May 2022

Favourite Children's Books  
by Jane Medcalf

Being a 10 year-old in 1965 proved to be a good reading year when I discovered a world of children's books including Enid Blyton's *St Clare's* and *Malory Towers* and authors such as Angela Brazil, Constance M White, Sybil Owsley, Ethel Talbot, Monica Edwards. We lived opposite the local library and I was also often to be found at local jumble sales hunting through the books for sale. A lot of my books were collected via this route for the sum of sixpence or a few coppers for a hard back. Bliss! Curl up with a good book and a bag of chocolate buttons and imagine ....



*The 101 Dalmatians* by Dodie Smith: I found this book at a local jumble sale and instantly was captivated with the story of Pongo and Missis, and their humans, the Dearlys, against the machinations of the wicked Cruella de Ville. I loved the description of the journey undertaken during wintertime to track down and rescue all the puppies supported by the starlight barking, with surprising consequences! And the white cat played her part too ...

*Winter Holiday* by Arthur Ransome: In 1967/8 I read the whole *Swallows and Amazons* series and this book remains my favourite with the Lake District in the grip of a very cold winter, the meeting between Dick and Dorothea Callum on holiday in the Lake District, with the Swallows and Amazons. Set against a background of skating, signalling (to Mars), hiking expeditions and life in an icebound houseboat belonging to the Amazons' uncle, renamed *Fram* and having to do without Nancy, Amazon leader, due to mumps. It ends with exciting preparations by the three expeditions (Ds, S&A) to the North Pole at the head of the lake (Coniston).

*The Chalet School in Exile* by Elinor Brent Dyer was the second *Chalet School* Armada paperback book I bought in 1968 and I was thrilled with the story and the dramatic

