



THREE AUTHORS IN THE RUNNING FOR A SECOND UKLA AWARD

For the first time in the awards' history, three authors have a chance to win a coveted UKLA award, known as the teacher's Carnegie, for an unprecedented second time. Philip Reeve with his collaboration with Sarah McIntyre, for *Oliver and the Seawigs* and Gill Lewis, with *Scarlet Ibis*, are battling it out on the shortlist for the 7-11 award and Elizabeth Wein is shortlisted in the 12 – 16 category for *Rose Under Fire*, the sequel to *Code Name Verity*, which won the category just two years ago. There will also be a tough battle in the 3-6 category with a recent Red House Book Award winner, *The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywalt and Oliver Jeffers up against a past Greenaway medal-winning author Mini Grey with *Hermelin the Detective Mouse*.

This year 66 teachers from schools in Nottingham, Leicester, Derbyshire, Coventry and Birmingham are judges for the unique UKLA Book Awards. Their shortlists in the three age categories once again show the fresh perspective that class teachers bring to the judging process. In their search for books which can “*enhance all aspects of literacy learning*”, as required by the criteria, they have also selected international authors, debut authors and books in translation in preference to many more established names on the longlists.

The enthusiastic judging discussions revealed how much teachers welcomed the opportunity to widen their knowledge of recent children's titles and enjoyed talking together in order to decide which books would best match the criteria for the award. “*A great opportunity to read an exciting range of new literature and then to share ideas with other teachers*” (Kaye Wilson, teacher judge).

The submitted publications could be fiction or nonfiction, novels or picture books as long as they had writing which offered language rich in layered meanings, imaginative expression and exciting vocabulary. Where present, high quality illustration was also an important feature.

UKLA Awards Committee chair, Lynda Graham, has been delighted with the response from teachers on the selection panels. The “shadowing” of the judging process by student trainee teachers is becoming more and more popular with a record-breaking 29 universities across the UK taking part. This will bring quality texts to the attention of many more schools, children and young people and will encourage future teachers to become avid readers of contemporary children's books

The nominated representatives from each panel now form the final judging panel and have the challenging task of reading all the shortlisted books in all three age categories, which will

mean nursery teachers reading fiction for teenagers and secondary teachers reading picturebooks! The three winners will be announced at a wine reception on July 10th during the 51st UKLA International Conference at the National College for Teaching and Leadership, Nottingham

The Shortlists in full

3-6

The Yes by Sarah Bee (author) and Satoshi Kitamura (illustrator) (Andersen Press)
Z is for Moose by Kelly Bingham and Paul. O. Zelinsky (illustrator) (Andersen Press)
The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt (author) and Oliver Jeffers (illustrator) (HarperCollins)
Hermelin: The Detective Mouse by Mini Grey (Jonathan Cape)
Shh! We Have a Plan by Chris Haughton (Walker Books)
The Crocodile Who Didn't Like Water by Gemma Merino (Macmillan Children's Books)

7-11

Stay Where You Are Then Leave by John Boyne (Doubleday)
Us Minus Mum by Heather Butler (Little, Brown)
Blackberry Blue and other fairy tales by Jamila Gavin (author) and Richard Collingridge (illustrator) Tamarind Books)
Cowgirl by Giancarlo Gemin (Nosy Crow)
Scarlet Ibis by Gill Lewis (Oxford University Press)
Oliver and the Seawigs by Philip Reeve (author) and Sarah McIntyre (illustrator)(Oxford University Press)

12-16

Looking At The Stars by Jo Cotterill (Bodley Head)
Vango: Between Sky and Earth by Timothée de Fombelle (author) and Sarah Ardizzone (translator)(Walker Books)
The Year of the Rat by Clare Furniss (Simon and Schuster)
Every Day by David Levithan (Egmont)
Counting by 7's by Holly Goldberg Sloan (Piccadilly Press)
Rose Under Fire by Elizabeth Wein (Egmont)

For further information and to request an interview with the shortlisted authors and illustrators, or for images, please contact fao Lynda Graham awards@ukla.org

Notes for Editors

- 6 debut authors (Gemma Merino, Sarah Bee, Drew Daywalt, Heather Butler, Giancarlo Gemin, Clare Furniss)
- International co-publications (*Z is for Moose*, *The Day the Crayons Quit*, *Every Day*, *Counting by 7's*)
- Books in translation (*Vango: Between Sky and Earth*)

About the UKLA Book Awards

For UKLA, giving classroom practitioners the opportunity to read a number of new quality children's books is as important as finding an overall winner. Research carried out by members of UKLA (Cremin et al 2008) clearly demonstrated the links between teachers' knowledge of children's books and the likelihood of pupils becoming successful readers. Despite this evidence, teachers are seldom given time to read new books or funding to purchase them when they do.

The UKLA Shortlists 2015

3-6

Bee, Sarah, & Kitamura, Satoshi: *The Yes* Andersen Press

However much it is attacked by reasons to give up, the Yes (a huge, endearing, orange creature) keeps on. This is much more than a 'good message for children' book because the tone is thoughtful, the created world intriguing, and the language is vivid. Words and pictures come together to make something very special.

Bingham, Kelly & Zelinsky, Paul: *Z is for Moose* Andersen Press

From the front cover, you can tell this is a book to love. Moose is determined to get into an alphabet book and rampages through the pages. The resolution is a delight. The humour from both words and pictures works well for adults and children so this is a book to be enjoyed many times. Yes you could get all sorts of excellent work from it but that isn't really the point.

Daywalt, Drew & Jeffers, Oliver: *The Day the Crayons Quit* HarperCollins

Fed up with the way they are misused, Duncan's crayons each write him a letter of complaint. This is a very funny book which encourages children to be adventurous and creative. Behind the humour there is the recognition of the importance of others' perspectives on our actions. *The Day the Crayons Quit* is a deceptively subtle book which teachers and children can enjoy in many ways.

Grey, Mini: *Hermelin: the Detective Mouse* Jonathan Cape

Aided by his powers of observation and excellent typing skills, Hermelin the mouse solves a number of mysteries but encounters humans' prejudice against mice. Fortunately all is well in the end in this lovely book which encourages readers to study both words and pictures for clues. The turns in the story are sudden and unexpected making this a great book for those readers ready to move on from very predictable text

Haughton, Chris: *Shh! We Have a Plan* Walker Books

Inept hunters are determined to catch a bird but the birds have other ideas. It is a very rare book which creates real humour through the repetition of very few words. *Shh! We Have a Plan* does this superbly. The pictures convey changing emotions deftly while the text repeats simple phrases in different contexts. Very young children will enjoy this because it is a real story with an unexpected ending.

Merino, Gemma: *The Crocodile who didn't Like Water* Macmillan

When the baby crocodiles hatch, one of them is different. In a lovely reworking of Ugly Duckling themes, Merino has created a witty book where pictures and words explore the loneliness of the outsider in ways which lead you to know it is all going to be fine in the end. *The Crocodile who didn't Like Water* as well as being a delightful book in its own right, is a fabulous introduction to the idea of the interconnectedness of story themes.

7-11

Boyne, John: *Stay Where You Are and Then Leave* Doubleday

As World War One is nearing its end, Alfie believes that his soldier father hasn't written for years because he is away on a secret mission. When he learns the truth, Alfie is determined to find his dad and bring him home. Though the themes of this book are difficult, the narrative voice is so innocent

that readers are taken gently through to the dramatic conclusion. *Stay Where You Are and Then Leave* gives very relevant insights into the hidden victims of war.

Butler, Heather: *Us minus Mum* Little, Brown

There are a number of excellent books which focus on bereaved children but very few which take the reader from diagnosis through to mourning for a parent. *Us minus Mum* does this with sensitive tact. What makes this book work so well is that the central character, George, is a completely believable, very normal boy. His many plans and ideas mean that sorrow and happiness are balanced in a sensitive way as the story develops.

Gavin, Jamila & Collingridge, Richard (illustrator): *Blackberry Blue* Tamarind Books

This is a remarkable collection of short stories based on the conventions of the folk story. Gavin uses them as foundations for consideration of contemporary, multi-cultural issues, making them accessible for children because they are set in fantasy. There is power and passion in these stories, making *Blackberry Blue* a very valuable book in KS2 classes.

Gemin, Giancarlo: *Cowgirl* Nosy Crow

When a herd of cows is threatened, the children from an estate manage to hide them with families. In this unique book, Giancarlo Gemin has created a modern allegory in which people and places can be changed for the better by the growing effects of a decision. *Cowgirl* not only has several important things to say, it says them in ways which are vivid, compelling and moving.

Lewis, Gill: *Scarlet Ibis* Oxford University Press

Scarlet has always cared both for her younger brother Red and her mother but, when the situation becomes impossible, the children are separated. *Scarlet Ibis* shows how the power of Scarlet's love for her brother brings them together again. Written with sensitivity and tact, this book explores both differences in people as well as the things which make us similar. It is with great skill that Gill Lewis draws her story together to reach a plausible, optimistic end.

Reeve, Philip & McIntyre, Sarah (illustrator): *Oliver and the Seawigs* Oxford University Press

When Oliver's parents go missing, he with an eccentric group of new friends including a rambling isle called Cliff, go looking for them. *Oliver and the Seawigs* is a book which children who have developed a little stamina as readers are going to love because it plays with language and ideas in startling, exciting ways. Philip Reeve's brilliant text is supported by Sarah McIntyre's witty illustrations.

12-16

Cotterill, Jo: *Looking at the Stars* Bodley Head

Amina's family is forced to flee as refugees from an obsessive regime. Even in a harsh refugee camp, Amina and her sister Jenna's situation is enhanced by the power of the imagination and storytelling. Though *Looking at the Stars* certainly doesn't avoid any depictions of the harshness of life for people in conflict zones, this beautifully written book leaves with a feeling of hope.

De Fombelle, Timothée, translated by Ardizzone, Sarah: *Vango: Between Sky & Earth* Walker Books

Vango is about to be ordained as a priest when he becomes entangled with a murder. This exciting starting place takes the reader through 1930s Europe as the hero is chased by police and a hitman. The characters and settings of this very filmic novel for older readers are vivid and the narrative twists and turns with an extraordinary energy.

Furniss, Clare: *The Year of the Rat* Simon and Schuster

Sixteen year old Pearl's mother dies giving birth. Pearl, who sees her prematurely born baby sister as 'The Rat', struggles with all the changes in her family. Though Clare Furniss's themes are bleak, her affectionate understanding of teenagers and chinks of humour make this an enjoyable, thought-provoking book for young adult readers.

Levithan, David: *Every Day* Egmont

Every day, A wakes up in a new body. Though he always tries to live an unobtrusively, one day he falls in love. Every day he tries to return to Rhiannon but then one of his hosts knows his life was taken over and the story becomes sinister as A is threatened. This is a very strange love story which intrigues as it explores themes of our perceptions of others and our understanding of ourselves.

Sloan, Holly Goldberg: *Counting by 7s* Piccadilly Press

Holly Goldberg Sloan skilfully builds a picture of Willow, a very complex child. She is academically very advanced, obsessive about botany and medicine and very much out of place among her school friends. Her adoptive parents are killed in a car crash. *Counting by Sevens* then shows with real compassion how a child who clings to routines manages to adapt and in doing so make the world much better for those she meets.

Wein, Elizabeth: *Rose Under Fire* Egmont

Rose is a young pilot in WW2, one of a small number of female pilots. She works for the civil air force, but longs to get a flight to France. She does, the plan goes wrong and Rose ends up in a women's work camp. There is a real feeling of authenticity in *Rose Under Fire* due to the underpinning of the narrative by research which brings the appalling setting to vivid life. However, the most impressive aspect of this very moving novel is the support the prisoners give each other. Any young adult would gain a great deal from reading this excellent book.

Past Winners

2014

3-6 This is not my Hat, Jon Klassen (Walker Books)

Highly Commended 3-6 Award: Open Very Carefully, Nick Bromley, Nicola O'Byrne (Illustrator), (Nosy Crow)

7 to 11 The Story of the Blue Planet, Andri Snær Magnason, Julian Meldon D'Arcy, (translator), Áslaug Jónsdóttir (Illustrator), (Pushkin Press)

12- 16: Now is the Time for Running, Michael Williams, (Tamarind Books, an imprint of Random House Children's Books)

2013

3 - 6 : Good Little Wolf, Nadia Shireen Rayner (Jonathan Cape)

7 - 11: The Weight of Water, Sarah Crossan (Bloomsbury)

12- 16: Code Name Verity, Elizabeth Wein (Electric Monkey)

2012

3 - 6: Iris and Isaac, Catherine Rayner (Little Tiger Press)

7 - 11: Sky Hawk, Gill Lewis (Oxford University Press)

12 - 16: A Monster Calls, Patrick Ness, illustrated by Jim Kay (Walker)

2011

3-11: Ellie Sandall Birdsong (Egmont)

12-16: Jason Wallace Out of Shadows (Andersen Press)

2010

3-11: Morris Gleitzman Then (Puffin)

12-16: Neil Gaiman and Chris Riddell (illustrator) The Graveyard Book (Bloomsbury)

Special commendation: Shaun Tan Tales from Outer Suburbia (Templar)

2009

3-11: Marcia Williams Archie's War (Walker)

Highly commended 3-11: Brian Selznick The Invention of Hugo Cabret (Scholastic)

12-16 : Siobhan Dowd: Bog Child (David Fickling - Random House Children's Books)

2008

Picture book category: Polly Dunbar Penguin (Walker)

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