



Children's Book Award

The Federation of Children's Book Groups
Registered Charity 268289



EMBARGOED UNTIL 12pm MONDAY 26th FEBRUARY 2018

COSTA Children's Book Award-winner Katherine Rundell, two daring gorillas ... and a sausage inspector are all shortlisted for the Children's Book Award 2018 – chosen and voted for entirely by children.

The Children's Book Award 2018 shortlist has been announced. Among those shortlisted are this year's COSTA Children's Book Award winner Katherine Rundell and previously shortlisted author-illustrator Jan Fearnley.

Who will win? Children nationwide are now invited to vote for their favourite of the ten shortlisted books. The deadline for online voting is **12.00 Friday 18th May**. The category winners and the author of the best children's book published in the 2017 nomination period will be announced at a glittering awards ceremony which takes place in Central London **Saturday 9th June 2018**.

The Children's Book Award is the only national award for children's books that is voted for entirely by children. It is owned and coordinated by the Federation of Children's Book Groups and is highly respected by teachers, parents and librarians. It has brought acclaim and strong sales to past winners such as J.K. Rowling, Patrick Ness, Andy Stanton, Malorie Blackman, Anthony Horowitz and Michael Morpurgo, who has won a record four times. The award has often been the first to recognise the future stars of children's fiction and has the ability to turn popular authors into bestsellers.

The full shortlist for the Children's Book Award 2018 is as follows:

Books for Younger Children

Edgar and the Sausage Inspector, written and illustrated by Jan Fearnley, published by Nosy Crow

Mrs Mole, I'm Home!, written and illustrated by Jarvis, published by Walker

The Secret of Black Rock, written and illustrated by Joe Todd-Stanton, published by Flying Eye Books

I Dare You, written and illustrated by Reece Wykes, published by Andersen Press

Books for Younger Readers

The Goldfish Boy, written by Lisa Thompson, published by Scholastic

The Explorer, written by Katherine Rundell, published by Bloomsbury

The Island at the End of Everything, written by Kiran Millwood Hargrave, published by Chicken House

Books for Older Readers

I Have No Secrets, written by Penny Joelson, published by Electric Monkey (Egmont)

Optimists Die First, written by Susin Nielsen, published by Andersen Press

Ink, written by Alice Broadway, published by Scholastic

Vote online here - <http://www.childrensbookaward.org.uk/>

Julia Miller, Children's Book Award Coordinator says 'In this our charity's 50th year, we are delighted by such an exciting and high-quality Top Ten. Selecting our Top Ten is the start of the countdown towards our Winners for 2018. We congratulate all our Top Ten authors and can't wait to find out who is the children's choice this year.'

Notes for editors:

The **Children's Book Award**, was founded in 1980 by the national children's reading charity, the Federation of Children's Book Groups. It is the only national UK children's book award to be voted for entirely by children and each year over 150,000 votes are cast, involving nearly 250 schools across the UK. The ten titles on the shortlist for the Books for Younger Children, Books for Younger Readers and Books for Older Readers categories, were chosen by children nationwide who read and voted for the books throughout the year as part of the network of the Federation's Children's Book Groups. The overall winner is awarded the Children's Book Award Silver Tree, of which they are the custodian for a year, and an engraved silver acorn which is theirs to keep. Each of the category winners receive an engraved glass book page and each shortlisted author will also receive an incredible portfolio of writing and artwork created by children inspired by their boo

How does it work?

Between January and December 12 Federation of Children's Book Groups Testing Groups read and rate every book from A (Brilliant) to E (Rubbish). The Top 50 books are selected to include the Top Ten in 3 categories:

Younger Children (Picture: 4 titles)

Younger Readers (6 – 11: 3 titles)

Older Readers (10 – 18: 3 titles)

Any child in the UK can vote to choose the Category and Overall Winners, through the Federation of Children's Book Groups and online. The Top Ten are ranked within their own category and the Overall Winner is selected from the Winners of each Category.

The award in numbers

- Up to 150,000 votes cast a year
- Over 1,100 books read each year
- Over 100 publishing imprints submit books to the award
- Over 12,000 books donated every year
- Nearly 250 schools with 130,000 children a year

The Federation of Children's Book Groups was set up as a charity in 1968 by Anne Wood, the Founder and Creator of Ragdoll Productions and the originator of The Teletubbies and is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, with a host of exciting activities, launches and events through the year. It acts as an umbrella organisation for local Children's Book Groups all over the UK. The groups organise a variety of activities including author events and other activities that promote the enjoyment of children's books. The Federation also produces numerous specialist book lists, organises National Share-a-Story Month each May, National Non-Fiction Month each November and holds an annual conference each spring. www.fcbg.org.uk.

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