



# Children's Book Award

The Federation of Children's Book Groups  
Registered Charity 268289

## **EMBARGOED UNTIL 3pm SATURDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2017**

**The Children's Book Award 2017 winners - chosen and voted for entirely by children - are announced in a celebratory awards ceremony at the Union Jack Club, London. And former Children's Laureate Michael Morpurgo OBE and Michael Foreman's *An Eagle In The Snow* comes 1<sup>st</sup>!**

Former Children's Laureate Michael Morpurgo OBE and Michael Foreman are named overall winners of The Children's Book Award 2017. Their book, *An Eagle In The Snow* also won the Books for Younger Readers category, before going on to win the overall prize. The win is a record-breaking fourth for Michael Morpurgo OBE.

*One* by Carnegie Medal-winning author Sarah Crossan wins the Books for Older Readers category and *Oi Dog!*, written by Kes and Claire Gray and illustrated by Jim Field is named the Books for Younger Children's category winner.

Michael Morpurgo's gripping and powerful novel is inspired by the true story of one man who might have stopped World War II. Set in 1940, in a train under attack from German fighters, sheltering in a tunnel, Barney and his mother are told a story by a stranger to pass the time. Brilliant and fascinating, the fast-paced storytelling is perfectly complemented by Michael Foreman's expressive and emotive illustrations, making *An Eagle In The Snow* a firm favourite with the children.

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.

A dedicated website [www.fcbg.org.uk/childrens-book-award/](http://www.fcbg.org.uk/childrens-book-award/) showcases all the shortlisted titles and featured authors.

The Rail Delivery Group has kindly provided free train travel for all the children and accompanying adults attending the ceremony from across the country.

**The full shortlist for the Children's Book Award 2017 is as follows:**

### **Books for Younger Children**

*Chicken Nugget*, Michelle Robinson, illustrated by Tom McLaughlin, published by Puffin  
*Oi Dog!*, Kes Gray and Claire Gray and illustrated by Jim Field, published by Hodder Children's Books  
*Grandad's Island*, Benji Davies, published by Simon and Schuster  
*Gracie Rabbit and the Tiger*, Helen Stephens, published by Scholastic

### **Books for Younger Readers**

*The Accidental Pirates (Voyage to Magical North)*, Claire Fayers, published by Macmillan Children's Books  
*An Eagle in the Snow* Michael Morpurgo, illustrated by Michael Foreman published by HarperCollins Children's Books  
*The Jam Doughnut that Ruined my Life* Mark Lowery, illustrated by Hannah Shaw, published by Piccadilly

## **Books for Older Readers**

*One Sarah* Crossan, published by Bloomsbury

*Car-Jacked* Ali Sparkes, published by OUP

*Mistletoe and Murder*, Robin Stevens, published by Penguin Random House

Jane Etheridge, Chair of The Federation of Children's Book Groups say 'At a time when libraries are closing around the country, the Children's Book Award is more important than ever because it gives children access to new books. The shortlist demonstrates the rich choice of books available today and, in winning, Michael Morpurgo has demonstrated once again that he is a truly magical storyteller.'

### Notes for editors:

The **Children's Book Award**, now in its 37th year, 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 shortlist testing is open to all children in the UK through the web site in partnership with Toppssta. 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 receives a silver bookmark and each shortlisted author and illustrator will also receive an incredible portfolio of writing and artwork created by children inspired by their book.

### **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. 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](http://www.fcbg.org.uk).

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