



EMBARGOED UNTIL 3pm SATURDAY 9th JUNE 2018

The Children's Book Award 2018 winners - chosen and voted for entirely by children - are announced in a celebratory awards ceremony at the Union Jack Club, London. And COSTA Children's Book Award-winner Katherine Rundell's *The Explorer* comes 1st!

COSTA Children's Book Award-winner Katherine Rundell is named overall winner of The Children's Book Award 2018. Her book *The Explorer*, illustrated by Hannah Horn, also won the Books for Younger Readers category before going on to win the overall prize.

I Have No Secrets by author Penny Joelson wins the Books for Older Readers category and *I Dare You*, written and illustrated by Reece Wykes is named the Books for Younger Children's category winner.

Katherine Rundell's wildly exciting adventure was inspired by a trip the author made to the Amazon rainforest. Set in the early 20th Century, it tells the story for four children who crash-land hundreds of miles from civilisation when their pilot suffers a heart attack. With no food or water, it's up to the children to find the courage and resourcefulness they'll need to survive in a hostile - but also wonder-filled - jungle. Brilliant and gripping, with a terrific sense of place and four superbly portrayed central characters, *The Explorer* was 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.childrensbookaward.org.uk showcases all the shortlisted titles and featured authors.

The Children's Book Award is sponsored by BookLife.

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

Sarah Stuffins, Co-ordinator of The Children's Book Award, says 'In The Federation of Children's Book Groups' 50th Anniversary year, The Children's Book Award is more important than ever. Libraries closing across the country can make giving children access to new books challenging, but the award does just that- it brings children into contact with some of the best children's books, authors and illustrators around today. Engaging with, interacting with, evaluating and - most importantly - enjoying a story is so important for children of all ages and this shortlist and worthy winner showcases what a wonderfully rich variety of stories there is out there for them to enjoy.'

Notes for editors:

The **Children's Book Award**, now in its 38th 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 dedicated web site in partnership with BookLife. 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 an engraved glass trophy, and each shortlisted author and illustrator will also receive an incredible portfolio of writing and artwork created by children inspired by their book.

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.

BookLife have 50 years of experience working in the education sector, aiming to bring knowledge, passion and enthusiasm to children's literature. Selecting engaging, imaginative and informative books, **BookLife** educational experts create and curate a huge range of books that promotes the very best curriculum-focussed resources. Providing quality resources that fulfil the constantly-changing needs of today's classrooms, **BookLife** enables teachers to cover the diverse range of topics in current curriculums. The company has published over 200 titles to date and continues to work alongside educational experts to create more. www.booklife.co.uk

Contact details -

Sarah Stuffins

Children's Book Award Coordinator

contact@childrensbookaward.org.uk

<http://childrensbookaward.org.uk/>

[Facebook.com//FCBG-Childrens-Book-Award](https://www.facebook.com/FCBG-Childrens-Book-Award)

@CBACoordinator

#FCBGCBA18