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Happy reading! – Miss Mullins, Miss Walker, and Miss Henry




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## UKLA Shortlists Announced

The annual UKLA Book Awards are the only national children's book awards judged by teachers. The awards 'seek to celebrate children's books in order to promote the place of books for young people in all educational settings, and to encourage teachers in their knowledge of the high-quality children's books that can reflect all identities and promote diversity being published every year.' The awards are broken down into four categories: 3-6+, 7-10+, 11-14+, and Information Books 3-14+. Previous winners in the 11-14+ categories include *Crossing the Line* by Tia Fisher (2024), *The Crossing* by Manjeet Mann (2023), and *Punching the Air* by Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam (2022). Those of you familiar with the Carnegie Medal for Writing may notice that there is a significant crossover between the winning and shortlisted books for each award. This year, *King of Nothing* by Nathanael Lessore, *The Things We Leave Behind* by Clare Furniss, and *Glasgow Boys* all feature on both the UKLA 11-14+ shortlist and the Carnegie Medal for Writing shortlist. *Keedie* by Elle McNicoll is also shortlisted for the UKLA prize. *King of Nothing* and *The Things We Leave Behind* will enter library stock after this year's Y7 Carnegie Shadowing group have finished reading and analysing them.



*Keedie* by Elle McNicoll

Set in Juniper five years before *A Kind of Spark*, *Keedie* is a powerful coming-of-age story that thoughtfully tackles bullying, navigating friendships, and the joys and difficulties of being an autistic teenager. As Keedie and her twin sister Nina approach their fourteenth birthday, they seem to only be growing further apart. Keedie instead feels drawn to, and fiercely protective of, their quiet younger sister Addie - who on the surface is the opposite of loud and fiery Keedie, but in fact they have more in common than anyone knows.

Coming Soon to the Library... *King of Nothing* by Nathanael Lessore

Anton and his friends are the kings of year 9. They're used to ruling the school and Anton wears the crown. The other kids run away when he's about but that's the way he wants it - he's got a reputation to live up to after all. So when he gets into serious trouble at school, he doesn't really care, but his mum most definitely does. She decides it's time for Anton to make some new friends and join the Happy Campers, a local activity group. Anton would quite literally rather do anything else, especially when he finds out Matthew, the biggest loser in school, is also a member. But after Matthew unexpectedly saves Anton's life, Anton figures maybe this kid is worth a shot. Teaching him some game is the least Anton can do to repay the debt. As the boys strike up an unlikely friendship, Anton finds himself questioning everything he thought was important. Does he want ruling the school to be his crowning glory or should he set his sights on better things?



Coming Soon to the Library... *The Things We Leave Behind* by Clare Furniss

In the near future, in a world that could be, but is not quite, ours, sixteen-year-old Clem is happy. Celebrating her birthday surrounded by friends, family and a warm summer evening, there's nothing that could ruin this day. But by morning, everything has changed... After years of a growing totalitarian regime, civil unrest in London has reached an all-time high, and it's no longer safe to stay in the city. Fleeting with nothing but her half-sister Billie, a notebook filled with stories and memories of home, Clem must make the treacherous journey to Edinburgh, first by road and then by boat. What waits for the sisters on the other side - the start of a new life, or a mirror held up to the past?



## International Children's Book Day



International Children's Book Day is celebrated annually on or around the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April. The date was chosen as it's the anniversary of the birth of fairytale writer Hans Christian Andersen. This year it falls on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April. The intention of the day is to encourage people, especially children, to read and appreciate children's books. International Children's Book Day was established in 1967 by the International Board on Books for Young People

(IBBY), an organisation that promotes literacy and reading for children. Every year, the organisation chooses a country to sponsor the Day, as well as a theme. This year the sponsoring country is The Netherlands, and the theme is 'the freedom of imagination.' IBBY also invites a well-known author from each year's sponsoring country to write a message to children globally. An illustrator also creates a poster to promote the event. This year's chosen author is Rian Visser, and the poster artist is Janneke Ipenburg. To celebrate International Children's Book Day, you could revisit your favourite childhood books and share them with a younger sibling or cousin. You could also consider donating your old books to your local library. Click [here](#) to find out more about International Children's Book Day 2025.

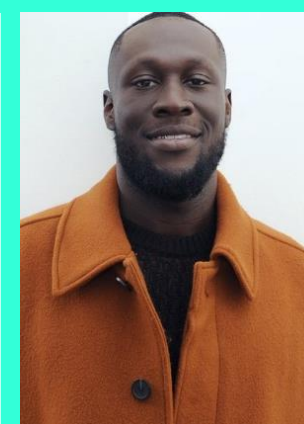
*The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown

When robot Roz opens her eyes for the first time, she discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island. She has no idea how she got there or what her purpose is - but she knows she needs to survive. As Roz slowly befriends the animals, the island starts to feel like home - until, one day, her mysterious past comes back to haunt her.



## Stormzy to Receive Honorary Cambridge Doctorate

Musician Stormzy, real name Michael Ebenezer Kwadjo Omari Owuo Jr, has been nominated for an honorary doctorate from Cambridge University. Stormzy has been nominated in the wake of his successful Stormzy Scholarship which funds two black British students per year at Cambridge, covering their tuition fees and maintenance costs. Following the initial success of the scheme which was launched in 2018, HSBC agreed to fund a further 10 students per year. Cambridge University say that the 'Stormzy effect' has contributed to an increase in applications to Cambridge from black students across the UK. So far 55 students have been supported by the Stormzy Scholarship, and this year will see the largest group to graduate to date. Stormzy will receive his honorary doctorate on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June, along with activist and author Professor Angela Davis, Nobel Prize-winning economist Sir Oliver Hart and 5 other notables. Stormzy's doctorate will be in the field of law, in recognition of his philanthropic work and impact on education, music, sport, and literature. Click [here](#) to read the original BBC article by Harriet Heywood.



*Rise Up: The #Merky Story So Far* by Stormzy

In four years Stormzy has risen from one of the most promising musicians of his generation to a spokesperson for a generation. *Rise Up* is the story of how he got there. It's a story about faith and the ideas worth fighting for. It's about knowing where you're from and where you're going. It's about following your dreams without compromising who you are. Featuring never-before-seen photographs, annotated lyrics, and contributions from those closest to him, *Rise Up* is the #Merky story, and the record of a journey unlike any other.



## World Book Day Peer-to-Peer Book Recommendations

On World Book Day we asked students in the library to recommend their favourite book (or books) to others. Books that are written in blue font are books that we currently have in library stock and are available to borrow/ reserve. The collated list of recommended books will soon be up as a display in the library, so if you're unsure about what to read next have a look and see if you can gather some inspiration from your peers' recommendations.

*Cradle: Unsouled* by Will Wight

*Mistborn Trilogy* by Brandon Sanderson

*We Solve Murders* by Richard Osman

*Better Than the Movies* by Holly Bourne

*Shatter Me* by Tahereh Mafi

*Once Upon a Broken Heart* by Stephanie Garber

*Disney Villains* series by Serena Valentino

*Wolf by Wolf* by Ryan Graudin

Aadya, 7F

*We Were Liars* by E. Lockhart

*The Maze Runner Series* by James Dashner

Nyra, 7P

*Powerless* by Lauren Roberts

Avisha, 7W

*The Day I Fell into a Fairytale* by Ben Miller

Shreya, 7G

*Six of Crows* by Leigh Bardugo

*The Poppy War* by R.F. Kuang (older readers)

*My Hero Academia* by Kohei Horikoshi

Letty, 7G

*The Once Upon a Broken Heart* series by Stephanie Garber

Emily, 7N

*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen

*The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson

*Murder Most Unladylike* by Robin Stevens

*Jolly Foul Play* by Robin Stevens

Shikha, 7G

*Demon Slayer: Volume 8* by Koyoharu Gotouge

*A Good Girls' Guide to Murder* by Holly Jackson

Tara, 8G

*The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Shreya, 7G

*A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* by Holly Jackson

*Twisted Hate* by Ana Huang (older readers)

*The Predator* by RuNyx (older readers)

*Can You See Me?* by Rebecca Westcott and Libby Scott

Deetya, 7W

*Five Nights at Freddy's: Tales of the Pizzaplex* series by Scott Cawthon

Zara, 7N

*The Girl Who Sang: A Holocaust Memoir of Hope and Survival* by Estelle Nadel and Bethany Strout

Krishna, 7P

*Demon Slayer* by Koyoharu Gotouge

Aanya, 7S

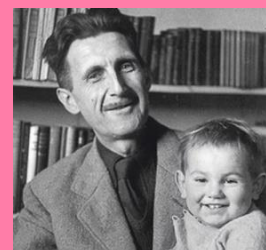
*The Inkheart Trilogy* by Cornelia Funke

*Caraval* by Stephanie Garber

*Broken Flames* by MK Ahearn (older readers)

*Twisted Trilogy* by Ana Huang (older readers)

## George Orwell's Son in Conversation with The Guardian



Richard Blair, son of author George Orwell, had a challenging start to life. Orwell and his wife Eileen adopted Richard as a baby in 1944, but tragically Eileen passed away due to complications from an operation just 9 months later. The Orwells' family and friends expected George to un-adopt Richard following his wife's death, but despite the circumstances Orwell was determined to raise him. George Orwell was 'perhaps the most influential writer of the 20<sup>th</sup> century' and used his books to rail against totalitarianism: *Nineteen Eighty-Four* and *Animal Farm* highlighting the issues of an authoritarian regime. Now, in an interview with *The Guardian*, Richard has spoken on the experience of being raised by such a man. Richard is now 80 years old, the same age as *Animal Farm*, lives in

England and has dedicated himself to preserving his father's legacy, viewing himself as the 'keeper' of Orwell's memory. The two men are quite different, as Orwell was a radical thinker while Richard enjoys a stable life in farming and property management. Richard shared insights about his parents, such as the fact his mother was 'quite the equal of [his] father in terms of intellectual capacity' and contributed greatly to his father's works, particularly *Animal Farm*, and how he views his father as 'a product of his time' when it comes to comments Orwell made about the Jewish community in *Down and Out in Paris and London*. Richard says he is proud to be George Orwell's son and is committed to sharing his father's story and teachings with others. Click [here](#) to read the full *Guardian* interview by Simon Hattenstone.

*Animal Farm: A Fairy Story* by George Orwell

When the downtrodden animals of Manor Farm overthrow their master Mr Jones and take over the farm themselves, they imagine it is the beginning of a life of freedom and equality. But gradually a cunning, ruthless elite among them, masterminded by the pigs Napoleon and Snowball, starts to take control. Soon the other animals discover that they are not all as equal as they thought and find themselves hopelessly ensnared as one form of tyranny is replaced with another. Orwell's chilling 'fairy story' is a timeless and devastating satire of idealism betrayed by power and corruption.



*Nineteen Eighty-Four* by George Orwell



One of Britain's most popular novels, George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four* is set in a society terrorised by a totalitarian ideology propagated by The Party. Winston Smith works for the Ministry of Truth in London, chief city of Airstrip One. Big Brother stares out from every poster, the Thought Police uncover every act of betrayal. When Winston finds love with Julia, he discovers that life does not have to be dull and deadening, and awakens to new possibilities. Despite the police helicopters that hover and circle overhead, Winston and Julia begin to question the Party; they are drawn towards conspiracy. Yet Big Brother will not tolerate dissent - even in the mind. For those with original thoughts they invented Room 101...

*A Clergyman's Daughter* by George Orwell

Intimidated by her father, the rector of Knype Hill, Dorothy performs her submissive roles of dutiful daughter and bullied housekeeper. Her thoughts are taken up with the costumes she is making for the church school play, by the hopelessness of preaching to the poor and by debts she cannot pay in 1930s Depression England. Suddenly her routine shatters and Dorothy finds herself down and out in London. She is wearing silk stockings, has money in her pocket and cannot remember her name. Orwell leads us through a landscape of unemployment, poverty and hunger, where Dorothy's faith is challenged by a social reality that changes her life.

