

UKLA Book Awards

Quality Texts for Children aged 3-14+

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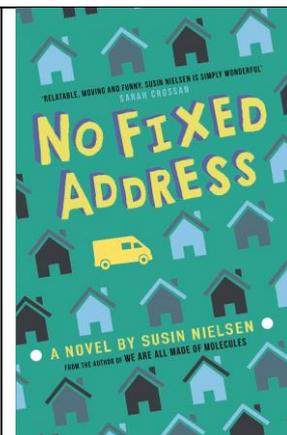


The only national book awards judged by teachers! **United Kingdom Literacy Association (UKLA) Book Awards** are now in their 12th year. Teachers are looking for texts that can “enhance all aspects of literacy learning”. The process ensures they are able to share the books with their classes and discover what genuinely works with young readers in each of the three age categories and so their judgements are soundly based on pupil response. Longlists are published in September and the shortlists in March. <https://ukla.org/awards/ukla-book-award>. The previous year’s shortlisted books are the subject of a creative teaching and pupil response award The Our Class Loves This Book – The Just Imagine Award. Teachers may decide to use their chosen book as part of a theme they are teaching with their children, it could be an author study, or maybe a one-off exploration - the choice is theirs! The response can be presented in any way, e.g. through information technology, dance, art, drama, writing, music, spoken presentation or any combination of these.

The 2020 winners were announced virtually on July 3rd but Shadowing will continue into the Autumn term enabling teachers to share books with their students. The results of the shadowing teacher and student teachers’ voting will be revealed at a celebration event on 28th November in Oxford

Winner 11- 14+ category: *No Fixed Address* by Susin Nielsen (Andersen Press. ISBN: 978-0571335121)

Felix Knutsson is nearly thirteen, lives with his mother and pet gerbil Horatio, and is brilliant at memorising facts and trivia. So far, pretty normal. But Felix and his mom Astrid have a secret: they are living in a van. Astrid promises it’s only for a while until she finds a new job, and begs Felix not to breathe a word about it. So when Felix starts at a new school, he does his very best to hide the fact that most of his clothes are in storage, he only showers weekly at the community centre, and that he doesn’t have enough to eat. Susin Nielsen deftly combines humour, heartbreak, and hope in this moving story about people who slip through the cracks in society, and about the power of friendship and community to make all the difference. Judges valued the way it humanised the hard-hitting subject of homelessness.



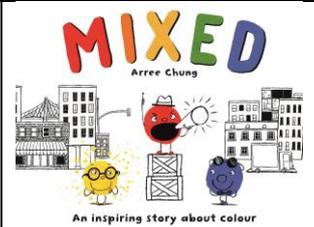
Winner 7-10+ category: *The Eleventh Trade* written by Alyssa Hollingsworth (Piccadilly Press. ISBN: 978-1848126893)

Has all the attributes of a classic middle grade school story but is also a moving story of a refugee finding a new home and a new support network. When his grandfather's most-prized possession--a traditional Afghan instrument called a rebab--is stolen, Sami resolves to get it back. He finds it at a music store, but it costs \$700, and Sami doesn't have even one penny. What he does have is a keychain that has caught the eye of his classmate. If he trades the keychain for something more valuable, could he keep trading until he has \$700? Sami is about to find out. Judges admired the light touch and sensitive handling of the horrors that refugee Sami fled from and helping children understand the barriers he faces in a "safe" country.



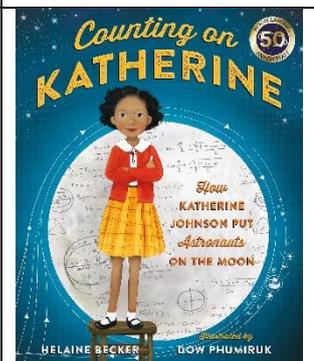
Winner 3-6+ category: *Mixed* written and illustrated by Arree Chung (Macmillan. ISBN: 978-1509871346)

The Blues, Reds and Yellows lived in harmony. Reds were the loudest, Yellows the brightest and Blues were the coolest. However when one of the colours proclaims they are the best, discord breaks out and eventually the colours decide to live in different parts of the city. Then one day a Yellow befriends a Blue and they become inseparable, discovering a world of different possibilities and colours. This tale of difference and acceptance was praised by judges for tackling challenging themes, such as racism and prejudice, in a way that does not scare or confuse children and yet worked effectively across the whole primary age range.



Winner Information Books 3-14+: *Counting on Katherine* written by Helaine Becker and Illustrated by Dow Phumiruk. (Macmillan. ISBN: 978-1529005592)

Helaine Becker interviewed Katherine and her family for this authorized biography. From Katherine's early beginnings as a gifted student to her heroic accomplishments as a prominent mathematician at NASA, this is the true story of a groundbreaking African-American woman who went above and beyond what was expected of her in the 1960s, saving lives and making enormous contributions to history. Featuring Dow Phumiruk's gorgeous full-colour illustrations throughout. Judges applauded the sort of biography to make you cheer! . This celebrates not just women in science and maths, but a black woman in science and maths.



Highly Commended in Information 3-14+ category *Child of St Kilda* by Beth Waters. (Childs Play. ISBN: 978-1786281876)

Norman John Gillies was one of the last children ever born on St Kilda, five years before the whole population was evacuated forever to the British mainland. People had lived on these islands for over four thousand years, developing a thriving, tightly-knit society that knew nothing of crime or money, and took care of its weakest members without hesitation. At the mercy of the seasons and the elements, a unique lifestyle evolved, based around resilience, mutual trust and caring. What was it like to grow up in such harsh conditions? Why and how did this ancient way of life suddenly cease in 1930? Where did the islanders go, and what became of them? And what became of Norman John, child of St Kilda? Judges found this to be a wonderfully illustrated, poignant and topical story of a threatened community and lost way of life.

