





The only national book awards judged by teachers! **United Kingdom Literacy Association (UKLA) Book Awards** are now in their 13th 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 2021 winners were announced virtually on July 1st alongside the result of the teacher’s Shadowing choices.

<p>For the first time in this category the judges selected Joint Winners because both novels were considered so exceptional that both deserved the highest accolade</p> <p>Joint Winner 11- 14+ category: <i>Run Rebel</i> written by Manjeet Mann (Penguin) ISBN: 978-0241411421)</p> <p>Amber is trapped - by her father's rules, by his expectations, by her own fears. Now she's ready to fight - for her mother, for her sister, for herself. Freedom always comes at a price. This stunning debut verse novel unafraid to tackle big issues of domestic violence and coercion. Judges praised “its complex representation, universal themes, and visceral emotional impact.”</p>	
<p>Joint Winner 11- 14+ category <i>The Last Paper Crane</i> written by Kerry Drewery, illustrated by Natsko Seki. (Hot Key Books) ISBN: 978-1471408472</p> <p>This is the horrific and unforgettable story about the day the nuclear bomb devastated Hiroshima in 1945, told to Mizuki by her grandfather, who has lived with haunting memories and guilt all his life. Judges praised the “sensitive and compassionate handling of history, the enriching discussion that it provoked and for the fact that it was so cleverly constructed with the use of different text formats and with the illustration by Natsuo Seki enriching the emotional impact”.</p>	

Winner 7-10+ category: Check Mates written by Stewart Foster (Simon & Schuster) ISBN: 978-1471172236

Felix and his granddad both behave unconventionally at times and need to understand each other better. Their relationship develops as Granddad teaches Felix to play chess. In fact, chess helps them both work through difficulties in their lives and Felix learns more than a new game. With lots of humour, but also an underlying mystery to be unravelled, this is a riveting read with realism at its heart. Judges praised “a beautifully crafted and empathetic tale, and one which showed deep perception of characters and relationships and gave a sensitive portrayal of ADHD. It made complex ideas accessible, challenged stereotypes and was entirely unsentimental.”



Highly Commended 7-10+ category

Owen and the Soldier written by Lisa Thompson, illustrated by Mike Lowery (Barrington Stoke) ISBN: 978-1781128657

Owen finds it hard to talk to anyone, even to a sympathetic teacher at school. Life at home is not easy; just two of them, and mum so sad. Discovering a crumbly stone soldier sitting on a bench in the park gives Owen a focus for his thoughts. A beautifully written story allows readers to piece together the truth behind Owen’s behaviour and to appreciate how he brings an upsetting episode in his life to a hopeful conclusion. Judges wished to commend a book which “deals so movingly with grief, remembrance and mental health in such a short and highly accessible format.”



Winner 3-6+ category: Look Up! Written by Nathan Bryon, illustrated by Dapo Adeola. (Puffin) ISBN: 978-0241345849

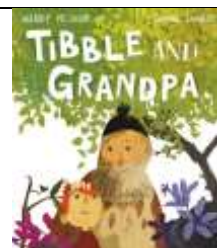
The heroine of this story is Rocket, a junior astronaut. She is so determined to share her knowledge about space, she manages to get her friends and neighbours, and even her brother Jamal, to the park to see a meteor shower. The book is peppered with her enthusiasm, with facts about space, delivered through illustrations which place her in a very believable family and neighbourhood. The enthusiasm is infectious – by the end of the story, even grumpy Jamal has to put his phone away and look up. This was praised by judges for its “ambitious, intelligent and inspiring female lead and as a story which sparked recognition for its relatable message and prompted intense discussion amongst the children who selected it to be read on a daily basis in classrooms.”



Highly Commended 3-6+

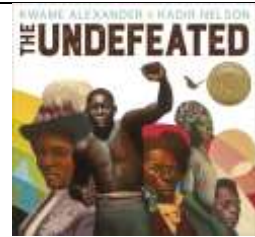
Tibble and Grandpa written by Wendy Meddour, illustrated by Daniel Egneus. (Oxford) ISBN: 978-0192771964

Poor Tibble can’t understand why his Grandpa won’t play with him. He doesn’t give up though, embarking on a relentless campaign to get Grandpa to chat to him by compiling ever more ambitious lists – the top three sandwiches, top three jellyfish – until Grandpa and Tibble embark on their top three trips. Very gently, we begin to understand why Grandpa is so uncharacteristically sad. The book has a very satisfying and reassuring ending. The judges wished to Highly Commend to reflect how moved children and adults were by this ‘touching intergenerational tale of loss and resilience’.



Winner Information Books 3-14+: The Undefeated written by Kwame Alexander, illustrated by Kadir Nelson. (Andersen Press) ISBN: 978-1783449293

An incredibly powerful text to introduce the topic of Black History to any age group. With words that resonate and sing and images that sear themselves into your mind this book leaves an indelible impression. Empowering and overwhelmingly positive in its inspiring message. The judges felt that this was a book “that is both beautiful and important, delivering universal messages with such powerful impact.”



Shadowing winners

3-6+ Look Up! (see above)

7- 10+ Joint Winners:

Check Mate (see above)

The Highland Falcon Thief By M.G.Leonard and Sam Sedgeman (Macmillan) ISBN: 978-1529013061

11-14+ Clap When You Land Elizabeth Acevedo. (Hot Key) ISBN:978-1471409127

Information 3 -14+ The Undefeated (see above)

