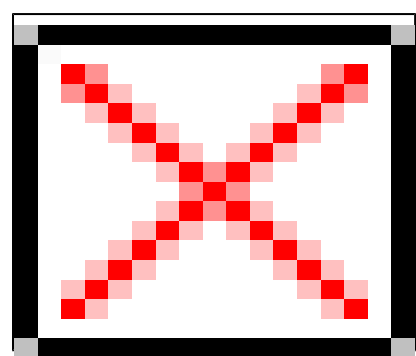




# BRANFORD BOASE AWARD 2020: LONGLIST ANNOUNCED

By *AndreaMReece*

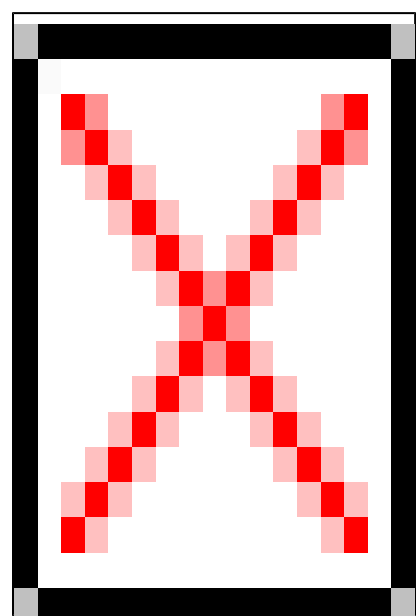
Created Jan '20



The longlist for the **2020 Branford Boase Award** is announced today (Tuesday 28th January 2020). Set up in memory of award-winning author Henrietta Branford and her editor Wendy Boase, one of the founders of Walker Books, the **Branford Boase Award** is given annually to the author of an outstanding debut novel for children and has a notable record in picking out the most talented authors at the start of their career. Over its twenty-one-year history winners and shortlisted authors have included **Siobhan Dowd**, **Meg Rosoff**, **Mal Peet**, **Frank Cottrell Boyce** and **Patrick Ness** as well as **Frances Hardinge**, **MG Leonard** and **Philip Reeve**.

Uniquely, the **Branford Boase Award** also honours the editor of the winning title and highlights the importance of the editor in nurturing new talent.

In another outstanding year for debuts, 59 books were submitted and by more than two dozen different publishers; 20 books have made it onto the longlist. These include Jasbinder Bilan's **Costa** winner **Asha and the Spirit Bird**; Sharna Jackson's bestseller [High-Rise Mystery](#) [1], edited by Robin Stevens for **Knights Of**; as well as books from independent presses **Everything with Words**, **Firefly Press** and **Floris Books**.



## The 2020 Branford Boase Award longlist in full:

[The Middler](#) [2] by Kirsty Applebaum, edited by Kirsty Stansfield (Nosy Crow)

**Little Badman and the Invasion of the Killer Aunties** by Humza Arshad and Henry White, edited by Holly Harris and Sharan Matharu (Puffin)

[The Space We?re In](#) [3] by Katya Balen, edited by Lucy Mackay-Sim (Bloomsbury)

[Asha and the Spirit Bird](#) [4] by Jasbinder Bilan, edited by Kesia Lupo (Chicken House)

[A Pocketful of Stars](#) [5] by Aisha Bushby, edited by Liz Bankes and Sarah Levison (Electric Monkey)

**Charlie Changes into a Chicken** by Sam Copeland, edited by Ben Horslen (Puffin)

**Potkin and Stubbs** by Sophie Green, edited by Emma Matthewson (Piccadilly Press)

**The Garden of Lost Secrets** by A M Howell, edited by Rebecca Hill and Becky Walker (Usborne)

**Bearmouth** by Liz Hyder, edited by Sarah Odedina (Pushkin Press)

**The Girl who Lost her Shadow** by Emily Ilett, edited by Eleanor Collins and Jennie Skinner (Floris Books)

**A Good Girl?s Guide to Murder** by Holly Jackson, edited by Lindsey Heaven (Electric Monkey)

[High-Rise Mystery](#) [1] by Sharna Jackson, edited by Robin Stevens (Knights Of)

**Frostheart** by Jamie Littler, edited by Naomi Colthurst (Puffin)

[Lori and Max](#) [6] by Catherine O?Flynn edited by Rebecca Lloyd (Firefly Press)

[Nevertell](#) [7] by Katharine Orton, edited by Annalie Grainger (Walker Books)

[The Midnight Hour](#) [8] by Benjamin Read and Laura Trinder, edited by Rachel Leyshon (Chicken House)

[The Tzar?s Curious Runaways](#) [9] by Robin Scott-Elliot, edited by Mikka Haugaard (Everything with Words)

[Bloom](#) [10] by Nicola Skinner, edited by Nick Lake (HarperCollins Children?s Books)

**The Million Pieces of Neena Gill** by Emma Smith-Barton, edited by Naomi Colthurst (Puffin)

**Starfell: Willow Moss and the Lost Day** by Dominique Valente, edited by Harriet Wilson (HarperCollins Children?s Books)

This year the judges are **Sue Bastone**, vice-chair **SLA**; **Victoria Dilly**, creator of the **Book Activist** blog; **Layla Hudson** of **Round Table Books**, Brixton; and **Muhammad Khan**, author of **I Am Thunder**, winner of the 2019 **Branford Boase Award**. The panel is chaired by **Julia Eccleshare**, children?s director of the Hay Festival.

**Julia Eccleshare** says: ?As the **Branford Boase Award** enters its 21<sup>st</sup> year, we are delighted to have another exciting and particularly diverse set of books to consider. Here are comedies, murder mysteries, adventures set in imaginary worlds, in faraway countries and in landscapes familiar to us all. The wealth of talent on display continues to inspire us and we are very much looking forward to discussing the longlist with our judges.?

The **Branford Boase Award** is sponsored by **Walker Books**.

The **shortlist** for the Award will be announced on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020. The winner will be announced on 1<sup>st</sup> July

at a ceremony in London.

The [Henrietta Branford Writing Competition](#) [11], the annual competition for young people which runs in conjunction with the **Branford Boase Award**, is also open.

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**Source URL (retrieved on Feb '21):** <http://pop.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/news/branford-boase-award-2020-longlist-announced>

**Links:**

- [1] <http://pop.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/237/childrens-books/reviews/high-rise-mystery>
- [2] <http://pop.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/236/childrens-books/reviews/the-middler>
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