

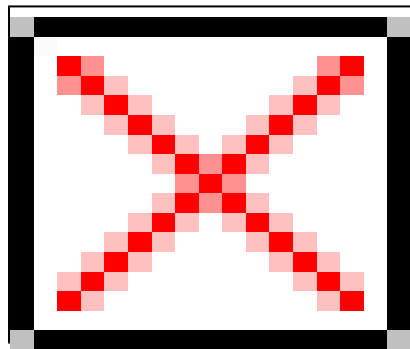


LONGLIST FOR THE 2021 BRANFORD BOASE AWARD

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The longlist for the **2021 Branford Boase Award** has been announced. Set up in memory of award-winning author [Henrietta Branford](#) [1] and her editor Wendy Boase, one of the founders of Walker Books, the [Branford Boase Award](#) [2] is given annually to the author of an outstanding debut novel for children. It has a notable record in picking out the most talented authors at the start of their career. Past winners and shortlisted authors have included **Siobhan Dowd**, **Meg Rosoff**, **Mal Peet**, **Frank Cottrell Boyce** and **Patrick Ness** as well as **Frances Hardinge**, **M G 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.

Despite the challenges of 2020, more than 60 books were submitted; 25 have made it onto the longlist, making it the longest in the award's history. These include poet Patience Agbabi's **The Infinite**, **Wranglestone** by Darren Charlton and **The Super Miraculous Journey of Freddie Yates** by Jenny Pearson, both shortlisted for the **Costa Book Award**, and **A Kind of Spark** by Elle McNicoll, recently announced as **Blackwell's Book of the Year**. Previous winning editors on this year's longlist include Sarah Odedina (2020 winner), and Rebecca Hill and Becky Walker (2018 winners).

The 2021 Branford Boase Award longlist in full:

[The Infinite](#) [3] by Patience Agbabi, edited by Jo Dingley (Canongate)

The Sky is Mine by Amy Beashel, edited by Shadi Doostdar (Rock the Boat, an imprint of Oneworld)

Wranglestone by [Darren Charlton](#) [4], edited by Katie Jennings (Stripes)

[Tiger Heart](#) [5] by Penny Chrimes, edited by Lena McCauley (Orion)

[Boy, Everywhere](#) [6] by A.M. Dassu, edited by Emma Roberts (Old Barn Books)

[The Good Hawk](#) [7] by Joseph Elliott, edited by Annalie Grainger & Megan Middleton (Walker)

[When Life Gives You Mangoes](#) [8] by Kereen Getten, edited by Sarah Odedina (Pushkin Press)

[A Clock of Stars: The Shadow Moth](#) [9] by Francesca Gibbons, edited by Nick Lake (HarperCollins Children's Books), illus by Chris Riddell

Last Lesson by James Goodhand, edited by Ben Horslen (Penguin)

Orla and the Serpent's Curse by C.J. Haslam, edited by Frances Taffinder (Walker Books)

[Witch](#) [10] by Finbar Hawkins, edited by Fiona Kennedy (Head of Zeus)

[And the Stars were Burning Brightly](#) [11] by Danielle Jawando, edited by Jane Griffiths (Simon and Schuster)

[The Wild Way Home](#) [12] by Sophie Kirtley, edited by Lucy Mackay-Sim (Bloomsbury)

[The Wolf Road](#) [13] by Richard Lambert edited by Mikka Haugaard (Everything with Words)

The Strangeworlds Travel Agency by L.D. Lapinski, edited by Lena McCauley (Orion)

[A Kind of Spark](#) [14] by Elle McNicoll, edited by Eishar Brar (Knights Of)

Run, Rebel by Manjeet Mann, edited by Carmen McCullough (Penguin)

Orphans of the Tide by Struan Murray, edited by Ben Horslen (Puffin), illus Manuel Sumbarac

Anisha Accidental Detective by Serena Patel, edited by Stephanie King (Usborne), illus Emma McCann

[The Super Miraculous Journey of Freddie Yates](#) [15] by [Jenny Pearson](#) [16], edited by Rebecca Hill and Becky Walker (Usborne), illus Rob Biddulph

Are You Watching? By Vincent Ralph, edited by Tig Wallace (Penguin)

[The Vanishing Trick](#) [17] by Jenni Spangler, edited by Jane Griffiths (Simon and Schuster), illus Chris Mould

[The Unadoptables](#) [18] by Hana Tooke, edited by Naomi Colthurst (Puffin), illus Ayesha L. Rubio

The Pure Heart by Trudi Tweedie, edited by Kesia Lupo (Chicken House)

Diary of a Confused Feminist by Kate Weston, edited by Sarah Lambert (Hodder Children's Books)

This year the judges are **Zoey Dixon**, **YLG Librarian of the Year 2020**; **Scott Evans**, teacher, consultant and founder of [TheReaderTeacher.com](#) [19]; **Natasha Radford** of **Chicken and Frog** bookshop, Brentwood; and [Liz Hyder](#) [20], author of **Bearmouth**, winner of the 2020 **Branford Boase Award**. The panel is chaired by **Julia Eccleshare**, children's director of the Hay Festival.

Julia Eccleshare says: "After the disruptions and challenges of 2020 we were delighted to receive so many entries for the 2021 award, and of such huge variety. Here are books to make readers laugh, to provoke and make us think, to make us hope. We are excited to share them with this year's panel of judges."

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

The **shortlist** for the Award will be announced on Thursday 29 April 2020. The winner will be announced on 15 July, COVID-19 rules permitting, at an award ceremony in London.

Links:

- [1] <http://pop.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/78/childrens-books/articles/writer-reply/writer-reply-henrietta-branford>
- [2] <https://branfordboaseaward.org.uk/>
- [3] <http://pop.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/242/childrens-books/reviews/the-infinite>
- [4] <http://pop.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/245/childrens-books/articles/featured-author/an-interview-with-costa-book-award-shortlisted-da>
- [5] <http://pop.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/240/childrens-books/reviews/tiger-heart>
- [6] <http://pop.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/245/childrens-books/reviews/boy-everywhere>
- [7] <http://pop.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/240/childrens-books/reviews/the-good-hawk>
- [8] <http://pop.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/244/childrens-books/reviews/when-life-gives-you-mangoes>
- [9] <http://pop.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/245/childrens-books/reviews/a-clock-of-stars-the-shadow-moth>
- [10] <http://pop.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/245/childrens-books/reviews/witch>
- [11] <http://pop.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/241/childrens-books/reviews/and-the-stars-were-burning-brightly>
- [12] <http://pop.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/244/childrens-books/reviews/the-wild-way-home>
- [13] <http://pop.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/245/childrens-books/reviews/the-wolf-road>
- [14] <http://pop.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/242/childrens-books/reviews/a-kind-of-spark>
- [15] <http://pop.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/243/childrens-books/reviews/the-super-miraculous-journey-of-freddie-yates>
- [16] <http://pop.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/245/childrens-books/articles/featured-author/an-interview-with-costa-book-award-shortlisted-au>
- [17] <http://pop.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/242/childrens-books/reviews/the-vanishing-trick>
- [18] <http://pop.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/244/childrens-books/reviews/the-unadoptables>
- [19] [https://www.thereaderteacher.co /](https://www.thereaderteacher.co/)
- [20] <http://pop.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/243/childrens-books/articles/an-interview-with-branford-boase-award-winner-liz-hyder>