



**Press Release – Embargoed till 7pm Weds 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

### **School Library Association Information Book Award 2016**

The School Library Association celebrated the 2016 Information Book Award on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November with an event at the sponsor Hachette's 6<sup>th</sup> Floor café at Carmelite House, London. The **SLA Information Book Award** is an annual event celebrating information books. It is designed to support school libraries, reinforce the importance of non-fiction and highlight the high standard of resources available.

The overall winners—chosen by the judges was **The National Theatre** by Marina McIntyre et al. (Walker Books); whilst the Children's Choice winner was **If...** by David J Smith, illustrated by Steve Adams (Wayland).

Hilary Murray Hill, CEO for Hachette Children's Group said "On behalf of the Hachette Children's Group, I am proud that we continue to sponsor the SLA Information Book Awards. These are now the only awards that celebrate the essential work done by librarians, as well as the incredible breadth and imagination of contemporary non-fiction publishing. I would like to praise and congratulate all the authors and illustrators on the 2016 shortlist, as well as the information professionals. Their work is encouraging, motivating, informing and inspiring a whole generation of children."

Chris Brown, Chair of the judges said "Among the books submitted for the Awards we found an abundance of superb books, covering a broad range of subjects. As Judges we found this to be a really difficult year in arriving at a reasonable number of titles for our shortlists, and an even greater challenge in making final decisions. It is so gratifying to see so many publishers producing high-quality information-based books for young readers."

#### **The winner in each category selected by the judges is:**

##### **0-7 Winner**

**Fabulous Frogs** by Martin Jenkins, illustrated by Tim Hopgood. Walker ISBN 9781406357417

##### **7-12 Winner**

**If...** by David J Smith, illustrated by Steve Adams. Wayland ISBN 9780750293839

##### **Over-12 Winner**

**The National Theatre** by Marina McIntyre et al. Walker ISBN 9781406358698

##### **Overall Winner**

**The National Theatre** by Marina McIntyre et al. Walker ISBN 9781406358698

#### **Children's Choice Awards**

Between May and early November, schools were able to cast their vote for their favourite Information Book from the shortlisted titles. The SLA and their sponsors were keen that schools, libraries, book groups and reading groups should have a say in the final decision. Each group could vote online for their favourite book in each category (Under 7, 7-12 and 12-16) and for their overall favourite. The complete shortlist for 2016 is available here [www.sla.org.uk/information-book-award.php](http://www.sla.org.uk/information-book-award.php)

## **The Children's Choice Winners are:**

### **0-7 Winner**

**The Usborne Big Book of Colours** by Felicity Brooks et al, illustrated by Sophia Touliaou. Usborne ISBN 9781409582472

### **7-12 Winner**

**If...** by David J Smith, illustrated by Steve Adams. Wayland ISBN 9780750293839

### **12-16 Winner**

**The National Theatre** by Marina McIntyre et al. Walker ISBN 9781406358698

### **Overall Children's Choice Winner**

**If...** by David J Smith, Illustrated by Steve Adams. Wayland ISBN 9780750293839

## **Notes for editors**

### **About the School Library Association**

The School Library Association is an independent charity that believes every pupil is entitled to effective school library provision. The SLA is committed to supporting everyone involved with school libraries, promoting high quality reading and learning opportunities for all. Website: [www.sla.org.uk](http://www.sla.org.uk)

### **About the Award sponsors**

The School Library Association is grateful for sponsorship from Hachette Children's Group and Peters Bookselling Services to make this award possible. The SLA Information Book Award is run entirely on sponsorship kindly donated by friends and supporters of the Award. No money is taken from the SLA budget, so all staff time, the cost of the judging, prizes for the winners and the final award ceremony must be covered by the sponsors' donations.

**About the Hachette Children's Group:** The Hachette Children's Group comprises the imprints Franklin Watts, Wayland, Hodder Children's Books, Orchard Books, Orion Children's Books, Quercus Children's Books and Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, and owns Enid Blyton Entertainment (formerly The Enid Blyton Estate). The Group is one of the most successful children's publishers in the UK, with an excellent track record in creating bestselling and award-winning books for children of all ages and interests. In July 2016, the Group announced the launch of two further imprints: Pat-a-Cake, a pre-school and baby list, and Wren & Rook, a trade non-fiction list. Both will begin publishing in March 2017.

The Group's authors and illustrators include bestsellers Cressida Cowell, David Almond, Robert Muchamore, Mick Inkpen, David Melling, Frank Lampard, Jenny Colgan, Daisy Meadows, Adam Blade, Lauren Child, Rosie Banks, Neal Layton, Giles Andreae, Ally Carter, Teri Terry, Francesca Simon, Steve Backshall, Holly Black and Marcus Sedgwick. Website: [www.hachettechildrens.co.uk](http://www.hachettechildrens.co.uk)

**Peters Books and Furniture** offers a variety of services to support libraries, schools, nurseries and schemes. Website: [www.peters-books.co.uk](http://www.peters-books.co.uk)

**Awards website** - [www.sla.org.uk/information-book-award.php](http://www.sla.org.uk/information-book-award.php)

**NB** All shortlisted books receive acknowledgement and a prize certificate for their excellence in being shortlisted.

For more information please contact Tricia Adams, Director, School Library Association - [tricia.adams@sla.org.uk](mailto:tricia.adams@sla.org.uk), Tel: 07532 231946