



PRESS RELEASE – EMBARGOED UNTIL 7PM ON THURSDAY 5TH NOVEMBER

WINNERS ANNOUNCED FOR THE SCHOOL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION INFORMATION BOOK AWARD 2020

In partnership with their sponsors, **Hachette Children's Group**, the **School Library Association** announced the winners of the **School Library Association Information Book Award 2020** and the **Hachette Children's Group Award for Outstanding Contribution to Information Books** at a virtual award ceremony on 5th November.

For the Information Book Award 2020, the judges selected the following winners for each age category:

Age 7 and under: ***Heroes Who Help Us From Around the World***, by Liz Gogerly and Ryan Wheatcroft, published by Franklin Watts

Age 8 to 12: ***Africa, Amazing Africa***, by Atinuke (Author) and Mouni Feddag (Illustrator), published by Walker Books

Age 13 to 16: ***Black History Matters***, by Robin Walker, published by Franklin Watts

The overall winner chosen by the judges was ***Africa, Amazing Africa***, published by Walker.

Sadly, due to pressures caused in schools by the pandemic it was not possible to establish winners for the Children's Choice for 2020. However, the Children's Choice remains a vital part of the Award, and all schools which voted will receive a certificate to thank them for participating.

The event also revealed the winner of the **Hachette Children's Group Award for Outstanding Contribution to Information Books** as Mick Manning & Brita Granström – recognising a decades-long partnership which has enlightened and delighted readers of all ages. **Paul Rockett, Publisher for Franklin Watts and Wayland, says** "Mick and Brita have published over a wide range of topics including science, history, art, music, and biography. Their extensive work is warm, charming, beautiful, moving, often bringing in their own personal insights and experiences to topics which adds a big dose of humanity and makes the reader understand the tangible heritage and impact events and science have on us all. The relationship between the artwork and the text is impeccable, and feels inseparable – which is key to all successful illustrated non-fiction. Neither overwhelms the other and together they engage the reader fully. We are delighted to present them with this Award which recognises their impact on both children and the information book sector."

Margaret Pemberton, Chair of Judges commented: "We are delighted by the high quality of the books nominated this year. The winners in each category reflect the concerns prevalent at this time as well as reminding us of those people we depend on. There has been a shortage of books covering the African continent and our winning title is a perfect introduction to the variety and complexity of life in this vibrant group of nations."

Alison Tarrant, CEO of the SLA said: "I am delighted that the Information Book Award has been able to go ahead this year despite the difficult situation. The shortlist and winners deserve all congratulations for the exceptional books produced which I know will delight and inform children across the nation for years to come. I would also like to give a special thanks to our judges this year; they have proven themselves to be dedicated and have worked on the IBA throughout school closures, service changes and done it all entirely online. Special thanks also go to Hachette Children's Group and Peters for continuing to support the Award this year; without this support the Award would not be possible. Thank you."

Hilary Murray Hill, CEO, Hachette Children's Group says:

"On behalf of the Hachette Children's Group, I am delighted to sponsor the SLA Information Book Awards and celebrate the essential work done by librarians, as well as the breadth and imagination of contemporary non-fiction publishing. I want to congratulate all the authors and illustrators on the 2020 shortlist, and the information professionals. Their work is encouraging, motivating, informing and inspiring a generation of children as they negotiate the choppy waters of the pandemic."

Many congratulations to all our shortlisted authors, illustrators and publishers. To celebrate Award this year 20 category shortlist packs will be given out to schools. To find out more follow the School Library Association on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn or Instagram.

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For more information please contact Alison Tarrant, Chief Executive, School Library Association: email: alison.tarrant@sla.org.uk Tel: 01793 530166

The **SLA Information Book Award has been running for ten years.** It is an annual event celebrating information books, and is designed to support school libraries and to reinforce the importance of non-fiction whilst highlighting the high standard of resources available.

Award website: www.sla.org.uk/information-book-award

About the School Library Association

The School Library Association is an independent charity that believes that 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.

www.sla.org.uk

About the Award sponsors

The School Library Association is grateful for sponsorship from Hachette Children's Group and support from Peters to make this award possible. The SLA Information Book Award is run entirely on sponsorship kindly donated by friends and supporters of the Award. The cost of the judging, prizes for the winners and the final award ceremony must be covered by the sponsors' donations.

About Hachette Children's Group

Hachette Children's Group is one of the largest children's publishers in the UK, with an excellent track record in creating bestselling and award-winning books for children.

The Group aims to cater for every child, with baby and pre-school books, picture books, gift, fiction, non-fiction, series fiction, books for the school and library market and licensed publishing and comprises the imprints Hodder Children's Books, Orchard Books, Orion Children's Books, Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, Quercus Children's Books, Pat-a-Cake, Wren & Rook, Franklin Watts and Wayland Books.

The Group publishes a wide range of authors, illustrators, series and licenses including: Cressida Cowell, Kes Gray, Jim Field, Jessica Townsend, Onjali Raúf, Kiran Millwood Hargrave, Matthew Syed, Bryony Gordon, David Almond, Lauren Child, Patrice Lawrence, Dermot O'Leary, Francesca Simon, Alex T. Smith, Zanib Mian, Nadiya Hussain, Giles Andreae, Piers Torday, Rainbow Magic, Beast Quest and Pokémon.

Hachette Children's Group is also the publisher of author Enid Blyton, and the owner of Enid Blyton Entertainment.

hachettechildrens.co.uk
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About Peters

Peters is the UK's leading specialist book supplier to schools, academies, public libraries and school library services. Peters believe all children and young people should have access to great books, as well as inspiring spaces to enjoy them in. They are passionate about inspiring children to read – whatever their age.

"With over eight decades of experience, and an unwavering passion for books, reading and learning, at Peters we believe we offer the all-around services our customers require.

We have a team of Librarians and Curriculum Specialists who read and review every single book we hold in stock and can pick out a selection of relevant books for customers prior to a visit, or put together a bespoke order as part of our bespoke selections service.

Our unrivalled showroom in central Birmingham holds over 40,000 individual fiction and non-fiction children's titles from board books to teen and adult titles, covering all publishers under one roof. We also have a unique Renaissance Accelerated Reader™ display area housing over 11,000 AR quizzed titles, a book banded titles display area as well as a furniture showroom showcasing the perfect additions to any reading space."

Peters are proud sponsors of the Great School Libraries campaign and are the official book suppliers for the Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Awards and the Read for Empathy book collections.

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