

# The Branford Boase Award



**\*\* UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 28 JANUARY 2021 \*\***

## **PATIENCE AGBABI, DARREN CHARLTON AND JENNY PEARSON AMONGST AUTHORS IN CONTENTION FOR THE 2021 BRANFORD BOASE AWARD**

### **Longlist for the 2021 Branford Boase Award announced**

[www.branfordboaseaward.org.uk](http://www.branfordboaseaward.org.uk) / #BBA2021

The longlist for the **2021 Branford Boase Award** is announced today (Thursday 28 January 2021). 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. 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** 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, edited by Katie Jennings (Stripes)

**Tiger Heart** by Penny Chrimes, edited by Lena McCauley (Orion)

**Boy, Everywhere** by A.M. Dassu, edited by Emma Roberts (Old Barn Books)

**The Good Hawk** by Joseph Elliott, edited by Annalie Grainger & Megan Middleton (Walker)

**When Life Gives You Mangoes** by Kereen Getten, edited by Sarah Odedina (Pushkin Press)

**A Clock of Stars: The Shadow Moth** 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** by Finbar Hawkins, edited by Fiona Kennedy (Head of Zeus)

**And the Stars were Burning Brightly** by Danielle Jawando, edited by Jane Griffiths (Simon and Schuster)

**The Wild Way Home** by Sophie Kirtley, edited by Lucy Mackay-Sim (Bloomsbury)

**The Wolf Road** 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** 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 Sumberac

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

**The Super Miraculous Journey of Freddie Yates** by Jenny Pearson, 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** by Jenni Spangler, edited by Jane Griffiths (Simon and Schuster), illus Chris Mould

**The Unadoptables** 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](http://TheReaderTeacher.com); **Natasha Radford** of **Chicken and Frog** bookshop, Brentwood; and **Liz Hyder**, 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 2021. The winner will be announced on 15 July, COVID-19 rules permitting, at an award ceremony in London.

The **Henrietta Branford Writing Competition**, the annual competition for young people which runs in conjunction with the **Branford Boase Award**, will open on Monday 1 February 2021.

For further information please contact Andrea Reece on 07807893369 or [andrea.reece@zen.co.uk](mailto:andrea.reece@zen.co.uk)

#### Notes to Editors:

The annual **Branford Boase Award** celebrates the most promising book for seven-year-olds and upwards written by a first-time novelist and also highlights the importance of the editor in the development of new authors. The shortlisted authors may have published other books in another genre – for example, poetry or a picture book – but eligibility for the prize requires that this is their first children’s novel.

As well as encouraging publishers to find and promote new writers, the Award sets out to alert readers of all ages to the work of interesting newcomers.

The **Branford Boase Award** was set up in 2000 in memory of the outstanding and prize-winning author **Henrietta Branford** and **Wendy Boase**, editorial director and one of the founders of Walker Books. They worked together on a number of Henrietta’s novels, a partnership they greatly enjoyed. Both Henrietta and Wendy died of cancer in 1999.

Running alongside the Branford Boase Award, the **Henrietta Branford Writing Competition** encourages writing talent in under 18s.

The Award is the joint idea of **Julia Eccleshare** and **Anne Marley**. Julia is children’s director of the Hay Festival and a regular contributor to **Radio 4’s Front Row** and **Open Book** programmes. Anne was Head of Children’s, Youth & Schools Services for **Hampshire Library & Information Service** for many years. She has served on numerous children’s book award panels, including the **CILIP Carnegie & Kate Greenaway Awards**.

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

The **2020 Branford Boase Award** was won by Liz Hyder and her editor Sarah Odedina with **Bearmouth** (Pushkin Press).

For more information about the award, including a full list of past winners, and the Henrietta Branford Writing Competition visit [www.branfordboaseaward.org.uk](http://www.branfordboaseaward.org.uk) .

Or contact Andrea Reece on 07807893369 or [andrea.reece@zen.co.uk](mailto:andrea.reece@zen.co.uk)

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