

The Branford Boase Award



**** UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 8.00 AM WEDNESDAY 26 JANUARY 2022 ****

Longlist for the 2022 Branford Boase Award announced with record number of entries

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The longlist for the **2022 Branford Boase Award** is announced today (Wednesday 26 January 2022). 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.

This year a record number of books were submitted: 69 in total and from 30 publishers. These include own voice novels **Rapids** by Anna Bowles and **The Amazing Edie Eckhart** by Rosie Jones; **Maggie Blue and the Dark World** by Anna Goodall and **The Boy who Made Everyone Laugh** by Helen Rutter, both shortlisted for the **Costa Children's Book Award**; and Femi Fadugba's time-travel thriller **The Upper World**, currently in the works at Netflix. Amongst editors in the running are Fiona Kennedy, who won the inaugural prize in 2001 and is now up for a third award; Bella Pearson, also a two times winner though sharing the honours both times previously with David Fickling; and Usborne's Rebeca Hill and Becky Walker who have both been shortlisted three times in the last four years, winning in 2018.

The 2022 Branford Boase Award longlist in full:

Ace of Spades by Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé, edited by Becky Walker (Usborne)
Skin of the Sea by Natasha Bowen, edited by Carmen McCullough and Tricia Lin (Penguin)
Rapids by Anna Bowles, edited by Elaine Bousfield (Zuntold)
Love is for Losers by Wibke Bruegemann, edited by Rachel Petty (Macmillan)
Freddy vs School by Neill Cameron, edited by Anthony Hinton (David Fickling Books)

Danny Chung Does Not Do Maths by Maisie Chan, edited by Georgia Murray (Piccadilly Press)

The Girl Who ... by Andreina Cordani, edited by Olivia Hutchings (Atom)

Me, My Dad, and the End of the Rainbow by Benjamin Dean, edited by Lucy Rogers (Simon and Schuster)

The Upper World by Femi Fadugba, edited by Emma Jones, Stephanie Stein & Asmaa Isse (Penguin)

The Book of Stolen Dreams by David Farr, edited by Rebecca Hill (Usborne)

29 Locks by Nicola Garrard, edited by Joan Deitch (Hope Road)

Maggie Blue and the Dark World by Anna Goodall, edited by Bella Pearson (Guppy Books)

Circus Maximus Race to the Death by Annalise Gray, edited by Fiona Kennedy (Zephyr)

Emmy Levels Up by Helen Harvey edited by Clare Whitson (OUP)

The Amazing Edie Eckhart by Rosie Jones, edited by Polly Lyall Grant (Hodder Children's Books), illus by Natalie Smillie

The Hatmakers by Tamzin Merchant, edited by Natalie Doherty (Puffin)

Grow by Luke Palmer, edited by Penny Thomas (Firefly Press)

The Valley of Lost Secrets by Lesley Parr, edited by Zöe Griffiths (Bloomsbury)

The Peculiar Tale of the Tentacle Boy by Richard Pickard, edited by Kesia Lupo (Chicken House)

Digger and Me by Ros Roberts, edited by Ella Whiddett and Ruth Bennett (Little Tiger)

The Boy who Made Everyone Laugh by Helen Rutter, edited by Lauren Fortune (Scholastic)

Grimwood by Nadia Shireen, edited by Ali Dougal (Simon and Schuster)

Something I Said by Ben Bailey Smith, edited by Ellen Holgate (Bloomsbury)

The Ice Whisperers by Helenka Stachera, edited by Emma Jones (Puffin)

The Lightning Catcher by Clare Weze, edited by Lucy Mackay-Sim (Bloomsbury)

This year the judges are Struan Murray, author and winner of the **2021 Branford Boase Award**; critic Imogen Russell Williams; Farrah Serroukh, Research and Development Director **CLPE**; and Sonia Thompson, Head Teacher at St Matthew's C.E. Primary School, Birmingham. The judging panel will be chaired by Julia Eccleshare, children's director of the Hay Festival.

Julia Eccleshare says, 'We are thrilled to announce record numbers of entries for the **2022 Branford Boase Award** and excited that our longlist reflects the current dynamic state of publishing for children in the UK. The pace of change in children's books since the creation of the **Branford Boase Award** has been phenomenal and once again, we find debut authors covering new territory, encouraged and supported by their editors. We are pleased too to see independent publishers Guppy Books, Hope Road and Zuntold represented for the first time. As ever, our judges bring a wealth of experience, and we are looking forward to what is certain to be a very lively discussion at the shortlisting meeting.'

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

The **shortlist** for the Award will be announced on Thursday 28 April 2022. The winner will be announced on 14 July 2022 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 7 February 2022.

For further information please contact Andrea Reece on 07807893369 or 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 **2021 Branford Boase Award** was won by Struan Murray and his editor Ben Horslen with **Orphans of the Tide** (Puffin).

For more information about the award, including a full list of past winners, and the Henrietta Branford Writing Competition visit

www.branfordboaseaward.org.uk .

Or contact Andrea Reece on 07807893369 or andrea.reece@zen.co.uk

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