

# The Branford Boase Award



**\*\* UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 8.30 AM WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2023 \*\***

**“Contemporary children’s publishing at its best”**

**Longlist announced for the 2023 Branford Boase Award for outstanding debut novel for children**

[www.branfordboaseaward.org.uk](http://www.branfordboaseaward.org.uk) / #BBA2023 #BranfordBoaseAward

The longlist for the **2023 Branford Boase Award** is announced today (Wednesday 25 January 2023). 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 the year’s 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**, **Frank Cottrell Boyce** and **Patrick Ness** as well as **Frances Hardinge**, **Philip Reeve** and most recently **Maisie Chan**. Uniquely, the **Branford Boase Award** also honours the editor of the winning title and highlights the importance of the editor in nurturing new talent.

For the third year running over 60 books were submitted and from 28 different publishers. The longlist of 21 features fantasy novels, including bestseller **Skandar and the Unicorn Thief** by A.F. Steadman, edited by Ali Dougal; accomplished coming-of-age YA novels; a Georgian-era crime adventure; and **The Extraordinary Adventures of Alice Tonks** by Emily Kenny, edited by Katie Jennings, longlisted for the new **Adrien Prize** for novels giving a positive portrayal of a character with a disability.

**The 2023 Branford Boase Award longlist in full:**

**The Bones of Me** by Kel Duckhouse, edited by Harriet Birkinshaw (Flying Eye Books)

**The Eternal Return of Clara Hart** by Louise Finch, edited by Siobhàn Parkinson (Little Island Books)

**Running Out of Time** by Simon Fox, edited by Tom Bonnick (Nosy Crow)

**The Spectaculars** by Jodie Garnish, edited by Becky Walker and Alice Moloney (Usborne)

**The Miraculous Sweetmakers** by Natasha Hastings, edited by Michelle Misra (HarperCollins Children’s Books), illustrated by Alex T. Smith

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**The Whisperling** by Hayley Hoskins, edited by Katie Sinfield (Puffin)  
**Wishes Come in Threes** by Andy Jones, edited by Non Pratt (Walker Books)  
**The Extraordinary Adventures of Alice Tonks** by Emily Kenny, edited by Katie Jennings (Rock the Boat)  
**Seed** by Caryl Lewis, edited by Sarah Hughes (Macmillan Children's Books), illustrated by George Ermos  
**Rebel Skies** by Ann Sei Linn, edited by Gráinne Clear (Walker Books)  
**Mia and the Lightcasters** by Janelle McCurdy, edited by Leah Thaxton (Faber)  
**Hedgewitch** by Skye McKenna, edited by Felicity Alexander (Welbeck Flame)  
**Rapunzella, or Don't Touch My Black Hair** by Ella McLeod, edited by Yasmin Morrissey and Genevieve Herr (Scholastic)  
**The Cats We Meet Along the Way** by Nadia Mikail, edited by Bella Pearson (Guppy Books)  
**The Bird Singers** by Eve Wersocki Morris, edited by Jenna Mackintosh (Hodder Children's Books)  
**Ellie Pillai is Brown** by Christine Pillainayagam, edited by Leah Thaxton (Faber)  
**The Haunting of Tyrese Walker** by J.P. Rose, edited by Chloe Sackur (Andersen Press)  
**If You Still Recognise Me** by Cynthia So, edited by Mattie Whitehead and Ella Whiddett (Little Tiger)  
**Skandar and the Unicorn Thief** by A.F. Steadman, edited by Ali Dougal (Simon and Schuster)  
**The Map of Leaves** by Yarrow Townsend, edited by Rachel Leyshon (Chicken House)  
**The Lizzie and Belle Mysteries** by J.T. Williams, edited by Liz Bankes and Aleena Hasan (Farshore)

Chair of the judges and co-founder of the **Branford Boase Award**, **Julia Eccleshare** says, "Now in its third decade, the **Branford Boase Award** highlights the most exciting new authors for children, but it also reflects the current complexion of literature for young people. We are excited that this year's longlist includes such a wide variety of voices, of subjects and themes, representing contemporary children's publishing at its best."

This year's judges are Maisie Chan, author and winner of the **2022 Branford Boase Award**; critic Joanne Owen; Darren Matthews, Primary Advisory Teacher at the **Centre for Literacy in Primary Education**; and Sajeda Amir, English teacher and KS3 coordinator at Levenshulme High School, Manchester. The judging panel will be chaired by Julia Eccleshare, children's director of the Hay Festival.

The Branford Boase Award is delivered in partnership with the [Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society \(ALCS\)](#) and supported by Walker Books.

The **shortlist** for the Award will be announced on Thursday 27 April 2023. The winner will be announced on 13 July 2023 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 Tuesday 7 February 2023.

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**.

### About the Authors’ Licensing and Collecting Society



**The Authors’ Licensing and Collecting Society (ALCS)** is a not-for-profit organisation started by writers for the benefit of all types of writers. Owned by its members, ALCS collects money due for secondary uses of writers’ work. It is designed to support authors and their creativity; ensure they receive fair payment and see their rights are respected. It promotes and teaches the principles of copyright and campaigns for a fair deal. It represents over 118,000 members, and since 1977 has paid over £600million to writers.

For more information visit [alcs.co.uk](http://alcs.co.uk)

### About Walker Books

The **Walker Books Group** is one of the world’s leading independent publishers of books and content for children. This vibrant international group includes **Walker Books UK**, London; **Candlewick Press**, Somerville, Massachusetts; and **Walker Books Australia**, based in Sydney and Auckland.

Renowned for its truly original publishing and outstanding quality, the **Walker Books Group** is home to books for readers of all ages. Award-winning authors and

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illustrators for the group include National Ambassador for Children's Literature, Kate DiCamillo, M.T Anderson, Patrick Ness, and Jon Klassen, and major brands for the group are **Maisy**, **Guess How Much I Love You**, **Tilly and Friends**, the widely acclaimed **Judy Moody** and the bestselling **Where's Wally/Where's Waldo**.

The **2022 Branford Boase Award** was won by Maisie Chan and her editor Georgia Murray with **Danny Chung Does Not Do Maths** (Piccadilly 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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