

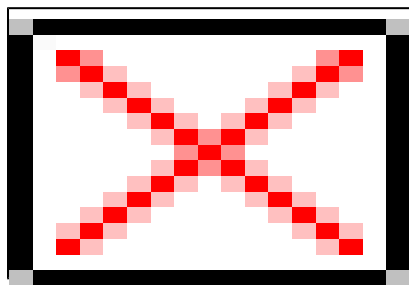


The Children's Book Award 2019

Earlier this month, Arree Chung was named overall winner of *The Children's Book Award* 2019. His book *Mixed*, which he wrote and illustrated, also won the *Books for Younger Children* category before going on to win the overall prize.

Armistice Runner by author Tom Palmer won the *Books for Older Readers* category and *The Dog Who Lost His Bark*, written by Eoin Colfer and illustrated by PJ Lynch was the *Books for Younger Readers* category winner.

Publishers, children, friends and members of the FCBG and headline sponsor BookLife celebrated the Children's Book Award 2019 ceremony at the Copthorne Tara Hotel in London. **Kate Poels** reports:



There was an excellent turnout for The Children's Book Award with all but one of our shortlisted books represented by the author, illustrator or in some cases both.

Children from many of our testing groups came from across the country to meet the writers and illustrators of the books they'd chosen as their top picks of 2019. They had the opportunity to chat with their book heroes and have their books signed.

Sarah McIntyre was our master of ceremonies and entertained everyone with a look at her new book **Grumpycorn**. She also gave us a lesson in how to draw a unicorn wearing a crazy hat and the children and adults alike threw themselves into their own versions with great gusto.

Each Top 10 author and illustrator was presented with a portfolio of work created by the children, and these went down as well as always with the recipients keen to see the pictures, letters and other inventive ways the children had come up with to express how much they loved the books.

With much excitement our first group of children came up to award the prize for the winner of the **Books For Young Children** category.

The shortlist was:

What Do You Do If Your House Is A Zoo? by John Kelly and Steph Laberis, Little Tiger

Mixed by Arree Chung, Macmillan Children's Books

The Wondrous Dinosaurium by John Condon and Steve Brown, Maverick

The Last Chip, by Duncan Beedie, Templar

And the winner is **Mixed** written and illustrated by Arree Chung, a wonderfully colourful book about diversity,

inclusion and living together. When we asked Arree how he felt about winning this category he told us, "It feels amazing because this award I know is voted solely by the kids and it means so much to know that all age groups have loved the book."

Next was the **Books for Younger Readers** category.

Shortlisted were:

Funny Kid Stand Up by Matt Stanton, HarperCollins Children's Books

Mr Penguin and the Fortress of Secrets by Alex.T. Smith, Hodder Children's Books

The Dog Who Lost His Bark, by Eoin Colfer and P.J Lynch, Walker Books

And the winner is **The Dog Who Lost His Bark** written by Eoin Colfer and illustrated by P.J Lynch, a heart-warming story about a boy, his dog and the power of music. Eoin was unable to attend the ceremony but we were able to catch up with P.J and find out what the award meant to him. "It meant everything to me today to win the award and I know it will go to Eoin too. **The Children's Book Award**, for illustrators and writers, is one of the most valued book awards because it's voted for by kids."

So to the **Books For Older Readers** category. Shortlisted were:

Armistice Runner by Tom Palmer, Barrington Stoke

[The Light Jar](#) [1], by Lisa Thompson, Scholastic

[The Stormkeeper's Island](#) [2] by Catherine Doyle, Bloomsbury

And the winner is **Armistice Runner** by Tom Palmer, a moving story about generations of one family from WW1 to the modern day, united by a love of fell running. Tom spoke to us about the impact this award will have on his writing, "It will impact my writing because believing in yourself can be hard. Where else do you get confidence from? It's the readers. And if the readers like **Armistice Runner** enough then I have a new self-belief which is amazing so thank you."

With three such wonderful category winners it was difficult to predict which of the books would go on to be this year's overall winner. But the prize for the book the children voted for as their 2019 **FCBG Children's Book Award** champion went to **Mixed** and Arree Chung who was awarded the much-coveted silver oak tree.

Previous winners of this very special award include Michael Morpurgo, J.K.Rowling, Andy Stanton and Antony Horowitz so Arree is in very good company.

The **FCBG Children's Book Award** is the only award in Britain where the children are in charge of the voting right from the very first step. Between them they vote for approximately 800 different titles over the course of a year. It's these votes that decide which titles go into the Top 50 Picks of the Year and ultimately which will be shortlisted. Then it's over to the children again to pick which they want to see as their winners. Roughly 100,000 votes a year are cast so to make the grade in their eyes is high praise indeed!

To find out more about this year's top picks, shortlist and winners then do look at the [CBA website](#) [3]. You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter @cbacoordinator

Source URL (retrieved on Sep '20): <http://www.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/news/the-childrens-book-award-2019>

Links:

[1] <http://www.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/228/childrens-books/reviews/the-light-jar>

[2] <http://www.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/231/childrens-books/articles/featured-author/an-interview-with-catherine-doyle>

[3] <http://www.childrensbookaward.org.uk>