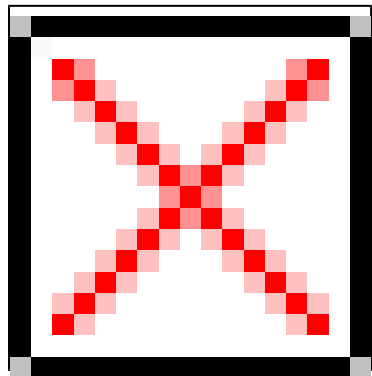




THE LITTLE REBELS AWARD SHORTLIST 2019



The shortlist for the **2019 Little Rebels Award** has been announced. Seven books have made the list with war and conflict recurring themes.

This is the seventh year of the **Little Rebels Award** which recognises fiction for ages 0-12 which promotes or celebrates social justice and equality. It is run by booksellers Housmans Bookshop and Letterbox Library and is awarded by the Alliance of Radical Booksellers (ARB).

Independent publishers figure strongly on the shortlist, including Hope Road and Lantana Publishing. Anne Booth makes her second **Little Rebels Award** appearance ([Girl With A White Dog](#) [1] was shortlisted in 2015) and former **Little Rebels Award** judge, Catherine Johnson, is shortlisted for her historical fiction novel, **Freedom**, an account of the UK's role in the slave trade which takes the 1781 Zong Massacre as its cue.

The full **Little Rebels Award 2019** shortlist is:

[Across the Divide](#) [2] by Anne Booth, Catnip Publishing

Freedom by Catherine Johnson, Scholastic

The Ghost and Jamal by Bridget Blankley, Hope Road Publishing

The King Who Banned the Dark by Emily Haworth-Booth, Pavilion Children's Books

The New Neighbours by Sarah McIntyre, David Fickling Books

[Running on Empty](#) [3] by S E Durrant, Nosy Crow

Tomorrow by Nadine Kaadaan, Lantana Publishing

Fen Coles, Co-Director of [Letterbox Library](#) [4], said of the shortlist: 'From a king who bans the dark to a tower block community fearful of the ratty (!) newcomers, the **Little Rebels Award** shortlist demonstrates again that weighty topical themes can be brought to the youngest minds in ways which are playful, provocative, thoughtful and fun. Social divisions, conflict, the rise in far right parties and ideologies, threats to democratic rule as well as very home grown human rights abuses such as the Windrush scandal are all 'live' topics which children are hearing about through ubiquitous social media. The **Little Rebels** titles continue to offer young people and children texts to help them navigate, question and make sense of the fractured world which surrounds them?.'

This year's judges are author Patrice Lawrence; Emily Drabble, Head of Children's Book Promotions/Prizes at BookTrust; B.J. Epstein, Senior Lecturer at the University of East Anglia; Darren Chetty, Teacher, Writer, Researcher;

Shaun Dellenty, Trainer in LGBT+ inclusive education.

The winner of this year's Little Rebels Award will be announced on July 10th at an award ceremony at the **Centre for Literacy in Primary Education**.

Source URL (retrieved on Aug '19): <http://www.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/news/the-little-rebels-award-shortlist-2019>

Links:

- [1] <http://www.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/206/childrens-books/reviews/girl-with-a-white-dog>
- [2] <http://www.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/232/childrens-books/reviews/across-the-divide>
- [3] <http://www.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/229/childrens-books/reviews/running-on-empty>
- [4] <https://www.letterboxlibrary.com/>