



PRESS RELEASE

22 January 2019

Derby Book Festival launches Children's Picture Book Award

A new Children's Picture Book Award has been launched by Derby Book Festival to celebrate picture books that children can relate to and in which the diversity and challenges of modern life are represented.

The Festival, which will be held for the fifth time in 2019 from 31 May to 8 June, has invited children's publishers to submit up to three books, published in 2018, which meet these criteria. Over 20 books were submitted by the closing date of 31 December 2018 and nine books have been selected for the longlist (see Appendix for books and authors).

The Award, which we will run as a pilot in 2019, will involve Derby school teachers in the selection of books for the shortlist. Children in six schools will then read the shortlisted books and vote for their favourite, which will be announced at the 2019 Derby Book Festival.

The Award will be sponsored by local businesswoman, Deborah Fern: "I'm delighted to continue my support of Derby Book Festival; this award for me is particularly exciting. Imagine being a child, opening the page of a book and finding yourself within the pages. Their imagination stirred – the beginning of a lifetime of enhanced reading for pleasure and learning. I hope both the teachers and the children enjoy being involved. I can't wait to see which books they choose."

The idea for the Award came from Di Smith, a Literacy Consultant in the city who works with the Festival in organising the annual Meet the Author events for schools. Di explained: "There has been a lot of discussion in the publishing world about the lack of representation of ethnically diverse characters in children's books. A recent report from the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education has revealed that only 1% of children's books have black and

minority-ethnic (BAME) main characters. Derby is a diverse city with a significantly higher number of BAME residents than the national average (19.7% compared to 14.6%) so we hope the Award helps to encourage more authors to produce books to redress this imbalance.”

Derby Book Festival has always included a strong programme of events for children, families and schools. Each year every Derby primary school is invited to bring a group of children to two Meet the Author events held at Derby Theatre (with a capacity of 550). The events inspire children in their love of reading by giving them the chance to hear and meet their favourite authors. In previous years authors have included Sir Michael Morpurgo, Lauren Child, Sarah McIntyre, Philip Reeve and poet Rachel Rooney. In 2019 the primary schools’ events will include poet Joseph Coelho and Jeanne Willis.

The Festival is chaired by Liz Fothergill, who is also Chairman of Pennine Healthcare. Liz said: “The Festival aims to celebrate the joy of books and reading. We want children in Derby to be inspired by books, to discover different worlds and better understand their own. The Children’s Picture Book Award aims to do just that.”

Derby Book Festival will include over 90 events aimed at all ages and interests. Tickets for all events will be on sale on 10 April, when the programme is officially launched at a special *Derby Reads* event in QUAD. Tickets will be available online from the Festival website: www.derbybookfestival.co.uk or in person from the Festival Box Office at QUAD and other venues.

To find out more, visit the Festival website and sign up for more information. You can also follow the Festival on Twitter at: @DerbyBookFest and ‘like’ the Festival on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/derbybookfestival

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For further press information, please contact:

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Notes to editors:

The fifth Derby Book Festival will again feature internationally acclaimed authors and celebrate local writing talent with the aim of bringing Derby's residents together in a love of books and inspiring new readers to appreciate the pleasure and power of reading.

The nine day Festival programme will again include a broad range of events and activities aimed at all ages and interests children's activities and book related crafts, to author talks, discussions, live performances, films, Masterclasses for budding writers and the annual Book Quiz.

The Festival is organised in partnership with all the major arts, cultural and educational partners in the city: Déda, Derby Cathedral, Derby City Council, Derby College, Derby LIVE, Derby Museum & Art Gallery, Derby Theatre, intu, Marketing Derby, QUAD, University of Derby and Waterstones, who will all be hosting events.

Appendix 1

Derby Children's Picture Book Award 2019

Longlist

The following books have been longlisted for the Award:

A Kid in My Class- Rachel Rooney and Chris Riddell

Nimesh the Adventurer by Mehrdokht Amini

The Girls by Jenny Lovlie

The Only Way is Badger by Stella J Jones and Carmen Saldana

The New Neighbours by Sarah McIntyre

There's Room for Everyone by Anahita Teymorian

Ruby's Worry by Tom Percival

Welcome to Our World by Harriet Lynas

Wisp by Zana Fraillon and Graham Baker- Smith