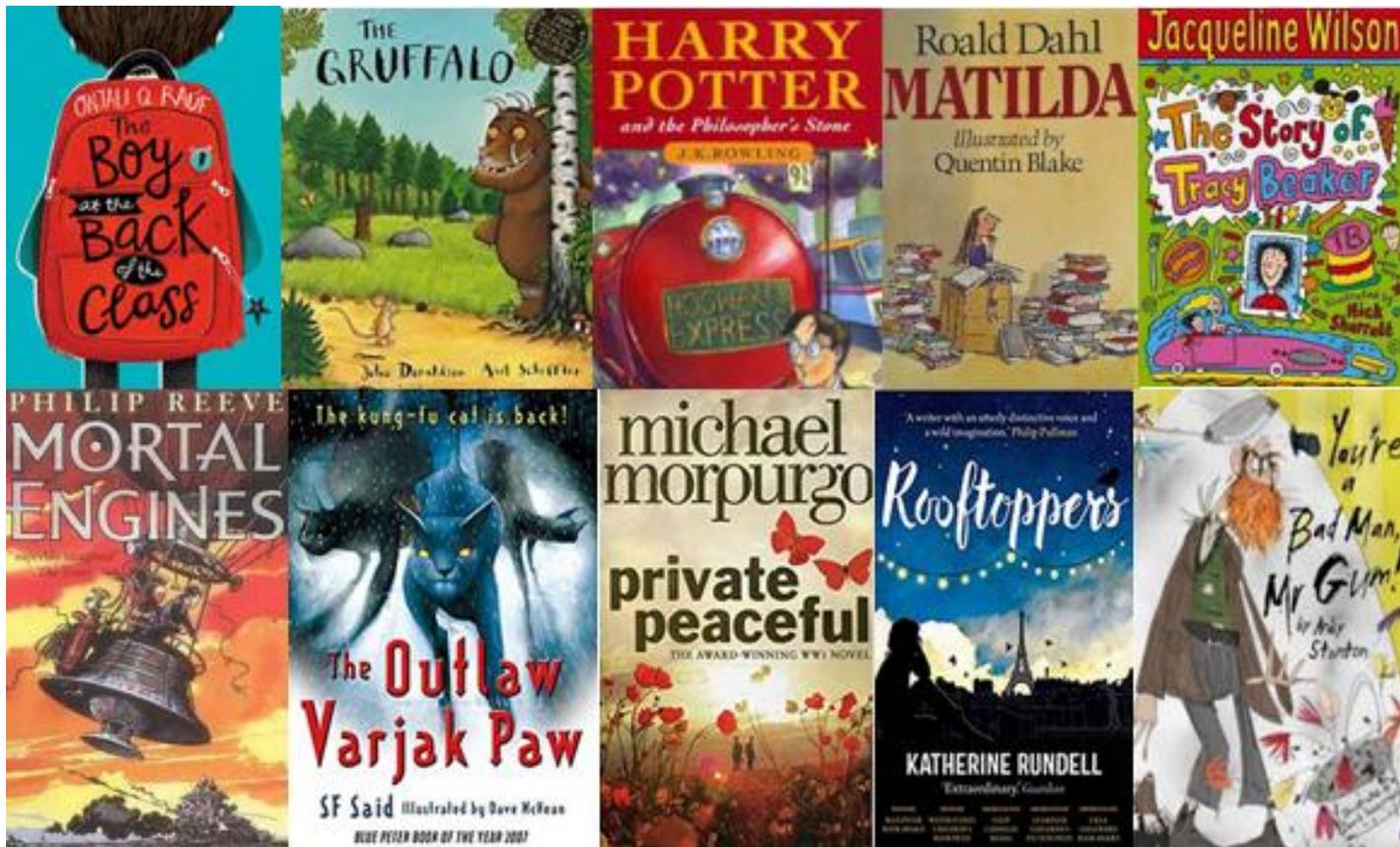


Embargo: Thursday 20th February 2020 at 00:01

20 years of favourite children's books – time to pick a winner!

Blue Peter and BookTrust celebrate 20 years of amazing children's books

Blue Peter, in partnership with [BookTrust](#), the UK's largest children's reading charity, will celebrate 20 years of brilliant children's books by asking the audience to vote for their favourite Blue Peter Book Award winning title from the last two decades.



From a sensational top ten shortlist of previous Blue Peter Book Award winners children from across the UK will have the opportunity to choose their favourite title on the CBBC website. The results will be announced alongside the winners of the 2020 Awards live on Blue Peter's World Book Day special, on Thursday 5th March 2020 at 5.30pm on CBBC.

The shortlist features some of the biggest names in children's literature. Only one will be crowned the winner and receive an exclusive trophy.

The shortlisted books are:

- The Boy at the Back of the Class – Onjali Q. Raúf
- The Gruffalo – Julia Donaldson, illustrated by Axel Scheffler
- Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone – J. K. Rowling
- Matilda – Roald Dahl, illustrated by Quentin Blake
- Mortal Engines - Philip Reeve
- The Outlaw Varjak Paw – SF Said, illustrated by Dave McKean
- Private Peaceful – Michael Morpurgo
- Rooftoppers – Katherine Rundell
- The Story of Tracy Beaker - Jacqueline Wilson, illustrated by Nick Sharratt
- You’re a Bad Man, Mr Gum – Andy Stanton

VOTE OPENS: Thursday 20th February 2020 at 17:00 GMT

VOTE CLOSSES: Monday 2nd March 2020 at 12:00 GMT

The shortlist was created by a panel of 20 experts who have previously been involved with the awards, including Kirsten Grant, Director of World Book Day, Jim Sells, Programme Manager at National Literacy Trust and Florentyna Martin, Children’s Book Buyer at Waterstones, who voted to select their favourite titles from all the winners from the last 20 years.

Blue Peter Editor, Ellen Evans, says:

“I am really excited about the 20th Anniversary of the Blue Peter book awards. It’s brilliant to look back at the amazing titles and authors and illustrators that the awards have celebrated. I hope the 10 that are shortlisted give kids some great ideas about books they might want to read, and I can’t wait to see which is their favourite.”

Voting is via the CBBC website at bbc.co.uk/bluepeter

Blue Peter is live on CBBC on Thursdays at 5.30pm.

Keep up-to-date with the Awards at www.booktrust.org.uk/bluepeter and on Twitter by following @Booktrust and #BPBA

[Ends]

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Notes to Editors

Blue Peter is the longest running children’s magazine programme in the world. As well as the Book Awards, the show’s family of presenters, live studio home, amazing competitions, incredible challenges, live music, interviews with celebrities, access behind the scenes, pets, makes and



bakes, free games online and most importantly its commitment to the audience are all long standing elements of this iconic show. www.bbc.co.uk/bluepeter

About BookTrust

BookTrust is dedicated to getting children reading because we know that children who read are happier, healthier, more empathetic and more creative. Their early language development is supported and they also do better at school.

We are the UK's largest children's reading charity; each year we reach 3.9 million children across the UK with books, resources and support to help develop a love of reading, because we know that reading can transform lives.

We work with a variety of partners to get children excited about books, rhymes and stories, because if reading is fun, children will want to do it. Our books are delivered via health, library, schools and early years practitioners, and are supported with guidance, advice and resources to encourage the reading habit. booktrust.org.uk