

Embargo: Thursday 5th November 2020 at 18:00

Detectives, Discoveries and incredible people from history make the line-up as the 2021 Blue Peter Book Awards contenders are revealed



5 November 2020 – Today, [BookTrust](#), the UK's largest children's reading charity reveals the six shortlisted titles for the 2021 Blue Peter Book Awards.

Discovering what makes a rainbow shine and what a day in the life of a hiccup is like, exploring what it means to be different, standing up for what you believe in, laugh out loud humour, learning astonishing facts about the evolution of Homo sapiens in Africa and the ancient civilisations of the world, and a kaleidoscopic selection of inventors from all over the world: the 2021 Blue Peter Book Awards shortlist has all of this and more. Competing for the chance to be crowned **Best Story** is *A Kind of Spark* by Elle McNicoll, *Life of Riley: Beginner's Luck* by Simon James Green, illustrated by Alexei Bitskoff and *Anisha, Accidental Detective: School's Cancelled!* by Serena Patel, illustrated by Emma McCann. Meanwhile, fighting it out for the **Best Book with Facts** title is *The Humans* by Jonny Marx, illustrated by Charlie Davis, *A Day in the Life of a Poo, a Gnu and You* by Mike Barfield, illustrated by Jess Bradley and *Inventors* by Professor Robert Winston, illustrated by Jessamy Hake.

Serena Patel, Author of Anisha, Accidental Detective said: "I am delighted and honoured to have been shortlisted for the Blue Peter Book Awards. I loved watching Blue Peter as a child and now my own children love it too, so to have my book recognised in this way is an absolute thrill and career highlight."



Diana Gerald, CEO, BookTrust said: “BookTrust is delighted to be involved in the Blue Peter Book Awards and what a fantastic shortlist we have this year. These books are helping children to be inspired, creative and encourage different ways of thinking and discovering stories and we can’t wait to find out who will be crowned the winners of Best Story and Best Book with Facts.”

The immensely popular Blue Peter Book Awards honour amazing authors, imaginative illustrators and the best books for children, published in the last 12 months. The awards are rigorously judged by school children across the country. This year over 200 schools applied to be a part of the judging process. The winning titles, voted for by over 200 children from 12 schools across the UK, will be revealed live on Blue Peter on World Book Day on Thursday 4th March 2021 with the winning authors and illustrators appearing on the special awards episode of the show.

Jessamy Hake, illustrator of Inventors said: “I’m delighted that ‘Inventors’ has been shortlisted: I loved illustrating such an interesting range of famous and less well-known inventors, along with their fascinating inventions.”

Blue Peter Editor Ellen Evans said: “It’s so exciting to read these books shortlisted for the 2021 Blue Peter Book Awards. Blue Peter inspires the next generation of climate champions, scientists, artists, chefs, explorers, athletes and performers and so much more. It is fitting that this year’s fiction titles are all, in different ways, about kids finding their voice, while our books with facts encourage kids to find out about the world and fulfil their potential, just like Blue Peter has for more than 60 years. On Blue Peter it’s kids’ opinions and ideas that matter most to us, so now it’s over to our young judges in schools to decide on the two winning titles. I am looking forward to March 2021 and discovering who they think are the deserving winners.”

Keep up-to-date with the Awards at www.booktrust.org.uk/bluepeter and on Twitter by following @Booktrust and #BPBA. For fun-filled content about the judging and the shortlisted books head to the Blue Peter website <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/shows/blue-peter>

Discover who wins on a Blue Peter World Book Day Special, on Thursday 4th March 2021 at 5.30pm on CBBC and iPlayer.

[Ends]

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Notes to Editors

Best Story

- A Kind of Spark by Elle McNicoll
- Anisha, Accidental Detective: School’s Cancelled by Serena Patel, illustrated by Emma McCann
- Life of Riley: Beginner’s Luck by Simon James Green, illustrated by Alexei Bitskoff

Best Book with Facts



- A Day in the Life of a Poo, a Gnu and You by Mike Barfield, illustrated by Jess Bradley
- Inventors by Professor Robert Winston, illustrated by Jessamy Hake
- The Humans by Jonny Marx, illustrated by Charlie Davis

Schools taking part in the judging process:

Catton Grove Primary School
Brookland Junior School
Kelvin Grove Primary
Garstang Community Primary School
Sacred Heart Primary School
Hamilton College
Beechview School
Charter Primary School
Laira Green Primary School
St Joseph's R.C. Primary School
St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School
Allerton Primary School

The 2021 judging panel consisted of:

Ellen Evans	Editor, Blue Peter
Angela Young	Producer, Blue Peter
Esther Jackson-Burton	Assistant Script Editor at BBC Children's
Emily Drabble	Head of Children's Books and Prizes at BookTrust
Caroline Hill-Trevor	Head of Book Purchasing at BookTrust
Scott Evans	Primary school teacher and reading lead in South Wales
Simon Hudd	Primary school teacher and reading lead in London
Soraya Berry	Secondary School Learning Resource Manager in London
Jasmine Richards	Founder of Storymix

Blue Peter is the longest running children's programme in the world; the home of challenges, celebrities, crafts, competitions, campaigns and amazing kids with Adam, Lindsey, Mwaksy, Richie and Henry the dog. With new weekly shows 5.30, Thursdays on CBBC and iPlayer.



Viewers can earn Blue Peter badges, including the new Music Badge designed By Ed Sheeran that launched in 2019. www.bbc.co.uk/bluepeter <<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bluepeter>>

Ellen Evans is Editor of Blue Peter, the world's longest running children's series, with weekly live shows, an amazing online fan club and Blue Peter badges. A life-long fan of Blue Peter, she worked in bookshops for five years before joining the BBC where she has made factual and entertainment shows for BBC One, BBC Two and BBC Three, CBBC and CBeebies.

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