

How to get involved with the children's book award!

This is a unique award voted for entirely by children from shortlist to final overall winner, so we need your help to ensure that as many children as possible make their vote count! The award is owned and coordinated by the Federation of Children's Book Groups, a national charity dedicated to encouraging children to read for pleasure and sponsored by Red House.

Children's book groups from around the country have been reading hundreds of brilliant books published, so that we could arrive at a shortlist of ten. Now our ten best books of last year have been selected and it's up to the children of Britain to decide who will this prestigious prize.

Split into three categories - younger children, younger readers and older readers, the award is perfectly placed for use in all the key stages of education. There is a winner for each category but only one author will be crowned Red House Children's Book Award overall winner.

So take a look at the shortlisted ten, read the fabulous books and register your vote at www.redhousechildrensbookaward.co.uk. Children are able to vote individually or as a group.

Don't forget to check out the other 4 fantastic titles that are highly recommended.

A shortlist is drawn up from votes cast all year and final voting on the top ten books takes place between October and January. This makes it perfect for a stand alone project in schools, libraries and children's centres. Shortlisted titles will be available from Red House (www.redhouse.co.uk) at 50% off making the award accessible to as many groups and individuals as possible.

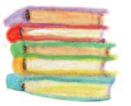
Information leaflets about the award, promotional material and teachers/librarians resources (when the shortlist is announced) are available from both the Red House Children's Book Award website and the Federation of Children's Book Groups website (www.fcbg.org.uk).

If you are interested in hearing more about the award please email rhcba@fcbg.org.uk

Please see the rest of the pack for ideas and case studies for:

- Class Involvement
- Discussion Days
- Teachers and children's thoughts of the Red House Children's Book Award





Class Involvement

Do you want to be involved in the Red House Children's Book Award with your class?

Radcliffe on Trent Junior School in Nottingham is on hand to give you ideas on getting started.

Our school has been reviewing books for the Red House Children's Book Award for two years. Barrowby and Grantham Book Group has supplied us with the books.

Getting Started

It is a good idea if one person, teacher or teaching assistant, takes overall responsibility for organising the reviewing process.

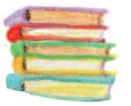
The books can be reviewed by one class where the class teacher makes sure the books get circulated or the books can be made accessible to the whole school. In both cases, a signing in and out book needs to be used to keep a check on who has the book and also to ensure they do not get lost. It is important too, to talk to the reader and encourage them to read or form an opinion about it as quickly as possible.

Half a dozen picture books can be reviewed very quickly with the whole class approach. In total, 30 children can do this in about 2 hours, if the teacher reads the story to the entire class.

Why not try producing:

- A display for the school. This display can be linked to the stories and inform children, parents and visitors of the school's involvement with Red House Children's Book Award
- A fun assembly. Within this assembly you can spread the news around the school about the Award and even get the children involved
- A book club. Why not persuade the older children to run a book club in the dinner hour for the younger readers or for themselves?





Why not hold a Red House Children's Book Award Discussion Day?

Schools around the country are holding Red House Children's Book Award discussion days encouraging pupils to read the shortlisted books in their category and vote for their favourite.

Case Study – Discussion Day in Kenton

Six schools joined together at the Jewish Free School in Kenton to hold their own discussion day. Each school had previously held reading groups to read and discuss the three shortlisted titles. On arrival at the discussion day venue groups were allocated and made up of representatives from each of the schools.

Each group was led by a librarian from the schools attending. All shortlisted books were discussed by the students and a vote was taken to decide which books should win.

After a break for refreshments the groups took part in a quiz.

Meanwhile votes were counted and cast online for all to view. The online group voting page from the Red House Children's Book Award website was projected onto a screen for everyone to see. This caused great excitement for the students as they saw the title of the book that they had chosen for everyone to see.

Lunch was served followed by a talk from author Sherry Ashworth.

Everyone had an amazing time discussing the shortlisted books.





Teachers' Views on the Red House Children's Book Award

"Reviewing these beautiful picture books has not only been thoroughly enjoyed by the children, but has also allowed me, as a class teacher, to really find out what the children in our school want to read. The books are always good quality texts and have really helped to raise the profile of picture books in school."

(Literacy coordinator and Y4 class teacher)

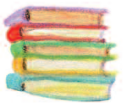
"Reviewing the books is always a pleasure. The children love listening to the stories and always give honest feedback. It makes them feel special too – doing an important job. It is also a brilliant way to introduce the children to new authors and new stories."

(Y4 class teacher)

"The Red House Children's Book Award has created a real buzz in the classroom. Children are constantly talking about books and recommending them to each other. During a recent visit by a librarian, the children were bursting with enthusiasm, each eager to tell her about the books they had read and why they liked them."

(Y6 class teacher)





Children's views on the Red House Children's Book Award

"I think the opportunities Red House Children's Book Award has given Radcliffe on Trent Junior School is immense. I have loved reading **Young Samurai-the Way Of The Warrior** by Chris Bradford. The book is amazing and because I love action and adventure, it was truly outstanding."

(Alex Y6)

"I think it is great children get to vote, because I read **Ottoline and the Yellow Cat** and I voted it the best and it won! As a result of it winning a competition, more children will want to read it and it is such an exciting book. I got to know it's author Chris Riddell and discovered his funny website."

(Catrina Y6)

"I started voting for Red House Awards and I now love reading as never before. Enjoying books that weren't on my reading level has given me the confidence to try longer books and my reading has improved so much I have gone onto "free choice".

"I really enjoyed **The Savage** by David Almond, illustrated by Dave McKean. **The Savage** inspired me to look beyond the front cover."

(Seb Y6)

"What a great opportunity we have in taking part in a book award like this! I've read **Lucy and Ways to Live Forever**. **Lucy** is the best book I've ever read! **Ways to live Forever** is really exciting. It includes lots of emotions – happy, sad, funny – it has it all! I would love to take part again."

(Emily Y6)

