



Belgian illustrator Kitty Crowther wins the 2010 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award

Belgian illustrator and author **Kitty Crowther** has won the **2010 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award** for children's literature. 'She maintains the tradition of the picture book while transforming and renewing it,' the jury said in its citation. 'In her deeply felt empathy with people in difficulty, she shows ways in which weakness can be turned into strength. Humanism and sympathy permeate and unify her artistry.'

Crowther, 39, is the author of more than 30 titles, most which were first published in Belgium and France. Her best known books are her picture books **L'enfant racine (The Root Child)** and **La visite de Petite Mort (The Visit of Little Death)**.

The annual **Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award**, named after late Swedish writer Astrid Lindgren, creator of the **Pippi Longstocking** book series, is the richest children's prize in the world and worth 5 million kronor (£460,000). It was established by the Swedish government in 2002 and will be handed out by Princess Madeleine in a ceremony June 1.

Authors, illustrators, oral storytellers and reading activists are eligible. The award is designed to promote interest in children's and young adult literature, and to promote children's rights, globally. An expert jury selects the winners from candidates nominated by institutions and organizations worldwide.

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