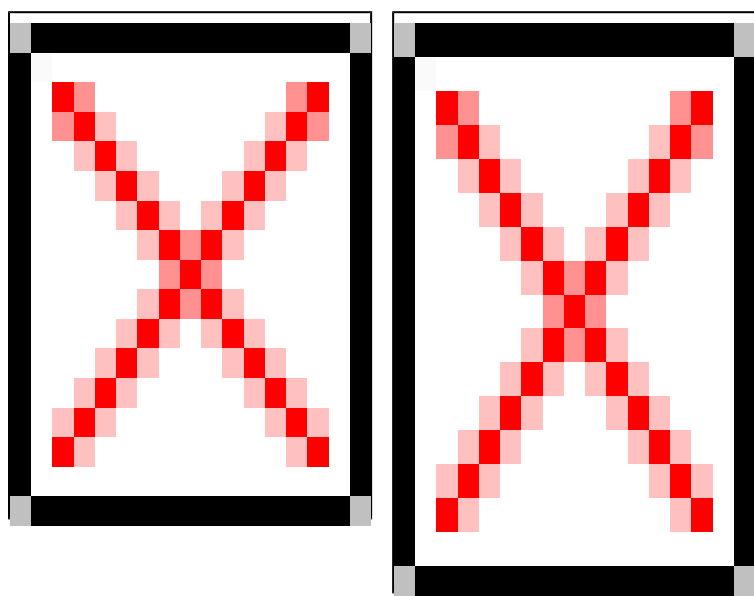




# HILARY MCKAY WINS COSTA CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD WITH 'PERFECT' NOVEL

Hilary McKay has won the **Costa Children's Book Award** for the second time for [The Skylarks' War](#) [1], a story following the loves and losses of a family growing up against the backdrop of World War One. The judges described **The Skylarks' War** as 'as perfect a novel as you could ever want'. She receives £5,000 and her book is now eligible for the ultimate prize - the **2018 Costa Book of the Year**.



Hilary McKay won the **Costa** or **Whitbread Children's Book Award** as it was then in 2001 with [Saffy's Angel](#) [2]. Philip Womack interviewed Hilary for Books for Keeps about **The Skylarks' War**, and you can [read it here](#) [3].

Three other books were shortlisted for award: **The Colour of the Sun** by David Almond published by Hodder Children's Books; **Bone Talk** by Candy Gourlay published by David Fickling Books; and **Orphan Monster Sky** by Matt Killeen published by Usborne. Don't miss the **Books for Keeps** interviews with [David Almond](#) [4], [Candy Gourlay](#) [5] and [Matt Killeen](#) [6].

The winner of the Costa Book of the Year will be selected by a panel of judges chaired by BBC presenter and journalist Sophie Raworth and comprising category judges: Rachel Joyce, Sathnam Sanghera, Mimi Khalvati, Anita Sethi and Rick O'Shea, joined by actor Simon Williams, writer and broadcaster Kate Humble and cook, novelist, entrepreneur and TV personality Prue Leith CBE, and announced at an awards ceremony hosted by presenter and broadcaster Penny Smith in central London on Tuesday 29th January 2019.

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## Links:

[1] <http://booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/233/childrens-books/reviews/the-skylarks?-war>

[2] <http://booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/133/childrens-books/reviews/saffys-angel>

[3] <http://booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/233/childrens-books/articles/featured-author/an-interview-with-costa-shortlisted->

author-hilary

[4] <http://booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/233/childrens-books/articles/featured-author/an-interview-with-costa-shortlisted-author-david->

[5] <http://booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/233/childrens-books/articles/featured-author/an-interview-with-costa-shortlisted-author-candy->

[6] <http://booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/233/childrens-books/articles/featured-author/an-interview-with-costa-shortlisted-author-matt-k>