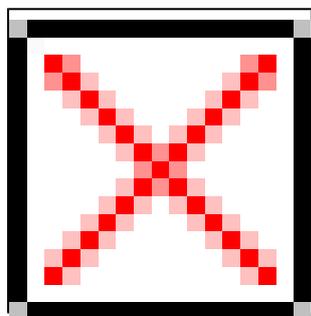




MARSH AWARD FOR CHILDREN'S LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION 2017: SHORTLIST ANNOUNCED



The shortlist for the **2017 Marsh Award for Children's Literature in Translation** was announced at the **English-Speaking Union's** London headquarters at Dartmouth House, at an event co-hosted by the **Society of Authors**, where *Diverse Voices* was the subject of a panel chaired by Joy Court (School Library Association) comprised of Gill Evans (Walker Books), Annie Eaton (Penguin Random House) and Sarah Odedina (Pushkin Children's Books).

Now in its twentieth year, there were 27 entries in contention, representing a dozen languages from all around the globe: an apt celebration of the diversity and quality of this area of children's writing. The judges chose six books for the shortlist. The judges' comments are underneath, and the books are:

The Flying Classroom, Erich Kästner, trans. Anthea Bell (Pushkin Children's Books)

Erich Kästner's classic tale of schoolboys seeking to reunite their housemaster with a long lost friend enjoys a splendid revival in Anthea Bell's finely crafted translation.

The Little Black Fish, Samad Behrangi, trans. Azita Rassi (Tiny Owl Publishing)

The Little Black Fish already enjoys a legendary reputation in Iran and the translation and illustrations dovetail beautifully to create an extremely attractive book about the courage, determination and vision of a little fish. Snappy dialogue, lyrical asides, and a strong narrative embodying a timeless message.

Bronze and Sunflower, Cao Wenxuan, trans. Helen Wang (Walker Books)

A warm, delightful book set in the countryside of China during the Cultural Revolution. Strong, well-drawn relationships, tough enough to survive anything, are at the heart of the story and carry the reader through great hardship. I only wish I had been able to go to school on the back of a buffalo! The descriptions of Chinese life are totally authentic, and the novel is inspirational and moving.

[Oh, Freedom!](#) [1], Francesco D'Adamo, trans. Sian Williams (Darf Publishers)

Full of heart-stopping incidents, this page-turner follows the star-map and the Underground Railroad as Peg Leg Joe leads Tommy and his family from Alabama towards freedom in Canada. Such a fine weave of action and reflection, dialogue and vivid description that one can scarcely believe this is a translation.

[The Secret of the Blue Glass](#) [2], Tomiko Inui, trans. Ginny Tapley Takemori (Pushkin Children's Books)

?TomikoInui cleverly interweaves the political strife and domestic upheaval of the Second World War in Japan with a whimsical tale of children nourishing a hidden family of little people with milk from a blue glass goblet?.

Detective Gordon: The First Case, Ulf Nilsson, trans. Julia Marshall (Gecko Press)

?The story of Detective Gordon's first case is told with humour and warmth. The detective is a toad and the case to be solved is the disappearance of a squirrel?s nuts! This is a great book for young, newly fluent readers; it's well-designed, unusual and a joy to experience?

Kevin Crossley-Holland said of the prize, ?What a truly wonderful prize this is - rooted in innocence, affirming curiosity and hope, never denying the hazards of childhood or human weakness -a prize that makes a worldwide family of everyone associated with it.?

The winner will be announced in January 2017.

Source URL (retrieved on Jun '19): <http://booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/news/marsh-award-for-children%E2%80%99s-literature-in-translation-2017-shortlist-announced>

Links:

[1] <http://booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/219/childrens-books/reviews/oh-freedom>

[2] <http://booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/childrens-books/reviews/the-secret-of-the-blue-glass>