

***Embargoed until Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2019***

## **CLiPPA 2019 SHORTLIST ANNOUNCED**

The Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE) is delighted to announce the 2019 shortlist for their poetry award, CLiPPA (The Centre for Literacy in Primary Poetry Award).

Kwame Alexander's coming-of-age novel in verse, *Rebound* (Andersen Press) is shortlisted alongside performance poet Steven Camden, whose collection, *Everything All At Once* (Macmillan Children's Books), details a week in the lives of pupils attending secondary school. Previous CLiPPA winner Rachel Rooney is also shortlisted for a collection of school-based poems with *A Kid in My Class* (Otter-Barry Books) and Philip Gross' latest collection, *Dark Sky Park* (Otter-Barry Books), explores the beauty of the natural world. The warm and funny story of friendship, *Thinker: My Puppy Poet and Me* (Tiny Owl) by Eloise Greenfield completes the shortlist.

The judging panel for CLiPPA 2019 comprised poet and author A.F. Harrold, CLiPPA 2018 winner Karl Nova, Susannah Herbert, director of Forward Arts Foundation and National Poetry Day, poet Ruth Awolola, and Charlotte Hacking, Programme Leader for the CLPE. The panel had a record number of submissions to discuss for this year's award, demonstrating an increase in poetry collections and verse novels being published at the moment.

A.F. Harrold, Chair of Judges for CLiPPA 2019 said: "For five judges, coming at this from five different directions, it was a relief to see that there was some crossover and agreement on what 'a good book of poetry for kids' looked like. The shortlist we came up with pleased us for its range, both of writers, intended age groups and subject matter. Each of the judges have books on the list that we felt strongly about and loved and championed from the outset. It was an unadulterated joy to share this task, this responsibility, with Karl, Ruth, Susannah and Charlotte."

Louise Johns-Shepherd, Chief Executive at CLPE said: "At CLPE we want to make poetry integral to the school curriculum and for it to be in every school, classroom, library, corridor and book bag. This shortlist – selected from the biggest number of submissions in the award's history - shows such a range and breadth of what poetry for children is and can be and recognises a real variety of voices and styles. We look forward to more children, teachers and schools discovering these works through our shadowing scheme."

The judges also wanted to give special mention to *England Poems From A School* (Picador), edited by Kate Clanchy, in acknowledgement of the raw, emotional and yet extremely accomplished collection of poems written by group of teenage girls from a small comprehensive school in Oxford.

The winner of CLiPPA 2019 will be announced at a ceremony at the National Theatre in central London on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019. The event will be attended by children from across the UK who have participated in the CLiPPA shadowing scheme in their schools in the run up to the award. The award is sponsored by ALCS, the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society.

For more information about CLiPPA or to speak to one of the judges about the award, please contact Catherine Alport ([hello@catherinealportpr.co.uk](mailto:hello@catherinealportpr.co.uk)/ 07843804083)

PRESS RELEASE

**Notes for Editors:**

**About The Centre for Literacy in Primary Education:**

The Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE) is an independent UK charity dedicated to raising the literacy achievement of children by putting quality children's literature at the heart of all learning.

The CLPE is the National Poetry Centre for Primary Schools, upholding the belief that poetry is an essential element when it comes to children developing their literacy skills both within the classroom and at home. The CLPE champions poetry for toddlers to teens via their online resource, Poetryline, a free website of resources including teaching materials, videos, practice examples and hundreds of poems to inspire and enthuse budding poets.

It is a charity with a national and international reputation for excellent literacy training and resources. Visit [www.clpe.org.uk](http://www.clpe.org.uk) for further information or follow CLPE on Twitter @clpe1.

**About the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society (ALCS):**

ALCS provide a unique service for all types of author. ALCS collect money for authors that can't be administered on an individual basis, from all over the world, from a wide variety of sources and pay it to them. ALCS campaign for the rights of authors and provide a collective voice for the wide variety of individuals that make up their membership. They educate about the principles of copyright and intellectual property and their importance to authors to the general public. ALCS currently has over 100,000 writer members and, since its inception in 1977, has paid over £500million to the nation's writers. [www.alcs.co.uk](http://www.alcs.co.uk)