

## CLPE Children's Poetry Award (CLIPPA) 2016

12<sup>th</sup> May 2016

- **Announcement of shortlist for the Award**
- **Launch of Schools Shadowing Scheme**

**The CLIPPA (*The Centre for Literacy in Primary Poetry Award*) is the only award in the UK for published poetry for children. It is run by The Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE).**

CLPE is delighted to announce the shortlist for the **Centre for Literacy in Primary Poetry Award 2016** at the opening of the Barnes Children's Literature Festival following a show featuring performances from children and the 2015 shortlisted poets and judges. Established in 2003, this annual Poetry Award encourages and celebrates outstanding poetry published for children.

The shortlist is as follows:

- **Sarah Crossan: *One*, Bloomsbury Publishing**  
A powerful and moving verse novel narrated from the viewpoint of one of a pair of conjoined twins. A significant change in the girls' lives is documented in verses that are contextualised within a page-turning narrative but also work as standalone poems.
- **John Lyons: *Dancing in the Rain*, illustrated by the poet, Peepal Tree Press**  
This collection provides an insight into the poet's Trinidadian childhood described by the judges as 'breath of fresh air'. Readers are treated to poems with themes including the climate, ghosts and ghouls from Caribbean folklore and sharing food with family.
- **Roger McGough: *Poetry Pie*, illustrated by the poet, Puffin Books**  
This collection is an invitation to be excited about poetry and not be limited by the world. Food is a subject often chewed upon whether it's the fate of a chip summed up in English and French or the delicious variety of ingredients that can be baked in a poetry pie.
- **Rachel Piercey and Emma Wright (editors): *Falling Out of the Sky, Poems about Myths and Monsters*, illustrated by Emma Wright, The Emma Press**  
This anthology brings together new poems inspired by myths, legends and folk tales. Poems inspired by classical Greek myths join those inspired by Norse myths and traditional tales. An exciting collection that challenges in a way few anthologies for children do.
- **Michael Rosen: *A Great Big Cuddle*, illustrated by Chris Riddell, Walker**  
Subtitled 'Poems for the Very Young' this is a collection children can have fun and identify with, enabling them to see the point of poetry. This large and beautiful book is a happy marriage between words and pictures, the illustrations like another version of each poem.

The winner of the 2016 Award will be announced on July 13<sup>th</sup> 2016 at a ceremony in the **Dorfman Theatre at the National Theatre in London**. There will be poetry performances by children participating in the Shadowing Scheme and the shortlisted poets. The winner of the Award will receive £1000.

The judging panel is **chaired by the much-loved poet and performer, John Hegley** and the other members of the panel are:

- Joseph Coelho - poet and CLIPPA 2015 winner for *Werewolf Club Rules*
- Isobel Colchester – Chief Executive, Poet in the City
- Charlotte Hacking - CLPE Learning Programme Leader
- Maisie Lawrence - Programmes and Digital Manager, Forward Arts Foundation

**John Hegley, Poet and Chair of the CLiPPA 2016 Judges** commented: “The judging process was a celebration of delight in the volumes which were laid out before us. The particular five of our choosing are a bunch which show poetry for youngsters to be busily alive and ticking.”

**Louise Johns-Shepherd, Chief Executive, CLPE** said: “The CLiPPA exists to recognise the very best in published children's poetry and to support teachers and schools across the country to include the creative study of poetry in their classrooms. This shortlist exemplifies such a range and breadth of wonderful poetry for all age ranges and we are looking forward to celebrating this remarkable collection of books with the children from schools across the country who will be shadowing the Award. “

The CLPE Children’s Poetry Award was developed to ensure that children’s poetry has a recognised place within children’s literature. Previous winners of the prize include: Joseph Coelho, Rachel Rooney, Roger McGough, Philip Gross, Carol Ann Duffy, Jackie Kay, John Agard and Grace Nichols.

### **The Shadowing Scheme to involve schools in the Poetry Award 2016 is now open.**

In 2015 over 400 children participated in the first ever Shadowing Scheme. Early registrations received for 2016 suggest we will see a much higher number of children participate this year.

The Scheme offers schools an excellent opportunity to enhance their literacy curriculum in a fresh and exciting way. As part of the Shadowing Scheme, a competition will see children from winning schools invited to perform on stage at the Award Ceremony. All schools, regardless of whether they are participating in the Shadowing Scheme, can take poetry into the classroom supported by free high quality resources including films of shortlisted poets performing, the poets talking about their work and accompanying teaching resources; available on CLPE’s Poetryline website [www.poetryline.org.uk](http://www.poetryline.org.uk)

**End**

### **Notes to editors**

#### **Centre for Literacy in Primary Education**

The [Centre for Literacy in Primary Education](http://www.clpe.org.uk) works nationally to raise achievement in literacy. It is a specialist professional development centre with a national and international reputation for excellence in the fields of language, literacy, assessment and creative learning.

For further information about the award, the shadowing scheme or to download more information about the shortlisted books please visit <https://www.clpe.org.uk/poetry> or contact Fatim Kesvani [fatim@clpe.org.uk](mailto:fatim@clpe.org.uk) / 020 7401 3382. For further information about CLPE please visit [clpe.org.uk](http://clpe.org.uk). For free poetry resources including films of poets performing please visit [poetryline.org.uk](http://poetryline.org.uk). CLPE is based at 44 Webber Street, London SE1 8QW.

#### **Barnes Children’s Literature Festival**

London’s largest dedicated children's literature festival offers nearly fifty events celebrating the power of books and reading over Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th May 2016. Find out more [here](#)

#### **National Theatre, Dorfman Theatre**

The Dorfman Theatre (formerly the Cottesloe Theatre) has been redeveloped. The foyer, which is open daily, also gives public access to the Sherling High-Level Walkway, overlooking the theatre’s backstage workshops, and the Clore Learning Centre. Find out more here: <http://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/venue/dorfman-theatre>