

# HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN AWARD

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IBBY Special Newsletter  
9 March 2026

## The 2026 Hans Christian Andersen Jury Recommends

Since 2018, the Hans Christian Andersen Award Jury, in wanting to help build bridges of understanding, has created a list of outstanding books from the candidates of the Hans Christian Andersen Award. The Jury feels these books are important enough to merit translation everywhere, so that children around the world could read them and expand their access to some of the very best books.

Further titles from the twelve [Shortlisted Candidates](#) are also highly recommended.

The ten members of the 2026 Hans Christian Andersen Award Jury are Brenda Dales (United States), Nadia El Kholy (Egypt), Giorgia Grilli (Italy), Diana Kovach (Argentina), Shailaja Menon (India), Mare Mürsepp (Estonia), Margaret Anne Suggs (Ireland), Fengxia Tan (China), Holly Tonks (United Kingdom), and Morgane Vasta (France). The Jury was led by Jury President Shereen Kreidieh. Carolina Ballester acted as Jury Secretary.

The 2026 Hans Christian Andersen Jury Recommends the following twenty-one books for your consideration:

1. *Bombay*

Written by **Sandra Siemens**, illustrated by Isol

Ciudad de Buenos Aires, Argentina: Fondo de Cultura Económica de Argentina, 2023, ISBN 978-9-8771-9392-3

2. *Padouk s'en va* [Padouk goes away]

Written by **Thomas Lavachery**

Paris, France: L'école des loisirs, 2011, ISBN 978-2-2112-0583-2

3. *Sugar Falls: A Residential School Story*

Written by **David A. Robertson**, illustrated by Scott B. Henderson & Donovan Yaciuk

Winnipeg, Canada: HighWater Press (Portage & Main Press), 2011,  
ISBN 978-1-5537-9975-7

4. *Kai Kai De Men* 开开的门 [An open door]

Written by **Jin Bo**

Tianjin, China: New Buds Publishing House, 2011, ISBN 978-7-5307-5313-2

5. *Jeg fortæller en krig* [I'll tell you a war]

Written by **Kim Fupz Aakeson**, illustrated by Anna Margrethe Kjærgaard

Copenhagen, Denmark: Gyldendal, 2024, ISBN 978-8-7023-9822-9

6. *Die Mitte der Welt* [The centre of the world]

Written by **Andreas Steinhöfel**

Hamburg, Germany: Carlsen Verlag, 1998, ISBN 978-3-5515-8395-6

7. *Divas Almas* [Two almas]

Written by **Inese Zandere**, illustrated by Anete Bajāre-Babčuka

Rīga, Latvia: Liels un mazs, 2021, ISBN 978-9-9345-7464-1-7

8. *Tonje Glimmerdal* [Astrid the unstoppable]

Written by **Maria Parr**, illustrated by Åshild Irgens

Oslo, Norway: Samlaget, 2009, ISBN 978-8-2521-9681-8

9. *Rahalat Ajeeba fi al-Bilad al-Ghareeba* الغربية البلاد في عجيبة رحلات

[Wonderous journeys in strange lands]

Written by **Sonia Nimr**, illustrated by Rauf al- Karai

Ramallah, Palestine: Tamer Institute, 2013, ISBN 978-9-9502-6010-8

10. *Het eiland van Olifant* [Elephant island]

Written and illustrated by **Leo Timmers**

Amsterdam, Netherlands: Querido, 2020, ISBN 978-9-0451-2495-7

11. *Poiss ja papa* [Papa and the boy]

Written by Triinu Laan, illustrated by **Anne Pikkov**

Tallinn, Estonia: Päike ja pilv, 2024, ISBN 978-9-9166-3059-4

12. *Toi grand et moi petit* [You big and I small]

Written and illustrated by **Grégoire Solotareff**

Paris, France: L'école des loisirs, 1996, ISBN 978-2-2110-3857-7

13. *Marina*

Written and illustrated by **Nikolaus Heidelbach**

Weinheim, Germany: Beltz & Gelberg, 2022 , ISBN 978-3-407-75632-9

14. *To kotsíphi* Το κοτσούφι [The blackbird]

Written and illustrated by **Photini Stephanidi**

Athens, Greece: Kaleidoscope, 2023, ISBN 978-9-6047-1253-3

15. *Chiknik Choon*

Written by Sushil Shukla, illustrated by **Atanu Roy**

Bhopal, India: Eklavya, 2016, ISBN 978-9-3852-3605-1

16. *Jabe-ye khaterat* خاطرات جعبه [My Box of memories]

Written by Babak Saberi, illustrated by **Alireza Goldouzian**

London, United Kingdom: Candle & Fog Publishing, 2025, ISBN 978-622-6560-79-5

17. *Dobutsuen gaido* どうぶつえんガイド [First book of zoo guide for small children]

Written and illustrated by **Hiroshi Abe**

Tokyo, Japan: Fukuinkan Shoten, 1995, ISBN 978-4-8340-1288-0

18. *Jal ga, annyeong* 잘 가, 안녕 [Farewell]

Written and illustrated by **Kim Dong-soo**

Paju-si, Rep. of Korea: Borim Press, 2016, ISBN 978-8-9433-1050-9

19. *Mulegutten* [Mule boy]

Written and illustrated by **Øyvind Torseter**

Oslo, Norway: Cappelen Damm, 2015, ISBN 978-8-2024-7700-4

20. *Os sete cabritinhos* [The seven little goats]

Written by Tareixa Alonso, illustrated by **Teresa Lima**

Pontevedra, Spain: QO Editora, 2008, ISBN 978-8-4987-1600-9

21. *Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear*

Written by Lindsay Mattick, illustrated by **Sophie Blackall**

New York, USA: Little, Brown and Company, 2015, ISBN 978-0-3163-2490-8

# HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN AWARD

# 2026

JURY  
RECOMMENDS



**iBBY**  
INTERNATIONAL  
BOARD ON BOOKS  
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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**Looking ahead to Bologna Children's Book Fair 2026 and the 40th IBBY World Congress in Ottawa, Canada!**

Visit us at the IBBY Stand (H29 B44) at Bologna Children's Book Fair, from April 13-16, 2026 to see these wonderful books on display!

And don't forget! The winners of the Hans Christian Andersen Award will be announced at the Annual IBBY Press Conference on Monday, 13 April 2026 at the Illustrators Cafe at 14:00.

And finally, the medals and diplomas will be presented to the winners at the 40th IBBY World Congress in Ottawa, Canada (6 to 9 August 2026). We hope we will see you in Ottawa!

## About the Award

The Hans Christian Andersen Award, established in 1956, is the world's most prestigious international children's book award. Among the author winners are Heinz Janisch (Austria), Marie-Aude Murail (France), Cao Wenxuan (China), Astrid Lindgren (Sweden), Michio Mado (Japan), and Tove Jansson (Finland). Among the illustrator winners are Sydney Smith (Canada), Suzy Lee (Republic of Korea), Roger Mello (Brazil), Farshid Mesghali (Iran), Květa Pacovská (Czech Republic), and Maurice Sendak (USA).

Every two years, the IBBY Executive Committee elects the international jury of experts from nominations submitted by the IBBY Sections.

The members of the Jury assess the complete body of the candidates' work. All the candidates nominated for the Award have made outstanding contributions to children's literature in their countries and are selected by the IBBY Sections; a complete list of the 78 candidates to the 2026 Awards can be seen [here](#).

For further information: [www.ibby.org](http://www.ibby.org) and [www.ibbycongress2026.org](http://www.ibbycongress2026.org)



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