



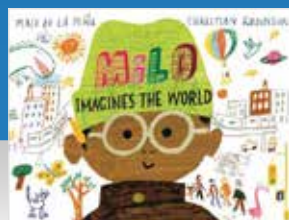
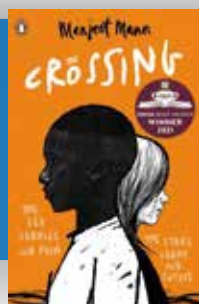
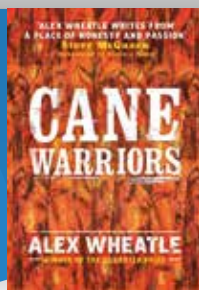
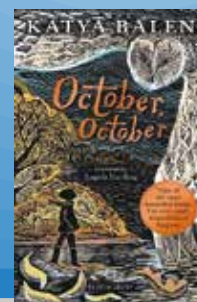
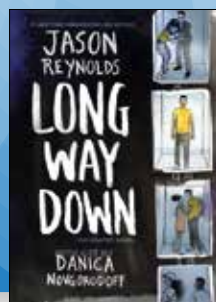
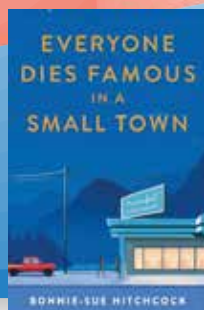
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AWARDS

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CKG Awards 2022



Get involved with Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Shadowing

Every year, schools around the UK and internationally take part in the Yoto Carnegie Greenaway Awards Shadowing Scheme, 'shadowing' the judging process as they read, discuss and review the books on each shortlist, and take part in reading related activity online. Shadowers can post reviews, share artwork and vote for their favourites to win the Shadowers' Choice Awards.

This reading for pleasure scheme engages tens of thousands of children and young people, connecting them with outstanding reading experiences that can spark a lifelong love of reading!

'I liked learning about new books that I might not have found for myself.'

Valerio, age 11

'Carnegie shadowing has taught me to step out of my comfort zone; it teaches me life lessons through the books on the lists, but also gives me the opportunity to interact with fellow readers.'

Carys, age 17

'I'd been stuck in a rut a bit with reading. I've tended to read old favourites instead of finding new favourites and with shadowing I've found a book that I know I'm going to read again and again.'

Lily Ella, age 13

'Carnegie was a fun experience and made me read more. It was amazing!'

Daniel, age 14

'Everyone is sharing their opinions, so you end up reading from a different mindset each time.'

'I really enjoyed being part of the Shadowing Group both this year and last. There is a lot to read and choose from – I am a slow reader but am accepted in a world of fast readers!'

Alfie

'I really enjoyed reading different book genres. The books made me think about different people and the situations that they have to live in.'

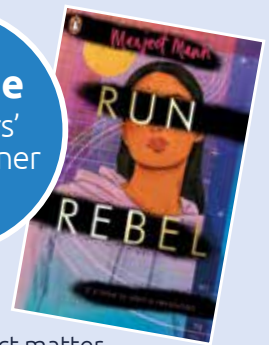
'It was exciting to be reading the same books that other kids across the country were reading too.'

Find out more and register to take part at carnegiegreenaway.org.uk



Manjeet Mann Q&A

Carnegie
Shadows' Choice Winner
2021



Manjeet Mann is an actor and director as well as an award-winning children's author. Her debut novel *Run, Rebel* was shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal last year in 2021, and went on to win the Shadowers' Choice Award, as well as the UKLA Book Award, Diverse Book Awards and Sheffield Children's Book Award. Her second novel, *The Crossing*,



tells the story of a teenage girl struggling with her mother's death and an Eritrean refugee who find hope when fate throws them together. *The Crossing* has been shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal for 2022.

Q: *Run Rebel* was shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal in 2021, and went on to win the Shadowers' Choice Award. What did it mean to you to win?

I was over-the-moon to win the Shadowers' Choice Award. It meant a lot because it's voted for by students so to get their stamp of approval and knowing that it had resonated with so many young readers really does mean the world.

Q: *Run Rebel* is a verse novel; how do the themes you cover in the novel (alcoholism and domestic violence) lend itself to representation in this form? Are there any challenges when writing in verse?

What I love about verse novels, and it's perhaps what others resonate with too is how deeply characters can express

themselves and how immediate they feel, therefore I think they really lend themselves to covering darker subject matter.

I know a lot of messages I get about *Run, Rebel* often mention how raw and honest the writing is. I find this is the case with most verse novels I've read. I often say that reading a verse novel feels like a punch in the gut! That's the beauty of poetry I guess. It has that immediate, visceral impact which allows you to write about extreme emotional topics without the need to over explain things. You can touch upon subjects and allow the reader to fill in the blanks. They literally leave (white) space and silences for the reader to read-between-lines and fill in the gaps which traditional novels don't do, which in turn lends itself to that raw, deeper emotional impact that readers often talk about. The biggest challenge when writing a verse novel tends to be in the edit. Cutting down the lines until you are left with what is truly essential. It is vital that you keep the pace and rhythm in a verse novel so you often have to 'kill your darlings.'

Q: Did you always want to write, even from a young age?

Writing was never something I imagined doing, I always wanted to act. Ever since my first nativity aged five. All the girls wanted to play Mary, not me. Mary didn't say anything, plus she just hid behind Joseph. I wanted to be centre stage with ALL the lines. The narrator is where it's at folks!

To read the full Q&A visit
peters.co.uk/news-page/manjeet-mann

CARNEGIE SHORTLIST 2022

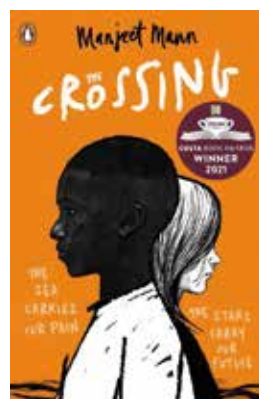
These eight fantastic books have been shortlisted for this year's Carnegie Medal. Read the judges' summary of each shortlisted book below.



Punching the Air **Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam**

One fateful night, an altercation escalates into tragedy. Suddenly, at just 16 years old, Amal's bright future is upended: he is convicted of a crime he didn't commit. Told with spellbinding lyricism, *Punching the Air* tells a moving and deeply profound story about how one boy can maintain his humanity and fight for the truth, in a system designed to strip him of both.

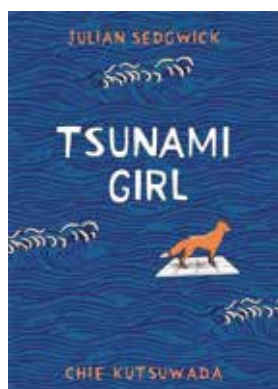
HarperCollins Children's Books
ISBN: 9780008422141



The Crossing **Manjeet Mann**

In this verse novel two lives run in parallel; Natalie whose world is falling apart after the loss of her mum and Sammy, who has fled his home and family in Eritrea for the chance of a new life in Europe. A twist of fate brings them together and gives them both hope. A captivating read told with care and compassion; this is an emotionally charged story of loss, suffering and hope.

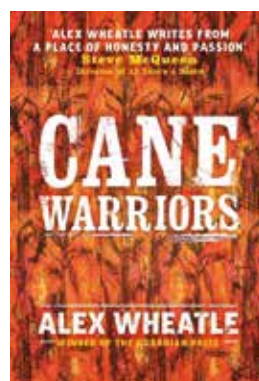
Penguin Children's Books
ISBN: 9780241411445



Tsunami Girl **Julian Sedgwick**

In prose and manga *Tsunami Girl* follows the story of 15-year-old Yuki's visit to Japan to stay with her beloved grandfather. During her visit, a Tsunami occurs – and her Grandpa is lost. Yuki, and her friend Taka, must come to terms with immense loss and see that through renewal and with resilience, they can emerge from this tragedy with optimism for the future.

Guppy Books
ISBN: 9781913101466

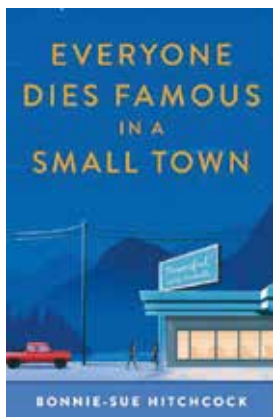


Cane Warriors **Alex Wheatle**

Set in Jamaica in 1760, this urgent and direct story provides an uncompromising account of Tacky's War, the slave rebellion that took place on a Jamaican sugarcane plantation. Powerful and direct narration from 14-year-old Moa's viewpoint brings history to life in a narrative that is as innovative as it is unforgettable; a tough yet rewarding read.

Andersen Press
ISBN: 9781783449873

*when you order the Carnegie 2022 shortlist pack from Peters



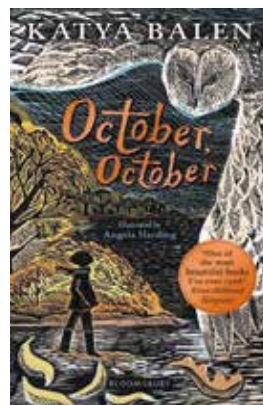
Everyone Dies Famous in a Small Town

Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock

A captivating and lyrical journey told through intertwined short stories that relay the stories of young people in rural America who share the experience of being in the hinterland before adulthood. Each story promotes empathy and understanding and minutely observes the details of individual lives yet whilst combined, paints a broader story of culture and community with impressive brush strokes.

Faber

ISBN: 9780571350421



October, October

Katya Balen

October and her dad live in the woods. They know the trees and the rocks and the lake and stars like best friends. Until the year October turns eleven. The year everything changes. This is a beautiful, lyrical novel alive with wonder and curiosity which brings your senses to life; an evocative exploration of what it means to be truly alive and wholly human.

Bloomsbury

ISBN: 9781526601933



When the Sky Falls

Phil Earle

1941. War is raging. 12-year-old Joseph, an angry boy has been sent to live with Mrs F, a gruff woman with no fondness for children. Her only loves are the rundown zoo, where Joseph is charged with protecting a mighty silverback gorilla, Adonis. An affinity grows between Joseph and Adonis and a heart-warming story unfolds, taking us from despair to love, through dealing with unbearable loss, extreme poverty and hardship.

Andersen Press

ISBN: 9781783449651



Guard Your Heart

Sue Divin

Derry, 2016. Catholic Aidan and Protestant Iona, now 18, were both born on the day of the Northern Ireland peace deal. The two meet when Aidan becomes the victim of a brutal sectarian attack, witnessed by Iona, and despite their differences that seem insurmountable, a friendship begins to grow. An empathetic and thought provoking love story is told with compassion, integrity and rich characterisation.

Macmillan Children's Books

ISBN: 9781529041675

Visit peters.co.uk/ckg to order your shortlist packs with 35% off

KATE GREENAWAY SHORTLIST 2022

These eight beautifully illustrated books have been shortlisted for this year's Kate Greenaway Medal. Read the judges' comments below.

35%
off plus **FREE**
delivery*



Drawn Across Borders **George Butler**

Migration is a fact of life – and one of the most pressing issues of our time. In striking and intimate illustrations, award-winning artist-journalist George Butler introduces us to the people behind the headlines; a snapshot of real people fleeing their homes. A stunning, illuminating, and sensitive look at stories that deserve to be told.

Walker

ISBN: 9781406392166



Too Much Stuff **Emily Gravett**

Meg and Ash are a pair of magpies who are building a nest for their perfect eggs. They are soon convinced their nest doesn't have enough stuff and begin to collect more things to add to an ever-growing pile. Their need for stuff seems endless, until – crash! – the inevitable happens! A colourful, exploratory, charming and playful representation of the dangers of consumerism set in a world of woodland animals.

Macmillan Children's Books

ISBN: 9781509857333



The Midnight Fair **Mariachiara Di Giorgio**

Far from the city, but not quite in the countryside, lies a fairground. When night falls, and the fair is empty, something unexpected happens. Wild animals emerge from the trees... it's time for the woodland creatures to have some fun! With sumptuous illustrations, this is a delightful wordless picture book which is amusing, heart-warming and full of delicious detail.

Walker

ISBN: 9781406388312



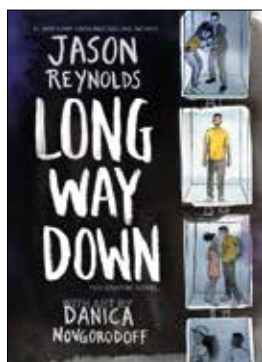
I Talk Like a River **Sydney Smith**

After a day of being unable to speak when asked, a boy and his father go to the river for some quiet time. The boy can't stop thinking about all the eyes watching his lips twisting and twirling, but when his father points to the river bubbling and whirling, the boy finds a way to think about how he speaks. Even the river stutters, just like him. A book about self-acceptance and finding your own voice, literally or metaphorically.

Walker

ISBN: 9781406397222

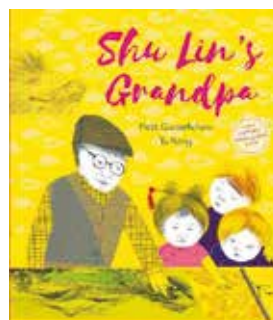
*when you order the Kate Greenaway 2022 shortlist pack from Peters



Long Way Down **Danica Novgorodoff**

After Will's brother is shot in a gang crime, he knows the next steps. Don't cry. Don't snitch. Get revenge. A dramatic visual retelling of a powerful verse novel. Immersive illustrations add atmosphere and emotion to every page. Breath-taking double page spreads bring a humanity and intimacy to Jason Reynolds's words. An incredible book that will stay with the reader long after the final page.

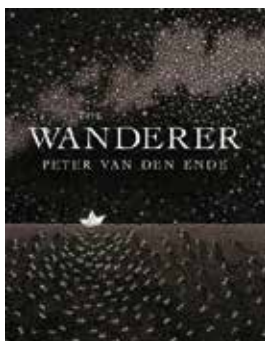
Faber
ISBN: 9780571366019



Shu Lin's Grandpa **Yu Rong**

Everything feels new and unsettling for Shu Lin when she joins a new class in a new school. Her new classmates feel unsure about her clothes and food, but when her grandpa comes to visit the class and shows his Chinese paintings, things slowly begin to change. A warm, uplifting and inclusive story about approaching newcomers and new situations with openness and honesty.

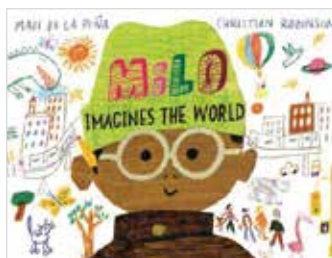
Otter-Barry Books
ISBN: 9781913074029



The Wanderer **Peter Van den Ende**

A little boat sets out to sea and begins its voyage toward home. To get there it must travel across many strange, beautiful oceanscapes, full of fantastic creatures and deadly monsters, swept by terrifying storms and sailed by mysterious ships. This is a fantastical exploration of the mind and imagination through intricate and painstaking line drawings in black and white.

Pushkin Children's Books
ISBN: 9781782692867



Milo Imagines The World **Christian Robinson**

A busy train journey provides ample opportunity for Milo to see the hustle and bustle of the world around him and to richly imagine the types of lives of the people he meets in this warm-hearted and often surprising picture book. A charming story about careful non-judgemental observation of the world around us.

Macmillan Children's Books
ISBN: 9781529066319

Visit peters.co.uk/ckg to order your shortlist packs with 35% off



Q&A with Stella Hine, CKG 2022 Judge

A librarian for many years with experience working in both London and Nigeria, Stella Hine now works as the site librarian at Brinsbury College. She is also member of the Carnegie and Kate Greenaway judging panel for 2022.

Q: What inspired you to become a judge for the Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Awards?

A: Circumstances, including a supportive colleague and her spouse, conspired to lead me to becoming a CKG judge in 2020. Having qualified as a librarian in the 1980s, I moved to Nigeria and, again due to circumstances, I ended up having a wonderful time teaching there. On my return to the UK in 2000, I had to choose between continuing in teaching or picking up my library career and I chose to enter full-time teaching. I left the classroom in 2017 after many mostly happy years and then found my dream job as a college librarian, the job that finally drew together all my experiences, gifts and passions. I never imagined that I would have the opportunity to become a CKG judge at this stage in my career so when it presented itself, I seized it.

Q: The Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Awards are unique in that they are the only awards to be solely judged by children's librarians. We all know that librarians are crucial – what is it that makes the children's librarian role so important?

A: The role of the children's librarian is to create and nurture a passion for reading, spreading awareness of the unlimited potential of all types of books to enrich and enhance lives. Reading expands horizons and inspires the dreaming of big dreams, developing literacy in the widest

sense. Children's librarians are uniquely placed to relate directly to young people and to support teachers and parents/carers in their fundamental roles of educating the younger generation at their most formative stages. Part of the role may include match-making – bringing a book and a child together at just the right time, creating awareness of the lives and experiences of others, or mirroring the child's own life and experiences. Children's librarians offer bridges forming pathways between the reader at one end and the author/illustrator/publisher at the other, continually bridging the gap between the readers' needs and available or potential texts, valuing diversity and inclusion, cultivating empathy and understanding and, most of all, encouraging conversation.

Q: Tell us a bit more about the work you do as librarian at Brinsbury College – how do you go about inspiring students' reading? What do you enjoy most about your role?

A: My work is founded on positive relationships and my key word is respect. I aim to get to know the students and their needs. I learn from the young people I serve – their openness, vulnerability and quirkiness never cease to amaze me and I feel privileged to be part of their lives. Our college mission is to change lives through learning and our library is at the heart of that journey. We support and equip staff and students to follow their dreams and ambitions. We offer academic support - books and journals with both online and hard copies, quiet study spaces, study skills, referencing, online searching etc. We collaborate closely with curriculum staff to deliver information and study skills sessions, curate our collections and maintain reading lists. However, we are also interested in the whole life of the student – finding out times of the next bus (vital in a rural location like



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ours), providing a needle and thread for a student to repair their clothing or connecting a new phone to the wifi. We have hosted poetry events with competitions judged by a local poet, we run regular quizzes and competitions throughout the year which students look forward to, we participate in the Reading Ahead challenge annually, we create interactive displays, display student work and offer work experience. We try to create a warm, welcoming and safe atmosphere where students can thrive. Reading for pleasure is fundamental to our goals and we are committed to modelling a positive reading culture.

Q: How do you think your previous career experience (working as a librarian at London University and London School of Economics, and teaching in Nigeria) has impacted and influenced the work you do now?

A: Previous career and personal experiences have given me a rich understanding of people of many backgrounds and cultures and I feel comfortable in most settings (well, I'm quite shy but I can put on a reasonable act of confidence). Having come from humble beginnings, growing up on a council estate, with free school meals and a full maintenance grant for University, reading and education have led me to places I could only ever have dreamed of. I have worked with top academics at London University, alongside government officials, diplomats, high-flying professionals and entrepreneurs in Nigeria as well as with the most impoverished and vulnerable in society, working in a local primary school with a high intake of disadvantaged pupils for 13 years. I can relate to struggling students who lack self-esteem and basic skills. We often say that those who present with challenging behaviour are the ones who need us most urgently. A person needs to feel accepted and have a sense of belonging to be able to engage well with education, work and life in general. I can engage with pupils and students

who are ready to learn, having a wide range of teaching experience from Early Years to Year 11. Because of my academic experience, I can also relate to those in higher education. I love the rich variety of my job – visiting our on-site nursery to share stories and when the nursery children visit the library, noting how everybody pays attention or walking a muddy mile to the farm to deliver online resource sessions. I am constantly overwhelmed and surprised by people and I love to find out what makes them tick. I see more commonality between people than difference yet I love to celebrate what makes a person unique. Kindness trumps everything in my opinion. All these experiences influence the way I work now.

Q: How are you finding the judging process for 2022? How do you fit in all the reading?

A: I feel more relaxed in my second year of judging. My first year was wholly online due to Covid-19. I still cannot believe I haven't met the 2021 team in person – we became very close online and remain in close contact. Living through the BLM movement and events of 2020 had a profound emotional impact on me. I feel privileged to be living through this era with all the new possibilities that it has brought. My second year as judge is slightly different as there was initially the possibility of in-person judging and we have been back at work in person. We may yet meet in person as the process continues. My family have come to understand that regular life is an interruption to my main business of reading. However, I may not be able to sustain that after the judging is over. I am thinking of how best to ringfence those hours for the future. I have a long reading list already plus many projects and activities that will easily fill the hours. It remains to convince my family that I am justified in this.

To see the full Q&A with Stella visit
peters.co.uk/news-page/q-a-with-stella-hine-ckg-judge

Tips for Shadowing in 2022

Shadowing is a fun, flexible, reading for pleasure activity to inspire and engage young readers! We invite reading groups across the UK and internationally to take part, whether at school, the public library or even at home. You can decide how you want to run your own Shadowing Group to explore the 2022 Yoto Carnegie and Kate Greenaway shortlists and share outstanding books with your students. The simplest way to take part is to bring together your shadowing group to read and discuss the shortlisted books, through regular meetings, either in person or online.

Every Shadowing group is different, but if you're looking for some top tips to get you started, you can use the following structure as a template. The most important thing is making sure your readers are engaged in and excited by the books, so don't feel constrained to follow the rules; you can adapt to suit what your young readers enjoy to help spark a lifelong love of reading!

1. Welcome

The first shadowing session is a great chance for the group to get to know each other, introduce themselves and perhaps share which book they are most looking forward to reading or a book they have enjoyed in the past, if they feel confident doing so. You might like to explore our Shadowers' Challenge videos set by each of the shortlisted authors and illustrators for exciting and engaging challenges to inspire your Shadowers to creatively respond to the books.

2. Read aloud

If you are shadowing the Kate Greenaway shortlist you might be able to read through a whole picturebook with your group in one session, but for the Carnegie shortlist, you may like to focus on significant passages that can be read aloud to inspire group discussion. Key passages are identified in the reading resources for each shortlisted book to help you to get started. And look out for videos with our Carnegie authors reading aloud sections from their book, as well as author interviews.

3. Activity

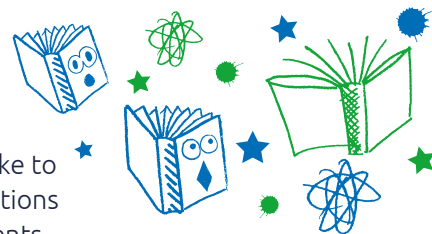
Whether as part of your Shadowing session or in their own time, encourage your shadowing group to try one of the activities suggested in the Shadowing Resources. There are a range of creative activities from writing exercises and artistic tasks to dramatic role plays. You will find suggestions to bring in cross-curricular themes and use multi-media for variety. You can also find inspiration from other shadowing groups on social media by following **@CILIPCKG** (Twitter) and **@ckgawards** (Instagram) and searching **#CKG22**.

4. Review

Depending on the length of the book and the time you have allotted to shadowing, you may not review books during every group meeting, but try to encourage the group to reflect on what they are reading and how the books compare within the shortlists and encourage them to prepare their reviews at home. Again, they might like to record their views through video or audio clips to share with their peers and to contribute to your own Shadowing Group's podcast or video channel.

5. Plan together

At the end of each meeting, try and involve your Shadowers in planning your next shadowing meeting, deciding on what to read next and what activities they might like to try. With book giveaways and prizes to be won by taking part in the various competitions you may like to factor in a session to work on competition entries or help your students to explore some of these in their own time.



Top activities for all groups to try:

1. **Review first chapters and front covers.** This can be a great way to introduce a selection of books to choose from. It can spark a debate about “judging books by their covers” and decide which books look the most interesting. Compare results at the end of shadowing to see if people’s predictions about the books were right.
2. **Run competitions.** Could you develop some of your own competitions and award small prizes for best reviews, best book cover re-designs, word-searches, crosswords, quizzes etc?
3. **Drawalong.** Encourage your Shadowers to have a go at drawing their favourite character from the Greenaway shortlist and look out for video drawalongs from some of our shortlisted illustrators.
4. **Make a video or podcast.** Encourage your students to share audio clips talking about the books they are reading and their predictions. You could try creating a video diary to track your group’s progress or create book trailers for your favourite books.
5. **Connect with other Shadowing Groups.** Try connecting with other shadowing groups whether virtually or in person to discover their thoughts on the books and arrange joint events such as quizzes, debates and your very own winner ceremony celebrations. Use the Shadowing in Your Area map to discover local groups. And remember to share your special events and any photos or video content to **#CKG22**.
6. **Meet your local CKG Judge.** You can request a virtual or physical visit from the CKG judge in your region by getting in touch at **CKGCoordinator@cilip.org.uk**. This is a great way to find out more about the awards and what it is like to be a judge!
7. **Watch video interviews.** Look out for weekly videos of the shortlisted authors and illustrators talking about their work by visiting the book pages. These provide fantastic insights into their creative processes which can inspire your young readers to explore their own writing and illustration pursuits.

For more top tips on Shadowing visit the Awards website at <https://carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/take-part> or check out our Shadowing Webinars featuring the Awards Team and an array of Shadowing Group Leaders on our Vimeo Channel at <https://vimeo.com/showcase/8898833>



Q&A with Sharon King-Chai

Sharon King-Chai is an award-winning designer and illustrator. Born in Australia to Chinese-Malaysian parents,

she moved to London in 2003, after studying Visual Communication. She fell in love with storytelling through music and books and found her niche working as a designer in music and publishing industries. This eventually led to her creating her own books. Sharon has a great passion for experimenting and innovation, and loves exploring format, narrative and new characters. Her illustrated book *Starbird* won the Kate Greenaway Shadowers' Choice Award in 2021.

Q: Your picture book *Starbird* was shortlisted for the Kate Greenaway Medal in 2021, and won the Shadowers' Choice Award – what did it mean to you to win?

Never in my wildest dreams did I think a book of mine would actually get shortlisted for the Greenaway, let alone actually win the Shadowers' Choice Award. To have that moment of connection with the readers was the hugest accolade I could hope for.

Q: *Starbird* has the feel of a 'timeless myth' – is there a key message that you hope readers will take away from the book?

Yes. I want all children to know that they are important – that what they think, feel, see is important. I know that as an adult

**Kate
Greenaway**
Shadowers'
Choice Winner
2021



myself I often lose my way in life – I might be fixated on the wrong details or miss the point entirely – but children have an innocence and a fresh perspective that can set us back on the right path.

Q: Do you have a favourite part of the story, and favourite accompanying image or illustration?

I love the symbol of the empty cage... one single feather to show that *Starbird* was once there... what happened? Leaving space for the readers to project their own ideas onto a story can be more powerful than telling them what happened. I love stories that linger with you long after you close the book.

Q: Can you tell us a bit more about the process of writing and illustrating the book – which materials did you use?

The story itself started with a Christmas card I was creating for the House of Illustration Christmas Fair. I did an illustration of a bird with hands in the negative space of the wings. I'd intended that the hands would be freeing the bird, but realised that the hands could also be capturing it. This was the beginning of *Starbird*.

I use a wide range of materials in my artwork. As well as using the usual inks, paints, pencils, pens, brushes, I like to include more unusual objects to create textures: shells, feathers, leaves, potatoes, onions. I love nature and want to reference it in my artwork as much as possible.

To read the full Q&A visit
peters.co.uk/news-page/sharon-king-chai

What will be your Greenaway Great?



goto
**CARNEGIE
GREENAWAY
AWARDS**

Greenaway
Greats
 Artsmark
20

To celebrate 20 years of Artsmark, CILIP has teamed up with Arts Council England to create the Greenaway Greats reading scheme!

Readers have the chance to explore fantastic titles from past winners of the Kate Greenaway award, and there'll be lots of ways to get creative, engage with the illustrators themselves, and have fun!

The scheme encourages young people to:

- Read for pleasure
- Explore illustration techniques
- Develop visual literacy skills
- Discuss and debate their responses
- Produce their own artwork inspired by the books

Launched on **World Book Day, 3 March**, take part now at carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/greenaway-greats and pre-order your book packs with a 26% discount from Peters today.

Artsmark is celebrating the vital role reading and libraries play in the creative lives of children throughout their education. To find out more, and to start your Artsmark journey today go to artsmark.org.uk



Artsmark | **20**

#GreenawayGreats #Artsmark20

Shadowing the Greenaway – Kings Monkton School, Cardiff

Alison King is Librarian at Kings Monkton School in Cardiff, and was Carnegie and Kate Greenaway judge in 2020/21. She is passionate about the Shadowing Scheme, and has now launched a project along with fellow judge Cassie Kemp which looks at using the shadowing model for the Kate Greenaway Medal with looked after children in Cardiff and Leicester. Alison tells us more.

2021 was a stellar shadowing year at Kings Monkton School but in the planning stages, it seemed destined to be an unmitigated disaster. Bolstered by my CKG judging experience, I was full of enthusiasm for the Greenaway Shadowing scheme – a marked departure from the trepidation with which I had approached it in earlier years.

Covid-19 created a number of obstacles. For a time, it seemed that the Greenaway scheme wouldn't run at all but after much deliberation, I found myself working with a small but enthusiastic group of readers in Year 7.

Each of our meetings began with a reading of the featured book but beyond that, each session unfolded differently, influenced by the mood of the group and the collective response to each title. We worked with two titles per session, introducing a compare and contrast element to our



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*Kings Monkton students
compare notes on the
2021 shortlist*



discussions that I hadn't previously used. It was fascinating to listen to shadowers identifying thematic similarities that I had completely overlooked. We also made consistent use of the mindfulness activities featured in the shadowing pack and they bonded us as a group, creating a bank of shared experiences attached to the books we now held in common.

Timing was our biggest challenge. We struggled to fit everything into a thirty-minute period and it was difficult to accomplish all that we wanted. This time around, I'll be working with a Year Seven English class in hour-long sessions, reflecting on the books through drama, art, writing, music, and virtual content.



Shadowers' Group meeting

I will be embarking on an additional project this year, alongside my fellow 2020-2021 judge, Cassie Kemp. This new venture owes much of its shape and structure to the shadowing scheme. In conjunction with the CILIP Youth Libraries Group and the Siobhan Dowd Trust, Cassie and I will be exploring a selection of Greenaway winners with looked after children in our respective areas of Leicester and Cardiff.

It's clear that there's real value in encouraging young people to experience the world through the medium of illustrated books. They offer up different perspectives, allowing fresh, diverse ways of looking at things whilst also reflecting the reader back at themselves, helping them navigate their identity, their emotions, and their place in the world. I'm grateful that I'm able to draw on my experiences as a shadowing lead for this vast but vital challenge and it is my fervent hope that this project will put books into the hands of readers who need them most, and provide a foundation for empathy, imagination, communication, and connection for every child we encounter.

If you are thinking about shadowing the Greenaway medal this year, my advice is this: don't limit yourself, and prepare to be surprised. One of the most astonishing elements of this process for me is the deep and profound impact of those shortlisted titles. In this beautiful, baffling and often brutal world, it's easy to underestimate the fierce and inevitable power of the right book in the right hands at the right time.

Alison King, Librarian at Kings Monkton School in Cardiff and former CKG Judge

Follow Alison on  [@avk1986](https://twitter.com/avk1986)



Peters Ltd

120 Bromsgrove Street,
Birmingham,
B5 6RJ.

T: 0121 666 6646

E: hello@peters.co.uk

W: peters.co.uk

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