

## HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN AWARDS

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The Hans Christian Andersen Awards are the highest international distinction in children's literature. They are given every other year to a living author and illustrator whose outstanding body of work is judged to have made a lasting contribution to literature for children and young people. The first three awards were made to authors for single works.

The author's award has been given since 1956 and the illustrator's since 1966. They are presented by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY). They have become the "Little Nobel Prize," and their prestige has grown over the years. Selecting the award winners is considered by many to be IBBY's most important activity. The nominations are made by the National Sections of IBBY, and the recipients are selected by a distinguished international jury of children's literature specialists. The IBBY emphasizes that the Hans Christian Andersen Awards are not intended to be a national award, but an outstanding international award for children's literature. A great effort is made to encourage the submission of candidates from all over the world, and a jury of ten experts is also selected from around the world in order to encourage a diversity of outlook and opinion. The award consists of a gold medal bearing the portrait of Hans Christian Andersen and a diploma and is presented at the opening ceremony of the IBBY Congress. The IBBY's refereed journal *Bookbird* has a special Andersen Awards issue which presents all the nominees and documents the selection process.

The IBBY, and consequently the Hans Christian Andersen Awards, were an outcome of World War II. Book production had come to a standstill during the war due to a shortage of materials and economic disruptions. After the war, those interested in children's literature were anxious to restore the book publishing industry both for its economic impact and to promote the ideas of democracy, peace, and nonviolence to children. The purpose of the Awards was originally to stimulate the writing, production and translation of high quality books and increase the circulation of the best works for children.

IBBY was founded in 1952 when Jella Lepman, the director of the International Youth Library in Munich and an indefatigable crusader for children's literature, organized a meeting in Munich called "International Understanding through Children's Books." This meeting was attended by many well-known authors, publishers, academics, teachers, and philosophers of the time. As a result, a committee was appointed to create the International Board on Books for Young People. In 1953, the IBBY was registered as a nonprofit organization in Zurich Switzerland. Today it is composed of seventy National Sections all over the world. It represents both countries with established literacy and children's book publishing programs, and others with only a few individuals working with children's literature. The members of the National Sections are a diverse group, including authors and illustrators, librarians, teachers, publishers, edi-

tors, academics, students, translators, booksellers and parents. IBBY plays an important role in the promotion of children's book publishing worldwide. It is a non-governmental organization but it has an official status in UNESCO and UNICEF with a policy-making role as an advocate of children's literature. It also cooperates with many international organizations and children's book institutions around the world to promote the production and distribution of children's books.

Since 1967, International Children's Book Day has also been held on or around the birthday of Hans Christian Andersen, April 2, to celebrate a love of reading and to call attention to children's literature. Each year a different National Section of IBBY is chosen to be the sponsor of International Children's Book Day. It chooses a theme and invites a prominent author from its country to write a message to the children of the world, and a well-known illustrator designs an accompanying poster. These materials are used in different ways to promote books and reading.

The publicity that the Hans Christian Andersen Awards and International Children's Book Day give to authors and children's literature in general is considerable. The awards have encouraged the translation of children's books into many languages and created awareness of diverse authors and other cultures that would not otherwise have occurred.

#### WINNERS 1956-2006

##### Hans Christian Andersen Award for Writing 1956-2006

- 1956 Eleanor Farjeon (UK)
- 1958 Astrid Lindgren (Sweden)
- 1960 Erich Kästner (Germany)
- 1962 Meindert DeJong (USA)
- 1964 René Guillot (France)
- 1966 Tove Jansson (Finland)
- 1968 James Krüss (Germany)
- José Maria Sanchez-Silva (Spain)
- 1970 Gianni Rodari (Italy)
- 1972 Scott O'Dell (USA)
- 1974 Maria Gripe (Sweden)
- 1976 Cecil Bødker (Denmark)
- 1978 Paula Fox (USA)
- 1980 Bohumil Riha (Czechoslovakia)
- 1982 Lygia Bojunga Nunes (Brazil)
- 1984 Christine Nöstlinger (Austria)
- 1986 Patricia Wrightson (Australia)
- 1988 Annie M. G. Schmidt (Netherlands)
- 1990 Tormod Haugen (Norway)
- 1992 Virginia Hamilton (USA)

## Hans Christian Andersen Award for Writing 1956-2006 (cont'd.)

- 1994 Michio Mado (Japan)  
 1996 Uri Orlev (Israel)  
 1998 Katherine Paterson (USA)  
 2000 Ana Maria Machado (Brazil)  
 2002 Aidan Chambers (UK)  
 2004 Martin Waddell (Ireland)  
 2006 Margaret Mahy (New Zealand)

## Hans Christian Andersen Award for Illustration 1966–2006

- 1966 Alois Carigiet (Switzerland)  
 1968 Jirí Trnka (Czechoslovakia)  
 1970 Maurice Sendak (USA)  
 1972 Ib Spang Olsen (Denmark)  
 1974 Farshid Mesghali (Iran)  
 1976 Tatjana Mawrina (USSR)  
 1978 Svend Otto S. (Denmark)  
 1980 Suekichi Akaba (Japan)  
 1982 Zbigniew Rychlicki (Poland)  
 1984 Mitsumasa Anno (Japan)  
 1986 Robert Ingpen (Australia)  
 1988 Dusan Kállay (Czechoslovakia)  
 1990 Lisbeth Zwerger (Austria)  
 1992 Kveta Pacovská (Czech Republic)  
 1994 Jörg Müller (Switzerland)  
 1996 Klaus Ensikat (Germany)  
 1998 Tomi Ungerer (France)  
 2000 Anthony Browne (UK)  
 2002 Quentin Blake (UK)  
 2004 Max Velthuijs (The Netherlands)  
 2006 Wolf Erlbruch (Germany)

**Further sources of information about the Hans Christian Andersen Awards:**

- *Awards, Honors and Prizes*. 25th ed. 2 vols. Detroit: Gale, 2006.
- *IBBY-International Board on Books for Young People*. 2006. International Board on Books for Young People. <<http://www.ibby.org/index.php?id=home&L=0.html>>.
- Glistrup, Eva. *The Hans Christian Andersen Award, 1956-2002*. Basel, Switzerland: International Board on Books for Young People, 2002.