

## Bestselling shortlist of 10 for Blue Peter's Vote for the 'Best Children's Book of the Last 10 Years'

[booktrust.org.uk/bluepeter](http://booktrust.org.uk/bluepeter)

Blue Peter has today (5.45pm, CBBC) commenced its search to find the best children's book of the last decade, with the launch of an online vote in which its young viewers will be able to choose from a shortlist of 10 iconic titles.

From a young James Bond to a reluctant teenage superspy, an infamous boy wizard and an underage First World War soldier, miniature action heroes abound in the list which features the bestselling children's fiction books published in the last 10 years, with only one book per author included.

The 10 books competing for the accolade (in title order) are:

- ***Alex Rider Mission 3: Skeleton Key*** by Anthony Horowitz (Walker Books, 2002)
- ***Candyfloss*** by Jacqueline Wilson, illustrated by Nick Sharratt (Random House Children's Books, 2006)
- ***Diary of a Wimpy Kid*** by Jeff Kinney (Puffin, 2008)
- ***Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*** by J K Rowling (Bloomsbury, 2003)
- ***Horrid Henry and the Football Fiend*** by Francesca Simon, illustrated by Tony Ross (Orion Children's Books, 2006)
- ***Mr Stink*** by David Walliams, illustrated by Quentin Blake (HarperCollins Children's Books, 2009)
- ***Private Peaceful*** by Michael Morpurgo (HarperCollins Children's Books, 2003)
- ***The Series of Unfortunate Events: Austere Academy*** by Lemony Snicket (Egmont Books, 2002)
- ***Theodore Boone*** by John Grisham (Hodder & Stoughton, 2010)
- ***Young Bond: SilverFin – A James Bond Adventure*** by Charlie Higson (Puffin, 2005)

Five of the books included have inspired feature films (*Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, *Harry Potter*, *Horrid Henry*, *The Series of Unfortunate Events* and due this year *Private Peaceful*); seven are part of a series (*Alex Rider*, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, *Harry Potter*, *Horrid Henry*, *The Series of Unfortunate Events*, *Theodore Boone* and *Young Bond*); and two deal with social issues such as homelessness, debt and divorce with sensitivity and humour (*Candyfloss* and *Mr Stink*).

The list also boasts a litany of high-profile authors with three former Children's Laureates (Jacqueline Wilson, Michael Morpurgo and Quentin Blake who illustrates *Mr Stink*), bestselling adult US crime author John Grisham, comedian David Walliams, and Britain's richest author J K Rowling all up for the Award.



The shortlist for the vote is made up of the 10 bestselling (by volume) fiction books of the last 10 years for 5–11 year olds with a first publication date between January 2002 and December 2011. Only the top-selling book per individual, named author is included. (Source: Nielsen BookScan TCM Top 5000 Children's Fiction (Y2) from 200101 to 201152 filtered by CMBC Interest Level 5–11 years.)

**Tim Levell, Editor of Blue Peter and Chair of Judges for the Blue Peter Book Awards 2012 comments:**

'Children care as much about books as adults do – if not more so. We wanted to capture that by creating a vote to find out which book from the last ten years they love the most. This is a fantastic list: every single book on the shortlist is a corker. Normally I'm all for playground harmony, but if on this occasion there is the odd playground argument about which book is better, then bring it on!'

After the announcement of the list on Blue Peter, the shortlist will be featured on Blue Peter's website [bbc.co.uk/bluepeter](http://bbc.co.uk/bluepeter) for three weeks, during which time children under the age of 16 can log on with their BBC iD and vote for their favourite. The vote will close at 4pm on Thursday 23 February.

The winning book will be announced on Blue Peter on 1 March (5.45pm, CBBC), alongside the winner of the annual Blue Peter Book of the Year Award on a special show dedicated to books to tie-in with World Book Day. Blue Peter will invite the winning author to collect a 'Best Children's Book of the Last 10 Years' trophy on the show.

**\*\*\*\*For interviews with a selection of the shortlisted authors, quotes, biographies, photographs and shortlisted jacket images please contact:**

Alice Ingall on 020 8875 4827 / [alice.ingall@booktrust.org.uk](mailto:alice.ingall@booktrust.org.uk)

OR

Will White on 020 8875 4583 / [will.white@booktrust.org.uk](mailto:will.white@booktrust.org.uk)

**Notes to Editors:**

1. Terms and Conditions for Voting Process

- Voters can take part only by accessing <http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/shows/blue-peter>
- Voters can register their vote by electronically ticking the box beside the book they wish to vote for.
- Voters cannot vote by any other method.
- Voters can only vote by logging into the page with their BBC iD. More information on BBC iD can be found here (<https://id.bbc.co.uk/users/help>). Only children under the age of 16 can use their BBC iD to access CBBC content.
- Voters can vote only once.
- Any votes registered outside the announced voting times will not count.
- This is not a competition and there will be no prize for those participating.

- The BBC reserves the right to disqualify entries or suspend voting if it has reasonable grounds to suspect that fraudulent voting has occurred or if it considers there has been any attempt to rig the voting. The BBC has the right to substitute an alternative selection method at its absolute discretion.
  - If, for any reason, the online voting system fails, the vote may be suspended or a contingency plan may be actioned.
  - The BBC reserves the right to change, cancel or suspend the vote at any time.
  - The BBC cannot accept any responsibility whatsoever for any technical failure or malfunction, or any other problem with any online system, server, provider or otherwise which may result in any vote being lost or not properly registered and recorded.
  - Please note that any BBC or Booktrust staff member or anyone who is directly connected in any way with the production of the programme is not eligible to vote.
  - The voting in this programme accords with the BBC's Code of Conduct for Voting: [BBC Code of Conduct for Voting](#)
  - The BBC will only use your personal data for the purposes of running this vote. The BBC complies with the Data Protection Act 1998, as amended. For more information please see: [BBC Privacy Policy](#)
  - These Terms and Conditions are governed by the laws of England and Wales.
2. Shortlist for Blue Peter's annual Award, The Blue Peter Book of the Year 2012
- ***Discover the Extreme World*** by Camilla de la Bedoyere, Clive Gifford, John Farndon, Steve Parker, Stewart Ross and Philip Steele (Miles Kelly)
  - ***The Official Countdown to the London 2012 Games*** by Simon Hart (Carlton Books)
  - ***The Considine Curse*** by Gareth P. Jones (Bloomsbury)
  - ***A Year without Autumn*** by Liz Kessler (Orion Children's Books)

The winner will also be announced on Blue Peter on 1 March. More information is available here: [booktrust.org.uk/BluePeter](http://booktrust.org.uk/BluePeter)

3. Blue Peter is the longest running children's programme in the world. The weekly factual magazine show, presented by Barney Harwood and Helen Skelton, is broadcast at 5.45pm on the CBBC Channel and is repeated on BBC One on Fridays at 4.30pm. The programme's remit is to inspire, entertain, excite and enthrall children aged 6-12 about the world.  
[bbc.co.uk/bluepeter](http://bbc.co.uk/bluepeter)
4. Booktrust is an independent reading and writing charity that makes a nationwide impact on individuals, families and communities, and culture in the UK. Booktrust makes a significant positive contribution to the educational outcomes of children from the earliest age. We work to empower people of all ages and abilities by giving them confidence and choices about reading. And we want individuals of all backgrounds to benefit from the wellbeing that a rich and positive engagement in reading and writing can bring.

Booktrust is responsible for a number of successful national reading promotions, sponsored book prizes and creative reading projects aimed at encouraging readers to discover and enjoy books. These include the Roald Dahl Funny Prize, the Children's Laureate, and Bookstart, the national programme that works through locally based organisations to give a free pack of books to babies and toddlers, with guidance materials for parents and carers.  
[booktrust.org.uk](http://booktrust.org.uk)