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**In Other Words shortlist announced**

*BookTrust today announces the shortlist for In Other Words, its children’s books in translation project. The project, funded by Arts Council England, is designed to showcase great writing from outside the UK and to help UK publishers to acquire children’s books in translation.*

Now in its second year, the project received over 200 entries from around the world of outstanding fiction for children aged 6 to 12 years. A shortlist of eight titles was selected by the judges and includes stories from internationally acclaimed authors; an adventure with a badly-behaved gang of thieves set in Finland; a story about immigration and tolerance set in Switzerland; a laugh out loud tale of dinosaurs running amok in Iceland and more.

The shortlisted titles have been partially translated for UK publishers to review and English language rights are now available to buy. A marketing bursary of £1500 is available from BookTrust to support the UK publication of each of these titles.

Three Honour Titles will be revealed at a special drinks reception at the London Book Fair on 11th April with Children’s Laureate Lauren Child and former Children’s Laureate Chris Riddell.

The judges, who were chaired by literary critic Nicolette Jones, were: expert advisors and translators Sarah Ardizzone and Daniel Hahn; Florentyna Martin from Waterstones; Gary Powell from Foyles; Simon Key from The Big Green Bookshop; David Cross from Arts Council England; Elaine McQuade, children’s books consultant; author Candy Gourlay; and Jill Coleman, Director Children’s Books at BookTrust.

The extracts and synopses can be found on the website [www.booktrust.org.uk/in-other-words](http://www.booktrust.org.uk/in-other-words).

**Nicolette Jones, chair of judges, comments**: “I continue to believe in the value of “In Other Words” as a way of opening minds and opportunities, and enriching UK publishing with global stories. We are delighted that three of the four honour titles from last year were bought for the UK and are being well published. It was clear from the submissions that there is a great deal of storytelling talent abroad that British children have been missing, and, after the very thoughtful deliberations by our expert panel, I’m sure there will be books on this year’s shortlist that UK publishers will be glad to publish.”

**Florentyna Martin, children’s books buyer at Waterstones, and judge, comments**: “In Other Words is unlocking an interesting and very varied array of titles which have enjoyed commercial and literary success around the world. This year’s excellent standard of entries highlights that there are some wonderful stories waiting to be discovered and shared with new readers.”

**Jill Coleman, director children’s books at BookTrust, comments**: “It’s exciting to have such a range of themes represented by this year’s shortlist, and we are confident that these stories will help to form further connections between UK and international publishers, and build on last year’s success”

**David Cross, Arts Council England, comments**: “Arts Council England is delighted to be supporting In Other Words for a second year. The partial translations demonstrate the great confidence and style of these writers - with many authors writing in one language but skilfully portraying the culture and history of another country.”

The judges’ endorsements of each title follow, listed alphabetically by author surname:

**Shortlisted Titles**

**With quotes from the In Other Word judges**

**Dinosaurs In Reykjavikby Ævar Þór Benediktsson (translated by Meg Matich)**

Original Language: Icelandic – Publisher: Forlagid

“Told in a free-wheeling style with great humour, this book is as much about the joys of making new friends and appreciating their qualities and talents, as it is about the fun of raising a T-Rex in your bedroom.” – David Cross

 “A romp of a story which will appeal to anyone - geeky or not - with an interest in dinosaurs and a love of adventure who is looking for a good yarn with plenty of action.” – Jill Coleman

**The Film Of Our Life by Maite Carranza (translated by Laura McGloughlin)**

Original Language: Catalan – Publisher: Editorial Cruïlla

“This story happens to be set in Spain, but it captures the experience of any ordinary family, in any European country, whose world is turned upside down by economic crisis. Our young narrator, Olivia, is a compelling voice keen to make sense of – and protect her little brother from – the imminent prospect of repossession and homelessness.” – Sarah Ardizzone

“Big topics – European recession, precarious employment, faceless banks – are handled deftly with many comic touches. While not shying away from the troubles children experience when overwhelmed parents lose control, this story celebrates the resilience and ingenuity of young people, the care siblings take of one another, and the transformative power of the imagination.” David Cross

**The Immortal by Ricard Ruiz Garzón (translated by Rahul Bery)**

Original Language: Spanish – Publisher: Edebé - Ediciones Don Bosco

“What an intriguing book this is – a brilliantly drawn central character, strange mysteries to be understood, an art competition, emotional family baggage, a fight to save a refugee… and quite a lot of chess. *The Immortal* is the unusual and thought-provoking story of Judit who – for all her flaws – you can’t help falling for, as she deals with her personal problems (and political ones) with such stubborn determination and spirit.” - Daniel Hahn

“A stubborn girl.  An absent father. A chess master who happens to be a refugee. These are the pieces at play as Judit doggedly battles the mysterious Mister Aliyat at chess. Every move, every game, every loss, changes Judit and binds her story to her opponent’s. I am desperate to know how their story will play out.” – Candy Gourlay

**Wolf, Edda and the Stolen Relic by Kristín Ragna Gunnarsdóttir (translated by** **Larissa Kyzer)**

Original Language: Icelandic – Publisher: Bókabeitan ehf

“Distracted parents, a mystery to solve, baddies to chase and an underground passage that leads these resourceful children to the realm of the Norse gods of Asgard – what’s not to love in this very enjoyable story? Fun and fast paced with masses of appeal for younger readers.” – Elaine McQuade

“There's everything to relish in this Icelandic treat for younger readers. The storyblends Norse mythology and a Scooby Doo-style adventure with three generations of a less than perfect modern stepfamily who are learning to live and let live.” – Sarah Ardizzone

**The Robbersons by Siri Kolu (translated by Owen Witesman)**

Original Language: Finnish – Publisher: Otavan Kirjapaino Oy

“The Robbersons are a gang of thieves – delightful, badly-behaved, hilarious thieves, with a particular weakness for sweets. In this book, the first in a series, we encounter the gang when they snatch ten-year-old Vilja out of her family car and carry her off on wildly entertaining adventures. With a deliciously anarchic Dahl-ish energy to it and a lovely message to end, *The Robbersons* is already a hit all over the world – it’s about time we got a chance to read it here.” Daniel Hahn

 “An absolute riot of a book, with a host of memorable characters who (despite being robbers) you can’t help but root for. Our customers would adore this.” – Simon Key

“Witty, light and full of charm, this madcap adventure will delight readers of all ages. Roald Dahl-esque humour and plotting galore.” – Florentyna Martin

**Red Stars by Davide Morosinotto (translated by Denise Muir)**

Original Language: Italian – Publisher: Mondadori Libri

“The epic historical backdrop never upstages the beating heart of this story, which is the love between a brother and a sister. Many layered, emotional, and yet told with a light touch that has you turning every page with your heart in your mouth. Outstanding.” – Candy Gourlay

“The structure to the novel is thrillingly clever and sure to delight readers, while the voices of the two main characters are extremely well written and really bring to life this important period in history.” - Gary Powell

“With chilling ‘annotations’ added by some dreaded agency of the Stalinist state the novel is utterly gripping and feels like an authentic, rich and yet accessible account of what it must have been like for children caught up in war with all the resonances that has today.” – Elaine McQuade

**The All Mine Academy by Fabrizio Silei (translated by Denise Muir)**

Original Language: Italian – Publisher: Editrice Il Castoro

“Grotesquely selfish adults have less power in the end than a kind-hearted boy they cannot corrupt to their way of thinking. It's always satisfying to young readers when they have the upper hand, and this fable has its heart in the right place.” – Nicolette Jones

“The set-up is diabolical, and First's parents are truly grotesque in their intention, but this is all balanced by his sunny and genuine nature. Crammed with quirky details and hilarious situations as the parents go to extreme lengths to mould him into their likenesses, the words spring off the page and really bring First to life, illustrating that humour is universal and translates so well from the pen of a talented author.” - Gary Powell

 “A wonderfully quirky story about a boy who doesn’t have a bad bone in his body. His positive innocence infuriates those who try everything to change him. A terrific feel good story for all those who dream of a better world” – Simon Key

**Alaska by Anna Woltz (translated by Laura Watkinson)**

Original Language: Dutch – Publisher: Em. Querido Kinderboeken Uitgeverij

“From the start *Alaska* caught me with its uncliched voices. It has two strikingly engaging young protagonists: the boy determined to be known for something other than his epilepsy and the outsider girl in mourning for her lost dog. Original in both the prose and the characterisation, this friendship drama and mystery story is a cut above.” – Nicolette Jones

“Themes of friendship, loneliness, damage and privacy are woven into a tense story with characters that jump of the page, this will be an unmissable debut in the UK.” - Jill Coleman

“From the very first pages you are invested in the main characters. Big issues are dealt with in a sensitive accessible way and the story moves at a terrific pace. Highly recommended.” Simon Key

“*Alaska’s* strong characters and intriguing plot are powerful hooks into this heartfelt story. With excellent pace and genuine feel, we’re all looking forward to reading further.” – Florentyna Martin

**ENDS**

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**Notes to Editors**

**BookTrust** is the UK’s largest children’s reading charity. We work to inspire a love of reading in children because we know that reading can transform lives. Each year we reach 3.4 million children across the UK with books, resources and support to help develop a love of reading. Every parent receives a BookTrust book in their baby’s first year. Our books are delivered via health, library, schools and early year’s practitioners, and are supported with guidance, advice and resources to encourage the reading habit. Reading for pleasure has a dramatic impact on educational outcomes, well-being and social mobility, and is also a huge pleasure in itself. We are committed to starting children on their reading journey and supporting them throughout. [www.booktrust.org.uk](http://www.booktrust.org.uk)

**Arts Council England** champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people’s lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2015 and 2018, we plan to invest £1.1 billion of public money from government and an estimated £700 million from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. [www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/)