

Meet the Laureates

For the last twenty years there have been ten incredible authors and illustrators who have been awarded the Waterstones Children's Laureate. We'd like to introduce you to them and some of the work they did during their time:



Quentin Blake, 1999 – 2001

Quentin became the first ever UK Children's Laureate in 1999. During his time he championed the art and joy of illustration with his projects including the exhibition "Tell Me A Picture" held at the National Gallery, which showcased 26 of his favourite paintings presented in a child-friendly way; producing books celebrating his favourite children's books and a visual biography exploring the challenges and opportunities of illustration as well as his time as the Children's Laureate.

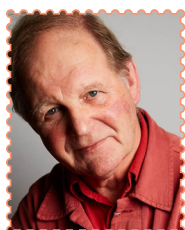
Quentin also conceived the idea for the House of Illustration, the world's first centre dedicated to the art of illustration in all its forms, which opened in 2014.



Anne Fine, 2001 – 2003

As Children's Laureate, Anne toured and campaigned to promote the importance of children's reading, and to raise the profile of libraries.

She compiled three poetry anthologies (*A Shame to Miss*, volumes 1, 2 and 3) and launched the My Home Library scheme, encouraging children to build their own libraries at home – more than 100 artists and cartoonists provided over 150 original bookplate designs for this. My Home Library still continues today and has nearly 1.8 million downloads!



Photographer credit: Phil Crow

Michael Morpurgo, 2003 – 2005

Nearly five years after conceiving the idea of the Waterstones Children's Laureate, Michael Morpurgo took on the role in 2003. During his tenure, Michael toured schools to promote the idea of "literature before literacy" by encouraging all children to rediscover the pleasure of reading and explore ways in finding their own voice in creative writing.



Jacqueline Wilson, 2005 – 2007

During her two year role Jacqueline Wilson encouraged children and their parents and carers to read aloud together. She toured extensively throughout the UK and Ireland, speaking to over 40,000 children and adults, and developed the book *Great Books to Read Aloud*. During her Laureateship, Jacqueline visited The White House and met the First Lady, Barbara Bush, and Buckingham Palace as part of the Queen's 80th birthday celebrations.



Michael Rosen, 2007 – 2009

Michael Rosen shone a light to children's poetry during his time. He developed a set of online resources for teachers, The Poetry Friendly Classroom, bringing together video tips, activity sheets, book recommendations and advice for helping to make classrooms more poetry friendly. In 2008 Rosen launched the Roald Dahl Funny Prize (now relaunched as the Laugh Out Loud awards or "Lollies"), rewarding writers and illustrators who use humour in their books.



Anthony Browne, 2009 – 2011

Known for his picture book classics such as *Gorilla* and *Willy the Wimp*, Anthony focused on the development of visual literacy for his tenure. His biggest project, *The Shape Game*, brought together 45 writers, artists, illustrators and celebrities including Quentin Blake, Emma Thompson, Shirley Hughes and Harry Hill to create artwork to raise money for children's charity Rainbow Trust, as well as to promote the importance of creativity and imagination. The project resulted in a new book, *Play the Shape Game* as well as resources for teachers and families.



Julia Donaldson, 2011 – 2013

The much-loved children's author of *The Gruffalo* became the Waterstones Children's Laureate in 2011. In her tenure she embarked on a six week library tour, visiting 38 libraries from John O'Groats to Lands' End, to celebrate libraries as a precious community resource at a time when many were under threat.

One of her other priorities as Children's Laureate was celebrating performance and projects included leading workshops for deaf children, developing an interactive website with resources to perform picture books in schools and publishing collection of poems to be recited by more than one person.



Malorie Blackman, 2013 – 2015

Malorie Blackman's major project as Waterstones Children's Laureate was setting up the YA Lit Con (YALC), the first large-scale public literature convention dedicated entirely to teen and Young Adult books in the UK. Thousands of young people attended the event and is now held annually. Malorie also launched "Project Remix" competition with Movellas to encourage teenagers to make their own creative work inspired by books they loved.



Chris Riddell, 2015 – 2017

When Chris Riddell became Waterstones Children's Laureate in 2015, he focused on the celebration of illustration and doodling. As part of his tenure, Chris encouraged children to doodle every day with the publication of *Doodle A Day* book, and extensively toured the UK visiting schools, bookshops, festivals and leaving his doodling wherever he went. Chris kept a digital "Laureate Log" where he uploaded a daily doodle and was published in book format at the end of his Laureateship.



Lauren Child, 2017 – 2019

In her role as the tenth Waterstones Children's Laureate, author-illustrator Lauren Child has championed children's creativity by encouraging them to make the time to look around and 'stare into space'. To help nurture creativity, Lauren developed online resources based on selection of books that display creative themes and to encourage children to start their own inventive projects.



Find out more at
childrenslaureate.org.uk

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