



## RAGAZZE E RAGAZZI PRIZE

### THE NEW FEATURES OF THE THIRD EDITION AND THE AWARD CEREMONY FOR THE WINNERS AT THE 55<sup>TH</sup> EDITION OF THE BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR

**The winners will be announced on Wednesday 28th March at 2.30pm at the Illustrators' Café**

Returning for the third consecutive year, the Strega Ragazze e Ragazzi Prize, the accolade promoted by the **Maria e Goffredo Bellonci Foundation**, **Strega Alberti Benevento**, **BolognaFiere-Bologna Children's Book Fair**, the **Centre for Books and Reading** and **BPER Banca** acknowledges the best narrative works for children and young adults published in Italy, also in translation, between the 1<sup>st</sup> April of the previous year and the 30<sup>th</sup> June of the year of selection. And who better to judge children's books than the children themselves? Conceived with the aim of getting **to the heart of children's passion for reading in** order to promote its educational and cultural value, the Strega Ragazze e Ragazzi Prize calls upon dozens of pupils aged between 6 and 15, from **83 schools** in Italy and abroad, to get involved and cast their votes to reveal which stories and authors they love the most.

The winners, one for each of the two categories of the competition that is divided according to age group, will be announced during the 55<sup>th</sup> edition of the Bologna Children's Book Fair on **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm** at the **Illustrators' Café**, in a ceremony presented by the journalist and writer **Loredana Lipperini** and attended by some of the shortlisted authors. **The prize of 5000 euros** for each of the winners will be offered by the company **Strega Alberti**. If the winning book was originally written in a foreign language, a prize of the same amount will be awarded to the translator, provided by BolognaFiere. According to a tradition that began with the last edition, **BPER Banca** will be awarding a plaque and a cash prize of 1000 euros to one school involved in the **+6** jury and 500 euros to an individual pupil involved in the **+11** jury.

The children will be at the centre of this third edition also thanks to some new features. With the collaboration of Salabora Ragazzi, in fact, the Bologna Children's Book Fair has identified 20 classes in schools in Bologna and **BolognaFiere** has sent to each of them 25 copies of one of the 10 shortlisted books. Each class has thus "adopted" a title to read. During the Fair, the authors present in Bologna will be visiting the schools and meeting with their readers. After the Fair the classes will be invited to write a report about their meeting, the reports will then be judged by a panel of teachers and journalists who will select a winner. The pupils of the class that produces the best report will receive from BolognaFiere the complete collection of the 5 books shortlisted for the Strega 2018 for the relevant age group category, and a "Budding Critic" diploma awarded by the President of BolognaFiere at an official ceremony to be held at the school.

In October the Scientific Committee led by **Giovanni Solimine** (Bellonci Foundation) and composed of **Emma Beseghi** (University of Bologna), **Pino Boero** (University of Genoa), **Ermanno Detti** (Il pepeverde), **Arianna Di Pietro** (Il mosaic bookshop, Imola), **Marta Marchi** (Arcobaleno Primary School, Padoa), **Riccardo Pontegobbi** (Liber) and **Fiammetta Terlizzi** (Biblioteca Angelica, Rome), came together to select the two sets of five finalists for the third edition of the Strega Ragazze e Ragazzi Prize.

The committee chose ten books to contend the prize. **80 titles had been submitted: 40** for the **+6** category for readers aged between 6-10 and **40** in the **+11** category for the age group from 11 to 15.



Below is a list of the shortlisted books together with the comments provided by the committee.

### The +6 Category

*La bambina selvaggia* (Gypsy Girl) by **Rumer Godden**, translated by **Marta Barone** (Bompiani)

"Kizzy fights to retain her identity in a world that wants her to conform. This is the story of a gypsy girl who talks about girl bullies, freedom and acceptance. Published recently in Italy, this children's story is a recognised classic in Britain."

*I numeri felici* by **Susanna Mattiangeli** (Vànvère)

"With a style that is both light and deep, this book portrays a childhood that is free, curious and enthralled by the surrounding world and encounters with its characters. The originality of the narrative idea is that it interprets the daily events of the story through numbers."

*Hachiko. Il cane che aspettava* (Hachiko) by **Lluís Pratz Martínez**, translated by **Alberto Cristofori** (Albe)

"A dog waits for his dead master at a train station in Tokyo. The plot follows the true story that touches upon some deep sentiments. This is a tale of loyalty overcoming death and is told with a light-hearted writing style."

*L'università di Tuttomio* by **Fabrizio Silei** (Il Castoro)

"A kind and generous boy from a selfish and greedy family is sent away to a university to be taught individualism and a sense of ownership. This situation leads to some thrilling scenes that border on the grotesque."

*Io sono soltanto una bambina* (Ich bin hier bloß das Kind) by **Jutta Richter**, translated by **Bice Rinaldi** (Beisler)

"The story focuses on family relationships as seen by a child's detached gaze. The world of adults is depicted through the lively and humorous writing style of an narrator that is not quite as wise as we might have expected."

### Category +11

*Il grido del lupo* (The Cry of the Wolf) by **Melvin Burgess**, translated by **Angela Ragusa** (Equilibri)

"Written by one of the leading authors for adolescents, it is the raw and cruel story of a hunter and his obsession: to hunt down the last wolf in England. The animal that is the source of such terror in fables, in this instance, is less dangerous and inhuman than man himself."

*L'albero delle bugie* (The Lie Tree) by **Frances Hardinge**, translated by **Giuseppe Iacobaci** and **Claudia Lionetti** (Mondadori)

"A book that has the feel of a Victorian classic: the passion for knowledge but also society's self-righteousness feature in a story that is tinged with mystery. A book of excellent quality both for its writing and the accurate descriptions of its historical setting."

*Hotel Grande A* (Hotel De Grote L) by **Sjoerd Kuyper**, translated by **Anna Patrucco Becchi** (La Nuova Frontiera)

"When the father of Kos, the main character, suffers a heart attack, it falls on Kos and his sisters to manage the hotel. An irreverent storyline, which is rich in surprises like much of Dutch literature, sets the scene for a form of sentimental education."

*Il giardino dei musci eterni* di **Bruno Tognolini** (Salani)

"In a cemetery-heaven for pets, some souls seem to have escaped. Written by one of Italy's leading children's poets, this philosophical story tells of an investigation that develops into a language full of inventions, intertwining death and rebirth, time and eternity."

*L'ultimo faro* di **Paola Zannoner** (DeA)

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“When holidaying near a lighthouse, 14 teenaged boys and girls share their stories and problems in what becomes a pathway of shared growth. The novel has a number of narrators and is written skilfully and with a lightness in dealing with the diverse psychologies of the teenage years.”

The list of schools that make up the jury and the titles of the 80 candidates proposed by their own publishers, is available on the website [www.premiostrega.it/PSR](http://www.premiostrega.it/PSR).

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