



## THE 63<sup>RD</sup> BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR

### BolognaRagazzi Awards and CrossMedia Awards: winners and special mentions 2026

A record number of titles submitted from every corner of the world: continuous growth year on year, confirming the prestigious reputation BRAW has built over 60 years of publishing history

Three Italians among the winners and special mentions: *Dove andiamo quando moriamo?* (Corraini) wins Opera Prima, *Cromosomi* (Edizione Corsare) earns a special mention in the Non-Fiction category, *L'autobus incantato* (Canicola) earns a special mention in the category Comics - Young Adult

Having reached the milestone of their **60th anniversary** in 2025, the **BolognaRagazzi Awards** (BRAW) return for the 2026 edition. Since 1966, these Bologna Children's Book Fair (BCBF) awards have been acknowledging the best new work in the sector and documenting the evolution of the publishing market. Among the most prestigious awards for children's publishing worldwide, the BRAW represent an opportunity for the fair to identify new trends in international publishing and expand its relationships with publishers from more and more areas of the world, offering new business opportunities to the winners as well as exhibitors and visitors to the fair.

BCBF's focus on market changes and developments has led to the introduction of a number of innovations over the years. These include the addition of two new permanent award categories, Comics and Toddler, following the boom in these respective publishing segments, and the establishment of the **BolognaRagazzi CrossMedia Awards** (BRCMA) to acknowledge the best cross-media projects. The expansion of digital media has given rise to cross-pollination between the publishing system and new digital formats: increasingly, stories and characters from books are taking on new life in video games, podcasts, video animations and many other new projects.

## BOLOGNARAGAZZI AWARDS

**4,120 titles from 73 countries and regions around the world:** these are the figures for the 2026 **BolognaRagazzi Awards**, a new record with **+6.8% more titles** and **+13% more publishers** than the previous record set in 2025. Countries that have entered titles to the BRAW for the first time this year include: **Ecuador, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Rwanda**. This continuous growth plus the milestone of the 61<sup>st</sup> edition of the Bologna Children's Book Fair's annual awards underlines their success and also the importance and trust that publishers around the world place in BCBF's scouting activities.

Divided into five permanent categories, **Fiction, Non-Fiction, Opera Prima** (for debut authors and illustrators), **Comics** (with a record number of titles submitted) and **Toddler**, the BRAW also include the special **New Horizons** prize, which the international juries can award to particularly innovative works. Each year, a special category is added. For the 2026 edition, the focus is on **Fables and Fairytales**, a choice inspired by the desire to promote and investigate a publishing trend that, although it has never left the world publishing scene, is now gathering new momentum. In recent years, there has been an almost palpable desire to find refuge in dark times through the revival of tradition. Fables, fairytales and myths represent a type of storytelling that appeals to the deepest aspects of humanity. This publishing trend is emerging in all areas of the world from the Far East to Australia, allowing us to compare traditions and origin myths from distant places. Fairytales and fables serve as tools for interpreting the world and in troubled times they are capable of deploying all their power and potential. Parodic, humorous,





sarcastic: this is not a return to order but a reuse of the archetype in different ways. In addition to reinterpretations, even the most faithful editions show a certain degree of innovation, with imagery and settings often shifting to the present.

A choice that is also the result of the renewed **collaboration with UN Publications**, with which the 2026 special category project was developed and will be further explored in a panel at BCBF. Drawing on the words of the Swiss scholar Marie-Louise von Franz, an expert in the psychology of fairy tales, the theme of Fables and Fairytales aligns perfectly with the attention that the United Nations has always devoted to **the power of storytelling**, as well as with the goals that BCBF and UN have pursued since the very beginning of their collaboration: *“Fairy tales spread so easily because they go beyond cultural and racial differences. The language of fairy tales seems to be the language of all humanity, of all ages, races, and civilizations.”*

### **THE TRENDS IN 2026**

Introduced as a special category in 2019 and made permanent in 2024, the **Toddler** section is seeing increasing experimentation, especially in Western publishing. Books for very young children now seem to have abandoned classic formats and more stereotypical content, giving way to **new and more explosive proposals in terms of visual education**. There is therefore new space for characters even for the very young: geometric shapes and stylised landscapes are giving way to publishers’ explorations of new directions in terms of book design and characters. Their adventures are also opening up the possibility for series: after a years-long hiatus, we are now witnessing the return of series even for the very young.

Among the most widely addressed themes in recent years, **Poetry** continues to grow – including **for very young** children – while the number of books dealing with wars and sustainability has stabilized. An editorial production that once served as a warning, rich in lessons for young readers and attentive to plants and other non-human forms of life, is now accompanied by a **renewed presence of animals**: foxes – rooted in fairy-tale tradition – as well as rabbits and dogs have become the undisputed protagonists of more light-hearted and whimsical books. These are stories free from didactic intentions, guided by a surreal, childlike gaze that approaches the dimension of play, offering a place of refuge, as in fairy tales, in dark times.

## **THE WINNERS OF THE BOLOGNARAGAZZI AWARDS 2026**

### **FICTION**

#### **WINNER**

**Title:** Ingrávida  
**English title:** Weightless  
**Author:** Fran Pintadera  
**Illustrator:** Raquel Catalina  
**Publisher:** bookolia  
**Year:** 2025  
**Country:** Spain

#### **SPECIAL MENTIONS**





**Title:** Lucy en Donker  
**English title:** Lucy and Dark  
**Author:** Karst-Janneke Rogaar  
**Illustrator:** Karst-Janneke Rogaar  
**Publisher:** Querido  
**Year:** 2025  
**Country:** Netherlands

**Title:** Tomber 8 fois, se relever 9  
**English title:** Fall Down 8 Times, Get up 9  
**Author:** Frédéric Marais  
**Illustrator:** Frédéric Marais  
**Publisher:** HongFei Cultures  
**Year:** 2025  
**Country:** France

## NON-FICTION

### WINNER

**Title:** أنا  
**English title:** Who Am I?  
**Author:** Qais Hinti  
**Illustrator:** Esraa Hedery  
**Publisher:** Al Salwa Publishers  
**Year:** 2025  
**Country:** Jordan

### SPECIAL MENTIONS

**Title:** Cromosomi  
**English title:** Chromosomes  
**Author:** Fabian Negrin  
**Illustrator:** Kalina Muhova  
**Publisher:** Edizioni Corsare  
**Year:** 2025  
**Country:** Italy

**Title:** 3 півслова  
**English title:** Do You Read Me?  
**Author:** Romana Romanyshyn, Andriy Lesiv  
**Illustrator:** Romana Romanyshyn, Andriy Lesiv





**Publisher:** The Old Lion Publishing House

**Year:** 2025

**Country:** Ukraine

## FABLES AND FAIRYTALES

### WINNER

**Title:** 오누이 이야기

**English title:** The Story of a Brother and a Sister

**Author:** Lee Uk Bae

**Illustrator:** Lee Uk Bae

**Publisher:** Sakyajul Publishing

**Year:** 2020

**Country:** South Korea

### SPECIAL MENTIONS

**Title:** 送西瓜

**English title:** Delivering Watermelon

**Author:** Jia Yuqian

**Illustrator:** Jia Yuqian

**Publisher:** Oriental Babies & Kids

**Year:** 2024

**Country:** China

**Title:** Zur Zeit, wo das Wünschen noch geholfen hat

**English title:** A Time When Wishing Still Helped

**Author:** Gebrüder Grimm (Grimm Brothers)

**Illustrator:** Julie Völk

**Publisher:** Gerstenberg Verlag

**Year:** 2021

**Country:** Germany

## OPERA PRIMA

### WINNER





**Title:** Dove andiamo quando moriamo?

**English title:** Where Do We Go When We Die?

**Author:** Samy Ramos

**Illustrator:** Samy Ramos

**Publisher:** Corraini Edizioni

**Year:** 2025

**Country:** Italy

### SPECIAL MENTIONS

**Title:** のらねこノラ

**English title:** Nora the Stray Cat

**Author:** Izumi Suge

**Illustrator:** Izumi Suge

**Publisher:** Poplar Publishing

**Year:** 2025

**Country:** Japan

**Title:** 마음그릇

**English title:** The Heart Bowl

**Author:** Jeon Bora

**Illustrator:** Jeon Bora

**Publisher:** tokkiseom

**Year:** 2025

**Country:** South Korea

## TODDLER

### WINNER

**Title:** Río Viento

**English title:** Wind River

**Author:** Adolfo Córdova

**Illustrator:** Mariana Alcántara

**Publisher:** Ediciones El Naranjo

**Year:** 2025

**Country:** Mexico

### SPECIAL MENTIONS





**Title:** Troupeau: L'hiver, l'été  
**English title:** The Mountain Accordion Book  
**Author:** Sarah Cheveau  
**Illustrator:** Sarah Cheveau  
**Publisher:** La Partie  
**Year:** 2025  
**Country:** France

**Title:** Un instant  
**English title:** A Moment  
**Author:** Liuna Virardi  
**Illustrator:** Liuna Virardi  
**Publisher:** L'Agrume  
**Year:** 2025  
**Country:** France

## NEW HORIZONS

### WINNER

**Title:** Village  
**English title:** Village  
**Author:** Julie Safirstein  
**Illustrator:** Julie Safirstein  
**Publisher:** Éditions du livre  
**Year:** 2025  
**Country:** France

## COMICS - EARLY READER

### WINNER

**Title:** Casey's Cases: The Mysterious New Girl  
**English title:** Casey's Cases: The Mysterious New Girl  
**Author:** Kay Healy  
**Illustrator:** Kay Healy  
**Publisher:** Neal Porter Books (Holiday House Publishing)  
**Year:** 2025  
**Country:** USA





TOGETHER WE  
ARE BETTER  
SHARING,  
CARING,  
INSPIRING:  
THE MANY FACES  
OF CHILDREN'S  
CONTENT

## SPECIAL MENTIONS

**Title:** ão, ão!

**English title:** Bow Wow!

**Author:** Joana Estrela

**Illustrator:** Joana Estrela

**Publisher:** Planeta Tangerina

**Year:** 2025

**Country:** Portugal

**Title:** ゴロゴロゴロゴロ なんのおと？

**English title:** What's That Sound?

**Author:** Yuichi Yokoyama

**Illustrator:** Yuichi Yokoyama

**Publisher:** PIE International

**Year:** 2024

**Country:** Japan

**Title:** Die Grille in der Geige

**English title:** The Cricket in the Violin

**Author:** Anna Haifisch

**Illustrator:** Anna Haifisch

**Publisher:** Rotopol

**Year:** 2025

**Country:** Germany

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## COMICS - MIDDLE GRADE

### WINNER

**Title:** Le Journal de Samuel

**English title:** Samuel's Diary

**Author:** Emilie Tronche

**Illustrator:** Emilie Tronche

**Publisher:** Casterman

**Year:** 2025

**Country:** France





## COMICS - YOUNG ADULT

### WINNER

**Title:** Sentimental Kiss  
**English title:** Sentimental Kiss  
**Author:** Camille Van Hoof  
**Illustrator:** Camille Van Hoof  
**Publisher:** L'employé du moi  
**Year:** 2025  
**Country:** Belgium

### SPECIAL MENTIONS

**Title:** Vieille  
**English title:** Old Girl  
**Author:** Delphine Panique  
**Illustrator:** Delphine Panique  
**Publisher:** MISMA  
**Year:** 2025  
**Country:** Francia

**Title:** Nobody in Walled City  
**English title:** Nobody in Walled City  
**Author:** Rex Koo  
**Illustrator:** Rex Koo  
**Publisher:** Kedama Sha  
**Year:** 2025  
**Country/Region:** Hong Kong - China

**Title:** L'autobus incantato  
**English title:** The Enchanted Bus  
**Author:** Majid Bitar  
**Illustrator:** Majid Bitar  
**Publisher:** Canicola Edizioni  
**Year:** 2025  
**Country:** Italy

### **The jury's statement:**

<https://www.bolognachildrenbookfair.com/en/awards/bolognaragazzi-awards/braw-all-the-2026-winners/10903.html>





### THE BRAW AMAZING BOOKSHELF

The BRAWs are increasingly proving to be an important lever in the publishing business: winning an award or a special mention enables authors to showcase their work to the global publishing industry gathered in Bologna, promoting the sale of the rights to the award-winning book, thanks also to the important promotional activities carried out by BCBF. This boost in visibility is not only confined to the winning titles and those earning special mentions, but also extends to a wide and qualified selection of the best entries: **over 150 books from 50 countries and regions** are presented at the fair and made available for browsing in the exhibition **The BRAW Amazing Bookshelf**. Designed to showcase the many high-quality works from around the world in the exhibition spaces at the fair, the exhibition offers an original and in-depth look at the best of world publishing.

### **BOLOGNARAGAZZI CROSSMEDIA AWARDS**

Created in collaboration with Mamamò, the BolognaRagazzi CrossMedia Awards stemmed from BCBF's desire to navigate the range of cross-media content related to the publishing world, identifying trends and examples of excellence. **Over 120 entries from 28 countries and regions around the world** are competing in the **6th edition** of the BRCMA, divided into two categories: **Digital Reading Experiences**, which rewards digital platforms and products capable of offering effective on-screen reading experiences, and **CrossMedia Projects**, aimed at identifying the best and most innovative projects developed from books for children and young people, whose content has been migrated, intersected or expanded onto other platforms (from TV to cinema, video game consoles, mobile devices or smart speakers) or, alternatively, stories created elsewhere that have made their way onto paper.

New for 2026 is the **Special Category for Gender Equality and Environmental Sustainability** which, traversal to the two main categories, rewards the candidate capable of interpreting and promoting the themes of gender equality and/or environmental sustainability in a particularly significant way.

### THE WINNERS OF THE BOLOGNARAGAZZI CROSSMEDIA AWARDS

#### **CROSSMEDIA PROJECTS**

#### WINNER

#### **BOOK**

**Title:** Zagazoo

**Publisher:** Red Fox / Penguin Random House

**CROSSMEDIA EXTENSION:** Short film

**Produced by:** Eaglet Films

**Country:** Great Britain

An extraordinary adaptation of **Quentin Blake's** illustrated book that transfers the author's visual language sensitively and faithfully into an animated short film that expands its emotional power. The irony of the story, the





original illustrations enriched by new animated backdrops, and the fast-paced narrative all combine to create a memorable experience that will move young and old alike.

### **SPECIAL MENTIONS**

La maison des histoires

#### **DIFFERENT BOOKS**

**Title:** La maison des histoires

**Publisher:** Diversi autori ed editori

#### **CROSSMEDIA EXTENSION**

Play Museum

**Developed by:** L'école des Loisirs

**Country:** FRANCE

No imagination allowed

#### **BOOK**

**Title:** No imagination allowed

**Publisher:** Roi Books

#### **CROSSMEDIA EXTENSION**

Film, web platform, workshops

**Produced by:** Red Dog Culture House (film)

**Country:** South Korea

Lenguas que cuentan

#### **BOOK**

**Title:** Lenguas que cuentan

**Publisher:** Biblioteca del congreso de la Nación

#### **CROSSMEDIA EXTENSION**

Web platform

**Produced by:** Biblioteca del congreso de la Nación

**Country:** Argentina

## **DIGITAL READING EXPERIENCES**

### **WINNER**

**Title:** Phosphore

**Publisher:** Bayard

**Developed by:** Urbania

**Country:** France

#### **DIGITAL MAGAZINE**





A bold and forward-thinking publishing project, capable of meeting the digital habits of teenagers without compromising on quality, depth and reliability of information. In a landscape dominated by short, algorithmic content, Phosphore is a digital magazine that offers a structured and curated format, tackling difficult topics such as fake news with humour and educating young readers to take a critical view of the world. A breath of fresh air for a Generation Z that is more cognisant and keener to play a central role.

### SPECIAL MENTION

**Title:** Digi Etana  
**Publisher:** Etana Editions Oy  
**Developed by:** Piboco  
**Country:** FINLAND  
**DIGITAL LIBRARY**

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## SPECIAL CATEGORY GENDER EQUALITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

### WINNER

#### BOOK

**Title:** Eu, Alfonsina  
**Publisher:** Orfeu Negro  
**CROSSMEDIA EXTENSION:** Museum interactive video installation  
**Produced by:** Bibliothèque Départementale des Bouches-du-Rhône  
**Country:** Portugal

An original and engaging installation that blends the digital and physical worlds into a unique narrative experience: pedalling to advance the story, the body in motion is the key to accessing the animated narrative. In the background, the little-known but extraordinarily modern figure of Alfonsina Strada, a symbol of emancipation and courage, is portrayed with lightness, humour and depth. A work that invites us to reflect on the sustainability of our cultural models and our lives through one of the simplest and most liberating gestures of all – riding a bike.

### THE TRENDS 2026

The awards confirmed some trends that emerged last year, such as **immersive exhibitions** that allow children to explore the contents of books interactively, physically entering the stories and experiencing them through activities, games and performances. **Artificial intelligence** continues to be used as a tool for creating illustrations and animated videos, but the jury chose to reward only those projects in which it is deployed **ethically to amplify children's creativity rather than replace it**. After a years-long hiatus, **augmented reality** is making a tentative comeback thanks to QR codes and more advanced processors. There is also a continuing trend among authors not to shy away from **difficult topics**, courageously tackling complex issues that help children process painful experiences, such as





dementia or child abuse. Among the new developments worth noting this year is the emergence of digital formats for young people in which reading takes on the multimedia and fragmented forms of social media platforms. What unites all the award-winning projects is the beauty and power of storytelling, the true protagonist, regardless of the medium used.

### The jury's statement:

<https://www.bolognachildrenbookfair.com/en/awards/bolognaragazzi-crossmedia-awards/the-2026-winners/16452.html>

### THE AWARDS JURIES

Every year, juries composed of experts from the publishing sectors of the various awards categories meet in Bologna for two days in which they immerse themselves in the nominated works in order to select the winners and special mentions.

For the Fiction, Non-Fiction, Toddler, Opera Prima categories, the New Horizons special prize and the 2026 special category Fables and Fairytales, the international jury was composed of: **Katia Canton** (writer, psychoanalyst and visual artist, Brazil/Portugal), **Cathie Mercier** (Director of the Centre for the Study of Children's Literature at Simmons University, USA), **Francesca Rizzi** (Founder of SULLALUNA and SULLALUNA NYC, Italy/USA), **Lola Rubio** (former President of the Argentine Association of Literature for Children and Young Adults ALIJA-IBBY, editor of books for children and young adults at the Fondo de Cultura Económica de Argentina, Argentina), **Klara van Duijkeren** (Founder of Studio The Future / The Future Publishing, Netherlands).

For the Comics category: **Nicholas Blechman** (Creative Director of The New Yorker, USA), **Valentina De Poli** (journalist, former Editor-in-Chief of Topolino, Italy) and **Sarah Vuillermoz** (bookseller specialised in comics and illustrated children's books, founder and artistic director of the Gribouillis festival, France).

For the two categories of the BolognaRagazzi CrossMedia Awards the jury was composed of: **Warren Buckleitner** (Editor of Children's Technology Review, USA), **Julie Fox** (founder of Serendipity Animation, France), **Neal Hoskins** (author, founder of Winged Chariot, United Kingdom), **GeumJoo Lin** (digital content professional, co-founder and CEO at CO.MINT Inc., South Korea) and **Federico Cella** (journalist and trainer, head of Corriere Login, Italy).

### The jurors bios:

#### Bolognaragazzi Awards

<https://www.bolognachildrenbookfair.com/en/awards/bolognaragazzi-awards/2026-braw-jury/9940.html>

<https://www.bolognachildrenbookfair.com/en/awards/bolognaragazzi-awards/2026-braw-comics-jury/9941.html>

#### BolognaRagazzi CrossMedia Awards

<https://www.bolognachildrenbookfair.com/en/awards/bolognaragazzi-crossmedia-awards/2026-braw-crossmedia-jury/10741.html>

