



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

THE 63RD 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 61st 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: Sakyejul 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: 마음 그릇
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





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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

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

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.bolognachildrensbokfair.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





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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





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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

SPECIAL CATEGORY GENDER EQUALITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

WINNER

BOOK

Title: Eu, Alfonsina
Publisher: Orfeu Negro
CROSSMEDIA EXTENSION: Museum interactive video installation
Produced by: Biblioth que D partementale des Bouches-du-Rh ne
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).





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The jurors bios:

Bolognaragazzi Awards

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

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

BolognaRagazzi CrossMedia Awards

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

