



In partnership with New Writing North

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Hachette Children's Novel Awards 2024 open for entries as judges announced

Judges have been announced for the Hachette Children's Novel Awards 2024, as Hachette Children's Group and New Writing North seek entries from new children's authors from the North of England.

The Hachette Children's Novel Awards 2024 are open until 2 January 2024 to unpublished manuscripts of middle-grade fiction by debut children's authors based in the North.

Since 2018, the Hachette Children's Novel Awards have been a key strand to the Northern Writers' Awards. The Northern Writers' Awards were founded in 2000 by New Writing North and are produced with support from Northumbria University, Arts Council England, and a range of partners. England's largest and longest-running writer development programme, the awards support new, unpublished work from the North of England.

The children's author JJ Arcanjo; literary agent Jordan Lees; Children's Range Manager and Buyer for Waterstones, Sadie Cheshire; Hachette Children's Group commissioning editor, Aliyana Hirji; and Hachette Children's Group licensing manager, Sarah Lennon Galavan will judge the Hachette Children's Novel Awards in 2024.

The awards focus on debut middle-grade authors and have discovered James Harris (2019), Hannah Durkan (2020), Andy Ruffell (2021), Karon Alderman (2022), and Rachel Rowlands and Rachel Pattinson (both 2023), leading to publication by Hachette Children's Group of:

- *The Unbelievable Biscuit Factory* by James Harris (Hodder Children's Books, 2021)
- *Happytown Must Be Destroyed* by James Harris (Hodder Children's Books, 2022)
- *Zeina Starborn and the Sky Whale* by Hannah Durkan (Orion Children's Books, 2022)
- *Zeina Starborn and the Emerald King* by Hannah Durkan (Orion Children's Books, July 2023)

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- *Lily Grim and the City of Undone* by Andy Ruffell (Hodder Children's Books, May 2023)
- *Dark Flood* by Karon Alderman (forthcoming, Orion Children's Books, July 2024)

In 2024, two winning writers will receive a £3000 cash prize alongside a 9-month programme of mentoring opportunities with Hachette Children's Group, through which they will receive professional development sessions in the areas of editorial and design, sales, marketing and rights. The winning writers will also receive entry into the Northern Writers' Awards Talent Network, as a result benefitting from support from New Writing North, membership of the Society of Authors and networking opportunities.

The Hachette Children's Novel Awards support the shared aims of Hachette Children's Group and New Writing North to encourage work that engages with the lives of children everywhere. The awards also build on a broader long-term partnership between New Writing North and Hachette, who share offices in central Newcastle and co-deliver an MA in Publishing at Northumbria University.

J.J. Arcanjo, author of the Crookhaven series, and Hachette Children's Novel Awards 2024 judge, said: "When I heard that the Hachette Children's Novel Award – a programme that seeks to find and nurture underrepresented writers and their stories – wanted me to be a judge, I immediately accepted. I now look forward to working alongside my fellow judges and New Writing North on this hugely important initiative."

Sadie Cheshire, Children's Range Manager and Buyer for Waterstones, and Hachette Children's Novel Awards 2024 judge said: "I'm honoured to have been invited onto the judging panel for this prize. The New Writing North Prize is a much-needed programme and I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to help discover new and emerging voices in children's literature."

Jordan Lees, Literary Agent at The Blair Partnership, and Hachette Children's Novel Awards 2024 judge said: "Thank you to Hachette and New Writing North for inviting me to be a judge on the Hachette Children's Novel Award. I'm thrilled to be involved and can't wait to start reading."

Aliyana Hirji, Commissioning Editor at Hachette Children's Group, and Hachette Children's Novel Awards 2024 judge said: "The work that New Writing North does is so essential to opening the doors to voices that better represent our readers and wider world. I am delighted to be a judge this year and look forward to reading entries from undiscovered talent in the North of England!"

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Sarah Lennon Galavan, Licensing Manager at Hachette Children's Group, and Hachette Children's Novel Awards 2024 judge said: "I'm thrilled to bring a licensing perspective to the judging panel for this year's Hachette Children's Novel Award. There are huge benefits to having a wide range of voices and experiences represented in our books, on our stages and our screens, and New Writing North does an exceptional job of supporting and developing talented writers in the North of England. I can't wait to dive into the submissions."

Will Mackie, Senior Programme Manager (Talent Development) and Programme Leader (MA in Publishing), New Writing North said: "We can't wait to work with such a talented group of judges and are thrilled to welcome Sarah, Jordan, Aliyana, Sadie and JJ to this year's Hachette Children's Novel Award. We're delighted to continue our partnership with Hachette Children's Group on this programme, a leading opportunity within our portfolio of support for writers in the North. Hachette Children's Group are an ideal partner whose bold vision and strong values are woven into their working practices and represent a lasting commitment to offering talented writers meaningful specialist support. We love working with Hachette and look forward to discovering more brilliant new children's writers."

The Hachette Children's Novel Awards are now open for entry until Tuesday 2 January 2024. The winners will be announced at the Northern Writers' Awards ceremony in summer 2024.

Notes to Editor

For all media enquiries, contact Laura Fraine at New Writing North
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Judges' bios

J.J. Arcanjo

J.J. Arcanjo is a half-Portuguese, half-English writer who grew up between the Algarve and Devon. He has a Masters in Creative Writing and Publishing from City University, London, and has previously worked in publishing. He spent the early years of his childhood in Portugal and when he moved to the UK learned English through reading – instilling the importance of books in him from a young age.

Sadie Cheshire

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Sadie Cheshire is the Children's Range Manager and Buyer for Waterstones. She has spent the last three years growing and broadening the reluctant/dyslexic readers, and the diversity/inclusivity ranges. Appreciating that the UK is a melting pot of cultures, she values the importance of every child being able to find themselves in our books. Amongst her most beloved accomplishments, is the discovery of exciting new publishers committed to promoting own voice and inclusivity. Sadie has also encouraged publishers to reimagine prominent children titles into graphic novels allowing any level of reader access to our most beloved children fiction.

Jordan Lees

Jordan is a literary agent at The Blair Partnership, where he has worked since 2016. He reads and represents across a wide spectrum, from children's books to crime/thrillers and upmarket fiction. He is also a children's author, with Puffin publishing his debut middle-grade book, *The Whisperwicks*, in 2024.

Aliyana Hirji

Aliyana Hirji is Commissioning Editor at Hachette Children's Group, where she works across young, middle grade and YA fiction and Enid Blyton Entertainment, with authors including Jacqueline Wilson, Zanib Mian, Mark Bradley, and Allison Saft.

Sarah Lennon Galavan

As Licensing Manager for Hachette Children's Group, Sarah works across film/TV, stage, merchandise and audio/digital rights. She began her career in film and TV, working as a production and development assistant and then as a freelance script reader for production companies. In her role at Hachette, she is always looking for stories that can translate brilliantly into another medium.

About Hachette Children's Group

Hachette Children's Group is one of the largest children's publishers in the UK, with an excellent track record in creating bestselling and award-winning books for children. The Group aims to cater for every child, with baby and pre-school books, picture books, gift, fiction, non-fiction, series fiction, books for the school and library market and licensed publishing and comprises the imprints Hodder Children's Books, Orchard Books, Orion Children's Books, Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, Quercus Children's Books, Laurence King Children's Books, Pat-a-Cake, Welbeck Children's Books, Wren & Rook, Franklin Watts and Wayland Books.

The Group publishes a wide range of authors, illustrators, series and licences including: Alice Oseman, Cressida Cowell, Jim Field, Onjali Q. Raúf, Tim Peake, Rachel Bright, Dean Atta, Kiran Millwood Hargrave, Marion Deuchars, Nina Chakrabarti, Adiba Jaigirdar, Alex Wheatle, Alexandra Bracken, Rosie Jones,



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Benjamin Zephaniah, J.K. Rowling, Sinead Burke, Jacqueline Wilson, Juno Dawson, Leigh Bardugo, Annabel Karmel, Matthew Syed, Skye McKenna, David Almond, L. D. Lapinski, Lauren Child, Dermot O'Leary, Francesca Simon, Alex T. Smith, Zanib Mian, Giles Andreae, Guy Parker-Rees, Piers Torday, Robert Ingpen, Rainbow Magic, Beast Quest, Kes Gray, Gabby's Dollhouse and Jurassic World.

Hachette Children's Group is also the publisher of author Enid Blyton, and the owner of Enid Blyton Entertainment.

hachettechildrens.co.uk

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About New Writing North

New Writing North is the development agency for creative writing and reading in the North of England. Based in Newcastle upon Tyne since 1996, it is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.

The organisation works in partnership with regional and national partners to produce a range of literary and performance activities including flagship projects such as the Northern Writers' Awards, Young Writers, the Gordon Burn Prize, Durham Book Festival and the David Cohen Prize for Literature.

New Writing North specialises in developing and investing in writers of all ages and act as a dynamic broker between writers, producers, publishers and broadcasters across the creative industries. Current partners include BBC Radio 3, Channel 4 Drama, Faber & Faber, Hachette UK, Northumbria University and Durham University.

As a producer of new work, New Writing North commissions a wide range of writing from topical essays and publications to award-winning dance theatre productions, short films, live literature and broadcast projects.

New Writing North's extensive and award-winning Young Writers programme develops the creativity and skills of young people. Work in schools with children and their teachers is complemented by a large and diverse out-of-school programme that is open to all, with a special focus on areas with fewer opportunities.

As a promoter and producer of festivals and literary events and through its partnerships with schools, libraries, universities and prisons, New Writing North engages audiences with enriching and creative reading experiences.

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The Northern Writers' Awards are its central platform for discovering and developing new writers from across the region, and were founded in 2000. More information about the Northern Writers' Awards is available at www.northernwritersawards.com.

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