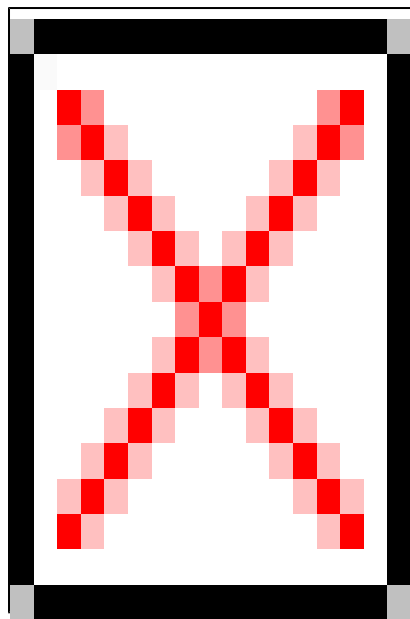




# CATHERINE JOHNSON WINS LITTLE REBELS CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD

The **Alliance of Radical Booksellers (ARB)** is delighted to announce that the winner of this year's **Little Rebels Children's Book Award for Radical Fiction** is Catherine Johnson for her book, **Freedom** (Scholastic 2018).



Praising the winning title, judge **Darren Chetty**, Teaching Fellow at UCL and contributor to **The Good Immigrant** said: **Freedom** is radical in a number of ways. It tells a story of a young enslaved man in Britain. It explores the humanity of those whose humanity was denied through chattel slavery. It subtly examines the similarities and the differences between class oppression and a system of slavery rooted in racism. It tells a story of Britain that continues to be neglected. Johnson's writing is a masterclass in the maxim 'show don't tell' - through the point of view of her protagonist we are brought into his world and yet we are afforded space to emotionally engage with the story she offers us.

The award ceremony took place in the **CLPE (Centre for Literacy in Primary Education)** Literacy Library on Wednesday July 10th and followed on from a panel discussion with the other shortlisted authors for 2019. These were Bridget Blankley for **The Ghosts & Jamal** (HopeRoad Publishing); Anne Booth for [Across the Divide](#) [1] (Catnip Publishing); Emily Haworth-Booth for **The King Who Banned the Dark** (Pavilion Books); Nadine Kaadan for **Tomorrow** (Lantana Publishing); Sarah McIntyre for **The New Neighbours** (David Fickling Books).

The **Little Rebels Children's Book Award** is now in its 7th year. The Award recognises fiction for ages 0-12 which promotes or celebrates social justice and equality. It is run by booksellers **Housmans Bookshop** and [Letterbox Library](#) [2] and is awarded by the Alliance of Radical Booksellers (ARB). This year's judges were: author Patrice Lawrence; **Emily Drabble**, Head of Children's Book Promotions/Prizes at **BookTrust**; B.J. Epstein, Senior Lecturer at the **University of East Anglia**; **Darren Chetty**, teacher, writer, researcher; Shaun Dellenty, trainer in LGBT+ inclusive education.

Last year's **Little Rebels Award** winner, Zanib Mian, went on to sign a three-book deal with **Hachette Children's Group (HCG)** in late 2018. The first book in the series, **Planet Omar: Accidental Trouble Magnet**, was launched in

April 2019 and was based on the original **The Muslims** text. The title has also been sold to PRH's Putnam in the U.S.

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**Links:**

[1] <http://staging.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/232/childrens-books/reviews/across-the-divide>

[2] <https://www.letterboxlibrary.com/>