



**The judging panel for the 2010 Booktrust Teenage Prize is formed!**  
**[www.booktrust.org.uk](http://www.booktrust.org.uk)**

Booktrust is pleased to announce the 2010 panel of judges for the Booktrust Teenage Prize. The prize, which celebrates the best contemporary writing for young adults, is in its eighth year.

This year's judging panel will be chaired by popular children's and young adult author **Tony Bradman** and includes:

Journalist and author **Barbara Ellen**

Author and reviewer **Mary Hoffman**

Chartered Librarian **Barbara Band**

2009 Booktrust Teenage Prize young judge **Claudia Freemantle**.

**Tony Bradman** comments:

'I was delighted when Booktrust asked me to be Chair of Judges for the Booktrust Teenage Prize 2010. It's a fascinating area of children's books, not least because it's usually assumed that getting teenagers to engage with books is a tough call. But from what I've seen I think that writers and publishers are definitely rising to the challenge! We have a formidably strong team of judges (of all ages!), and I'm looking forward to reading lots of great books and having some interesting discussions.'

**Barbara Ellen** comments:

'The Booktrust Teenage Prize has never been more important. As the parent of a teenager, I know that keeping the reading habit alive is a real challenge. The world of teenage fiction is turning out to be as varied as the standard is high. I suppose it has to be to keep its grip on the mercurial ever-questioning adolescent psyche. I expect my head to hurt. But in a good way.'



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The judges will be joined in selecting a winner from their chosen shortlist by four other young judges. These judges will secure their place on the panel by being selected as the winners of a short story competition. This year's short story competition theme, which was inspired by last year's winning novel *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman, is **invisibility**. The competition which is open to 12-16-year-olds in England, will launch on the 9 June when entry packs and information will be sent out to secondary schools across the country with the 2010-2011 Booked Up registration forms.

Past winners of the prize also include Mark Haddon for *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (2003), Anne Cassidy for her book *Looking for JJ* (2004), Anthony McGowan for *Henry Tumour* (2006) and Patrick Ness for *The Knife of Never Letting Go* (2008).

Booktrust administers the prize with the support of writers, publishers, teachers, parents and librarians. Publishers may enter works of fiction and non-fiction, including short story collections, poetry, graphic novels and reference books. It is run with the support of The Reading Agency, which promotes the Booktrust Teenage Prize in libraries across the UK, primarily through coordination with public and school library services.

The winning author will be presented with a cheque for £2,500 at an awards ceremony on 1 November.

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## Notes to Editors

**\*\*\*Interviews are available with all of the judges\*\*\***

## Judges' Biographies

### **Tony Bradman**

Tony Bradman has been involved in the world of children's books as a writer, reviewer and editor for thirty years. He has published many children's books for all ages, and edited many anthologies of short stories and poetry. Tony has been active in writers' organisations, having been chair of the Childrens' Writers and Illustrators Group at The Society of Authors, and currently sits on the board of the Authors Licensing and Collecting Society as vice-chair. He is also chair of Trustees for The Siobhan Dowd Trust – Tony published the first short story by award-winning writer Siobhan Dowd in one of his anthologies (*Skin Deep*), and the Trust was set up after Siobhan's untimely death to give children from underprivileged backgrounds the chance to enjoy reading. Tony has three children and two grandchildren, and lives in London with his wife.

### **Barbara Ellen**

Before joining The Observer in 1996 Barbara worked as a music journalist for *Loaded* and at *The Mail on Sunday*. She is a regular columnist for *The Guardian* and *The Observer*. Barbara lives in London and has two daughters, a 7-year-old and a teenager.

### **Mary Hoffman**

Mary Hoffman is the bestselling author of over ninety books, mainly for children and teenagers. Her titles cater for a wide range of readers, through picture books like *Amazing Grace* and its sequels to the successful teenage fantasy sequence, *Stravaganza*, and prize-winning historical novels like *The Falconer's Knot* and *Troubadour*. Mary is also a journalist, reviewing for *The Guardian* and on her Book Maven blog (<http://bookmavenmary.blogspot.com>). She lives in Oxfordshire with her husband and has three grown-up daughters, all working in the arts.

### **Barbara Band**

Barbara Band is a Chartered Librarian who has worked in a wide variety of secondary schools for over 20 years. Prior to this, she worked as a project management consultant for both the defence and telecommunications industries. In addition to supporting literacy throughout the whole school with an array of promotional activities, she delivers an information skills programme that equips students to find, recognise and use the appropriate information for their needs. Barbara is an active member of both the Chartered Institute of Library & Information Professionals (Cilip) and the School Library Association (SLA). She has given talks and workshops on a range of library-related topics from creating development plans through to reading schemes. She recently reached the School Librarian of the Year 2009 Honour's List.



### **Claudia Freemantle**

Claudia is 16 years old and goes to Hanley Castle High School in Worcestershire. Obviously, she loves to read but she is also a keen clarinettist, and sings in the Worcester Girls' Cathedral Choir. She gets involved with drama and performances as often as she can within school and also in local amateur productions. She thoroughly enjoyed the experience of the judging panel last year, and is delighted to have been offered another chance to participate in the judging process for the Booktrust Teenage Prize

### **About Booktrust**

Booktrust is an independent charity dedicated to encouraging people of all ages and cultures to engage with books. The written word underpins all our activity and enables us to fulfil our vision of inspiring a lifelong love of books for all. Booktrust is responsible for a number of successful national reading promotions, sponsored book prizes and creative reading projects aimed at encouraging readers to discover and enjoy books. These include the Orange Prize for Fiction, the Children's Laureate, the Get London Reading campaign, the Booktrust Teenage Prize and Bookstart, the national programme that works through locally based organisations to give a free pack of books to young children, with guidance materials for parents and carers. Booktrust has developed two further free book programmes in the UK: Booktime, run in association with Pearson, gives a free book to every Year One pupil, and Booked Up, which gives a free book, from a choice of nineteen, to every Year Seven pupil. See [www.booktrust.org.uk](http://www.booktrust.org.uk)

### **About The Reading Agency**

The Reading Agency is an independent charity working to inspire more people to read more. Much of The Reading Agency's work is with public libraries, but it also teams up with prisons, publishers, unions, businesses, broadcasters, and others. The Reading Agency's national programmes include: the Summer Reading Challenge which gets over 750,000 children reading each summer; Reading Partners which is revolutionising how libraries and publishers work together; the Six Book Challenge, aimed at adults with low level literacy; and groupthing.org – a website where young people can get creative around reading, writing and words. The Reading Agency is funded by the Arts Council and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. See [www.readingagency.org.uk](http://www.readingagency.org.uk)