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Yes You Can!

Enter Booktrust's short story competition to be President for a Day

Booktrust is inviting young writers to enter a short story competition to win a place on the judging panel for their internationally acclaimed Booktrust Teenage Prize 2009.

The charity that encourages people of all ages to enjoy reading is challenging young writers aged 11-16 to write a 500-word short story with the title ***President for a Day***.

The deadline for competition entries is 27 July 2009. The guidelines and entry form are available for download from the website www.bookheads.org.uk

The authors of the four best short stories will win a place on the judging panel for the Booktrust Teenage Prize 2009.

They will join Times journalist Alyson Rudd, author Marcus Sedgwick, librarian Judi James, writer and translator Daniel Hahn and Aniketa Khushu, a young judge whose short story won her a place on the judging panel last year.

Rosa Anderson from Booktrust:

'Every year we find thoughtful, articulated and opinionated teenagers who make a fantastic and vitally important contribution to the judging panel, and I know that this year will be no different. It's a big part of what makes this popular Prize so exciting and truly relevant to teenagers themselves.'

The Booktrust Teenage Prize was launched in 2003 to recognise and celebrate contemporary writing for teenagers. 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, graphic novels and reference books.

It is run with the support of The Reading Agency, which publicises the Teenage Prize in libraries across the UK, primarily through coordination with public and school library services.

The 2008 prize was won by Patrick Ness for his novel *The Knife of Never Letting Go*.

The winning author will be presented with a cheque for £2,500 at an awards ceremony on 18 November.



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Prize Information: Rosa Anderson on rosa@booktrust.org.uk or on 020 8516 2973

Press Information: Katherine Solomon on katherine@booktrust.org.uk or on 020 8875 4583.

Notes to Editors

Judges' Biographies

Judi James, Teacher/Librarian, Wolverhampton (**Chair of Judges**)

Judi James has thirty years experience in education. She trained as a Primary School Teacher and has taught Infants, Middle School and Secondary school pupils. She has been a Class Teacher, Middle Infants Coordinator, Head of Art, Special Educational Needs Coordinator (Y5 -Y13) and a Director of Literacy. The importance of reading for pleasure and its positive effect on all aspects of learning has been central to her role. She is currently encouraging reading for pleasure as Teacher/Library Manager, and was a member of the Booked Up panel for 2008.

Daniel Hahn is a writer and translator. With Leonie Flynn and Susan Reuben he is also the editor of the *Ultimate Book Guides* series of reading guides for children and teenagers.

Aniketa Khushu was a teenage judge for the Booktrust Teenage Prize 2008. She is 15 years old and attends the Crossley Heath Grammar School in Halifax. She has always enjoyed writing, especially short stories and poems. She is also interested in music and plays the piano, guitar and clarinet.

Alyson Rudd, writer with the Times.

Alyson was a financial reporter before becoming a sports writer. She has published two books; a biography of Matthew Harding, the Chelsea FC director killed in a helicopter crash, and *Astroturf Blonde*, an account of her playing career in men's and women's football teams. She ran the Times Books Group and writes for the Times sports pages reporting, in particular, on football. Alyson is a qualified football coach and referee. She is a judge for the William Hill Sports Book of the Year. Alyson is married, has two sons and lives in south-west London.

Marcus Sedgwick is the author of a dozen books for children and teenagers, and his books have been shortlisted for, or won, over twenty prizes. *My Swordhand is Singing* won the Booktrust Teenage Prize in 2007, and his most recent title is *Revolver*, published in July 2009.



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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 twelve, to every Year Seven pupil. See www.booktrust.org.uk

About The Reading Agency

The Reading Agency is an independent charity working to inspire more people to read more. It is funded by the Arts Council and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. (www.readingagency.org.uk)