

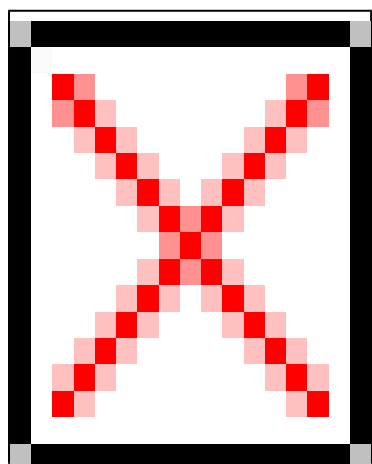


ROBIN WALKER WINS THE 2020 ALCS EDUCATIONAL WRITERS? AWARD FOR BLACK HISTORY MATTERS

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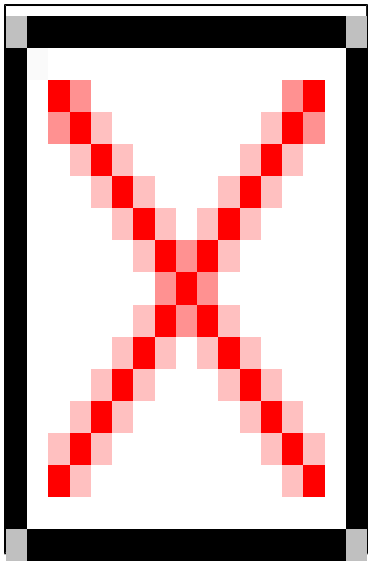
The winner of the **2020 ALCS Educational Writers? Award** is **Black History Matters: The Story of Black History, From African Kingdoms to Black Lives Matter**. Written by acclaimed Black historian, Robin Walker, the 2020 judges praised this accessible, comprehensive and inspiring book which provides a timely introduction both to Black history and the Black Lives Matter movement.



The **ALCS Educational Writers? Award** is the UK?s only award for creative educational writing and the winner was announced at a virtual awards ceremony hosted by the Authors? Licensing & Collecting Society (ALCS). Robin Walker receives prize money of £2000.

Published by Franklin Watts, **Black History Matters** aims to provide young people with a comprehensive resource throughout Black History Month and beyond. It chronicles thousands of years of Black history, from African kingdoms, to slavery, apartheid, the battle for civil rights and more. Important and inspiring Black personalities, from Olaudah Equiano to Oprah Winfrey, are highlighted throughout, while achievements and progress are balanced alongside a look at the issues that continue to plague Black communities.

This year?s judges were author [Bali Rai](#) [1]; school librarian, Liz Annetts; and secondary school teacher, Charlotte Baggley.



Runner-up for the 2020 ALCS Educational Writers' Award is **How to Be Autistic**, written and illustrated by Charlotte Amelia Poe, and published by Myriad Editions. The judges praised this highly personal account of autism, mental illness, gender and sexual identity as: 'a raw, honest and potentially life-changing personal story which fills a gap in the resources currently available, and illustrates how far we still need to travel in order to understand and support those with autism'.

The **2020 ALCS Educational Writers' Award** focused on books for 11-18-year-olds, published in 2018 and 2019. The complete shortlist is:

Africa, Amazing Africa: Country By Country, written by Atinuke and illustrated by Mouni Feddag (Walker Books)

Earth Heroes: 20 Inspiring Stories Of People Saving Our World, written by Lily Dyu and illustrated by Jackie Lay (Nosy Crow)

[Herstory: 50 Women and Girls Who Shook The World](#) [2], written by Katherine Halligan and illustrated by Sarah Walsh (Nosy Crow)

How To Be Autistic, written and illustrated by Charlotte Amelia Poe (Myriad Editions)

Black History Matters: The Story of Black History, From African Kingdoms to Black Lives Matter, written by Robin Walker, (Franklin Watts)

Robin Walker, also known as The Black History Man, is one of the UK's most pre-eminent African scholars. Born in London, Walker read Economics at **LSE**, and later African World Studies. Since 1992, Robin has lectured in adult education and has authored and co-authored 13 books including **Everyday Life in a West Africa Empire** about the Songhai Empire of West Africa. Perhaps his most notable and critically acclaimed work is **When We Ruled**, which has been hailed as the single most advanced historical synthesis on the history of Africa and its people to date. It established Robin as a leading authority on African Studies in the English-speaking world.

The **ALCS Educational Writers' Award** was established in 2008 by **ALCS** and the **Society of Authors (SoA)**, 'to celebrate educational writing that inspires creativity and encourages students to read widely and build up their understanding of a subject beyond the requirements of exam specifications'.

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Links:

[1] <http://booksforkeeps.co.uk-www.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/197/childrens-books/articles/authorgraph/bali-rai-authorgraph>

[2] <http://booksforkeeps.co.uk-www.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/230/childrens-books/reviews/herstory-50-women-and-girls-who-shook-the-world>