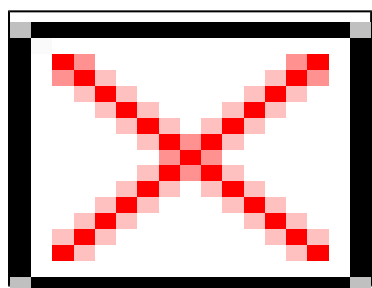




# THE YEAR'S BEST POETRY FOR CHILDREN: CLiPPA 2019 SHORTLIST ANNOUNCED

The [Centre for Literacy in Primary Education \(CLPE\)](#) [1] has announced the 2019 shortlist for their poetry award, CLiPPA (The Centre for Literacy in Primary Poetry Award). Children's poetry is booming and there were a record number of entries for the CLiPPA, the only award for children's poetry.



The five books on the shortlist are:

[Rebound](#) [2], Kwame Alexander (Andersen Press)

[Everything All At Once](#), Steven Camden (Macmillan Children's Books)

[A Kid in My Class](#) [3], Rachel Rooney illustrated by Chris Riddell (Otter-Barry Books)

[Dark Sky](#) [4] Park, Philip Gross (Otter-BarryBooks)

**Thinker: My Puppy Poet and Me**, by Eloise Greenfield, illustrated by Ehsan Abdollahi (Tiny Owl)

The judging panel for **CLiPPA 2019** comprised poet and author [A.F. Harrold](#) [5], **CLiPPA 2018** winner [Karl Nova](#) [6], Susannah Herbert, director of Forward Arts Foundation and [National Poetry Day](#) [7], poet Ruth Awolola, and Charlotte Hacking, Programme Leader for the CLPE. The panel had a record number of submissions to discuss for this year's award, demonstrating an increase in poetry collections and verse novels being published at the moment.

A.F. Harrold, Chair of Judges for **CLiPPA 2019** said: "For five judges, coming at this from five different directions, it was a relief to see that there was some crossover and agreement on what "a good book of poetry for kids" looked like. The shortlist we came up with pleased us for its range, both of writers, intended age groups and subject matter. Each of the judges have books on the list that we felt strongly about and loved and championed from the outset."

Louise Johns-Shepherd, Chief Executive at **CLPE** said: "At CLPE we want to make poetry integral to the school curriculum and for it to be in every school, classroom, library, corridor and book bag. This shortlist "selected from the biggest number of submissions in the award's history -shows such a range and breadth of what poetry for children is and can be and recognises a real variety of voices and styles. We look forward to more children, teachers and schools discovering these works through our shadowing scheme."

The judges also wanted to give special mention to [England Poems from a School](#) [8] (Picador), edited by Kate Clanchy, in acknowledgement of the raw, emotional and yet extremely accomplished collection of poems written by group of teenagers from a small comprehensive school in Oxford.

The winner of **CLIPPA 2019** will be announced at a ceremony at the National Theatre in central London on Wednesday 3rd July 2019. The event will be attended by children from across the UK who have participated in the [CLIPPA shadowing scheme](#) [9] in their schools in the run up to the award.

The award is sponsored by **ALCS**, the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society.

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**Links:**

[1] <https://clpe.org.uk/>

[2] <http://booksforkeeps.co.uk-www.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/230/childrens-books/reviews/rebound>

[3] <http://booksforkeeps.co.uk-www.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/232/childrens-books/reviews/a-kid-in-my-class>

[4] <http://booksforkeeps.co.uk-www.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/232/childrens-books/reviews/dark-sky-park-poems-from-the-edge-of-nature>

[5] <http://booksforkeeps.co.uk-www.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/233/childrens-books/articles/authorgraph/authorgraph-233-af-harrold>

[6] <http://booksforkeeps.co.uk-www.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/231/childrens-books/articles/rhythm-and-poetry-karl-nova-clippa-winner-2018>

[7] <https://nationalpoetryday.co.uk/>

[8] <http://booksforkeeps.co.uk-www.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/232/childrens-books/reviews/england-poems-from-a-school>

[9] <https://clpe.org.uk/poetryline/clippa>