

For immediate release
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IBBY Announces the 2026 Hans Christian Andersen Award Jury

The Hans Christian Andersen Award is the highest international distinction in the field of books for young people. Given every other year by IBBY, the Awards recognize lifelong achievement and are given to a writer and an illustrator whose complete works have made an important and lasting contribution to children's and youth literature.

The following ten children's book specialists were selected by the IBBY Executive Committee to serve as members of the 2026 Hans Christian Andersen Award Jury:

- **Brenda Dales** from the United States of America is an independent scholar and professor emerita from Miami University, Ohio.
- **Nadia El Kholly** from Egypt is a professor of English at Cairo University and President of the Egyptian Book Council for Young Readers.
- **Giorgia Grilli** from Italy is a children's Literature professor at the University of Bologna and co-founder of the Italian Centre of Research in Children's Literature.
- **Diana Kovach** from Argentina is a language and literature teacher in secondary schools and at the Teachers' Training Institute, Buenos Aires.
- **Shailaja Menon** from India is lead for the Center of Excellence in Early Literacy and anchor for the Early Learning Network of India (Tata Trusts).
- **Mare Mürsepp** from Estonia is a primary school teacher and lecturer of children's literature at Tallinn University.
- **Margaret Anne Suggs** from Ireland is an accomplished illustrator and lecturer in history of design and illustration at Ballyfermot College of Further Education, Dublin.
- **Fengxia Tan** from China, is a professor the School of Literature at the Nanjing Normal University.
- **Holly Tonks** from London, United Kingdom is editorial director at HarperCollins Children's.
- **Morgane Vasta** from France is a mediator specialized in children's literature and lecturer on novels for children and teenagers at the University of Sorbonne Paris Nord.

The Jury will work under the guidance of Jury President, **Shereen Kreidieh**, who declared: "I am excited to collaborate with a distinguished and diverse group of jury members from around the world, each bringing their unique expertise, cultural perspectives, and language skills to our important work". IBBY Executive Director **Carolina Ballester** is an *ex officio* Jury member.

The 2026 Hans Christian Andersen Award nominees will be announced on 31 March 2025 at the IBBY Press Conference to be held at the Bologna Children's Book Fair.

For more information about the Hans Christian Andersen Award and all current IBBY projects, please visit the [IBBY website](https://www.ibby.org).