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For immediate release

## IBBY Announces Candidates for the 2026 Hans Christian Andersen Award

During its Annual Press Conference held at the Bologna Children's Book Fair on Monday 31 March, the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), represented by the Hans Christian Andersen Jury Chair Shereen Kreidieh, announced the candidates for the 2026 edition of the Award.

The Hans Christian Andersen Award is the highest international recognition given to creators of children's books whose complete works have made an important, lasting contribution to children's literature. The Author's Award has been given since 1956 and the Illustrator's Award since 1966. The Award consists of a gold medal and a diploma, presented at a festive ceremony during the biennial IBBY World Congress.

The recipients of the awards are selected by a distinguished [international jury](#) of literature experts.

At the end of the nomination period on 15 February 2025, **78 candidates** from 44 countries were confirmed as nominees to the 2026 Hans Christian Andersen Awards. Among these, **41 are nominated in the Writing category** and **37 are nominated in the Illustration category**. This is in an unprecedented volume of candidates and the highest-ever number of participating countries.

### Candidates to the 2026 Hans Christian Andersen Award

Country	Author	Illustrator
ARGENTINA	Sandra Siemens	María Wernicke
AUSTRALIA	Emily Rodda	Bruce Whatley
AUSTRIA	Elisabeth Steinkellner	Helga Bansch
BELGIUM	Thomas Lavachery	Leo Timmers
BULGARIA	Maya Dalgacheva	Iassen Ghiuselev
CANADA	David A. Robertson	Josée Bisaillon
CHILE	María José Ferrada	
CHINA	Jin Bo	Cai Gao
COLOMBIA	Irene Vasco	Ivar Da Coll
CROATIA	Sanja Pilić	
CYPRUS	Andri Antoniou	Louiza Kaimaki
DENMARK	Kim Fupz Aakeson	Rasmus Bregnhøi

<b>ECUADOR</b>	Edna Iturralde	
<b>EGYPT</b>	Rania Hussein Amin	Walid Taher
<b>ESTONIA</b>	Andrus Kivirähk	Anne Pikkov
<b>FINLAND</b>	Timo Parvela	Linda Bondestam
<b>FRANCE</b>	Timothée de Fombelle	Grégoire Solotareff
<b>GERMANY</b>	Andreas Steinhöfel	Nikolaus Heidelbach
<b>GREECE</b>	Manos Kontoleon	Photini Stephanidi
<b>INDIA</b>		Atanu Roy
<b>IRAN</b>	Ahmad Akbarpour	Alireza Goldouzian
<b>IRELAND</b>	Eoin Colfer	
<b>ITALY</b>	Beatrice Masini	Beatrice Alemagna
<b>JAPAN</b>	Yoko Tomiyasu	Hiroshi Abe
<b>KOREA</b>	Lee Geum-yi	Kim Dong-soo
<b>LATVIA</b>	Inese Zandere	Gundega Muzikante
<b>LEBANON</b>	Sanaa Chabbani	Joelle Achkar
<b>MOROCCO</b>	Elhassan Benmouna	
<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	Edward van de Vendel	Thé Tjong-Khing
<b>NORWAY</b>	Maria Parr	Øyvind Torseter
<b>PALESTINE</b>	Sonia Nimr	
<b>PHILIPINES</b>	Eugene Y. Evasco	Beth Parrocha
<b>POLAND</b>		Iwona Chmielewska
<b>PORTUGAL</b>	Alice Vieira	Teresa Lima
<b>RUSSIA</b>		Anton Lomaev
<b>SLOVENIA</b>	Anja Štefan	Alenka Sottler
<b>SPAIN</b>	Maite Carranza	Elena Odriozola
<b>SWITZERLAND</b>	Franz Hohler	Catherine Louis
<b>TURKEY</b>	Aytül Akal	Ayşe İnan
<b>UKRAINE</b>	Sashko Dermanskyi	Kateryna Shtanko
<b>UNITED ARAB EMIRATES</b>	Maitha Al Khayat	Abdullah Alsharhan
<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>	Michael Rosen	Emily Gravett
<b>UNITES STATES OF AMERICA</b>	Pam Muñoz Ryan	Sophie Blackall
<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>	Muhabbat Yuldasheva	

For more information, please visit the IBBY website: [www.ibby.org](http://www.ibby.org) or contact the Hans Christian Andersen Award Secretary Carolina Ballester: [carolina.ballester@ibby.org](mailto:carolina.ballester@ibby.org).