

**BOLOGNARAGAZZI DIGITAL AWARD:
THE 2016 WINNERS AND THE SPECIAL MENTIONS**

**Thinking beyond the page
The very best of digital publishing for children and young people
Entries from over 30 countries**

The 2016 edition of the Bologna Children's Book Fair –from the 4th to the 7th April – will once again include the **BolognaRagazzi Digital Award**, the international prize dedicated to digital publishing and apps for children and young people. The Fair has been awarding the prize since 2012 in collaboration with the Children's Technology Review (USA), but the story of the award really began back in 2002 when BolognaFiere created the first ever prize for children's eBooks.

New technologies offer increasing opportunities for authors of children's stories, both in the field of education and entertainment: **this prize acknowledges the very best works from all over the world, the most innovative apps and those that best manage to combine the digital experience with traditional storytelling.**

The Bologna Ragazzi Digital Award is for all publishers and app developers specifically for children and young people aged between 2 and 15. **Fiction** and **Non Fiction** are the two categories of the prize: each year the works sent to BolognaFiere are examined by a special international jury of experts from the sector. The event's 5th edition has attracted **177 entries from 30 countries**: these have been judged in recent days by a jury composed of **Warren Buckleitner**, American guru of digital for children and Editor of the *The Children's Technology Review* (USA), **Paulien Dresscher**, Director of the New Media Department, Cinekid (Holland), **Valeria Petrone**, Illustrator (Italy) and **Max Whitby**, co-founder of Touchpress Ltd (Great Britain).

Sometimes the magic of interactive technology combines perfectly with extraordinary traditional illustrations, majestic craft and narrative skill: the result is a rich experience that is a genuine pleasure to explore. This is certainly the case for the **2 winners, 4 special mentions and 7 works that made the short list** of the jury of the BolognaRagazzi Digital Award 2016. Each of the titles makes an important contribution to children's publishing by exploiting the potential of emerging technology from the point of view of younger users.

WINNER FOR FICTION

The 2016 winner of the Fiction Category is **Wuwu & Co. – A Magical Picture Book**, Step In Books (Denmark). *“An innovative and engaging tale that captivates and enchants, the story uses minimalist illustrations inserted into a virtual world that can be explored freely with a tablet. This enables the user to move through the story in a non-linear way. Sounds and illustrations of high quality accompany us while we move around searching for the items needed in order to proceed with the story. The app, in turn, uses the movement input in a delicate and fun way. The jury had some doubts about the usability but these were largely overcome by the aesthetic value and the innovative navigation techniques.”*

WINNER FOR NON FICTION

For the Non Fiction category the jury chose to award the prize to **Attributes by Math Doodles**, Carstens Studios (USA). *“The essence of mathematics represented in a unique app through seven stimulating activities of logic and maths illustrated by hand. The app transmits to the child the message that mathematics is something wonderful that can be presented without any particular tricks”.*

SPECIAL MENTIONS (FICTION)

Boum!, Les Inéditeurs (France) *“This story, presented through a continuous scrolling movement, is a delight for the eyes and the ears. Users advance through the tale with swipes that reveal vivid illustrations that are inserted into a fascinating audio environment. This work has a cinematographic flavour and the viewpoint continues to mutate, moving beyond the restrictions of the traditional frame. While some might find the absence of an explicit narration strange, there is an implicit message of fantasy and creativity that overcomes boredom and monotony. And at the end there’s a smile”.*

Goldilocks and Little Bear, Nosy Crow, (Great Britain) *“The movement of the device becomes an innovative element incorporated with intelligence and humour into a classic tale. Well-designed functions take advantage of the potential of a tablet to understand movement. In this way it becomes possible to literally turn the story on its head (by rotating the screen as if it were a car steering wheel) and follow the two characters (the bear and the girl) in their flight. At the end, in an intelligent adaptation of the story, everyone finds one another again and makes new friends. The entire experience is a true delight from the beginning to the end: a work that includes high quality music, graphics tailor-made for the interactivity of the medium and a truly contemporary narrative capacity. This title is surely Nosy Crow’s best work yet.”*

SPECIAL MENTIONS (NON-FICTION)

Loopimal by Yatatoy, Lucas Zanotto, (Finland) *“Even a very small child can programme the movements of the six animated animals, dragging and dropping the blocks onto a time line. The result is an enchanting rhythmical musical experience with an infinite number of combinations and an invitation to dance to the sound of the music.”*

MoonBeeps: Gizmo, Moonbot Studios (USA) *“This innovative app transforms the tablet into a tool to enhance imaginative play, helping the child to build an imaginary submarine or a space ship. The switches and mechanisms and the resulting sound effects are simple only in appearance. The jury appreciated the idea that a tablet can be a tool to facilitate play rather than dictate to and lead the child in his/her actions.”*

SHORT LIST

Titles acknowledged for their unique contribution to digital publishing for children were: **Chomp**, Fox and Sheep, (Germany); **Hilda Bewildered**, Slap Happy Larry (Australia); **Janosch: The trip to Panama**, Mixtvision Digital (Germany); **Lucy & Pogo**, Catsndogz Studio GbR (Germany); **Milli: A Small Snail in a Big World**, Mixtvision Digital GmbH, (Germany); **Monster Mingle**, Cowly Owl (Great Britain); **With a Few Bricks**, Cléa Dieudonné (Germany).

IMAGES OF THE WINNERS AND SPECIAL MENTIONS ARE ATTACHED; BIOGRAPHIES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL JURY CAN BE FOUND AT THE FOLLOWING LINK

<http://www.bolognachildrenbookfair.com/en/the-fair/bologna-ragazzi-digital-award/2016-jury/1986.html>

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