



**MINISTER DARIO FRANCESCHINI TODAY ANNOUNCED THE TWO SETS OF
FIVE SELECTED FINALISTS
THE WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE
2016 BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR**

Rome, 9th November 2015 – Speaking at the Bellonci Foundation, the Minister for Culture and Tourism, **Dario Franceschini**, today announced the **two sets of five finalists** of the **first edition** of the *Strega Prize for Children's Literature*, promoted and organised by the **Maria and Goffredo Bellonci Foundation**, **Strega Alberti Benevento** with the **Centre for Books and Reading**, the **Bologna Children's Book Fair** and created with the support of **BPER Bank**.

From the **55 books nominated**, **24** in the **category for readers aged between 6 and 10**, and **31** in the **category for books for 11-15 year-olds** (including **13 translated titles** in each category), the committee coordinated by President of the Bellonci Foundation, **Tullio De Mauro** and including **Giuseppe Bartorilla**, **Emma Beseghi**, **Pino Boero**, **Ermanno Detti**, **Silvana Loiero**, **Carla Ida Salviati** and **Maria Romana Tetamo**, has selected:

Category of books for readers aged 6-10

- *La mucca volante* (Bompiani) by **Paolo Di Paolo**
- *Il riscatto di Dond* (Uovonero) by **Siobhan Dowd**
- *Cuori di waffel* (Beisler) by **Maria Parr**
- *Le nuove storie del piccolo Nicolas* (Donzelli) by **Gosciny & Sempé**
- *Salta, Bart!* (Giunti) by **Susanna Tamaro**

Category of books for readers aged 11-15

- *Fuori fuoco* (Bompiani) by **Chiara Carminati**
- *Dalla parte sbagliata* (Giunti) by **Francesco D'Adamo**
- *La trottola di Sofia. Sofia Kovalevskaja si racconta* (Editoriale Scienza) by **Vichi De Marchi**
- *La fine del cerchio* (Fanucci) by **Beatrice Masini**
- *Zorro nella neve* (Il Castoro) by **Paola Zannoner**

*"This first edition of the Strega Prize for Children's Literature has been born from the fruitful collaboration between the Bellonci Foundation, the Centre for Books and Reading and the excellent Bologna Children's Book Fair," underlined **Minister Dario Franceschini**. "Energy and expertise has been pooled in order to achieve a common goal: to encourage reading and to create new generations of readers. Our country needs to make up for lost years: we must boost reading for children. This task we*



will pursue together, beginning with the schools. I am delighted to be here with a project to add resources after so many cuts. We have taken a step forward, it is important to pass on to our children the joy of reading that enables us to live other lives."

*"The Strega Prize for Children's Literature will exist alongside other initiatives of the Bellonci Foundation to promote reading, such as those involving the students of secondary schools in the selection of the winners of the Strega Youth Prize," explains **Tullio De Mauro**, President of the Bellonci Foundation. "The new prize is intended to help cultivate the habit of reading during childhood and adolescence, and is an indispensable tool in promoting the growth and consolidation of young readers' passion for books. For the pupils of elementary and middle schools all over the country, the prize offers the opportunity to read, compare and evaluate books that have been written just for them. A 'vast and democratic jury' just as the original group of friends had in mind when Mario Bellonci and Guido Alberti created the Strega Prize in 1947".*

*"With this new Prize the Children's Book Fair intends to enlarge the scope of its acknowledgements of excellence in the field of children's books, focussing on literature in addition to illustration," explains **Duccio Campagnoli**, President of BolognaFiere. "The fair is achieving its objectives alongside highly qualified partners that share the conviction that including children's books in the country's leading award for literature is the right way to support the work of writers, publishers and translators committed to producing written work for a young audience".*

Awarded to narrative works, including translations, published in Italy between the first of April of the previous year until the 31st March of the current year, the **Strega Prize for Children's Literature** has been established with the purpose of connecting with the very **roots of children's passion for reading** in order to promote the educational and cultural value of books and reading, beginning from childhood and adolescence: an aim that has been put into practice by giving voice to the opinions of numerous children aged between 6 and 15 years old, who will be able to vote for the stories that they loved most. Thanks to the involvement of a nationwide **network of primary and secondary schools** identified by the **Centre for Books and Reading**, the young readers will be the ones to select the winners for each of the two categories.

The award ceremony for the winning books will take place in 2016 during the coming edition of the **International Children's Book Fair** before a public including members of the press, publishers, writers and illustrators from 98 different countries that are all frequent participants at the renowned Bologna event. The authors of the two books selected will each win **5000 euros**. In the case in which the book is a translation, then a further prize of **2000 euros** will be awarded to the translator.

News and further information at www.premiostrega.it/PSR



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