



THE 62ND BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR

The 60th anniversary of the BolognaRagazzi Awards plus the CrossMedia Awards: 2025 winners and Special Mentions

Record-breaking numbers: 3858 books from 68 countries and regions, the awards showcase the very best of global publishing

The BolognaRagazzi CrossMedia Awards have also seen an increase in the number of entries, which this year feature Artificial Intelligence and immersive installations for increasingly accessible content

In 2025 the **BolognaRagazzi Awards** (BRAW) will celebrate their **60th anniversary**. Since 1966 the Bologna Children's Book Fair has been assigning these accolades to the best new publications in the sector, thereby accompanying the evolution of the publishing market. Among the most prestigious awards for children's publishing worldwide, the BRAW represent an opportunity for the fair to intercept new trends in international publishing and to expand the event's relationships with publishers from various areas of the world, offering new business opportunities to the winners as well as to exhibitors and visitors to the fair.

Over the years, BCBF's attention to market changes and developments in the sector has led it to introduce some new features. These include the addition of two new permanent award categories, Comics and Toddler, following the boom in the market for the respective publishing segments, and the establishment of the **BolognaRagazzi CrossMedia Awards** (BRCMA) specifically for the best cross-media projects. The expansion of digital media has, in fact, given rise to crossover projects between the publishing ecosystem and new digital formats: more and more stories and characters from books are taking on a new life in videogames, podcasts, video animations and many other new projects.

THE BOLOGNARAGAZZI AWARDS

3858 titles from 68 countries and regions of the world: these are the figures for the 2025 **BolognaRagazzi Awards**, a record number of participants with **15% more titles** compared with the previous record set at the 2024 edition. Countries submitting titles for the first time for the BRAW include: **Guatemala, Mongolia, Morocco, Nigeria, Qatar and Vietnam**. Constant growth and an important milestone at the sixtieth edition of the annual awards at the Bologna Children's Book Fair, but above all a success that confirms the high regard and the trust placed by publishing houses from all over the world in BCBF's scouting activities.

Divided into five permanent categories, **Fiction, Non-Fiction, Opera Prima** (debut publications by authors and illustrators), **Comics** and **Toddler**, the BRAW also include the special **New Horizons** award that the international juries can assign to a particularly innovative work. Furthermore, every year a special category is added: for the 2025 edition, the focus is on **Sustainability**, in line with the 17 sustainable development goals outlined by the United Nations, with which BCBF began a collaboration at the 2024 edition.

THE WINNERS OF THE BOLOGNARAGAZZI AWARDS

FICTION

Title: **الحكمة (House of Wisdom)**



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Text by: Bodour Al Qasimi

Illustrations by: Majid Zakeri Younesi

Publisher: Kalimat

Country: United Arab Emirates, 2024

NON-FICTION

Title: **Per mille camicette al giorno (For a thousand blouses a day)**

Text by: Serena Ballista

Illustrations by: Sonia Maria Luce Possentini

Publisher: Orecchio Acerbo

Country: Italy, 2024

SUSTAINABILITY

Title: **Art Is a Voice**

Text and illustrations by: Kripa

Publisher: Art1st Enterprises

Country: India, 2024

The jury for the Sustainability and Non-Fiction sections also awarded an **Honourable Mention** in the Sustainability category to **Raíces del bosque** (Roots of the Forest), a Chilean picture book about the life of roots in the forest and their collaborative spirit, expressing a deep respect for the environment through a poetic language, which was considered transversal to both categories.

HONOURABLE MENTION

Title: **Raíces del bosque (Roots of the Forest)**

Text by: Paulina Jara

Illustrations by: da Marcos Guardiola

Publisher: Editorial Amanuta

Country: Chile, 2021

OPERA PRIMA (Debut work)

Title: **빨간 사과가 먹고 싶다면 (If You Want to Eat a Red Apple)**

Text by: Jin Joo

Illustrations by: Ga Hee Lee

Publisher: Finger Publishing

Country: South Korea, 2024

TODDLER

Title: **Le coq polyglotte (The Multilingual Cockerel)**

Text and illustrations by: Marie Darme-Rizzo

Publisher: Hélium

Country: France, 2024

COMICS - EARLY READER



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Title: Gutenachtgeschichten für Celeste - Ein sehr gruseliges Bilderbuch (Bedtime Stories for Celeste - a Very Scary Picture Book)

Text and drawings by: Nikolaus Heidelbach and Ole Könnecke

Publisher: Carl Hanser Verlag

Country: Germany, 2024

COMICS - MIDDLE GRADE

Title: Dita Dor (Dictator)

Text and drawings by: António Jorge Gonçalves

Publisher: Edições Assembleia da República

Country: Portugal, 2024

COMICS - YOUNG ADULT

Title: La Trahison d'Olympe Livre 1 (The Betrayal of Olympe #1)

Text and drawings by: Jean Dalin

Publisher: Sarbacane

Country: France, 2024

NEW HORIZONS

Title: Dalla finestra (From the window)

Text by: Laura Cattabianchi

Illustrations by: Laura Cattabianchi and Patrizio Anastasi

Publisher: Start Edizioni

Country: Italy, 2024

For the full list of Special Mentions at the BolognaRagazzi Awards, please click here:

<https://www.bolognachildrensbokfair.com/en/awards/bolognaragazzi-awards/bolognaragazzi-awards-all-the-2025-winners/10903.html>

THE TRENDS 2025

Children's publishing is increasingly using the picture book format as a space for experimentation capable of accounting for life's complexity and the poetics of childhood. The graphic-artistic language ranges from the most classical forms to the most daring experiments, using new perspectives to reinvent even the classic fairy tales, a constant in titles for children. Deserved space on the page is found for both the day-to-day lives of children, their body language and play, and also the social and political issues that influence their lives, as well as their important philosophical and existential questions concerning time, symbols, science, but also death, transformation, relationships and pain. The same themes are at the centre of an increasing number of stories about children's rights and a sustainable world, which are expressed in the **UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals**. These include the right to expression, participation, housing and education, as well as, above all, the right to live in friendship, collaboration and peace. To quote Umberto Eco, "*What cannot be theorised must be narrated*," and children's publishing does not shy away from its role of tackling universal themes through new forms and visions.

Aspects of sustainability are not only limited to their own special category, however. They feature in different narratives from Non-Fiction to Fiction, and even Comics. These books explain, present and imagine possibilities: for example, the case of bicycles and the many adventures that children have while riding them.



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Finally, the theme of birth features more frequently than in previous editions of the award. Birth as a natural act and, at the same time, imbued with feelings of mystery, discovery, and events that often take new parents by surprise. This theme bears witness to the change taking place nowadays with falling birth rates affecting countries all over the world and is being reinterpreted by publishers and authors who are in some cases separated by great distances.

THE BRAW AMAZING BOOKSHELF AND THE BRAW AMAZING BOOKSHELF - SUSTAINABILITY: 17 GOALS FOR A BETTER FUTURE

The BRAW represent an important business opportunity: winning a prize or special mention brings the work to the attention of the global publishing industry gathered at BCBF, encouraging the sale of the rights to the winning book thanks also to the important promotional activities carried out by BCBF. Not only the winning and commended titles benefit from a boost to their visibility, also a wide selection of the best proposals are showcased: **over 150 titles** in the various categories are on display for browsing at the fair at the **The BRAW Amazing Bookshelf** exhibition. Created with the aim of showcasing the many worthy proposals submitted from all over the world, the exhibition offers a unique insight into the prize. The exhibition will also feature the second edition of **The BRAW Amazing Bookshelf - Sustainability: 17 Goals for a Better Future**, an exhibition of a selection of 150 of the best books in the 2025 special category of the BolognaRagazzi Awards dedicated to sustainability.

BOLOGNARAGAZZI CROSSMEDIA AWARDS

Organised in collaboration with Mamamò, the BolognaRagazzi CrossMedia Awards were created by BCBF to navigate the range of cross-media content linked to the publishing world, identifying trends and standout examples. **120 projects from 34 countries and regions of the world** were evaluated at the **5th edition** of the BRCMA, divided into two categories: **Digital Reading Experience**, which recognises digital platforms and products capable of offering effective on-screen reading experiences, and **CrossMedia Projects**, aimed at identifying the best and most innovative projects developed from books for children and young adults that have transferred or expanded the content convincingly to other platforms (from TV to cinema, from video game consoles to mobile devices, to smart speakers), or, alternatively, stories created elsewhere that end up on paper.

THE WINNERS OF THE BOLOGNARAGAZZI CROSSMEDIA AWARDS

CROSSMEDIA PROJECTS

BOOK

Title: **Star Papa**

Publisher: Book Gorae

CROSSMEDIA EXTENSION

Immersive video experience

Produced by da: K3I Co., Ltd.

Country: South Korea



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From a book about a farmer who grows stars, an immersive and interactive video experience that projects children into the world of the picture book to explore its story through different forms of tactile interaction, voice activation and sound effects.

DIGITAL READING EXPERIENCES

Title: **Yoto**

Developed by: Yoto Ltd

Country: United Kingdom

DIGITAL AUDIO DEVICE

An innovative audio platform for children, offering a screen-free alternative to digital devices. Just insert a card into the player to listen to audiobooks, music and educational podcasts of the highest quality.

For all of the Special Mentions at the BolognaRagazzi CrossMedia Awards, click here

<https://www.bolognachildrenbookfair.com/en/awards/bolognaragazzi-crossmedia-award-the-2025-winners/14460.html>

THE TRENDS 2025

The 2025 edition of the award has confirmed the existence of some trends that were already underway, such as the spread of audio content for children, featuring among this year's winners with a podcast series and a digital device for audiobooks. Once again there were also numerous entries that deal with complex topics with the aim of making them accessible to children, from illness to the Holocaust, from scientific concepts to gender equality.

New innovations worthy of note include the appearance of artificial intelligence chatbots that make it possible for readers to dialogue with the characters in the stories, and immersive installations that enable readers to explore the contents of books at libraries and museum spaces in an interactive way.

THE PRIZE JURIES

Every year, juries made up of publishing experts from various fields meet in Bologna for two full days to view the nominated titles and to determine the winners and special mentions.

For the Fiction, Toddler and Opera Prima categories, the 2025 international jury was made up of: **Stefano Cipolla** (art director, graphic designer and journalist, Italy), **Diletta Colombo** (bookseller, co-founder of the Spazio B**K bookshop-workshop in Milan, Italy) and **Pam Dix** (President of IBBY UK, United Kingdom).

For Non-Fiction and the special Sustainability category: **Tobias Hickey** (Head of Illustration at the University of Worcester, co-founder of the International Centre for the Picture Book in Society, UK), **Ayse Koca** (author, teacher and student tutor, currently at the Norwegian Institute for Children's Books, Norway), **Lisa Lyons Johnston** (publishing consultant, member of the global advisory board of PublisHer, Canada).

For the Comics category: **Karen Green** (comics and cartoon curator at Columbia University, USA), **Luca Raffaelli** (author, writer and artistic director of numerous festivals, Italy) and **Tanja Skale** (editor of the comics magazine Stripburger, Slovenia).

For the two categories of the BolognaRagazzi CrossMedia Awards: **Warren Buckleitner** (Editor of the Children's Technology Review, USA), **Julie Fox** (founder of Serendipity Animation, France), **Neal Hoskins** (founder of Winged Chariot, United Kingdom), **JeumJoo Lin** (digital content professional, co-founder and managing director at CO. MIINT Inc., South Korea) and **Stefano Tamai** (science communicator, multimedia educator and event manager for the Genoa Science Festival, Italy).



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For the jury members' bios, please click here:

BolognaRagazzi Awards <https://www.bolognachildrenbookfair.com/en/awards/bolognaragazzi-awards/8382.html>

BolognaRagazzi CrossMedia Awards

<https://www.bolognachildrenbookfair.com/en/awards/bolognaragazzi-crossmedia-awards/2025-braw-crossmedia-jury/10741.html>

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