

The James Krüss Prize for International Children's and Young Adult Literature 2022 goes to British author David Almond. His current main translator Alexandra Ernst is also awarded.

Jury Statement

In a dilapidated garage, a boy discovers, a strange winged creature, which he looks after. A girl has to deal with her father's pipe dream of being a bird, and his wish to participate in a flying competition. A man turns his family's flat into a fish factory and no longer lets his nephew go to school so that he can help filling the cans. And on a walk through his town, a boy unexpectedly enters the realm of the dead.

Author **David Almond**, born in Gateshead in 1951, sets many of his stories in his home region of North East England, which he poetically transforms: His complex stories portray our reality and are at the same time located on the border to the magical realm. His characters are sympathetic loners who question normative life and seek their own place in the world. If this turns out to be successful, as in the novel "The Colour of the Sun", the overwhelming happiness and the freedom frenzy of the characters are clearly palpable. On the path towards this happiness, Almond as well as his stubborn, autonomous child characters tackle big, existential questions: Mina, for example, from the eponymous novel, who initially explores the world from a safe distance by writing into her diary until she is ready to approach others. Or young Davie, who plays a metafictional mind game, wondering what it would be like to be the protagonist of a book.

Almond's texts are "open", in the best sense of the word, imbued with empathy and humour, and display his great pleasure in playing with words. These qualities place the work in proximity to James Krüss' texts: In "My name is Mina", the heroine devotes herself to "tapping" words in typical Helgoland tradition. Her findings are in no way inferior to the results of Boy and his great-grandfather and yet set their own highlights. With his idiosyncratic narrative style and his keen sense of language, David Almond proves to be a worthy Krüss-laureate with his body of work.

Together with David Almond, his current main translator, **Alexandra Ernst** is awarded. With subtlety and elegance, Ernst turns the imaginative language explorations, witty puns, and atmospheric condensations in Almond's novels into literary German texts totally on par with the original ones.

The jury members of the James Krüss Prize are:

Prof. Dr. Ute Dettmar, Institut für Jugendbuchforschung, Goethe Universität Frankfurt a. Main

Franz Lettner, Institut für Jugendliteratur Wien, 1000 & 1 Buch

Dr. Christiane Raabe, Internationale Jugendbibliothek München

Ralf Schweikart, Vorstandsvorsitzender des Arbeitskreises für Jugendliteratur

Dr. Tilman Spreckelsen, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

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David Almond is one of the most important British authors for contemporary children's and young adult literature. He was awarded, amongst others, the Carnegie Medal (1998), the Hans Christian Andersen Award (2010), and the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize (2015). His most famous work is the novel "Skellig" (1998), which has been translated into numerous languages. David Almond lives with his family in Northumberland (England).

Alexandra Ernst, born in 1965 in Wiesbaden (Germany), studied literature and worked in public relations and as advertising director in a publishing house. For her work as translator, she was nominated multiple times for the German Children's Literature Award and was also awarded. Besides her translations, she publishes contributions as a journalist and literary critic. Alexandra Ernst lives with her husband and daughter near Mainz (Germany).

