

# Marsh Award for Children's Literature in Translation: 2017 Shortlist

*What a truly wonderful prize this is - rooted in innocence, affirming curiosity and hope, never denying the hazards of childhood or human weakness - a prize that makes a worldwide family of everyone associated with it.*

Kevin Crossley-Holland

Now in its twentieth year, the Marsh Award for Children's Literature in Translation saw 27 entries in contention, representing a dozen languages from all around the globe: an apt celebration of the diversity and quality of this area of children's writing.

The shortlist was announced at the English-Speaking Union's London headquarters at Dartmouth House, at an event co-hosted by the Society of Authors, where *Diverse Voices* was the subject of a panel chaired by Joy Court (School Library Association) comprised of Gill Evans (Walker Books), Annie Eaton (Penguin Random House) and Sarah Odedina (Pushkin Children's Books).

*The entries this year were exciting, satisfying, funny and sometimes disturbing reads. In the 20th year of the Award it was exciting to see a very wide range of languages being translated for young British readers. Judging was not work but a real pleasure*

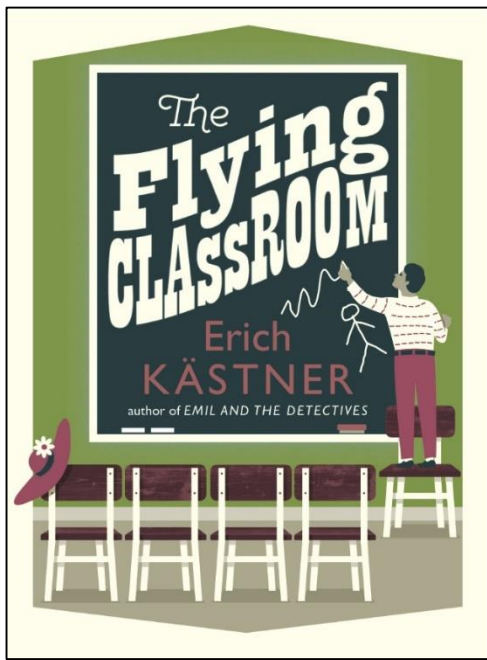
Wendy Cooling



**ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION**

discovering voices



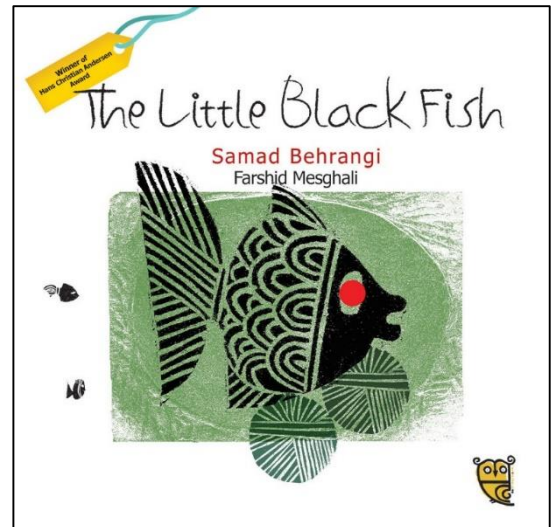


*The Flying Classroom*, Erich Kästner, trans. Anthea Bell (Pushkin Children's Books)

“Erich Kästner’s classic tale of schoolboys seeking to reunite their housemaster with a long lost friend enjoys a splendid revival in Anthea Bell’s finely crafted translation”

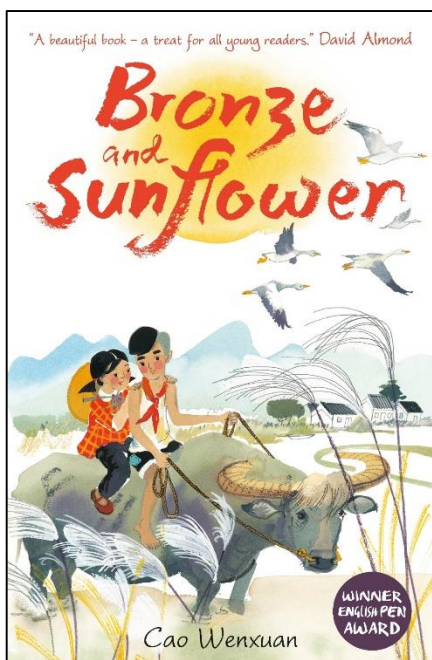
*The Little Black Fish*, Samad Behrangi, trans. Azita Rassi (Tiny Owl Publishing)

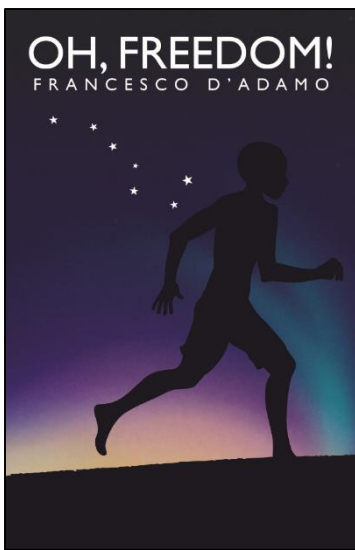
“The Little Black Fish already enjoys a legendary reputation in Iran and the translation and illustrations dovetail beautifully to create an extremely attractive book about the courage, determination and vision of a little fish... Snappy dialogue, lyrical asides, and a strong narrative embodying a timeless message”



*Bronze and Sunflower*, Cao Wenxuan, trans. Helen Wang (Walker Books)

“A warm, delightful book set in the countryside of China during the Cultural Revolution. Strong, well-drawn relationships, tough enough to survive anything, are at the heart of the story and carry the reader through great hardship. I only wish I had been able to go to school on the back of a buffalo! ...The descriptions of Chinese life are totally authentic, and the novel is inspirational and moving”



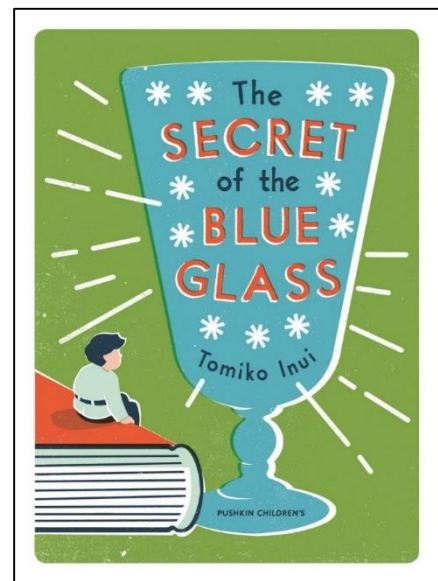


*Oh, Freedom!*, Francesco  
D'Adamo, trans. Sian Williams  
(Darf Publishers)

“Full of heart-stopping incidents, this page-turner follows the star-map and the Underground Railroad as Peg Leg Joe leads Tommy and his family from Alabama towards freedom in Canada. Such a fine weave of action and reflection, dialogue and vivid description that one can scarcely believe this is a translation”

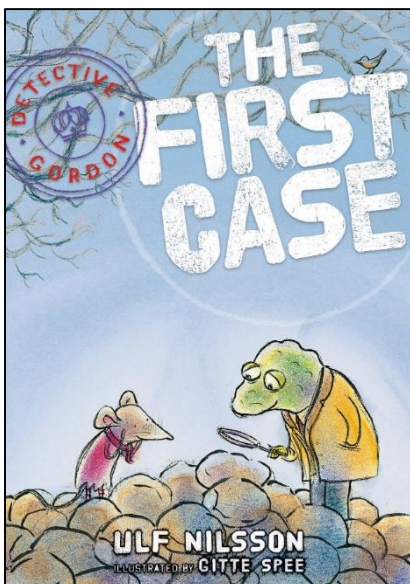
*The Secret of the Blue Glass*, Tomiko  
Inui, trans. Ginny Tapley Takemori  
(Pushkin Children's Books)

“Tomiko Inui cleverly interweaves the political strife and domestic upheaval of the Second World War in Japan with a whimsical tale of children nourishing a hidden family of little people with milk from a blue glass goblet”



*Detective Gordon: The First Case*, Ulf  
Nilsson, trans. Julia Marshall (Gecko Press)

“The story of Detective Gordon's first case is told with humour and warmth. The detective is a toad and the case to be solved is the disappearance of a squirrel's nuts! This is a great book for young, newly fluent readers; it's well- designed, unusual and a joy to experience”



~ END ~

## **NOTES TO THE EDITOR**

### **About the ESU**

The English-Speaking Union (ESU) is an international educational charity and membership organisation that brings together people of different languages and cultures in over 50 countries. Through the help of our branches and international ESUs, we run educational programmes, competitions and cultural exchanges to develop confident communicators, critical thinkers and empowered citizens. Founded in 1918 by the writer and journalist Sir Evelyn Wrench, international friendship and understanding is at the heart of all we do at the ESU.

### **About the Marsh Christian Trust**

The Marsh Christian Trust is a grant making body, established in 1981 with the sum of £75,000. Having grown through investments and additional donations by the founder and current Chairman, Mr Brian Marsh OBE, the Trust's funds currently stand at just over £8 million. Since its establishment in 1981, the number of organisations supported each year has grown from just 8 to over 300 today. The Trust's principle activity is financed by income derived from its investment portfolio and it does not accept any public donations. The Marsh Christian Trust aims to create long-standing relationships with the organisations it supports through both its grant-making and the Awards programme. The Trust maintains contact with each long-term recipient charity in order to review the work done, learn of future plans and offer advice on fundraising activities and any other organisational problem in which it may be able to assist.