



Scottish Teenage Book Prize 2020

Activities to get pupils excited
about the shortlist

Age 12-14

CFE Third Level

Resource created by
Scottish Book Trust

scottishbooktrust.com

[f/scottishbktrust](https://www.facebook.com/scottishbktrust) [@scottishbktrust](https://twitter.com/scottishbktrust)

**Scottish
Book Trust**
inspiring readers and writers

Contents

Before reading	2
As you read...	2
Vote	5
Celebrate the shortlist	6
Continue your journey	7
Appendices	8

About this resource

This resource contains great ideas and activities to help you celebrate and run the Scottish Teenage Book Prize with your book group or reading group. Use the activities in this resource to create a buzz about the three shortlisted titles.

The titles on this year's shortlist are:

- *One Shot* by Tanya Landman
- *Rok of the Reds* by John Wagner, Alan Grant and Dan Cornwell
- *Starfish* by Akemi Dawn Bowman

Resources for additional support needs

You can request accessible digital copies of the shortlisted titles from CALL Scotland suitable for e-readers and digital devices. Find out more about the accessible versions and how to request them on the CALL Scotland [Books for All](#) website.

Before reading

Here are some fun activities you can use to introduce the prize and the shortlist to your pupils.

First lines

One great way to introduce the shortlist to your pupils is to chat about the first lines of each book. The first lines are:

- “By the time I came into this world, bawling and bloody, Ma was tired of raising babies”. *One Shot* by Tanya Landman
- “There home- many light years distant.” *Rok of the Reds* by John Wagner, Alan Grant and Dan Cornwell
- “Mom doesn’t show up”. *Starfish* by Akemi Dawn Bowman

Get your group to chat about these first lines. What can they figure out about the books from the lines? Can they guess what the genre might be? Which line makes them want to read on and why? Based on these first lines, do they have a particular one they are keen to read first?

Ask pupils to number the lines from one to three by their personal preference, with one being their favourite and three being the least. Tot up the scores. Is there a clear winner? Read this one first!

Exploring format

Before reading the shortlisted titles, it is worth chatting about the different formats included in this year’s prize with your pupils. This year the shortlist includes a graphic novel, a short-form novel and a novel.

Have any members of the group read a short-form novel or graphic novel before? What did they enjoy about them? Did they notice anything different about the way they read these books? Do they have any insights or thoughts they can share with the group?

Both Tanya Landman and John Wagner discuss their approach to their writing format in their author videos.

Author videos

Our author videos are a great place to start when introducing the shortlist. After all- who better than the authors themselves to tell your pupils about their books? You can find all the shortlisted videos [on our website](#).

As you read...

Here are a few activities to help spark the interest of your book group or reading group as you work your way through the shortlist.

Lucky dip

Use the questions in appendix one to encourage fun and lively debate on the three shortlisted titles. You can use these questions separately with each book, or use them to compare titles.

Cut the questions out of the grid in appendix one, fold them and pop them into a bag or hat. Pupils pull the questions out at random and either answer individually or chat about the question as a group.

Book Jenga

Book Jenga is a great way to get pupils talking about books, answering questions and having fun whilst playing Jenga too! Librarian Deena Wren introduced Scottish Book Trust to the wonders of book Jenga when she won our [Learning Professional Award](#).

You can use the lucky dip questions in appendix one for your book Jenga to encourage discussion around the shortlist, or you can use the more general questions in our [book Jenga resource](#). Simply write the questions onto your Jenga blocks, and then begin to play! Pupils must read aloud the question on their block and answer it. In any game of Jenga, whoever topples the pile loses.

Hot seating

Hot seating is a great way to develop pupil understanding of a character's personality, actions and motives; and it's a thoroughly enjoyable activity too!

Each pupil assumes the role of a character from the chosen book, and in turn take the 'hot seat' (this can be a special chair, beanbag, or cushion). For some characters, we already know plenty about their background and experience. This game works really well for minor characters, where pupils have to improvise and be creative with their responses. The rest of the group asks questions of the character, and then another character takes a turn.

You can use our list of hot seating questions in appendix two, or ask pupils to come up with their own.

Contact the author

Does your group have a burning question about one of the books on the shortlist they just need answered? Contact the authors on social media via your school Twitter account. Remember to tag [@scottishbktrust](#) and use the hashtag [#ScotTeenBookPrize](#).

- [@Akemidawn](#)
- [@Tanya_landman](#)
- [@BHP_Comics](#) for *Rok of the Reds*

Reading recommendations

All three of our authors have given reading recommendations if your pupils enjoyed their title.

- Tanya Landman recommends:
 - *Passing for White* by Tanya Landman
 - *The White Darkness* by Geraldine McCaughrean
 - *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo
- John Wagner recommends:
 - *The Bogie Man* by John Wagner and Alan Grant
 - *Batman Year One* by Frank Miller
 - *Charley's War* by Pat Mills and Joe Colquhoun
- Akemi Dawn Bowman recommends:
 - *Little and Lion* by Brandy Colbert
 - *A Quiet Kind of Thunder* by Sara Barnard
 - *Picture us in the Light* by Kelly Loy Gilbert

Encourage pupils to share their own recommendations of similar books they enjoyed.

Following this, you can encourage pupils to create a recommendation station in your library or classroom. This could be a library display or a wall display, or perhaps you have a library social media account and pupil could share their recommendations online. Use the hashtag #ScotTeenBookPrize.

Bookzilla

As a group download the [Bookzilla app](#). This is Scottish Book Trust's new and exciting reading app for teenagers. Pupils can get reading recommendations, challenge themselves with a reading dare and try something new. The Scottish Teenage Book Prize shortlist titles are listed on the app, as are the authors' recommended titles. Pupils can track their reading progress throughout the prize.

Get pupils to explore the different reading challenges and dares available on the app. Which dare do they want to set for the Scottish Teenage Book Prize? Or do they want to create their own?

Get talking!

The three titles explore a variety of themes and issues. Here are some themes for each book, which groups can chat about and explore together:

- *Starfish*: Leaving home, change, relationships, friendship, identity, US culture, art and self-expression, self-belief and self-awareness, use of dialogue, and text speak in novels.
- *One Shot*: historical figures, women from history, 19th century America, self-belief, social and societal expectations, family relationships, short form fiction, description (or lack of), use of letters.
- *Rok of the Reds*: change, team work, football, science-fiction, media and TV, friendship, secrets, family relationships, illustration and panel layout, use of dialogue, characterisation.

Two of the titles on this year's shortlist, *One Shot* and *Starfish*, explore abuse. *Starfish* also explores social anxiety. Here are some charities that offer support for young people:

- [Barnardos](#)
- [Childline](#)
- [RespectMe](#)
- [Scottish Association for Mental Health \(SAMH\)](#)
- [NSPCC](#)
- [Refuge](#)
- [Young Minds](#)
- [The Mix](#)
- [Youth Access](#)

You can find further information and support from [Citizen's Advice Scotland](#) and a list of additional charities.

Vote

Now pupils have read the shortlisted books, remember to collect and [register pupils' votes on our website](#) before **7 February 2020** to make them count towards the national prize.

Spice up voting

However you collect your votes, be sure to make it exciting! You could:

- Create a ballot box and place it in your classroom or library.

- Vote anonymously via a [doodle](#) poll.
- Hide copies of the books around your space and give each pupil a sticky note to place inside the book.

Celebrate the shortlist

You have read the three shortlisted books with your group and voted for your favourite. Why not hold a celebration day to mark the end of the project?

Decorate your setting

Highlight all of the amazing work you and your pupils have been doing as part of the Scottish Teenage Book Prize by creating a display in your library, classroom or school. This is an opportunity to showcase your work to others in your setting!

- You can display the three shortlisted books with pupil comment cards and add recommendations that have been made through group discussion.
- Pupils can create alternative cover posters for the three titles. These can be added to your display.
- Pupils can illustrate and write a postcard from the perspective of one of the characters. Who would they send the postcard to and why?
- Pupils can add their favourite quotes and phrases from the books to the wall display.
- Add creativity to your display by writing a review or summary of each book in Haiku form. This will really challenge your pupils to condense the story.

Hold a Book Bistro

The Book Bistro was an event idea created by staff at [St Andrew's and St Bride's High School](#). One room in the school was converted into a comfortable café for a day. Pupils were given tickets to attend the bistro, and enjoyed reading and being served hot chocolate and nibbles by staff members. It created a real buzz throughout the school and excitement around reading.

Create your own Book Bistro. Convert your room or library into a cosy reading den with the addition of blankets, cushions and fairy lights. Make the bistro extra special by serving yummy hot drinks or snacks and allowing pupils time out of lessons (if you are able) to enjoy the bistro.

Watch the winner announcement

The winner will be announced on 27 February 2020 via our website and social media channels. Gather your pupils together to watch the announcement.

You could make this event extra enjoyable by making it a cinematic experience with popcorn, comfy chairs, bringing in blankets and cushions and making the room as dark as possible.

Continue your journey

All of the fantastic work you have been doing as part of the Scottish Teenage Book Prize can form part of your Secondary School Reading Inspiration submission for the [First Minister's Reading Challenge](#). We would love you to sign up and hear all about what your group has been up to!

Benefits of registering your group are:

- Order group passports for your classes or groups. Group passports are wall charts pupils can use to log their reading.
- Access our huge range of downloadable learning resources and interactive games.
- Apply for Creative Workshops funding, which allows you to bring a creative practitioner to work with your group.
- Submit your stories for a chance to win an award and attend our Celebration event.

Just visit the [First Minister's Reading Challenge website](#) to sign up and continue your reading journey.

Appendix one: Lucky dip questions

Which character did you like the most and why?	If you could be one character from the story, who would it be and why?	What did you think of the author's world building? Was it convincing?	Draw the plot of this book on a piece of paper. You can only use three images to tell the entire story.	You have to convince a friend who hates this genre to read this book. How would you convince them?
Which character did you dislike the most and why?	Did you like how the author opened the story? Did it pique your interest?	Which famous actor would you ask to read the audio version of this book and why?	What do you think the key themes of the book are?	If you were creating a GIF for this book, what would it look like?
What is your favourite scene from the book and why?	Can you think of any books with similar themes?	Who would you get to play the lead role in a TV or film adaption of the book?	Which book/s would you recommend to someone who had enjoyed this book?	Summarise this book in three words.
What did you think of the ending?	Which was your least favourite part of the book and why?	Give us a review of this book- but use mime not words.	What is one surprising thing that happened in the book?	Would this book adapt well to TV or screen? Why or why not?

Appendix two: Hot seating questions

What is your earliest memory?

Describe your parents.

What is your favourite food?

What is one thing that would make you cry?

Have you ever been in love?

What characteristics do you value in your friends?

What is your favourite item of clothing?

Where is your favourite place?

Where in the world would you like to travel?

If you could have one special talent, what would it be?

What do you see when you look in the mirror?

Friends or family- which do you prefer?

Is breaking the law ever justified?

What is your biggest regret?

Name the one moment or action you are most proud of.

Where do you see yourself in five years?