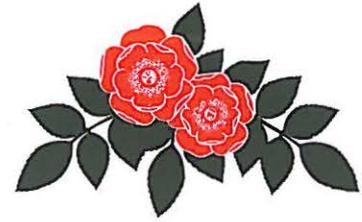


NEWS RELEASE

UNIVERSITY
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Youngsters vote for their favourite book

The ten books which have been shortlisted for this year's Lancashire Children's Book of the Year Award will be announced on Wednesday 20th February at the University of Central Lancashire at the first meeting of the final judging panel.

Pupils aged 13-14 from twelve high schools across Lancashire have been involved in judging the competition, organised by Lancashire County Library and sponsored by the University of Central Lancashire. Over the past five months they have read all the books entered for the award and given them marks out of ten. One pupil from each school has been nominated to sit on the final judging panel.

Well-known children's author, Hazel Townson, will attend Wednesday's meeting to give the panel some tips on reading and selecting the winning title. After the meeting, the twelve pupils will each take away the ten shortlisted books and will have until late April to come up with their favourite. They will then come to a joint decision and one of the pupils will inform the winning author, who will receive a cheque for £500 and an engraved decanter.

This year's competition attracted seventy-nine recently published books by UK based authors, all aimed at the 12-14 age group. Last year's joint winners were Melvin Burgess for his book 'Bloodtide' published by Andersen Press and Malcolm Rose for his book 'Plague' published by Scholastic Press

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19th February 2002

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For further details, please contact Kate Ford on 01772 892481, 07968 861580, email kjford@uclan.ac.uk .

Photo opportunity: Pupils will be available for photographs at St Peter's Arts Centre, University of Central Lancashire, on Wednesday 20th February between 09:30 and 10:00 and between 11:00 and 11:15.