



The Inky Awards

Resources for your library



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The Inky Awards: resources for your library

What are the Inky Awards?

The Inky Awards, facilitated by the Centre for Youth Literature, annually recognise high-quality young adult literature by allowing teens to judge the novels they love. There are two awards: the Gold Inky Award for an Australian book, and the Silver Inky Award for an international book. Both the longlist and shortlist are chosen entirely by a panel of young adult judges, and the winner from each category is voted for online by the teen readers of InsideADog.com.au. The Awards are named after Inky – the wonder-dog mascot for the online teen reading platform Inside a Dog.

Further information on the Awards, including current and previous winners, can be found online at www.insideadog.com.au.

Ways to engage with the Inky Awards in the library

- Displays
- Shadow judging
- Offer a taste – using sample chapters to hook readers
- Reading lunchtimes
- Put a bag on it: a challenge to readers
- Reading challenge.

Connect

Keep us up to date with your Inky Awards displays and activities by emailing photos or comments to inkyawards@slv.vic.gov.au.

Or tag us on social media:

- Twitter: @insideadog
- Tumblr: inside-a-dog.tumblr.com
- Facebook: Inside A Dog
- Instagram: @InsideADog



Creating displays

Allow your readers to participate from the beginning by inviting them to help create your library displays. You don't need to wait for the longlist to be announced, start the year with a display of previous shortlists or winners and posters inviting readers to predict which of their favourites will make it onto the list this year.

COST: Free, or the cost of printing/ordering art supplies/posters etc.

HOW:

There are no rules or limits to creating your Inky Awards display – but here are some ideas that might help you get the ball rolling.

- Make sure you've got (several) copies of the winning titles for at least the last three years – copies of books from previous long- and shortlists would be even better!
- Have a space – a chalkboard/wall of Post-its for students to put up their nominations/recommendations for this year's shortlist – have a small prize available for anyone whose suggestions make it to the final list
- Put your display in a prominent location – as soon as you walk into the library, in the window – somewhere passing students will see it
- Keep it up to date – change your display as the current longlist, shortlist and winners are announced – subscribe to our e-news to stay up to date
- Draw attention to your copies of Inky-worthy books by adding some sparkle Inky Award stickers, bookmarks, buttons and posters are available to order online at www.insideadog.com.au/page/merchandise
- Get your teens involved! The purpose of the Inky Awards is to give teens a platform to share their ideas, so let them create the displays
- Share pictures of your amazing displays – email us at inkyawards@slv.vic.gov.au

Shadow judging

You may or may not have an Inky Awards judge at your school, but the good news is, it doesn't matter! Run your own shadow judging with a group of teens who think they've got what it takes to pick the best books of the year.

COST: Free to run, but your judges will each need access to copies of all of the books on the current longlist. You might also decide to provide snacks for your judges' meetings so they don't get hungry as they debate!

HOW:

- Invite students (or handpick a group/use your book club) to be judges for the year (they'll need to be able to commit to reading all twenty books from the longlist between them)
- If you want to start early, ask your judges to predict which of their favourite books might end up on the longlist
- When the longlist is announced, have a meeting with your judges – ask them to decide how they're going to allocate the reading and set a date (prior to the announcement of the shortlist!) to meet again
- Before the shortlist announcement, ask your judges to meet again and to discuss the books they've read (they might find it useful to refer to Jess Tran's 'Top 5 Tips: on judging' which can be found in our Teen Toolkit). By the end of the meeting, your judges should agree on which five books should end up on the shortlist for the Gold (Australian) Inky Award, and which five should end up on the shortlist for the Silver (international) Inky Award
- At this point the judges will have some serious reading to do, as they'll all need to have read all the shortlisted titles to judge the winner
- Before the announcement of the winner ask your judges to get together again to nut out a winner for both the Gold and Silver Inky Awards – this might take some time, and could get heated, so they might want to lay out some guidelines about how they're going to debate the worthiness of each of the books they've read (contact inkyawards@slv.vic.gov.au to request a copy of the Inky Awards official judging criteria)
- The winner! Bring your judges together as the winner is announced – have an afternoon tea in the library to celebrate all their hard work, and to listen in as the winner is announced – give them a prize if they picked the correct one!
- WHAT NEXT: If your students like the process of judging their favourite books of the year, encourage them to apply to be an official Inky Awards judge the following year, or consider applying to become an Inky Awards ambassador school, where your group of enthusiastic teens can run an entire series of events dedicated to celebrating the Inky Awards.

Offer a taste – using sample chapters to hook readers

Sample chapters are a great way to get readers hooked on a book. Many current and past Inky Awards titles have sample chapters available on their page of the Inside a Dog website (www.insideadog.com.au). The tricky part is making sure they get into the hands of readers – so follow our tips below to make sure that everyone gets a taste of these deserving titles.

COST: Free!

HOW:

- Download the sample chapters from www.insideadog.com.au (chapters from the current year's titles should be available soon after the announcement of the current shortlist)
- Distribute them as widely as possible. Try:
 - putting one into each edition of the school newsletter
 - posting a page a day on the library blog
 - encouraging teachers to read a chapter a day (or week) in homeroom
 - having lunchtime reads in the library (teens could run these readings)
 - printing and handing out hard copies
 - tweeting a line at a time (ask students to tweet the next line from the book)
 - inviting students to create a podcast with recorded readings of the sample chapters, and make a listening corner in the library for others to come and listen during their breaks
 - having special library guests – invite your non-bookish teachers to read a sample chapter in the library at lunchtime – make it an event for students to attend once a week
 - asking students to transform sample chapters into another medium – graphic novel, film, performance and share it with the rest of the school either by filming it, or hosting live events in the library
 - any other ideas? Email us to share them – inkyawards@slv.vic.gov.au.

Reading lunchtimes

Reading can be such a solitary activity. Develop your school reading community by hosting a weekly reading lunch in the library. Students can read, eat and talk about their favourite books from the Inky Awards catalogue with other readers. After all, there's no better ice-breaker than snacks!

COST: The cost of providing some snacks once a week to a group of keen readers gathered in the library.

HOW:

- Decide which day you'll have your reading lunch every week
- Promote the event – let students know when it will be on (day and time), what will be provided (lunch, beanbags/couches) and what they'll need to bring (their enthusiasm for reading)
- People might be a bit nervous at the first event, so print out some of the conversation cards below and invite students to use them as prompts to share their bookish thoughts with someone new
- Have the Inky Awards catalogue (particularly the most recent longlist, shortlist and winners) available for borrowing in each session.

CONVERSATION CARDS

Use these printable prompts as conversation starters – preferably in conversation with someone they don't usually talk to! Invite them to create their own, or you may not need them at all as your reading lunches take off.

What's the most romantic moment in any of the books you've read?

Which character is most like you?

Which covers got it wrong? Which got it right?

What book do you wish everyone in the world would read – even your mum?

Which are better – books from the Gold (Australian) longlist, or books from the Silver (international)?

'Fess up – which scene made you cry?

Which character would be the worst person to have as a friend?

What book has the best action sequence?

Put a bag on it: a challenge to readers

We all know it's wrong to judge a book by its cover, but the truth is first impressions count, and sometimes the wrong cover is enough to make a reader doubt their connection to a book. Encourage readers to look beyond the cover with the paper bag challenge.

COST: Free!

HOW:

- You'll need copies of longlisted books and some brown paper bags (or paper) to wrap them in
- Cover your books in brown paper and write your selling points on the front – these could be a teaser blurb, genre dot points – whatever you think makes the book outstanding
- Make a space to display your brown-bagged books in the library
- Challenge your readers to choose a book – not based on its cover.



Reading challenge

Get your readers to challenge themselves to read as many books as possible by giving them a list, incentives and the competitive spirit to get them going.

COST: Free to run, but you'll need plenty of copies of Inky Awards titles past and present, and prizes if you decide to reward your participants.

HOW:

This one is pretty self explanatory – have the books ready, announce the challenge, and GO! But if you're looking for hurdles for your readers, we've got some suggestions below. We recommend that you reward your readers in some way – this could be with small prizes at each level, you could turn it into a fundraising read-a-thon for the school or a charitable organisation, or you could just have badges for reaching certain hurdles (suggested below).

- **On Trend:** You've read all of the shortlisted books for the current year
- **Personal Best:** You've read more books this year than last year
- **Decades Ahead:** You've read a title from each year of the awards
- **Gold Star:** You've read all Gold Inky Award winners
- **Internationalist:** You've read all Silver Inky Award winners
- **Jetsetter:** You've read books set in five different countries
- **Battle Star:** You've read five science fiction books
- **Express Yourself:** You've reviewed five books on the Inside a Dog website
- **Diversify:** You've read five books about characters whose experiences are nothing like your own (different gender identity, race, sexuality, culture, physical abilities)
- **Lit Lover:** You've read thirty books from the Inky Awards backlist
- **Time Traveller:** You've read five books set outside the current time (either historical fiction or books set in the future)
- **Trusted Adviser:** Five of your friends have read books based on your recommendations
- **You Must be Kidding:** You've read five books that have made you LOL
- **Team Player:** Between you and the other readers in your class or school, you've read every single book ever longlisted for the Inky Awards (you'll need a full list and marker for everyone to check their books off for this one)!

Come up with your own categories –use an online badge template to make your own buttons, and set up a badge maker in the library for students to use as they mark off their challenges.

Appendix– Inky Awards Longlists 2007 – 2015

Winners have been highlighted (**G**=Gold winner, **S**=Silver winner) **A**=Australian text

2015

Nona and Me, Clare Atkins (A)
Head of the River, Pip Harry (A)
The Other Side of Nowhere, Steve Johnston (A)
The Incredible Adventures of Cinnamon Girl, Melissa Keil (A)
Razorhurst, Justine Larbalestier (A)
The Astrologer's Daughter, Rebecca Lim (A)
Afterworlds, Scott Westerfeld
Since You've Been Gone, Morgan Matson
The Protected, Claire Zorn (A)
The Impossible Knife of Memory, Laurie Halse Anderson
Bird, Crystal Chan
Laurinda, Alice Pung (A)
Spark, Rachel Crow
Clariel, Garth Nix (A)
We Were Liars, E Lockhart
***The Intern*, Gabrielle Tozer (G, A)**
Noggin, John Corey Whaley
***Fangirl*, Rainbow Rowell (S)**
Half Bad, Sally Green
Grasshopper Jungle, Andrew Smith

2014

Zac and Mia, AJ Betts (A)
All This Could End, Steph Bowe (A)
Steal My Sunshine, Emily Gale (A)
The Whole of My World, Nicole Hayes (A)
These Broken Stars, Amie Kaufman & Megan Spooner (A)
***The First Third*, Will Kostakis (G, A)**
Every Breath, Ellie Marney (A)
Fairytales for Wilde Girls, Allyse Near (A)
Run, Tim Sinclair (A)
The Sky So Heavy, Claire Zorn (A)
***All the Truth That's in Me*, Julie Berry (S)**
Where the Stars Still Shine, Trish Doller
Seraphina, Rachel Hartman
When We Wake, Karen Healey
Two Boys Kissing, David Levithan
Acid, Emma Pass
Man Made Boy, Jon Skovron
Winger, Andrew Smith
Wild Awake, Hilary T Smith
Lockwood & Co: The Screaming Staircase, Jonathan Stroud

2013

Fire in the Sea, Myke Bartlett (A)

Girl Defective, Simone Howell (A)

***My Life as an Alphabet*, Barry Jonsberg (G, A)**

Cry Blue Murder, Kim Kane & Marion Roberts (A)

Life in Outer Space, Melissa Keil (A)

The Interrogation of Ashala Wolf, Ambelin Kwaymullina (A)

A Confusion of Princes, Garth Nix (A)

City, James Roy (A)

Friday Brown, Vikki Wakefield (A)

Wildlife, Fiona Wood (A)

The Diviners, Libba Bray

See You at Harry's, Jo Knowles

Hostage Three, Nick Lake

Every Day, David Levithan

The Originals, Cat Patrick

***The Raven Boys*, Maggie Stiefvater (S)**

Drama, Raina Telgemeier

Code Name Verity, Elizabeth Wein

The Fifth Wave, Rick Yancey

2012

***Shiff*, Em Bailey (G, A)**

Night Beach, Kirsty Eagar (A)

Brotherband 1: The Outcasts, John Flanagan (A)

Act of Faith, Kelly Gardiner (A)

Queen of the Night, Leanne Hall (A)

Blood Song, Rhiannon Hart (A)

Sea Hearts, Margo Lanagan (A)

The Coming of the Whirlpool (Ship Kings #1), Andrew McGahan (A)

The Deep: Here Be Dragons Vol. 1, Tom Taylor (A)

The Reluctant Hallelujah, Gabrielle Williams (A)

Bitterblue, Kristin Cashore

BZRK, Michael Grant

***The Fault in Our Stars*, John Green (S)**

Why We Broke Up, Daniel Handler

Storm (Elementals 1), Brigid Kemmerer

Legend, Marie Lu

A Monster Calls, Patrick Ness

Lola and the Boy Next Door, Stephanie Perkins

The Scorpio Races, Maggie Stiefvater

Daughter of Smoke and Bone, Laini Taylor

2011

Pig Boy, JC Burke (A)
Good Oil, Laura Buzo (A)
Just a Girl, Jane Caro (A)
The FitzOsbournes in Exile, Michelle Cooper (A)
Graffiti Moon, Cath Crowley (A)
This is Shyness, Leanne Hall (A)
Black Painted Fingernails, Steven Herrick (A)

Silvermay, James Moloney (G, A)

The Comet Box, Adrian Stirling (A)
All I Ever Wanted, Vikki Wakefield (A)

Clockwork Angel, Cassandra Clare (S)

Dash & Lily's Book of Dares, Rachel Cohn & David Levithan
Where She Went, Gayle Forman
Bright Young Things, Anna Godbersen
The Body at the Tower, YS Lee
Anna and the French Kiss, Stephanie Perkins
First Light, Rebecca Stead
Marcelo in the Real World, Francesco Stork
No and Me, Delphine de Vigan
Violence 101, Denis Wright

2010

Stolen, Lucy Christopher (G, A)

Confessions of a Liar, Thief and Failed Sex God, Bill Condon (A)
Raw Blue, Kirsty Eagar (A)
Swerve, Phillip Gwynne (A)
Liar, Justine Larbalestier (A)
Anonymity Jones, James Roy (A)
Loving Richard Feynman, Penny Tangey (A)
Shark Girl, Kelly Bingham
Merrow, Amanda Braxton Smith
Going Bovine, Libba Bray
Heist Society, Ally Carter
Will Grayson, Will Grayson John Green & David Levithan
The Poison Throne, Celine Kiernan
The Bride's Farewell, Meg Rosoff

Shiver, Maggie Stiefvater (S)

Leviathan, Scott Westerfeld

2009

***Where the Streets had a Name*, Randa Abdel-Fattah (G, A)**

Into White Silence, Anthony Eaton (A)

Eon, Alison Goodman (A)

Worldshaker, Richard Harland (A)

The Beginner's Guide to Living, Lia Hills (A)

My Candlelight Novel, Joanne Horniman (A)

Everything Beautiful, Simmone Howell (A)

Jarvis 24, David Metzenthien (A)

Broken Glass, Adrian Stirling (A)

Screw Loose, Chris Wheat (A)

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian, Sherman Alexie

***The Hunger Games*, Suzanne Collins (S)**

If I Stay, Gayle Forman

The 10pm Question, Kate De Goldi

Paper Towns, John Green

Ten Mile River, Paul Griffin

Girl at Sea, Maureen Johnson

Fallen, Lauren Kate

Love, Aubrey, Suzanne LaFleur

Exposure, Mal Peet

Skim, Mariko & Jillian Tamaki

2008

Michael Sweeney's Method, Sean Condon (A)

A Brief History of Montmaray, Michelle Cooper (A)

Joel and Cat Set the Story Straight, Nick Earls & Rebecca Sparrow (A)

Finding Darcy, Sue Lawson (A)

Kill the Possum, James Moloney (A)

Game as Ned, Tim Pegler (A)

***Town*, James Roy (G, A)**

The Indigo Girls, Penni Russon (A)

Tales from Outer Suburbia, Shaun Tan (A)

Our Little Secret, Allayne Webster (A)

Genesis, Bernard Beckett

***Before I Die*, Jenny Downham (S)**

Snakehead, Anthony Horowitz

Boy Toy, Barry Lyga

Hero, Perry Moore

The Knife of Never Letting Go, Patrick Ness

Life as We Knew It, Susan Pfeffer

Broken Soup, Jenny Valentine

Extras, Scott Westerfeld

Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac, Gabrielle Zevin

2007

Will, Maria Boyd (A)

Dare Devils, Bill Condon (A)

Monica Bloom, Nick Earls (A)

Marty's Shadow, John Heffernan (A)

***Notes from the Teenage Underground*, Simmone Howell (G, A)**

The Birthmark, Beth Montgomery (A)

Chasing Boys, Margo Lanagan (A)

Blaze of Glory, Michael Pryor (A)

The Arrival, Shaun Tan (A)

The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, MT Anderson

Valiant, Holly Black

Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist, Rachel Cohn & David Levithan

***Looking for Alaska*, John Green (S)**

Fan Boy & Goth Girl, Barry Lyga

Dairy Queen, Catherine Gilbert Murdock

Penalty, Mal Peet

King Dork, Frank Portman

Finding Violet Park, Jenny Valentine

The Last Days, Scott Westerfeld

Contact

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