



booktrust

## Just Plain Stinky Philip Ardagh wins the Roald Dahl Funny Prize

Michael Rosen today announces the splendiferous winners of the Roald Dahl Funny Prize 2009 at a lunchtime ceremony at the Unicorn Theatre.

- For children aged six and under, the winning book was *Mr Pusskins Best in Show* by Sam Lloyd (Orchard Books)
- For children aged seven to fourteen, the winning book was *Grubtown Tales: Stinking Rich and Just Plain Stinky* by Philip Ardagh, illustrated by Jim Paillot (Faber and Faber)

*Mr Pusskins Best In Show* is the story of a grumpy but loveable cat who just has to get his paws on a trophy for the Best-Looking Pet at the beauty show. Sam Lloyd is a Brighton based author and illustrator whose first book *Mr Pusskins* was a New York Times Children's Bestseller.

Philip Ardagh, who is known as Beardy Ardagh on account of his impressive facial hair, won with his *Grubtown Tales: Stinking Rich and Just Plain Stinky*, illustrated by Jim Paillot.

The story of a town of oddballs plotting to rid Grubtown of the disgusting Manual Org, whose breath smells of 'two-thirds of a pickled raw herring, a pickled onion, eleven gherkins and one jar of sandwich spread (one month past its sell-by date)' delighted the judges.

The book saw off stiff competition from other authors in the category including Anne Fine and David Walliams whose book *The Boy in the Dress* is illustrated by long-term Roald Dahl collaborator Quentin Blake.

Philip Ardagh has written over seventy books for children and collaborated with Sir Paul McCartney in 2005 on his children's book, but has never been awarded a major literary prize before.

The judging panel comprised Michael Rosen, the comedian Bill Bailey, last year's winner author Andy Stanton, author Louise Rennison and author and illustrator Mini Grey.

### Commenting on the winner's books, Michael Rosen said:

'Welcome to Grubtown and a cast of characters crazy enough to wake Spike Milligan from his home on the Ning Nang Nong. Here we have Manual Org who is so repulsive



booktrust

and smelly, Philip Ardagh has to take a several page break for a bath. There's Farflung Heaps, Constable Gelatine, Acrid Scorn, Mango Claptrap and many more. Noddy and Toytown, it isn't.

'Mr Pusskins is a cat who could turn into a catastrophe but instead, he's a champ. Even though he heads for the toilet instead of the cat-show, and even though he doesn't realise he's wizzing through an obstacle race, he ends up being the winner. If only life was as easy. This is a ridiculously funny book, full of marvellously mischievous cartooning.'

The winners were presented with a cheque for £2,500 and a bottle of wine from Roald Dahl's personal wine cellar.

**Interviews are available with:**

- Licky Dahl, Roald Dahl's widow
- Michael Rosen, prize founder and previous Children's Laureate
- Anthony Browne, current Children's Laureate
- Bill Bailey, comedian
- Andy Stanton, author and one of the winners of the Roald Dahl Funny Prize 2008
- Louise Rennison, author
- Mini Grey, author and illustrator

**For interview opportunities and further information please contact Katherine Solomon on 0208 875 4583 or [katherine@booktrust.org.uk](mailto:katherine@booktrust.org.uk)**

**Notes to Editors**

The Roald Dahl Funny Prize 2009 shortlist was:

**The Funniest Book for Children Aged Six and Under**

- The Great Dog Bottom Swap* by Peter Bently, illus. Mei Matsuoka (Andersen Press)
- Octopus Socktopus* by Nick Sharratt (Alison Green Books)
- Elephant Joe is a Spaceman!* by David Wojtowycz (Alison Green Books)
- Crocodiles Are the Best Animals of All!* by Sean Taylor, illus. Hannah Shaw (Frances Lincoln)
- Mr Pusskins Best in Show* by Sam Lloyd (Orchard Books)
- The Pencil* by Allan Ahlberg, illus. Bruce Ingman (Walker Books)

**The Funniest Book for Children Aged Seven to Fourteen**

- The Galloping Ghost* by Hilda Offen (Catnip Publishing)
- Eating Things on Sticks* by Anne Fine, illus. Kate Aldous (Doubleday)



booktrust

*Grubtown Tales: Stinking Rich and Just Plain Stinky* by Philip Ardagh, illus. Jim Paillot (Faber and Faber)

*The Boy in the Dress* by David Walliams, illus. Quentin Blake (HarperCollins)

*Purple Class and the Half-Eaten Sweater* by Sean Taylor, illus. Helen Bate (Frances Lincoln)

*Ribblestrop* by Andy Mulligan (Simon & Schuster)

### **About Booktrust**

Booktrust is an independent charity dedicated to encouraging people of all ages and cultures to engage with books. The written word underpins all our activity and enables us to fulfil our vision of inspiring a lifelong love of books for all. Booktrust is responsible for a number of successful national reading promotions, sponsored book prizes and creative reading projects aimed at encouraging readers to discover and enjoy books. These include the Orange Prize for Fiction, the Children's Laureate, the Get London Reading campaign, the Booktrust Teenage Prize and Bookstart, the national programme that works through locally based organisations to give a free pack of books to young children, with guidance materials for parents and carers. Booktrust has developed two further free book programmes in the UK: Booktime, run in association with Pearson, gives a free book to every Year One pupil, and Booked Up, which gives a free book, from a choice of twelve, to every Year Seven pupil. See [www.booktrust.org.uk](http://www.booktrust.org.uk)

### **About Roald Dahl and his legacy**

Roald Dahl (1916 – 1990) was one of the world's most imaginative, successful and loved storytellers. Since his death, his work has not only endured but is still increasing in popularity. His stories are currently available in almost 50 languages. UK sales alone are over 50 million books and rising. The official Roald Dahl website, [roalddahl.com](http://roalddahl.com), currently attracts two million visitors per year with an online membership of around 200,000 fans. Two charities have been founded in Dahl's memory: the Roald Dahl Foundation, ([roalddahlfoundation.org](http://roalddahlfoundation.org)) created in 1991, offers a programme of grant-giving to charities, hospitals, and individuals in the UK. The Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre ([roalddahlmuseum.org](http://roalddahlmuseum.org)) a unique cultural, literary and education hub, opened in June 2005 in Great Missenden where Roald lived and wrote many of his best-loved works. The Museum was recently named 'Small Visitor Attraction of the Year' at the Enjoy England Awards for Excellence 2008. In September 2006, the first national Roald Dahl Day was celebrated. The event proved such a success that Roald Dahl Day is now marked annually on and around 13 September. For further information on all Roald Dahl projects please visit [roalddahl.com](http://roalddahl.com)