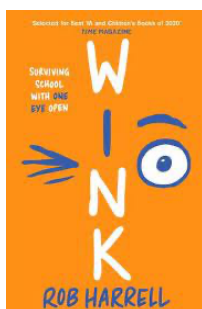


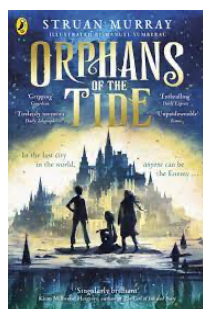
Salisbury Schools' Book Awards: A Morning with Kirsty Applebaum – 30th March 2022

Every year, several schools in the Salisbury area work together to run the Salisbury Schools' Book Awards. Librarians from each of the schools shortlist a total of six books, and a group of pupils from each school reads them all and votes for their favourite. The schools then take it in turns to host a special event to announce the winner of this year's award.

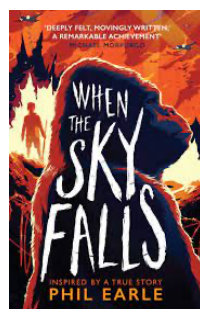
Here was our shortlist of books for this year's award:



Wink
Rob Harrell



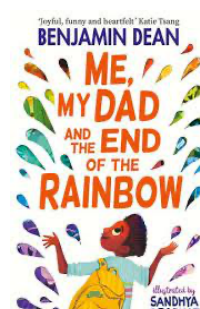
Orphans of the Tide
Struan Murray



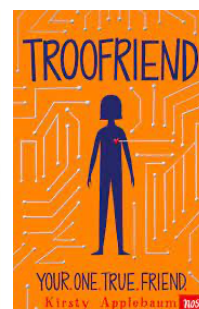
When the Sky Falls
Phil Earle



Truly Devious
Maureen Johnson



Me, My Dad and the End of the Rainbow
Benjamin Dean



Troofriend
Kirsty Applebaum

This year, we had the pleasure of hosting the awards here at St Joseph's, led by Miss Clark and Mrs Fenwick. We hosted a special event to announce the winner with the most votes from readers (which this year was *Truly Devious* by Maureen Johnson), and we were excited to be able to organise an in-person visit from one of our shortlisted authors, Kirsty Applebaum.

Kirsty gave an inspiring talk to our Year 7 pupils in the hall, plus groups of pupils and librarians who visited from the other participating schools (Godolphin, Trafalgar, SWGS, Sarum Academy, and Bishop Wordsworth's – WSE also took part but were unfortunately unable to attend).

Kirsty talked about how her childhood inspired her books and how she came up with the idea for her book *Troofriend*. She then worked with the pupils to create a collaborative sci-fi story. She told them about the "where, what, when, where, why, how" framework that can be used to generate ideas for stories and used this to gather ideas from the pupils. It was great to see everyone really engaging with this activity and sharing their ideas.

After the talk, Kirsty worked with our Year 7 English HA class to deliver a special writing workshop. The pupils created a new character following a series of prompts from Kirsty, and then used the same framework from the talk to develop a story around their characters. The ideas they came up with in just 30 minutes were incredible – we definitely have some talented budding authors!

Thank you to Kirsty Applebaum for making it a memorable day for us, our pupils, and the other visiting schools. We also appreciated the support we had from other St Joseph's staff, especially the English department – their support helped to make the whole morning run smoothly.

Messages from visiting schools:

“Thank you so much for organising such a good morning out for us, the girls here all really enjoyed and I think you can tell from the questions asked that everyone had listened which is always a good sign! Thank you so much for all your hard work and jumping through all the hoops, I know how much hard work it is to make it all appear seamless!” – **Davina Jones, Godolphin School**

“Thank you so much for a brilliant event yesterday – our boys really enjoyed it & came back buzzing! Kirsty’s talk was great & kept them all totally engaged – & had some great tips for kickstarting a story whatever age you are! It was a really lovely morning. You & Charlotte & the pupils of St Joseph’s were great hosts & all of us had a really good (& thought-provoking) time.” – **Caroline Cooper, Bishop Wordsworth’s School**

“Thank you for the photos and everything that you have done to run the book award this year. I know how much there is to plan and arrange and it is stressful. You did a great job and now you can relax for a few years!” – **Vanessa Taylor, The Trafalgar School**

“Thank you so much for organising the event. Our students enjoyed Kirsty’s talk and I thought she was a very engaging speaker.” – **Carolyn Gardiner, South Wilts Grammar School**







Kirsty Applebaum with our SSBA readers