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PRESS RELEASE

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Entente Littéraire Prize Award Ceremony

in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen and Madame Brigitte Macron

at the French Residence in London on 4 December 2024

On 4 December 2024, Her Majesty The Queen and Madame Brigitte Macron presented the Entente Littéraire Prize to:

- **Lucie Bryon for her graphic novel *Thieves*,**
- **Manon Steffan Ros for *Le Livre bleu de Nebo*, and**
- **Lise Garond for her translation into French of *Le Livre bleu de Nebo*.**

The ceremony took place at the French Residence in London in the presence of the jury's chair, the writer Joanne Harris, and members, renowned authors of literature for teenagers and young adults: Marie-Aude Murail and Timothée de Fombelle from France, and Patrice Lawrence and Joseph Coelho from the UK. Figures from the two countries' literary worlds were also in attendance. Pupils from the Lycée international de Londres Winston Churchill and Europa School took part in the ceremony.

Launched by HM The Queen and Mme Brigitte Macron in September 2023, during Their Majesties' State Visit to France, this first year of the Entente Littéraire Prize recognises books aimed at teenagers and young adults. It celebrates the pleasures of reading and the sharing of literary experiences between France and the UK. It is managed by the Institut français du Royaume-Uni and the Royal Society of Literature.

This first award ceremony took place during the 120th Anniversary of the Entente Cordiale, which has been celebrated in both countries. The prize illustrates the importance of the close bilateral relationship between the UK and France and celebrates our close cultural ties. The cultural links between the UK and France run deep, highlighting the importance of these artistic ties.

The Entente Littéraire Prize helps to promote some of the most exciting young adult literature from all corners of the UK and France, shining a light on Franco-British literary talent and inspiring more young people to discover fiction from both sides of the Channel.

During the announcement in 2023 The Queen said: *“Mme Macron and I share a deep love of literature and a passion to promote literacy: through our respective work, we have seen first-hand the life-changing power of books to bring us joy, comfort, companionship, laughter and hope, opening our eyes to others’ experiences and reminding us that we are not alone. To quote Victor Hugo once again, “Apprendre à lire, c’est allumer du feu ; toute syllabe épelée étincelle”, “To learn to read is to light a fire; every syllable that is spelled out is a spark.”*

Madame Macron said: *“Creating the Entente Littéraire Prize with the Queen has been a wonderful adventure. We believe in the many virtues of books. They help us build our personalities, give us keys to understanding others and open the doors to imaginary worlds. We hope the Prize will encourage young readers in both our countries to discover the works selected by the jury. As Jane Austen famously declared : “There is no enjoyment like reading! How much sooner one tires of anything than of a book”.*

“It has been a pleasure and a privilege to have had the opportunity to judge this wonderful new prize: a prize that is doubly important in that it celebrates young adult, and highlights the role of translators as creators in their own right. It also celebrates the relationship between our two countries, both rich in literary heritage and in shared history” said Joanne Harris.

Two prizes of €8,000 were awarded, for a French text translated into English and an English text translated into French. The prize recognises equally all the book’s creators (the author and the translator).

[About the Entente Littéraire Prize \(Prix de l’Entente Littéraire\)](#)

The idea to establish a UK-France literary prize was agreed at leaders level during the UK-France bilateral Summit in Paris on 10 March 2023. It was officially launched by Her Majesty and Madame Macron during Their Majesties’ State Visit to France in September 2023.

The Entente Littéraire Prize is managed by the Royal Society of Literature and the Institut français du Royaume-Uni in London, in collaboration with the French Ministry of Culture, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the British Embassy in Paris and the French Embassy in London.

[About *The Blue Book of Nebo \(Le Livre bleu de Nebo\)*, by Manon Steffan Ros, translated by Lise Garond](#)

“I love this book, which presents courage and tenderness as the only weapons of survival when the world goes wrong.” **Timothée de Fombelle**

“The themes evoke young people’s fears and questions. Personally, I’ve always loved Robinsonades – how to live on meagre resources, how to rebuild a world – and I wanted to know what would happen until... the end.”
Marie-Aude Murail

[About *Thieves*, written and translated by Lucie Bryon](#)

“A love story with a melancholic edge that perfectly captures, in words and illustrations, teenage friendships, anxieties and yearning” **Patrice Lawrence**

“An immediately relatable tale of teenhood, friends, relationships, parties and... theft. These are real teens with complex and complicated personalities navigating an emotional landscape that has you racing through cover to cover. The illustrations are beautiful and engaging, it was a world I was delighted to inhabit” **Joseph Coelho**

About the laureates

Manon Steffan Ros was born in Snowdonia and worked as an actress before becoming a writer. She writes for adults and children and has won the Wales Book of the Year for her adult fiction as well as being four-times winner of the Tir na N’Og Welsh children’s literature award. She has also won Eisteddfod and National Theatre Wales awards for her drama writing. She lives in north Wales with her two sons and baby daughter. With *The Blue Book of Nebo*, Manon won the Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing.

Lucie Bryon is a cartoonist and illustrator living in the north of France. After studying comics at ESA St Luc Brussels, she started working for French language children publications and independent comic publishers. Her work has been published both in French and English by Editions Milan, BDKids, Shortbox and Sarbacane. She also publishes short comics online and self-published a compilation of her works.

Lise Garond has been working as a literary translator for about ten years. She lives in the south-west of France, near Bordeaux. A former anthropologist, she conceives of translation as a means to discover diverse worlds in a creative manner. She translates literary fiction as well as non-fiction works in the field of art history and the social sciences. When she is especially taken with a book, nothing makes her happier than getting the opportunity to translate it, as was the case with the *Blue Book of Nebo*, by Manon Steffan Ros.

About the judges

Joanne Harris OBE, FRSL was born in Barnsley in 1964, of a French mother and an English father. She studied Modern and Mediaeval Languages at Cambridge and was a teacher for fifteen years, during which time she published three novels, including *Chocolat* (1999), which was made into an Oscar-nominated film starring Juliette Binoche. Since then, she has written 20 more novels, plus novellas, short stories, game scripts, screenplays, a stage musical (with Howard Goodall) and three cookbooks. Her books are now published in over 50 countries and have won a number of British and international awards. She is an honorary Fellow of St Catharine’s College, Cambridge, has honorary doctorates in literature from the universities of Sheffield and Huddersfield, and has been a judge for the Whitbread (Costa) Prize, the Women’s Prize, the Desmond Elliott Prize, the Betty Trask Award, the Primadonna Prize and the Royal Society Winton Prize for Science, as well as for the Fragrance Foundation awards for perfume and perfume journalism (for which she also received an award in 2017). She was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 2022. She is a passionate advocate for authors’ rights, and was the Chair of the Society of Authors (SoA) for four years. She is currently a member of the Board of the Authors’ Licensing and Collecting Society (ALCS).

Joseph Coelho FRSL is a multi-award-winning children’s author and playwright. His YA ‘Story told in poems’ *The Girl Who Became A Tree* was shortlisted for The 2021 Carnegie Medal and received a special mention

from the Bologna Ragazzi Award 2021. He has written plays for Little Angel Theatre, Tutti Frutti Productions, Polka Theatre and The Unicorn Theatre amongst others. He is two-time winner of the Indie Book Awards (2019 & 2022) with Picture Books 'If All The World Were...' and 'My Beautiful Voice' respectively (illu. Allison Colpoys). His Poetry Collection Werewolf Club Rules (Illu. John O'leary) won the 2015 CLIPPA Poetry Award. His plays for adults have received a special commendation from the Verity Bargate Award and been longlisted for the Bruntwood Playwriting Competition. He is Waterstones Children's Laureate 2022 – 2024.

Marie-Aude Murail has published over 100 books, translated into 22 languages, some of which have been adapted into plays or films, and others into comic books. Made an *officier* in the *Légion d'honneur* for "contributing to France's cultural influence", she has been read by millions, of all ages, for the past 30 years. Her books for young people include *Vive la République!* and *Golem* (published by Pocket Jeunesse), the *L'Espionne* series (published by Bayard) for younger readers, *Oh, boy !*, *Simple*, *Miss Charity*, *Malo de Lange*, as well as the *Nils Hazard* and *Sauveur & Fils* series (published by L'école des Loisirs). She also published a family biography in September 2018, *En nous beaucoup d'hommes respirent* (published by L'Iconoclaste). On 21 March 2022, she was awarded the Hans-Christian Andersen Award by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY).

Patrice Lawrence FRSL is an award-winning English writer whose work spans genres from contemporary thrillers to historical fantasy. Her books for young adults have won many prizes including the Bookseller YA Prize, the Waterstones Prize for Older Children's Fiction, the Crimefest YA Prize twice, the Woman and Home Teen Drama Award and the inaugural Jhalak Prize for Children and Young People. Her novella, *Needle*, was shortlisted for the Carnegie Award and won the Little Rebel Awards. Before becoming a full-time writer, she worked for more than 20 years in organisations promoting social justice.

Born in 1973, **Timothée de Fombelle** started his career as a playwright, before devoting himself to children's literature. He has written a variety of sagas, often in several volumes, all of which have won awards and been translated into many languages (*Toby Alone*, *Vango*, *The Book of Pearl*, *Alma*, etc.), as well as shorter or illustrated texts (*Céleste ma planète*, *Capitaine Rosalie*, *Esther Andersen*, etc.). He has also published a story about childhood for adults: *Neverland*.

[For more information](#)

www.institut-francais.org.uk/entente-litteraire-prize

<https://rsliterature.org/entente-litteraire-prize/>

[For press enquiries, contact](#)

French Embassy to the UK: Natalia Foresti: 020 7073 1016 | natalia.foresti@diplomatie.gouv.fr

Institut français du RU: Natacha Antolini: 020 7871 3520 | natacha.antolini@institut-francais.org.uk

Royal Society of Literature: Catherine Riley: 020 7845 4679 | catherine.riley@rsliterature.org