

Best of the best?

Scottish born Andrew Carnegie made his fortune as an industrialist in America. As a child he had enjoyed using libraries, and later he used his wealth to establish free libraries in the English-speaking world, including Great Britain. In 1936 an award for an outstanding children's book, published in the United Kingdom during the previous year, was created in his honour. The **Carnegie Medal**, as the award was called, was created by an organisation for librarians that is now known as CILIP, the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals.

This year CILIP is celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Carnegie Medal, and in April it produced a short-list of ten former medal winners to find the best children's book in the history of the Carnegie Medal. This must have been a difficult task, because in choosing some really wonderful books they have had to leave out so many more.

At Calibre we have eight of these medal-winning titles in the library. Why not read them now and see if you agree with the members of CILIP when they announce their choice of the best Carnegie book ever. The books are all very different and you might, like me, find it very difficult to choose your favourite.

16090 SKELLIG by David Almond

Winner in 1998 Reader **Richard Ratcliffe**

Michael was so looking forward to moving house, but now with his baby sister ill everything is going wrong. Then he goes into the crumbling garage and his world changes forever.

Time 3hrs 45mins

Key stage 2/3

15497 **STORM** **by Kevin Crossley-Holland**
MP3 Winner in 1985 **Reader Margaret Hinton**
Annie has to conquer her fears one terrible stormy night when she has to venture out to fetch help for her sister. As tales of the legendary ghost of a murdered highwayman play on her mind a horseman appears offering to help...
Time 1hr Key stage 2 DY

16438 **A GATHERING LIGHT** **by Jennifer Donnelly**
MP3 Winner in 2003 **Reader Pat Steadman**
Mattie is given some letters by a guest at the hotel in which she works. Next day the woman is found drowned in Big Moose Lake - should Mattie read the letters or destroy them as requested. Set in 1906 and based on a real murder in a holiday resort.
Time 13hrs Key stage 4 DY

15120 **THE OWL SERVICE** **by Alan Garner**
MP3 Winner in 1967 **Reader Greg Georgeson**
The discovery of an old dinner service in the loft sets off a chain of events that repeat a tragic Welsh legend affecting the lives of Alison, Roger and Gwyn. After running away, Gwyn realises the only solution is to face up to the myth.
Time 5hrs Key stage 3 DY

15010 **THE BORROWERS** **by Mary Norton**
MP3 Winner in 1952 **Reader Patricia Mumford**
At first the Borrowers lived under the floor behind the wainscot. Nobody ever saw them but everybody knew they were there because of the things that disappeared!
15mins Key stage 2 Time 4hrs DY

MP3 W16274 TOM'S MIDNIGHT GARDEN by Philippa Pearce inner in 1958 **Reader Andrew Burt**
When Peter is ill his brother, Tom, is sent to stay with their Aunt and Uncle in their flat. In the daytime the flat has no garden - just a dusty backyard. But when the clock strikes thirteen Tom enters a magical garden.
Time 6hrs 15mins Key stage 3 DY

15983 NORTHERN LIGHTS by Philip Pullman MP3
Winner in 1995 **Reader Tony Lister** Book 1 of "His Dark Materials" trilogy. When Lyra's friend Roger disappears, her quest to find him leads her to a bleak and mysterious world.
Time 15hrs Key stage 3/4 DY

15483 THE MACHINE GUNNERS by Robert Westall
MP3 Winner in 1981 **Reader Frank Culver**
Set in World War II, a working machine gun, stolen from a crashed Heinkel leads police to suspect local boys.
Time 6hrs Key stage 2/3 DY

Stop Press On June 21st 2007 CILIP announced the decision of the best Carnegie book ever, and in first place chose
NORTHERN LIGHTS by Philip Pullman

The runner-up was announced as

TOM'S MIDNIGHT GARDEN by Philippa Pearce

Do you agree with the judge's choice?

Christine Ronaldson