**This year there was an expanded judging team, involving judges from twelve countries**

**Extensive Reading Foundation**

**Language Learner Literature Awards 2016**

**Finalists**

Online comments April 1 – June 30, 2015 at [www.erfoundation.org](http://www.erfoundation.org)

Winners to be announced at the following vocabulary conferences:

Sept. 12-14: . Winners announced online and at the Vocab@Tokyo Conference, 12-14 September, Meiji Gakuin University, Tokyo.   Info: <https://sites.google.com/site/vocabattokyo/>

**Very Young Learners / Young Learners**

**Category: Very Young Learners**

**Title: A Letter to Roberto**

Author: Jon Maes

Illustrated by: Glenn Zimmer

Publisher: Compass Readers

Series and level: Level 1

ISBN: 978-1-61352-562-3

Judges’ comment: This book uses simple and clear language, and has illustrations which are appropriate for young learners. A Letter to Roberto provides some guidelines about formal writing through an example of a real life situation in which children could write: having a pen pal.

**Title: Vera The Alien Hunter 1**

Authors: Jason Wilburn & Casey Kim

Series editor:

Illustrator: Seungjun Park & Bioh Kang

Publisher: e-future

ISBN: 979-11-5680-111-5

Judges’ comment: The book introduces a character that has some dimensionality and liveliness; her relationship with her monster hunting equipment seems just right. The unresolved conflict with the monster will keep young readers engaged with their reading. The language is usefully colloquial while staying simple.

**Title: Vera The Alien Hunter 2**

Authors: Jason Wilburn & Casey Kim

Illustrator: Seungjun Park & Bioh Kang

Publisher: e-future

ISBN: 979-11-5680-112-2

Judges’ comment: The continued adventures of Vera the Alien Hunter keeps the reader turning the pages to see what will happen next. The stories are fast paced and interesting, with a touch of humour and wonderful cartoon-style illustrations.

**Category: Young Learners**

**Title: The Ooze**

Author: Kyle Maclauchlan

Illustrator: Hiroki Funayama

Publisher: Atama-ii Books

ISBN: 9781941140376

Judges’ comment:

This story is about a strange new life called Ooze. It is a multiple-path adventure style and you, the main character, have to make choices on which page to read next depending on how you want to treat this life. The vocabulary is simple and the story is engaging with original full-color illustrations that help comprehension. Actually, this unique, fun and strange story is both entertaining and educational, because it can make readers think about animal rights and other important issues.

**Title: A Problem for Prince Percy**

Author: Herbert Puchta and Günter Gerngross

Illustrator: Andrea Alemanno

Publisher:  Helbling Languages

ISBN number: 978-3-99045-305-6

Judges’ comment:

This is a cute fairytale with a twist about a poor prince who likes making other people happy. His problem involves trying to win the hand of a princess in a competition, and he must use all his ingenuity to do so. The story is suitable for primary age learners, with appropriate leveling that does not interfere with its flow. The use of superlatives adds a teachable grammar aspect too. Finally, its full-page color illustrations and large easy to read typeface add to its charm.

**Title: Vera the Alien Hunter 3**

Authors: Jason Wilburn and Casey Kim

Illustrator: Seungjun Pak and Bio Kang

Publisher: e-future

ISBN number: 979-11-5680-113-9

Judges’ comment:

The story is set after an alien invasion. A smart little girl who is an alien hunter and is constantly saving the world from them is the lead character. It is delivered in an interesting and appealing graded comic readers format. The story is written in easy English and it focuses on specific verb tenses, forms and sentences patterns that are repeated with very clear and easy examples of their usage. The illustrations and layout are attractive and engaging.

**Adolescents and Adults**

**Category:** Adolescents and Adults: **Beginners**

**Title: The Lift**

Author: Julian Thomlinson

Illustrator: Redbean Design PTE, Ltd.

Publisher: National Geographic Leaerning/Cengage Learning

ISBN: 978-1-4240-4887-8

Judges’ comment: Controlled vocabulary and structure are skillfully employed in creating a high-interest story that will keep low-level readers involved with the characters to the end. Illustrations and character introductions support understanding.

**Title: The Railway Children**

Author: Edith Nesbit

Adapted by: Michael Lacey Freeman

Illustrator: Zosia Dzierzawska

Publisher: ELI Readers

ISBN: 9788853620125

Judges’ comment: Lower-level students ready to take on a somewhat longer text will enjoy the well-told episodes making up this heart-warming retelling of the famous novel.

**Title: Sherlock Holmes: The Speckled Band**

Author: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Adapted by: Lesley Thompson

Illustrator: Giorgio Bacchin

Publisher: Oxford University Press

ISBN: 978-0-19-460905-0\

Judges’ comment: The exciting plot and controlled language will keep lower-level students engaged with this well-written retelling of the famous story. Plentiful illustrations support understanding and contribute to a satisfying reading experience.

**Category:** Adolescents and Adults: **Elementary**

**Title: Malala**

Author: Fiona Beddall

Publisher: Scholastic

ISBN: 978-1-910-17360-2

Judges’ comments:

“Malala is a terrific book that keeps me turning pages. The story of courageous Malala is purely beautiful and inspirational.”

**Title: Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb**

Author: Lynda Edwards

Publisher: Scholastic

ISBN: 978-1-910-17334-3

Judges’ comments:

“A delightful fantasy book with interesting plot twists. The book is truly an amazing read that wholly captures the reader’s interest.”

**Category:** Adolescents and Adults: **Intermediate**

**Title: The Eighth Sister**

Author: Victoria Heward

Illustrator: Rodolfo Brocchini

Publisher: Black Cat

ISBN: 9788853015136E

Judges’ comment:

This frightening story is all the more frightening because is it subtle, the intrinsic interest of reading the book is maintained through the witchcraft topic. The superior standard of editing recommends it as a successful reader.

**Title: A New Song for Nina**

Author: Fiona Joseph

Illustrator: Redbean Design PTE Ltd.

Publisher: National Geographic Leaerning/Cengage Learning

ISBN: 9781424046591

Judges’ comment:

This is a truly original story. The writing is so good you really feel you know the characters. The popular topics of love and music turn it into an exciting reading.

**Title: 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea**

Author: Jules Verne

Adapted by: Rachel Blandon

Illustrator: Nick Harris

Publisher: Oxford University Press (Bookworms)

ISBN: 9780194237994

Judges’ comment: =

This is an exciting story retold by a talented writer. I have read many versions of this story over the years, but this one is the best.

The illustrations and layout of the book really suit this classic story.

**Category:** Adolescents and Adults: **Upper Intermediate and Advanced**

**Title: Agnes Grey**

Author: Anne Bronte

Retold by Helen Holwill

Series editor: Emily Kopiecze k

Illustrator: Giorgio Bacchin

Publisher: Macmillan Education

ISBN: 978-0-230-47023-1

ISBN: 978-0-230-47024-8

Judges’ comment:

This story is well told and gripping and has captured the strength of the original in terms of plot, characterization and setting. The writer has taken into consideration the young adult reader and provides them with an engaging experience of authentic language in use. Vocabulary was mostly presented in glosses; however, several new words were presented in the text where a rich context provided clues to the meaning.

**Title: Battle for Big Tree Country**

Author: Gregory Strong

Series editor: Rob Waring and Sue Leather

Illustrator: Redbean Design Pte Ltd

Publisher: Andrew Robinson, National Geographic Learning, Cengage Learning, Page Turners Reading Library

ISBN-13: 978-1-4240-4886-1

ISBN-10: 1-4240-4886-9

Judges’ comment:

This book with its human interest plot is well-narrated, engaging, exciting, and enjoyable to read. The characters are well-developed, and the modern-day issues together with twists in the plot make the story appealing to young adolescents. The language is contemporary and is pitched well in terms of reading level. The exercises are given at the end of the book, so they do not interfere with the enjoyment of reading.

**Title: Moby Dick**

Author: Herman Melville

Retold by Sara Weiss

Series editor: Paola Accattoli, Grazia Ancillani, Daniele Garbuglia

Illustrator: Arianna Vairo

Publisher: Young Adult ELi Readers

ISBN: 978-88-536-2031-6

Judges’ comment: The story is well narrated and engaging and encourages the readers to continue reading to the end. The language used is authentic and smooth, and the illustrations are interesting.