



Big little
Book
award

Amarendra Chakravorty

Author (Bengali)

Shortlist 2017



An award can be a great bridge
between author and his/her
prospective readers.

How did you become a children's author?

I really don't know and never think about it. May be, I became a children's author the way I became myself.

Do you feel that there has been a shift in Bangla children's literature over the last few decades?

Yes, I feel the pulse of literary evolution during last few decades, but I don't find it interesting enough to analyse the changing trends in literature from any academic point of view.

What has been your most treasured experience in your writing journey?

Listening to bird's chirping, expedition to Antarctica, travelling in Amazon, tracking mountain gorilla in Rwandan rainforest– all these have been my wonderful experiences throughout my writing journey.

Who are your favourite authors and why?

Many. Difficult to mention all at the moment. Some of them are Upendra Kishore Roy Chaudhury, Sukumar Roy, Abanindranath Thakur, Dakshina Ranjan Mitra Majumdar, Leela Majumdar, Antoine de Saint Exupéry, Hans Christian Anderson, Luis Carrol and Jonathan Swift.

According to you, what role does an award play in promoting children's literature?

An award can be a great bridge between author and his/her prospective readers. First of all, quality translation of remarkably good books in other languages and effective publicity with proper marketing of them is very important to reach out the children, and more importantly, their parents. Annual Children's literary festival bringing together authors, illustrators, school children, their teachers & parents may be of great help to promote Children's literature.

Have your books been translated into other Indian languages? If not, what are the challenges and would you like your books to be translated?

Just a few books have been translated by National Book Trust, New Delhi as also by a commercial publishing house.

How can we encourage young authors to write for children?

I think reading more and more, loving children more and more and thinking more and more may bring the young authors to a nursery of writing for children. Besides, they themselves will find their ways to be a great author for children.

