



Big little
Book
award

Kartik Ghosh

Author (Bengali)

Shortlist 2017



I think it is very important to share regional literature with people across the country to understand each other better.

How did you become a children's author?

I come from the village and used to go to the village high school. There, my mathematics teacher got me going for creative writing. I used to fail in mathematics. Soon my teacher recognized that I was more inclined towards writing and singing. He encouraged me to read Abanindranath Tagore's Nalak, which has been my all-time favourite. Then, reading more of his works and Upendra Kishore Ray's, I tried to weave my writing as good storytelling.

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

There are innumerable people who have cultivated children's literature. They belonged to the golden era, like Rabindranath Tagore, Buddhadeb Basu. I do not think that anyone has held a golden pen since then.

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

I wrote for my daughters. And when I heard/hear them narrate my poems, it gives me deep joy.

Who are your favourite authors and why?

Abanindranath Tagore and Hans Andersen. Their way of fairytale weaving is immortal.

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

An award motivates an author to write more. It gives children's literature a larger recognition.

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

One of my books has been translated – Ekti Meye Eka, in Oriya. I think it is very important to share regional literature with people across the country to understand each other better. And yes, I would be very glad if my work was translated in other languages.

How can we encourage young authors to write for children?

It is the responsibility of parents and guardians. It is unfortunate that people are ashamed of reading Bengali today, and it is parents who discourage. If children read more, they will be able to write more. Reading will immerse them in literature and they will learn to love.

