



## Shadowing the Carnegie Medal for Writing

The Carnegie Medals timeline: <https://carnegies.co.uk/>

February	Longlists announced.
March	Shortlists announced.
March – June	Shadowing period for Carnegie medals.
April/May	Scholastic schools live events week.
May/June	Shadowers' choice vote opens.
June	SLS Carnegie Events.
June	Awards ceremony

### Shadowing website

- The main source for ideas is The Carnegies shadowing website: <https://carnegies.co.uk/take-part/> where you can sign up for shadowing if you have not done so already.
- You will be sent a passkey which you can share with your group so they can upload reviews and artworks to the website.
- The website contains lots of ideas, activities and “How to” guides for shadowing.
- Once the shortlist is announced resources will be uploaded for each of the shortlisted titles.
- Each of the authors will set a challenge linked to their book and each week short videos of the authors talking about their books are uploaded to the site for shadowing groups to watch.

### Acquiring the shortlisted books

- Schools can order through the School Library Service or direct from Scholastic.
- Check Libraries Unlimited Borrowbox digital library for ebooks and audiobooks <https://discover.librariesunlimited.org.uk/-/digital-library> - worth promoting this to students too.
- SORA: <https://www.overdrive.com/discoverSORA> free digital Carnegie shortlisted titles available to schools.

## Some ideas for shadowing

You may wish to pick and choose some ideas from the following list depending on your particular school and students.

- Judge a book by its cover. For a first session ask students to choose which book has the best cover, the best blurb and the best opening sentence. Collate the answers to look back on at the end of the process. If you do this session before the end of this term, the students will have time to get reading some of the shortlisted titles over the holiday.
- For an early session use question cards (maybe in small groups) to encourage students to start sharing opinions on the book(s) they have read.
- As students finish books encourage them to write reviews and upload them to The Carnegies website. Choose a “Star Review” or two each week and reward them with a small stationery prize. Print off the reviews and display them on a Carnegie display board.
- Time and resources may well prevent you from discussing each book individually so you could focus discussion on the judge’s criteria instead, perhaps using prompts from the “Judging Criteria” document.
- Watch the author videos as they are uploaded each week.
- Have a go at the author challenges.
- When you are ready - vote on your group’s favourite book and submit your vote for the Shadowers’ Choice award.
- Start preparing your presentation for the SLS Carnegie event.
- Hold your own Carnegie celebration at which you invite students to champion their favourite book. Ask them to respond creatively to their choice of book, perhaps with a drama, powerpoint presentation, artwork or cake. Invite parents/carers, English teachers and SLT to help celebrate the students’ hard work.
- Don’t forget the persuasive power of cake!

Opportunity to share ideas.

## Using the judging criteria

You could take one of these criteria per week and display the following discussion prompts to help get the conversations going. Students can share opinions on the books they have read and perhaps be inspired to read other shortlisted titles based on peer recommendation.

### Characterisation

- Who is your favourite character and why?
- Who is the most important character and why?
- Who are the most likeable/least likeable characters?
- Do you need to like the characters to enjoy the book?
- Do they represent different backgrounds – culture, race etc?
- Is there believable dialogue and interaction between characters?
- Are there convincing heroes and villains?

### Themes

- What are the main themes that are explored?
- Does the book deal with big issues that affect the whole world, or small ones that affect individual lives?
- Does it contain themes or ideas that have made you look at the world in new ways?
- Do the themes promote empathy and understanding?
- Does it contain themes that explore how people should act and behave? If so, do you agree with how they are presented?

### Style

- Is the story told in an original or creative way?
- Through whose eyes do we see the events of the story? Do readers get one point of view or several?
- Is the narrative in order from beginning to end, or does it move backwards and forwards in time?
- Does this story belong to a particular genre? How does it compare to other books you have read in this genre?
- Does it use just one form or does it include more than one, e.g. letters, diary entries, poems, newspaper reports?

### Plot

- Does the book have a good beginning?
- What are the key moments in the story?
- Does the plot make sense? Was it easy to follow?
- Does the story have a good twist or any big surprises?
- Did you get immersed in the story?
- Is the ending satisfying or are you left with unanswered questions?
- Is the ending believable?
- Does the book leave a lasting impression?