

Dear Parents,

We are delighted to share with you our [2021 Neev Book Award Shortlist!](#)

The Neev Book Award recognises outstanding writing that leads to a fuller understanding of Indian lives and stories. The award aims to raise awareness nationally and globally about original, distinguished children's literature from India and the diaspora. The award is also a platform to discover stories and voices with fresh and different perspectives. It promotes children's books with Indian characters and settings so that children can see aspects of themselves and their world reflected in the literature they read.

We encourage you to explore all books on this rich and varied list and suggest the following ways to engage your children:

- **Pick Your Winner:** Encourage your child to read as many of the books as possible in the age appropriate category. Let your child decide which book they think deserves the Neev Award. Most importantly, children can share their rankings and reviews of the shortlist with the jury. We'd love to hear what children think, and have them write into us at literaturefestival@neevschools.com.
- **Literature Circles or Parent Child Book Club:** Get your child to form a small reading group with friends. The group can choose books off the shortlist to read and discuss. Make it a social event with food!
- **Read Together:** Choose books to read and discuss together as a family. Make reading a priority by setting aside "family reading time." Share with your child your thoughts on the book's big themes and what you think is the author's message.
- **Read Alouds (for the Early Years category):** Engage your younger children to read aloud our wonderful Early Years selection. Kids of all ages will love listening to these stories. . Cuddle up with your younger child, read aloud the book, and then discuss it together. Some picture books also work well for older children – we believe that there is no better way to bond with your child than to read together.



If you'd like to purchase the shortlist books for your home, you can purchase them using [this Amazon link](#).

Author Kate DiCamillo reminds us: "Reading should not be presented to children as a chore, a duty. It should be offered to them as a precious gift." It is our hope that our Neev Book Award shortlist is such a gift, bringing the joy of reading to children everywhere.

Warm regards,

Rasil Ahuja & Dhooleka Raj
Jury Co-Chairs,
On Behalf of The Neev Book Award Jury 2021

