



Waterstones Children's Laureate

The Waterstones Children's Laureate is a vital role aimed at promoting and advocating for children's right to read, write and access books, and in 2026, the beloved and bestselling author Patrice Lawrence is the 14th incumbent of this prestigious position. One of the country's most versatile writers, Patrice made her name with groundbreaking young adult fiction such as her powerful debut [Orangeboy](#) - which won the Older Readers category of the [Waterstones Children's Book Prize](#) 2017 - but she has also penned compelling middle grade fiction including the fantastical Elemental Detectives series and picture books about the Windrush generation and confronting prejudice. A multiple award winner whose work often centres on inclusivity and the experiences of young people today, Patrice was awarded an MBE for Services to Literature in 2021 and elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature two years later. Waterstones are extremely excited to see what Patrice will achieve throughout her tenure.

'It's so exciting to welcome Patrice Lawrence as the new Waterstones Children's Laureate. A decade after winning the Older Readers category of the Waterstones Children's Book Prize, Patrice is recognised as an essential voice in children's literature, and booksellers love to recommend her work. Her irresistibly compelling novels illuminate the lives of today's young people, and we can't wait to see her bring the same energy and compassion to her Laureateship. We're proud to support her in this vital role, championing the life-changing power of stories.'

NICK CAMPBELL, CHILDREN'S CAMPAIGN MANAGER

