



The Carnegies



The 2025 Carnegie Medal for Writing shortlist showcases eight compelling titles that delve into themes of identity, resilience, and the complexities of youth.

Little Bang by Kelly McCaughrain: A poignant Northern Irish romance exploring teen pregnancy and a young woman's right to choose her own future.

The Things We Leave Behind by Clare Furniss: A dystopian novel set in a near-future London, following two sisters on a treacherous journey to safety amidst a refugee crisis.

Treacle Town by Brian Conaghan: A gritty tale of a teenager caught in gang violence who discovers slam poetry as a means of escape and self-expression.

The Final Year by Matt Goodfellow and Joe Todd-Stanton: A verse novel capturing a boy's tumultuous final year of primary school, dealing with friendship, family illness, and personal growth.

King of Nothing by Nathanael Lessore: A contemporary comedy exploring themes of friendship and identity as a self-proclaimed school leader faces a life-changing dilemma.

Glasgow Boys by Margaret McDonald: A powerful narrative about two boys in the care system striving to overcome past traumas and find their place in the world.

All That It Ever Meant by Blessing Musariri: A beautifully written story of a neurodivergent girl coming to terms with her mother's death during a journey to Zimbabwe, blending reality with the supernatural.

Play by Luke Palmer: A gripping tale of four boys in a small town whose dreams of escape lead them into a world of crime and violence, challenging their notions of masculinity and loyalty.

