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## WHO ARE THE NATION'S FAVOURITE ILLUSTRATORS?

For the first time ever PLR announces the most borrowed illustrators from UK public libraries

Data released today by Public Lending Right (PLR) shows the 50 most borrowed illustrators from UK public libraries. The 50 illustrators include pre-school favourites such as Quentin Blake and Shirley Hughes as well the current Children's Laureate Lauren Child. The top three illustrators, Tony Ross, Nick Sharratt and Axel Scheffler all had over one million loans.

Speaking of his delight at being the most borrowed illustrator Tony Ross commented:

*"WOW! That is wonderful, although I would think I have had some help from fantastic authors, such as Jeanne Willis, David Walliams, and Francesca Simon. Thank you library users. I'm surprised, proud, and delighted!"*



*"It's wonderful that the success of illustrators is now recognised in this PLR ranking."* Said Children's Laureate Lauren Child. *"Illustrations play such a significant role in the enjoyment of books and libraries play such an important role in bringing books to children throughout society. The recognition that PLR now offers illustrators for their work is a much welcome and important step in highlighting the unique contribution of the illustrator to the success of the book."*

The PLR list of most borrowed illustrators was welcomed by Sarah McIntyre of Pictures Mean Business:

*"Money earned from PLR is a real lifeline to so many hardworking illustrators, but most of the people who tell stories through pictures in books struggle to build a name for themselves professionally. I'm thrilled to learn the PLR team have compiled a list of the top 50 most borrowed illustrators from UK public libraries! I hope one day in the near future, publishers will update their data systems and people will be able to find this information on illustrators as easily as they can find it on writers."*

### Top 50 Most Borrowed Illustrators, 2015/16

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|--------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Tony Ross       | 18. David Melling         | 35. Guy Parker-Rees    |
| 2. Nick Sharratt   | 19. Michael Foreman       | 36. Sophy Williams     |
| 3. Axel Scheffler  | 20. Emma Chichester Clark | 37. Jez Alborough      |
| 4. Alex Brychta    | 21. Sue Hendra            | 38. Dr Seuss           |
| 5. Quentin Blake   | 22. Adrian Reynolds       | 39. Jill Murphy        |
| 6. Mick Inkpen     | 23. Roger Hargreaves      | 40. Lee Wildish        |
| 7. Korky Paul      | 24. Martin Brown          | 41. Tim Warnes         |
| 8. Lucy Cousins    | 25. Ben Cort              | 42. Stephen Cartwright |
| 9. Liz Pichon      | 26. Rod Campbell          | 43. Shirley Hughes     |
| 10. David Roberts  | 27. Garry Parsons         | 44. Anthony Browne     |
| 11. Lydia Monks    | 28. Jean Adamson          | 45. Chris Riddell      |
| 12. Eric Hill      | 29. Roger Priddy          | 46. Mike Gordon        |
| 13. Rachel Wells   | 30. Emily Gravett         | 47. Eric Carle         |
| 14. David McKee    | 31. Oliver Jeffers        | 48. Sam Lloyd          |
| 15. Emma Dodd      | 32. Georgie Ripper        | 49. Jane Chapman       |
| 16. Lauren Child   | 33. Debi Gliori           | 50. Alex T Smith       |
| 17. Steve Smallman | 34. Dav Pilkey            |                        |

PLR is run by the British Library and gives authors the legal right to receive payment from government each time their books are loaned through the public library system. In February 2017 PLR distributed £6 million to 22,202 authors at a Rate Per Loan of 7.82 pence.

In order to receive payments authors must register for PLR. Writers, illustrators, photographers, editors, translators, narrators, producers, abridgers can apply via the UK PLR office. Further details can be found on the PLR website: [www.bl.uk/plr](http://www.bl.uk/plr).

### **Media Contacts**

**Julia Eccleshare: 0207 412 7275 / 07824 350 481 or [julia.eccleshare@bl.uk](mailto:julia.eccleshare@bl.uk)**

**Susan Ridge: 01642 604699 or [susan.ridge@bl.uk](mailto:susan.ridge@bl.uk)**

### **Editors' Notes**

1. The Public Lending Right scheme is the responsibility of the British Library and administered from the PLR office in Stockton-on-Tees.
2. PLR is funded by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) through the British Library. This year PLR distributed £6 million to 22,202 authors at a Rate Per Loan of 7.82 pence. Since its inception in 1979, PLR has distributed over £160 million to authors. The Chancellor announced the results of the government's spending review in 2015. As part of this announcement the British Library was informed that PLR has received a 'flat-cash' settlement. Its funding will therefore remain at £6.6m up to 2019.
3. Authors are eligible for payment if their PLR earnings reach a minimum of £1. There is a maximum payment threshold of £6,600 for the top-lending authors. This year, 205 authors received the maximum payment.
4. The Digital Economy Act, passed in March 2010, cleared the way for the UK PLR legislation to be extended to include public library loans of audio-books ('talking books') and ebooks downloaded to library premises for taking away as loans ('on-site' ebook loans). The UK PLR Scheme has been extended from 1 July 2014.

On 27 April 2017 the Digital Economy Bill which included provision to extend the UK Public Lending Right legislation to include remote loans of ebooks from public libraries received royal assent. The new arrangements should take effect officially from 1 July 2018 when remote ebook loans data will start to be collected and any payments arising from the newly eligible loans will be made in February 2020.

5. British authors qualify for payment from a number of other European PLR systems. These include the Irish PLR system which is now administered through the UK PLR office on behalf of the Irish government. Payments to UK authors from PLR systems in countries such as France, Germany, Austria and the Netherlands are distributed by the Authors' Licensing & Collecting Society.
6. PLR's data analysis system (LEWIS) offers public libraries a vital tool to support effective and efficient business decisions. The analysis gives them a comprehensive picture of national reading trends, changes in our national and regional reading habits and a fascinating insight into our preferences, pastimes and obsessions.
7. PLR cannot be held responsible for errors in bibliographic or loans information supplied by libraries or other agencies or for incorrect information supplied by applicants.
8. For all the latest news follow PLR on Twitter **@PLR\_UK**.