2016 South Asia Book Award for Children’s and Young Adult Literature

2016 Award Winners

**Tiger Boy**
by Mitali Perkins; illustrated by Jamie Hogan (Charlesbridge, 2015).
A gripping and heartfelt tale of a young boy’s love for, and sense of responsibility towards, his island home in the Sunderbands of West Bengal and the wildlife that shares it with him. Universal concerns of conservation, equal education, and economic inequality are seamlessly intertwined with the narrative of Neel’s daily life and his adventure with a tiger cub. (Grades 3-6).

**Dear Mrs. Naidu**
by Mathangi Subramanian (Young Zubaan, 2015).
When twelve-year-old Sarojini is forced to begin the school year without her best friend, Amir, who begins attending a higher class school outside of their neighborhood, she becomes wholly conflicted about her own social standing. Fortuitously, Sarojini’s spirited new teacher assigns her to write letters to someone she would like to know, and as Sarojini channels her thoughts as correspondence with her deceased, freedom-fighter namesake, Sarojini Naidu, she awakens her own sense of activism, communal relationships, familial bonds, and confirmed friendships, both old and new. (Grades 6 and up)

2016 Honor Books

**Bhimrao Ambedkar: The Boy Who Asked Why**
by Sowmya Rajendran; illustrated by Satwik Gade
(Tulika Publishers, 2015)

**The Boy Who Speaks in Numbers**
by Mike Masilami; illustrated by Matthew Frame
(Tara Books, 2015)

**Razia and the Pesky Presents**
by Natasha Sharma; illustrated by Priya Kuriyan
(Duckbill Books, 2015)

2016 Highly Commended Books

**A Tale of Highly Unusual Magic**
by Lisa Papademetriou

**Crane Boy**
by Diana Cohn; illustrated by Youme
(Cinco Puntos Press, 2015)

**My Friend is Hindu**
by Khadija Ejaz
(Purple Toad Publishing, 2015)

**Sona and the Wedding Game**
by Kashmira Sheth; illustrated by Yoshiko Jaeggi
(Peachtree Publishers, 2015)

The 2016 South Asia Book Awards will be held in Washington, D.C in conjunction with the National Council for the Social Studies Convention from December 2-4, 2016.