

Miss Judy Taylor,  
The Bodley Head Limited,  
9, Bow Street,  
Covent Garden,  
London, WC2E 7AL

28th April, 1971

Dear Miss Taylor,

Thank you for your letter of 1st February, which, with no intention of rudeness, I have not yet answered.

I agree with you that children's writers are sadly neglected. I agree that a good award for a book of fiction for children is an excellent idea and overdue. I wish Bookers could help but I am afraid we can't because of our quite heavy financial commitment to the Booker Prize.

As you may know, we and the Publishers' Association did our best to channel Whitbread's literary patronage into the direction of children's fiction but we were unable to change their minds. Our public relations man had a meeting with the Whitbread people but they failed to take the point about children's books.

But I would like to reassure you that if we come across any other commercial or industrial concern that is thinking of giving a literary prize, we will press your idea. And if, by any remote chance, any further Booker money becomes available for such purposes a children's fiction prize would be top of the list.

I'm sorry I can't give you any more concrete help but I wish you good luck and if there is anything I can do to help do let me know.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

(J.N. Murphy)