



## Carnegie 2021 Shortlist



# The Girl Who Speaks Bear

By Sophie Anderson



# Introduction

*They call me Yanka the bear. Not because of where I was found – only a few people know about that.*

*Found abandoned in a bear cave as a baby, Yanka has always wondered where she is from. She tries to ignore the strange whispers and looks from the villagers, wishing she was as strong inside as she is on the outside. When Yanka has to flee her house, looking for answers about who she really is, a journey far beyond anything she ever imagined begins – from icy rivers to smouldering mountains, meeting an ever-growing herd of extraordinary friends along the way.*





# Compare and Contrast

- Sophie Anderson has written another book based on Russian Folklore called 'The House with Chicken Legs', this book is referenced in Sophie Anderson's book 'The Girl Who Speaks Bear'.
- The Disney Movie 'Brave' is a Scottish Folklore and is very similar to the book 'The Girl Who Speaks Bear', which is also a folklore tale.



# Yanka

Yanka is a 12 year old girl who feels out of place in her village because she is taller and stronger than the other people. At the village festival she falls of an ice tower and notices her legs have turned into bear legs. This was when she realised she really was different from the others. After this event, she decided to find out more about her past to enable her to learn about herself and what she was.





# Anatoly

Anatoly is a middle aged man who lives in the forest. He often travels to Mamochka's house to tell Yanka stories that are supposedly true. He helps Yanka to discover more about what she is and why she is a girl and bear at the same time!



# About the Author – Sophie Anderson

Sophie Anderson is a geologist and a science teacher who grew up in Swansea and studied at Liverpool University. She wrote textbooks until Slavic folklore characters began to appear in her work. Sophie comes from an international family and enjoys writing stories based on other folklore and civilizations.



# Our Favourite Parts

“I loved the plot twist, I loved when we found out that Anatoly was actually Yanka’s father. I thought it was great!”

- Esther

“I loved the part when Yanka and her Grandmother snuggle up. It is really heart-warming and fills me with joy.”

- Sophie

“I like the stories within the stories. They made the novel as a whole feel more interactive and inclusive to all.”

- Megan

“I do not have a favourite part, I loved the novel as a whole, I thought it was eye opening and heart-warming.”

- Freya





Why this book  
should win!

We think this book should win because it has a good story line and is easy to follow. It has a clever plot twist which excited us as readers. This plot twist was somewhat suspectable but was still surprising and intriguing. We like the fact that this book has borders and pictures to help break about the large sum of text in the book.

