



School: School of Creative Industries

Researcher: Julia Green

Project Title: *To the Edge of the World*

UOA: 27 - English Language and Literature

Research Statement

Green, J. (2018) *To the Edge of the World*. Oxford University Press. Oxford

To the Edge of the World encourages young readers to ask questions about themselves and the world around them. Set in the Outer Hebrides, this story explores fears, dreams, friendship, and freedom. The narrative centres on a perilous and unexpected voyage to St Kilda; Jamie (who is afraid of the sea) and the more adventurous Mara must learn to understand each other and work together in order to survive the journey.

Green's research includes an exploration of young people's relationship to land, sea and wilderness. The time she has spent in the Outer Hebrides informs her writing, bringing a specificity and vivid evocation of place to the narrative. The Publishing Director of David Fickling Books states that Green: "has a wonderful knack of writing with beauty and simplicity, and telling a powerful story while infusing the whole narrative with her own personality and passions – in particular her love of the natural world, and of outdoor adventure and remote places".

Through its exploration of friendship, emotion, and adventure, *To the Edge of the World* invites young readers to reflect on themselves and their futures. A review by a Year 5 student said: "You should read this story because it is extremely inspiring to follow your goals and dreams. You can make friends with whoever you want"ⁱ, while an 11-year-old reader felt that the book was: "all about facing our fears and having the courage to be different"ⁱⁱ.

In 2018, The Reading Agency sent 100 packs featuring Green's *To The Edge of the World* (2018) to Chatterbooks reading groups in public and school libraries across the UK (Chatterbooks is the UK's largest network of children's reading groups, with almost 9,000 members)ⁱⁱⁱ. *To the Edge of the World* was nominated for the 2020 Carnegie Medal^{iv}.

ⁱ Reviews of *To the Edge of the World* by Julia Green; Reviewer: Year 5 students (age 9-10); <https://www.tes.com/news/class-book-review-edge-world-julia-green>

ⁱⁱ Reviews of *To the Edge of the World* by Julia Green; Reviewers: Children – members of Penzance Chatterbooks Group; <https://tra-resources.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/entries/document/2862/To the Edge of the World. merged.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://tra-resources.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/entries/document/2862/To the Edge of the World. merged.pdf>

^{iv} <https://carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/nominations-published-for-the-cilip-carnegie-kate-greenaway-medals-2019/>