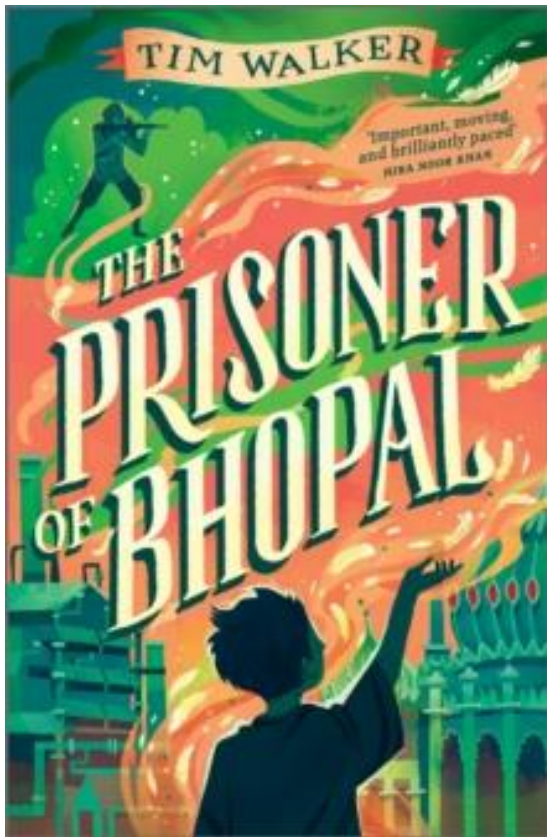


## Berkshire Book Award 2025: Longlisted title

### **The Prisoner of Bhopal by Tim Walker**



Amil has always dreamed of working at the modern, space-age pesticide plant in Bhopal, India, where he lives.

Instead, on his tenth birthday, he is torn from his family and taken to work for Mr Kumar and his cruel son, Jalesh, in their dilapidated printing factory.

There, hidden in a trunk, he finds a secret First World War journal.

As its pages come to life, they reveal not only why Amil is there, but that he and the journal's author – his great-grandfather, Sanjiv - share a magical gift: they can read the wind.

Its purpose remains a mystery until, one terrible night, the pesticide plant leaks poison gas into the air above Bhopal.

### **Discussion Questions**

- Why did Amil have to go and work for Mr Kumar?
- What is Amil's magical ability and how does this help him?
- Who is Chunni and what is her relationship with her father?
- The book was written to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Bhopal gas tragedy. Although it is a work of historical fiction, it was inspired by a real event. Do you think this is a good way of learning about the past?
- Would you recommend this book to friends to read, and why or why not?