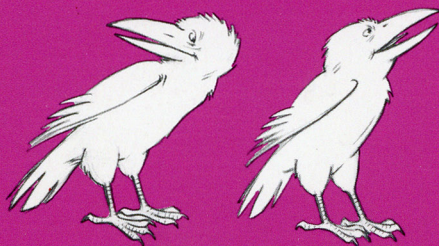


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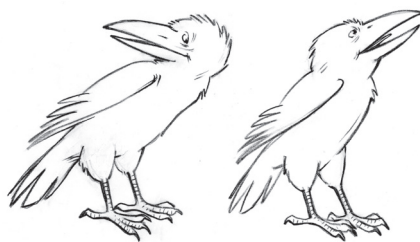
A Selection of International Children's and Youth Literature



Internationale Jugendbibliothek

The White Ravens 2011

A Selection of International Children's and Youth Literature



Internationale Jugendbibliothek

Symbols

- ★ Special Mention – book to which we wish to draw particular attention
- ◆ book whose content is found to contribute to an international understanding among cultures and people
- book whose text is judged to be easily understandable, i.e. easy-to-read text, and yet dealing with topics of interest to older readers; well-suited to foreign-language readers and for inclusion in foreign language collections of public and school libraries

The White Ravens 2011

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Preface

The annual catalogue »The White Ravens« features 250 new and notable titles of children's and young adult literature from over 40 countries. The language specialists of the Internationale Jugendbibliothek (International Youth Library – IYL) selected these books in the course of the previous year from the incoming donations to acclaim the most noteworthy and remarkable ones. In the case of a few countries and languages, we once again were helped by befriended experts and organisations, whom we heartily thank.

»The White Ravens« are at the core of the collection management and mediation activities of the IYL – the largest library for international children's and young adult literature in the world, with holdings of nearly 600,000 books. Our main tasks include cataloguing, making accessible, and creatively promoting the books, which have been kindly donated by publishing houses, institutions, organisations, and individuals from around the world for decades. This catalogue, put together by our team of language

specialists, who have excellent knowledge of the international children's and youth book market, is part of our effort to promote these books.

Every year, the catalogue »The White Ravens« is published in time for the Bologna Children's Book Fair, the world's leading international event dedicated to children's publishing, where it is presented together with the books themselves.

This selection, which features books in more than 30 languages, has gained international recognition because it highlights the trends of contemporary children's and young adult literature on an international scale. It serves as a list of recommendations for parents, teachers, and librarians, and inspires publishing houses to acquire translation rights. Public and school libraries or international bookstores use the catalogue as a basis for making their purchases. Since 1996, the »White Ravens« selections are also registered in a database, which can be found on our website at www.ijb.de. Furthermore, thanks

to the much appreciated support of the International Children's Digital Library (ICDL), the full information is also available at www.icdlbooks.org.

Because the collections of the International Youth Library consist exclusively of books we receive from our friends around the world, only review and donation copies become part of the »White Ravens« selection. Therefore, the range and quality of »The White Ravens« is contingent on the books donated. To offer a broad variety of publications, we make an effort to present titles from as many publishing houses as possible. Unfortunately, not all publishing houses that consistently and generously supply the IYL can be featured every year. Nonetheless, we extend our sincere gratitude to each and every one of them for their continued shipments of books!

We can confidently assure our donors that their books will be catalogued, indexed by subject, and included in our permanent collection. In this way, they are available to international specialists who

visit our study library, make use of our reference services from abroad, or consult our catalogues on the Internet. Over the years, many books also find their way into specialised travelling exhibitions, exhibition catalogues, teacher recommendation lists, and activity programs for children.

Last but not least, we renew our request to all publishers: Please continue to send us your new titles! As for our part, we shall continue to live up to the reputation of Munich's International Youth Library as the home of the most comprehensive collection of international literature for children and young people.

Dr. Christiane Raabe
February 2011

East Asian Languages

Japan (Japanese)

(Romanisation according to the Hepburn system)

1

Hahakigi, Hōsei

Soruha

(Peace)

Tōkyō: Akane Shobō, 2010. – 353 p.

ISBN 978-4-251-09261-8

Afghanistan – Civil war – Islam – Taliban – Oppression

This novel gives readers a comprehensive picture of Afghanistan since 1989. Composed with a humane and democratic spirit, it factually portrays the civil war, the terror of the Taliban, the bombardments by US forces, and the lives of people in Kabul living under these conditions. Every one of the characters is bound to the complex connections between politics, religion, ethnic diversity, practices and social mores and has an explanatory role to play. In describing their future plans, the young protagonists lend a sense of positive outcome to the story. They are the purveyors of hope in the new reconstruction of their country. Taken together with the general factual information provided in the appendix, this novel expresses a thorough knowledge of Afghanistan. (Age: 14+) ♦

2

Hanayama, Kazumi (text/illus.)

Makura no Makuchan

(My pillow, Makuchan)

Tōkyō: Tokuma Shoten, 2010. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-4-19-863073-7

Pillow – Wish – Dream

Without his favourite pillow, Makuchan, little Takkun can't fall asleep. It has always been like that, and the pillow enjoys this dependence, too. Yet what it finds most annoying is that, unlike the pillows of Takkun's mum, dad, and sister, Makuchan is not able to share its owner's dreams. The reason is simple: While the other family members keep their heads still on their pillows all night, Takkun's tossing and turning prevents a connection with his pillow. In her first picture book, Kazumi Hanayama depicts a child's feelings and thoughts in a very witty and vivid style. The turbulent dream sequences and the chaos at the family home, which eventually ends in the reconciliation between the desperate and grumpy pillow and the dependent little boy, are told in a refreshing and entertaining voice. Thus, the amiable story easily sweeps young readers along. (Age: 3+)

3

Ishii, Mutsumi (text)

Kuroi, Ken (illus.)

Sumirechan no atsui natsu

(Sumire's hot summer)

Tōkyō: Kaiseisha, 2009. – 138 p.

(Series: Watashi wa Sumire shirīzu)

ISBN 978-4-03-345320-0

Siblings – Family – Awareness of language – Language acquisition

In the first volume of this series, Sumire was in kindergarten; in the second, she was in first grade. In the third, she is now in second grade. She has caring parents, a little sister, and friends. Actually she is in want of nothing, but sometimes she is irritated by her annoying sister and by the unfairness of her mother. Out of defiance she runs away, but to where? This series portrays the typical intact life of a middle class family. Many readers will identify with Sumire's emotions and her dealings. The self-conscious girl has a special weakness for all things concerning language, and wants to try out new words for herself. The resulting vignettes permit the reader to develop linguistic sensitivity in a fun way. This is a lively book, clever and richly illustrated. (Age: 8+)

4

Ishikura, Kinji (text/illus.)

Umi o watatta orizuru

(The paper crane who flew over the sea)

Tōkyō: Komine Shoten, 2010. – [31] p.

(Series: Ehon hiroba)

ISBN 978-4-338-18038-2

Sasaki, Sadako – Origami – Japan/1954-1955 – September 11 – Peace – Solidarity

Ten years after the atomic bomb fell on Hiroshima, Sadako, a twelve-year-old girl, died of leukaemia caused by the subsequent »black rain«. In her hospital bed, she folded over one thousand paper cranes, practicing the ancient belief that she would be healed in so doing. Her story is known the world over. The terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York had many victims as well. Today, one of Sadako's cranes can be seen in the Tribute WTC Visitor Center. With sensitive illustrations, Kinji Ishikura transmits the connections and the meaning of the little bird, which symbolizes compassion for the victims of violence and war and the deep pain of their loved ones. There is an afterword by Sadako's brother in the appendix, along with a scored song composed by her nephew. (Age: 7+) ♦ ●

5

Iwaki, Norie (text)
Matsumura, Kōji (illus.)

Sumioni nigeta

(The story of the demon who has been under the roof of Tōshōdauji temple)

Tōkyō: Fukuinkan Shoten, 2009. – 79 p.
(Series: Fukuinkan Sōsaku dōwa shirīzu)
ISBN 978-4-8340-2471-5

Japan/17th century – Buddhism – Temple – Carpenter – Demon

Tōshōdaiji Temple in Nara, founded in 759 and today a UNESCO World Heritage site, is the setting for this picture book. A roof rafter support in the main hall, which was on display in Tōkyō during the temple's renovation in 2005, inspired the author to conceive this fantastical story. A boy, working in the seventeenth century as apprentice to the shrine builder of Tōshōdaiji, discovers a curious wooden figurine of a horned demon between the rafters. When the boy frees it from the crevice, it is revived, and thus the boy discovers its origin and its wish, which is now fulfilled. Kōji Matsumura, professor of Japanese painting and specialist for ancient Japanese religious art, illustrates the encounter in an exciting and evocative way using a delicate water colour on wet paper technique. (Age: 8+)

6

Kasahara, Yoshirō (text)
Ōta, Daihachi (illus.)

Hon no sekai e

(Come away into the world of books)

Tōkyō: Arisukan (Alice-kan), 2010. – 27 p.
(Series: Shirīzu Wakuwaku toshokan; 1)
ISBN 978-4-7520-0507-0

Children's library – School library – Book

This five-volume publication bears the title »The library is great«. It is meant to familiarize elementary school children with how to make use of libraries – an especially important task in the digital age. The first volume portrays in poetic form the meaning and the creative power of the book. The second talks about the basic knowledge involved in making use of the library. Using concrete examples, the third conveys library research methods and the critical skills needed to evaluate and use information. In the fourth volume, children imagine their ideal library, and in the final volume, the history of libraries is introduced and important libraries of the world, including children's libraries are presented. The volumes

of this descriptive and systematic introduction in picture book form was variously created by two authors and three illustrators. (Age: 9+)

7

Katayama, Ken (text/illus.)

Oishii mizu

(The delicious water)

Tōkyō: Nōson Gyoson Bunka Kyōkai, 2009. – 28 p.
(Series: Wakuwaku tabemono ohanashi ehon; 15)
ISBN 978-4-540-08245-0

Wellspring – Drinking water – Health – Forest animals

The forest animals love to drink the clear water from the large ceramic jug. The jug enjoys this, and the more the animals drink from it, the more abundantly its water gurgles over. But one day the animals learn about sweetened, coloured juices, and then they avoid the pure water. The wellspring dries out, and the parched ceramic jug breaks. When the animals grow weary of the juice's artificial taste, they wise up and begin to repair the unfortunate jug. The intention of the book is clear. The message of healthy drinking water is presented in a simple way and not pedantically, thanks to the slightly anthropomorphised animals. The glistening water happily sputtering encourages respect for nature. (Age: 2+)

8

Ōkado, Takako (text)
Matsunaga, Yoshirō (illus.)

Yakusoku no donguri

(Promised acorns)

Tōkyō: Shin Nihon Shuppansha, 2010. – 31 p.
ISBN 978-4-406-053-76-1

World War II – Pacific War – Hiroshima – Atomic bomb – Colonialism – War crime – Friendship – Biography

The life story of Mr Lee represents that of many Koreans who came to Japan as labourers during the era of Japanese colonial rule. Born in Hiroshima as the son of such a Korean family, Mr Lee grew up without any cultural identity. In 1945, he was one of 20,000 survivors out of a total of 50,000 Korean atomic bomb victims. After Japan's surrender, he tried to start a new life in South Korea despite his fear of radiation sickness. Eventually, however, he ended up in a hospital specialising in treating atomic bomb victims and died there. Lee wrote his autobiography with the help of a Japanese doctor. Deeply moved by Lee's fate, Takako Ōkado created this picture

book, in which she describes the complex issue in a surprisingly short and succinct way. Readers will be particularly touched by its quiet and dignified visual language that offers ample room for thought. This book is a plea for peace and also a remarkable approach to the topic of perpetrator and victim in more ways than one. (Age: 9+)

★Special Mention ◆ ●

9

Okuhara, Yume (text/illus.)

Kusa o hamu

(Grazing zebras)

Tōkyō: Kōdansha, 2009. – [24] p.

(Series: Kōdansha no sōsaku ehon)

ISBN 978-4-06-132393-3

Zebra – Herd – Grass – Naturalness – Tranquillity

Little and big zebras graze in the wide grass plains. One zebra boy especially loves the grass. In the morning, afternoon, and evening he eats it with dedication and delectation. Sometimes he pretends that he were himself the delicious tasting grass, which grows toward the sun and lets itself be bent by the wind. He sings songs about grass with his mother. Young illustrator Yume Okuhara depicts the landscape and the tranquil, plump zebras using large planes imbued with a natural quality and milky earth tones. The simple, repetitive words nearly hypnotize the reader and bring about a relaxed composure. Because of this, the book has potential as material for reading therapy. (The 41st Kodansha Publication Culture Award for Picture Books, 2010) (Age: 3+)

10

Orimo, Kyōko (text/illus.)

Umi kara kita ojichan

(The man who came from the sea)

Tōkyō: Dōshinsha, 2010. – [48] p.

ISBN 978-4-494-01242-8

Sailor – Friendship – Parting – Father figure

There are several picture books by Kyōko Orimo that are both drawn from real life and very poetic. The book at hand, which was originally published in 1981, has been revised and published in a new edition. It tells the story of a boy who lives close to the sea. Since his father's death, the boy's mother runs a guesthouse. One day, a sailor takes lodgings with them. Orimo describes the friendship between this man, who seems to lead a very lonely life, and the young first-person narrator. They both feel drawn towards each other, but their happiness

doesn't last long. The sailor has to return to his ship. Orimo's intense and colourful pictures with cubist elements seem somewhat naïve; yet at the same time, a hint of sadness runs through them. They perfectly express the protagonist's longing for a father. (Age: 7+)

11

Saitō, Atsuo (text)

Kanaida, Etsuko (illus.)

Tetsuo no haruyasumi

(Tetsuo's spring holidays)

Tōkyō: Iwanami Shoten, 2010. – 373 p

ISBN 978-4-00-1156411-6

Son – Time travel – Father – Past – Family – Home town – Growing up

During his school holidays, twelve-year-old Tetsuo travels all alone to his father's home town. Strange things happen on his journey, both on the train and in the town where the family's large house used to stand. The boy meets young and old people who seem to be connected with each other somehow. Atsuo Saitō, who is well known for his fantasy novels, looks into his own biography by sending the sensitive protagonist on a time travel and making him follow the author's own path through life and experience his home town. The story is interspersed with quotations from European literature and music. There is a constant switch between and overlapping of different times, landscapes, and characters from four generations, so that even passages with minutely detailed descriptions don't seem lengthy at all. The beautiful and careful design also adds to the book's special appeal. (Age: 12+)

12

Shinzawa, Toshihiko (adapt.)

Gotō, Mizuki (illus.)

Kame no ensoku. Igirisu minwa

(The turtles' excursion. An English folktale)

Kōbe: Ferishimo Shuppan (Felissimo), 2009. – 32 p.

(Series: Ohanashi no takarabako; 4)

ISBN 978-4-89432-493-0

Turtle – Excursion – Time – Tranquillity – Folk tale

It is a well-known fact that turtles move slowly. In this story, believe it or not, they purposely take their time with an even greater degree of imperturbability. The turtle father fancies a family trip. Because the child has never experienced a trip before, it is curious and wants to part right away. The father, however, allows himself much time before departure, for the anticipation should

be as long as possible. Finally, they start to move, one step after another. Will the family ever reach its goal and enjoy its wonderful picnic? In her debut effort, the book's young illustrator unconventionally interprets the humorously retold English folktale using paper collages. As a result, the reader can make witty and clever discoveries about time and velocity. (Age: 4+)

13

Tanikawa, Shuntarō (text)
Motonaga, Sadamasa (illus.)

Kokoro no hikari

(Light of the heart)

Tōkyō [et al.]: Bunken Shuppan, 2010. – [32] p.
(Series: Poppo raiburari: Miru miru chon)
ISBN 978-4-580-82102-6

Heart – Soul – Emotion

The poet Tanikawa and the avant-garde artist Motonaga created the book »Moko mokomoko« (Metamorphosis of things) in 1976, and since then it has enjoyed success with readers, even its youngest ones. In the same vein, but this time without onomatopoeic words, they apply concise, verse-like texts to showcase individual positive emotions and moods that may arise in a human being at a particular time. They call it the Light of the Heart. That which is invisible is visualised using abstract images created by means of an airbrush technique, and is made perceptible through the use of finely wrought words. The heart is a universe. The breath-taking originality of this picture book is also due to the collaboration of Etsuko Nakatsuji, award winner at the Biennial Illustration Bratislava, for its layout and design. (Age: 6+) ●

14

Tanikawa, Shuntarō

Shi no hon

(The book of poetry)

Tōkyō: Shūeisha, 2009. – 117 p.
ISBN 978-4-08-771299-5

Time – Nature – Everyday life – Poetry

Shuntarō Tanikawa, born in 1931, is one of the most loved poets of Japan; about eighty volumes of his poetry have already been published. This volume contains fifty-two poems, of which most first appeared in various magazines since 2006. Among these are some poems about writing poems. In the stillness of a moment or in the middle of everyday life, one can be surprised by visible or invisible things, which call forth thoughts and feelings. This is how Tanikawa intuitively and imaginatively cre-

ates a cosmos of words. In other poems in the volume, he depicts various personages from the world of music, literature, and theatre, each time for a particular reason. With this, young readers are exposed in a special manner to interesting ways of living life. (Age: 14+)

15

Yoshida, Michiko (text)
Ōno, Yāyoi (illus.)

Yamatoshijimi no shokutaku

(The dinner table of mussel-butterflies)

Tōkyō: Kumon Shuppan, 2010. – 121 p.
ISBN 978-4-7743-1748-9

Old age – Family – Friendship

Kanko meets an old man by the river who is sitting with a sprained foot on a stone – »the dinner table of butterflies«, he later reveals. She takes him home with her as her »finding«, just like her brother did the time he found a dog. Her mother takes care of the old man, who himself would like to stay on as a »finding« with the family. From out of this unusual situation, a short but wonderful living together emerges, until the time of his death. His presence encourages Kanko's father to reconcile himself with his own father's death. Her brother adopts him as his grandfather, and he is Kanko's best friend, telling her many beautiful things while sitting on the stone. Michiko Yoshida tells this quaint story about friendship across the generations with humour and poetry and her own personal linguistic style. (Age: 9+)

People's Republic of China (Chinese)

(Romanisation according to the Pinyin system)

16

Cao, Wenxuan (text)
Yang, Chunbo (illus.)

Chi ji

(The brooding-deprived hen)

Jinan: Ming tian chu ban she (= Tomorrow Publishing House), 2010. – [42] p.

(Series: Chun mei hui ben)

ISBN 978-7-5332-6329-4

Hen – Countryside – Love of animals

As spring comes to the countryside, a black hen is determined to hatch its chicks. However, its owner, a rural family, tries to stop it so that it will continue to lay eggs. Despite the father's various brutal attempts to hinder the hen's brooding, not a bit of its desire is reduced. The

family's son Guagua looks on all this with deep compassion and beseeches his parents, who gradually sympathise with the hen, too, and let it brood its nest of eggs. No blame is laid on either the human or the animal side of the story. There's power in both the authentic life of a rural family and the quasi-anthropomorphic yet natural desire of a hen to be a mother. The black-and-white woodcut illustrations perfectly fit the story's atmosphere. (Age: 4+)

17

Huang, Beijia

Cao zhuo zi. 1924

(The grass bracelet. 1924)

Nanjing: Jiangsu ren min chu ban she, 2010 (= Jiangsu People's Publishing House). – 235 p.

(Series: 5 ge 8 sui xi lie chang pian)

ISBN 978-7-214-05580-4

China/1920s – Tradition – Progress – Culture clash

1924 in a southern city of China. The revolution of 1911 has overthrown the autocratic regime of the Qing Dynasty, bringing changes, yet still making compromises with a society clinging to its old culture. As a girl born in a new era, eight-year-old Mei Xiang is happy to have been allowed into a new public school in the city. Life seems so different yet remains so much the same. Mei Xiang is loved by the entire family, yet nonetheless must see to her grandmother's wish to find a concubine for her father in order to ensure a male heir. This finally forces her father to leave home on the night of his marriage to the concubine. This moving book opens Huang Beijia's »The five eight-year-olds« series, which aims at recording a century of childhood in China, an unprecedented literary project in the history of contemporary Chinese children's literature. (Age: 8+) ♦

18

Peng, Xuejun

Ben pao de nü hai

(The running girl)

Nanchang: Er shi yi shi ji chu ban she (= 21st Century Publishing House), 2010. – 116 p.

(Series: Cai wu ya zhong wen yuan chuan xi lie)

ISBN 978-7-5391-5504-3

Sports – Friendship – Rite of passage

Tuotuo was sent to a school for sports by her sports-loving parents and trains as a long-distance runner there. She applies herself to her life on the track until one day

her attention is drawn to the elegant performance of a girl gymnast at her school, after which she becomes obsessed with pursuing a gymnastic career. It takes time and energy for Tuotuo to realise that her fervour for gymnastics is actually fuelled by her admiration for beauty, and to know that she has already shared in that beauty when running on the track. Having written for adolescent girls for two decades, Peng Xuejun is a real expert in depicting their thoughts and feelings without too many words, yet with much genuine detail. In this autobiographical novel, she also proves once more that she is an expert of language among contemporary Chinese children's book writers. (Age: 10+)

19

Shen, Shixi

Hei tian e zi shui jing

(Amethyst, the black swan)

Shanghai: Shao nian er tong chu ban she (= Juvenile and Children's Publishing House), 2010. – 221 p.

(Series: Tao tao cong shu)

ISBN 978-7-5324-8261-0

Black swan – Adventure – Mission –

Ecological protection – Animal protection

John Williams journeys to an Australian island, directed by his ancestor's words. He is on a mission whose purpose will only be revealed when he finishes reading their diaries. The novel develops two clues. One is John's ancestor's experience as a fugitive prisoner who kills and eats a black swan in hunger and is in turn killed by its spouse with amethyst-like eyes; the other is John's unexpected involvement with the life of a widowed black swan with amethyst-like eyes, after he protects its family. When it turns out that his mission requires sacrificing four black swans in front of his ancestor's gravestone, John burns the diaries and abandons the mission along with his rich heritage. Crowned by many as the king of animal novels in China, Shen Shixi has made this recent work a creative stylistic fusion of animal novel, historical fiction, and adventure story. (Age: 12+)

20

Tang, Tang

Dao ni xin li duo yi duo

(To take shelter in your heart)

Beijing: Zhongguo shao nian er tong chu ban she
(= China Juvenile and Children's Books Publ. House),
2010. – 200 p.

ISBN 978-7-5007-9576-6

Ghost – Spectre – Goblin – Fairy tale

This book is a collection of seventeen fairytales including nine completely new ghost stories. In these stories, ghosts and spectres are neither frightening nor ugly in the least. There are ghosts with mouthfuls of bejewelled teeth who seek escape from greedy men, ghosts who hang onto the warm chimney of a man's house for eighty-eight years to cure their insomnia, ghosts who are eager to break the routine of a ghost's life, and many more. And invariably there are fantastic interactions between the ghosts' and the children's worlds. As a children's book writer, Tang Tang has quickly become known for her imaginative stories, ever since her first fairytales appeared in the major children's literature magazines in China about four years ago. In 2010, she won the Best Short-Story Prize of the Chinese Writers' Association National Children's Literature Award for one of the stories included in this collection. (Age: 10+)

Republic of Korea (Korean)

(Romanisation according to the
McCune-Reischauer system)

21

Ch'oe, Suk-hŭi (= Choi, Sook-Hee) (text/illus.)

Nŏ nŭn kijŏk iya (= Neonun Giseokiya)

(You are a wonder)

Seoul: Ch'aek Ingŭn Kom (= Bearbooks), 2010. – [32] p.
(Series: Kŭrimch'aek i ch'am choa; 001)
ISBN 978-89-93242-31-7

Mother – Son – Love – Growing up

This picture book is written from the personal memories of the author who remembers her son's birth and every moment of his growing up. The author shares her own memories as a mother with all the mothers in the world. And on behalf of all mothers, she tells a story that she wanted to share with her child while watching him as he slept, but couldn't because she was too busy. In her illustrations, the sun and the moon, the birds and the trees, and everything in this world are linked with the child

and exist for the child, which is how all mothers feel. The ground supports his unsteady steps as he begins to walk, and the sky pats his shoulders and cries with him when he cries. The delicate illustrations express the miraculous moments when the child overcomes each hurdle and each obstacle in the process of growing up. (Age: 3+)

22

Chŏng, Ok (= Jeong, Ok) (text)

Chŏng Chi-yun (= Jeong, Jiyun) (illus.)

Imo ŭi kkum kkunŭn chip

(My aunt's dream house)

Seoul: Munhak Kwa Chisŏngsa (= Moonji), 2010. – 227 p.
(Munji aidŭl; 108)

ISBN 978-89-320-2057-0

Dream – Wish – Self-discovery – Summer getaway

What is my dream? What if my dream doesn't come true? Shall I put my happiness aside for a while in order to make the dream come true? This fantasy story makes us think about such questions. Jinjin, a typical junior high school student, happens to be invited to a bold camp called »Aunt's Dream House«, instead of attending an elite high school's camp. There, she becomes good friends with Eogi, a goose who dreams of flying in the sky, Deongchi, a dog who wishes to wag his tail in 3:4 time, Pong, a well bucket who always enjoys dancing, and various books who are extremely chatty and arrogant. By talking with those friends, Jinjin gradually realises what her true dreams are and what she really wants for her future, eventually guiding readers to a critical, yet light-hearted perspective on true happiness. (Age: 12+)

23

Ku, Pyŏng-mo (= Koo, Byungmo)

Wijŏdŭ peik'ŏri. Ku Pyŏng-mo changp'yŏn sosŏl

(Wizard Bakery)

P'aju: Ch'angbi, 2010. – 251 p

ISBN 978-89-364-3369-7

Lust – Hypocrisy – Magic

A sixteen-year-old boy leaves his house after being falsely accused of sexually harassing his stepsister. Eventually, the boy comes to stay in a local bakery called the »Wizard Bakery«. The magical place sells pastries online with names like »Devil's Cinnamon Cookies« that lead people into trouble, and »Time Rewinders« that allow people to go back in time. After working in the bakery, the boy witnesses the twisted human desires and

covetousness hidden in seemingly ordinary middle class families. He learns that decisions people make will later come back to haunt them. The experience that the boy goes through is not only a mysterious fantasy, but also a hopeless reality. The boy is offered two outcomes – either he may return to the past and lose who he is, or he may move forward with no change from the present. The spine-tingling atmosphere and the tension throughout the story make this book irresistible. (Age: 14+)

24

Pae, Yu-an (= Bae, Yuan) (text/illus.)

O Chin-uk (= Oh, Jinuk) (text/illus.)

Punhwangsa umul enŭn yong i sanda

(There once lived a dragon in Bunhwangsa well)

P'aju: P'aran Chajŏn'gŏ (= Paran Jajeonge), 2010. – 119 p.

(Series: Se pak'wi chŏhangnyŏn ch'aek ilki; 001)

ISBN 978-89-94258-09-6

Blindness – Healing – Dragon – Legend

Being located in Gyeongju, the capital of the Silla Dynasty of Korea, Bunhwangsa (literally »Fragrant Emperor Temple«), is designated as one of Korea's National Treasures. It is said that once a blind girl prayed in front of the picture of Bodhisttva (an old She-Buddhist with a thousand hands) and her spirituality helped open her eyes. According to »Samguk Yusa« (or »Memorabilia of the Three Kingdoms«), it is also believed that there lived a dragon underneath the temple well, guarding the nation. This book is based on these tales. Three curious dragons called Do-cheol, San-ye, and Cho-do leave their underwater kingdom to discover the outside world. They happen to meet a blind girl called Myeong-I in the Bunhwangsa. A warm, powerful friendship springs up between the three dragons and Myeong-I, whose eyesight is restored with their help. (Age: 6+)

25

Paek, Hŭi-na (= Baek, Heena) (text/illus.)

Tal syabet'ŭ

(Moon Sherbet)

Seoul: Sŭt'oriboul (= Storybowl), 2010. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-89-964782-0-1

Summer – Heat – Global warming – Environmental protection – Moon – Night

On a very hot summer night, all the windows are closed because the air conditioners are running inside. The temperature outside starts to become warmer and warmer. Finally, the moon starts to melt and drip down. A granny

freezes the moon water, making it into a sherbet. All of a sudden, the electricity goes out and people are unable to fall asleep because of the burdensome heat. The granny invites them in to share the moon sherbet. While the characters' problems dissolve, there is a problem occurring outside: the moon has melted away. This story helps young readers ponder environmental issues and better reflect on its many facets. The animal characters provide a friendly comfort to children, while the three-dimensional illustrations, made using an unusual technique that fuses drawing and photography, amuse them. The book is printed using soybean oil, and the covers are not coated, in consideration of environmental problems. (Age: 5+)

26

Yi, Sŏng-ja (= Lee, Sung-Ja) (text)

Kim, Hye-jin (= Kim, Hae-Jin) (illus.)

Mwŏ ka tarŭnde? Paeryŏ hanŭn maŭm ŭl ilkkaeunŭn yŏsŏt kaji iyagi

(What's the difference? Six stories about tolerance)

Seoul: Munwŏn (= Moonwon), 2010. – 96 p.

(Series: Munwŏn ai chŏhangnyŏn mun'go; 15)

ISBN 978-89-6085-117-7

Difference – Tolerance – Acceptance – Friendship

This book includes six stories, which encourage readers to realize that if we understand each other's position, we can build a world like a garden with different colours. The stories aim to encourage children to see their friends as they are and to be kind to those who are weak and isolated in their community. It particularly emphasizes that difference is nothing bad. The protagonist, 'I', is bullied because he is different - different in his ethnicity, his skin colour, because his mother is from the Philippines while his father is Korean. One day, he meets Mirinae, another boy with dark skin, and he is glad to assume that he can make friends with him. First, Mirinae rejects him, but in the end the two boys become friends with each other and with other children, too. (Age: 8+) ♦

Asia and Oceania

Australia

27

Bancroft, Bronwyn (text/illus.)

Why I love Australia

Surry Hills, N.S.W.: Little Hare Books, 2010. – [32] p.
ISBN 978-1-921541-78-0

Australia – Landscape – Nature

In this exquisite picture book, award-winning indigenous Australian artist and illustrator Bronwyn Bancroft celebrates characteristic landscapes and features of her beloved home country. As she explains in a note at the back, a small Aboriginal figure holding a wooden bowl with smoke drifting from it is included in each picture; he represents a traditional cleansing ceremony and serves as a host inviting readers to enter the different landscapes they see on each double-page spread. From beaches, bush land, rainforest, and snowy mountains to suburbs and city life, Bancroft portrays the separate scenes in glowing bright colours and hypnotising traditional patterns. The succinct, poetic text is clearly infused with her love and respect for the vast continent. (Age: 3+) ●

28

Edwards, Hazel / Kennedy, Ryan

F2m. The boy within

Melbourne, Vict.: Ford St Publ., 2010. – 330 p.
ISBN 978-1-876462-90-1

Transsexualism – Gender identity – Transitioning – Acceptance

Gender transitioning is by no means a common topic in young adult fiction. Yet this is exactly what Hazel Edwards and Ryan Kennedy – who himself grew up as a girl and transitioned at twenty-seven – have chosen to tackle. The result is a striking and authentic account of eighteen-year-old punk girl Skye who feels increasingly uncomfortable in her own body. The jumpy first-person narration makes readers witness how desperately Skye tries to make sense of her life. Intensive Internet research about gender identity confirms her suspicion that, although she was officially born as a girl, she has always been a boy inside. Turning from Skye into Finn is a psychologically, socially, and financially stressful struggle that often leaves the young protagonist completely exhausted but makes him look forward to his new life. (Age: 16+) ◆

29

Hartnett, Sonya

The midnight zoo

Camberwell, Victoria: Viking, 2010. – 186 p.
ISBN 978-0-670-07405-1

War – Orphan – Survival – Zoo animals – Freedom

This poetic children's novel by award-winning author Sonya Hartnett is a quiet, multi-layered fable. Set in a war-torn country somewhere in Eastern Europe, the powerful metaphorical story follows Andrej and Tomas, two young Romany brothers, who numbly trudge through the dark and desolate land; carrying their baby sister and their few belongings from one destroyed village to the next, they search for food and shelter. One night they stumble upon a small deserted zoo on the edge of a town and meet its wise caged animal inhabitants. Frightened at first, the two boys listen attentively as lioness, wolf, bear, kangaroo, and the others share their sad stories; the tales inspire the boys (and the readers) to philosophise about war, courage, and freedom as they try to find new hope for their future. (Age: 10+)

30

Jeffrey, Belinda

Big river, little fish

St Lucia, Qld.: University of Queensland Press, 2010. – 268 p.
ISBN 978-0-7022-3850-5

Australia / 1956 – Flood – Survival – Outsider – Expectations – Father – Son – Friendship

Belinda Jeffrey's multi-layered second teenage novel is set in a small town on the banks of the Murray River in South Australia. In her quiet and intriguing third-person narration, the author follows the thoughts and emotions of her fifteen-year-old protagonist, who doesn't fit in with the rest of the world. Tom – or »Mot« as his best friend Hannah likes to call him because he was born backwards – can't read or write properly; he doesn't meet anyone's expectations and feels most comfortable alone down at Old Mother Murray, the big river that's threatening to drown the town completely during the winter flood of 1956. Yet in desperate times, Tom finds his own strength and skills, and the town folk realise that there is more to the lonely boy than meets the eye. (Age: 14+)

31

Macinnis, Peter

Australian backyard explorer. [Explorers, adventures, fascinating facts, backyard projects]

Canberra: National Library of Australia, 2010. – 191 p.
ISBN 978-0-642-27684-1

Australia/1700-1900 – Explorer – Expedition

This comprehensive non-fiction book does not only provide a wealth of facts about Australian explorers from the eighteenth and nineteenth century, such as who they were, what kind of aims they had, which problems they encountered, or how their knowledge survived until the present day. In addition, the author successfully bridges the gap between past actions and achievements and modern-day life by suggesting a variety of projects and experiments that young readers will be able to perform in their own »backyard«. Divided into short portions of text, which are complemented by additional information (such as diary entries or boxes headed »Closer Look« or »Did You Know?«) and an abundance of visual material partly taken from the National Library of Australia archives, this treasure trove is a fascinating read for young would-be explorers. (Age: 10+) ●

32

McCaffrey, Kate

Beautiful monster

North Fremantle, W.A.: Fremantle Press, 2010. – 231 p.
ISBN 978-1-921361-98-2

Siblings – Death – Grief – Anorexia nervosa

When Tessa's ten-year-old brother is killed by a car, her family starts falling apart. Two years later, Ned is the only one who understands, comforts, and (allegedly) loves her. To win back her parents' approval, Tess does her utmost to be perfect: Top marks at school, success at her rowing club, and losing weight are the only things that count. Denying herself food becomes an obsession, and sinister Ned keeps pushing her further and further. Caught in her own perception of the world, she is blind towards the lethal danger she is in. Kate McCaffrey creates convincing characters and paints a frighteningly authentic picture of how inexorably the fifteen-year-old protagonist gets entangled in the spider's web of anorexia nervosa. This intense novel will stay in readers' minds long after they've finished it. (Age: 14+)

33

Mitchell, Simon (text)

Wood, Ben (illus.)

Louie the pirate chef

Kingswood, SA: Working Title Press, 2010. – [32] p.
ISBN 978-1-921504-05-1

Parents – Son – Expectations – Profession – Self-discovery

Louie's pirate parents are adamant that he get a proper job, so they make him join Captain Blackheart's ferocious pirate crew. Louie, however, doesn't care about raiding other ships, plundering towns, or hunting buried treasure – he dreams of becoming a chef. At first, the other pirates laugh their heads off at the idea, but when they are about to starve, stranded on a lonely island, and Louie whips up one delicious meal after the next, they suddenly support his choice of profession. The light-hearted, amusing story is brought to life by the vibrant, cartoon-like watercolour illustrations, that depict the fierce pirates as an absurd and silly crew of misfits, who eventually hail their new hero as »the finest chef in all the Seven Seas«. (Age: 4+)

34

Said, Aimee

Finding Freia Lockhart

Newtown, NSW: Walker Books Australia, 2010. – 291 p.
ISBN 978-1-921529-15-3

Friendship – Peer pressure – Search for identity

Since the start of high school in Year Seven, Kate and Freia have been best friends; yet all of a sudden, Kate becomes part of the popular Bs, the coolest girls in their year – or as Freia secretly calls them: »the teenage equivalent of the Spice Girls: Bitchy, Bratty, Bleachy, and Wannabe.« Since she doesn't want to lose her former best friend nor spend the rest of her school years as social outcast, Freia reluctantly tags along, pretends to eagerly listen to clothes and boy talk, and ignores her fifth-wheel feeling. In a funny and fresh style with dry, humorous asides, Aimee Said's anti-heroine comments on her shal-low, fashion-obsessed peers, her ancient parents, herself, and life in general, while she tries to circumnavigate the dangerous cliffs of high school etiquette and find her true identity. (Age: 14+)

35

Tanner, Lian

Museum of thieves

Crows Nest, N.S.W.: Allen & Unwin, 2010. – 341 p.

(Series: The keepers; 1)

ISBN 978-1-74237-157-3

Tyranny – Overprotection – Runaway – Friendship – Self-confidence

In the city of Jewel, children are chained 24/7 either to their parents or the »Blessed Guardians« to protect them from any kind of real or imaginary danger. To escape her confined life and the guardians' cruelty, Goldie runs away and ends up at the mysterious Museum of Dunt, where rooms shift restlessly, a brizzlehound is on the loose, and the museum keepers are intent on saving the city from the sly and cunning Fugleman. This original debut novel is a thrilling fantasy adventure, that allows young readers to share the well-rounded protagonists' pain, fear, shock, and eventual relief. The open end hints at new dangers lurking in the second volume of the captivating trilogy that young and old fantasy fans will be eager to dive into. (Age: 11+)

36

Trewin, Trudie (text)

Orsini, Cheryl (illus.)

Wibbly Wobbly Street

Lindfield, N.S.W.: Scholastic Press / Scholastic Australia, 2010. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-1-74169-561-8

City – Conformity – Individuality – Acceptance

Mayor Angle, Councillor Column, and the rest of Squareton's local councillors are very proud of their town's straight, smooth, flat, tidy, rectangular-shaped streets and houses (and people). It could all be perfect if it wasn't for one peculiar street that completely ruins the whole neatness: »Wibbly Wobbly Street wound up and down, thin and out, right and left, and everywhere in between«; and its houses and people are just as peculiar as the street itself. So Angle calls in the street-straightener. This hilarious and nonsensical book is a fresh take on the celebration of otherness and individuality. The contrast between the boring, spruce, dully-coloured majority and the lively and energetic bunch of Wibbly Wobbly people in bright colours leaves no doubt as to whose side the author and illustrator are on. (Age: 4+) ●

37

Wilkinson, Carole

Sugar sugar

Fitzroy, Vic.: Black Dog Books, 2010. – 337 p.

ISBN 978-1-74203-120-0

Journey – Coincidence – Search for identity – Love

Set in the 1970s, Carole Wilkinson's first novel for a teenage audience transports her readers back in time on a fascinating journey of self-discovery. For ages, Jackie has dreamt of becoming a fashion designer. So the slightly naïve and clumsy Australian girl, working as shop assistant during her gap year in London, jumps on the ferry and heads towards Paris with the intention of showing her portfolio to famous André Courrègue. Yet then, more than a few things go awry and the weekend trip to Paris unintentionally turns into a hitch-hiking hippie adventure trip across Europe and the Middle East with varying companions. While on the road, the amiable heroine slowly realises that her heart's ambition may lie elsewhere. (Age: 16+)

Hongkong (People's Republic of China)

38

Paine, Sophie (text)

Lo, Maxim (illus.)

Oliver the quiet firefighter

Hong Kong: mcccrcations, 2010. – [26] p.

ISBN 978-988-99843-3-5

Fire fighter – Shyness – Self-confidence

Oliver is a dedicated fire fighter. He puts his heart and soul into any job that he is assigned to by the fire chief. Yet all the while, he »never dares to say a word« due to his extreme shyness; finally, the day when he rescues a little boy from a burning house, Oliver has his big breakthrough. The story of the amiable, moon-faced little fire fighter who eventually gains some confidence and finds his own voice is visually translated into attractive mixed-media collages. The brightly coloured illustrations in various sizes feature entertaining details and depict the day-to-day tasks at a fire station from different perspectives. The simple text with its repetitive phrases is sure to appeal to very small children and encourage them to speak along. (Age: 2+)

India

39

Flowers, Arthur (text)

Chitrakar, Manu (illus.) / Rossi, Guglielmo (design)

I see the promised land. A life of Martin Luther King, Jr.

[Chennai]: Tara Books, 2010. – 138 p.

(Series: Patua graphics)

ISBN 978-93-80340-04-3

King, Martin Luther – Civil Rights Movement – USA/1900-1970

This book about Martin Luther King jr. and his struggle for nonviolent resistance is an extraordinary collaboration between devoted artists from three continents. The melodious prose of Arthur Flowers, African-American writer, storyteller, and blues singer, reads almost like an oral tale or a rap performance. It recalls the important steps in King's life and career, with occasional glances to other events or persons influencing the African-American civil rights movement. Manu Chitrakar from Bengal (India) uses his expertise as a Patua scroll-painter to connect fairly recent American history with the ancient Indian tradition of picture storytelling; Guglielmo Rossi, an Italian designer, brings text and illustrations together and turns them into an engaging and challenging graphic novel for a young (and older) audience. Editorial notes at the back explain some of the key terms in more detail. (Age: 14+) ★Special Mention ♦

40

Padmanabhan, Manjula (text/illus.)

Same & different. A picture puzzle book

Chennai: Tulika, 2010. – [24] p.

ISBN 978-81-8146-759-1

Animals – Similarity – Difference

Are they all the same or are they all different? Which ones stand out from the crowd? Renowned illustrator Manjula Padmanabhan's most recent picture book invites small children to peer carefully at the pages brimming with brightly-coloured computer-generated animal illustrations. On each double-page spread, one group of creatures, such as foolishly grinning zebras, happily dancing penguins, or smoothly gliding seahorses, is depicted in a landscape that remotely resembles their natural habitat. Readers need to spot the two animals that look exactly alike and are somehow different from all the others. The pictures are accompanied by short, simple verses that offer small hints as to the exact task. (Age: 3+)

New Zealand

41

Mahy, Margaret

Organ music

Wellington, N.Z.: Gecko Press, 2010. – 91 p.

ISBN 978-1-877467-47-9

Genetic experiment – Illegal organ trade – Ghost

At first, the adventure starts harmlessly enough; and even if David feels uncomfortable when Harley suggests nicking a battered blue car for a quick joyride, he eventually agrees to come along. But suddenly the car stereo starts playing creepy organ music, the car locks itself, turns into a moving prison that kidnaps the two fourteen-year-old boys, and takes them to a cluster of buildings in the middle of an impenetrable forest. Once inside the »Experimental Station«, the boys quickly realise they're in mortal danger – but how to escape? Combining the topic of medical ethics with a supernatural scenario, New Zealand's grand dame of children's literature has created a thrilling, fast-paced, and short horror story that will hold even reluctant readers' attention until the very last page. (Age: 11+)

Europe

Great Britain

42

Baker, Jeannie (illus)

Mirror = Mir'at

London: Walker, 2010. – [20] p. + [20] p.

ISBN 978-1-4063-0914-0

Australia – Morocco – Family – Everyday life

Renowned Australian illustrator Jeannie Baker's latest book comes in an innovative form: the large, square, wordless book consists of two separate parts that are meant to be viewed simultaneously. The story on the left side of the book is set in a big city in Australia; the scenes on the right side depict a Moroccan village. Both parts describe a typical day in the life of a family. While the Australian boy and his father drive across busy streets to a huge hardware store to shop for building material, the Moroccan father and his son ride through a barren mountainous landscape on their donkey to sell their goods at the market in a bigger town. Baker's stunningly detailed collages in various sizes, created with a mixture of natural and artificial materials, carry an important

message of intercultural understanding: they make readers realise that despite many outward differences (cultural as well as incidental), the members of the two families are actually very alike on the inside. (Age: 3+)

★ Special Mention ◆

43

Bernatene, Poly (illus.)

When night didn't come. A book with no words

London: Meadowside Children's, 2010. – [36] p.

ISBN 978-1-84539-491-2

Night – Moon – Mechanism

Poly Bernatene is a versatile Argentinean illustrator, who has created more than sixty books for publishers in many countries. His latest contribution for Meadowside is a wordless picture book about a town in which the course of the day from sunrise to nightfall to the next sunrise is operated by machines with a complicated array of cogs, wheels, and levers. When one night the moon and stars fail to appear in the sky, the night watchman anxiously studies his chart and hurries towards the control centre – where he finds a bunch of children having the time of their lives. The magical mixed-media illustrations in rich colours range from comic-strip-like sequences to full- and double-page spreads that make an exciting fantastical tale unfold. (Age: 4+)

44

Corder, Zizou

Halo <proper name>

London [et al.]: Puffin, 2010. – 375 p.

ISBN 978-0-141-32830-0

Peloponnesian War – Centaur – Adoption – Kidnapping – Search for identity – Survival

When a baby washes up on the shore of the Greek island Zakynthos, a family of centaurs take the little girl in and adopt her. Halosydne, as they name the foundling, leads a happy, carefree life until one fateful day, when she is kidnapped by fishermen and forced onto a ship to be sold as a slave in Sparta. Clever Halo manages to escape from the ship, disguises herself as a boy, and treks through wooded and mountainous terrain searching for a way to get back to her centaur family. Soon however, she comes face to face with the fierce Spartan warriors. Set in ancient Greece during the Peloponnesian War, in the fifth century BC, this thrilling novel by the author team of the popular Lionboy trilogy takes readers into the distant past. It follows the fate of a strong-minded heroine determined to survive and discover her true identity. (Age: 12+)

45

David, Keren

When I was Joe

London: Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2010. – 364 p.

ISBN 978-1-84780-100-5

Murder – Witness protection programme – Identity – Friendship

Shy fourteen-year-old Tyler may have only been at the wrong place at the wrong time – or maybe he hung with the wrong crowd? Yet although he does the right thing and reports to the police how he witnessed a person being stabbed in the park, the consequences are dire: Ty and his single mother are taken into a witness protection programme, whisked from their inner-city home, away from friends and family, and given a secret new identity in some country town. In some ways, Joe – as he is now called – adapts quickly to his new situation, but the constant fear of being found out, the never-ending lies, and a secret of his own start wearing the boy out. This shocking and breath-taking thriller about criminality, identity, and lying grips readers' attention right from the beginning. (Age: 14+)

46

Donaldson, Julia (text)

Gravett, Emily (illus.)

Cave baby

London [et al.]: Macmillan Children's Books,

2010. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-0-230-74308-3

Stone Age – Boredom – Painting – Creativity

Cave Baby's artistic mum and courageous dad are always preoccupied with highly important matters (such as hunting a naughty cave mouse); therefore the spiky-haired little toddler feels terribly bored until he discovers a pot of paint and starts re-decorating the cave walls – much to the dismay of his furious fur-clad parents. Yet someone at least seems to appreciate Cave Baby's creative output, and so he's snatched from his cot in the dead of night and taken to the woolly mammoths' cave. Julia Donaldson's catchy rhyming text is translated into vivid, atmospheric double-page illustrations. Emily Gravett portrays both the exciting ride through the mysterious moonlit night and the messy romp in the brightly lit cave in stunning pictures containing plenty of tongue-in-cheek details. (Age: 4+)

47

Fisk, Pauline

In the trees

London: Faber and Faber, 2010. – 337 p.

ISBN 978-0-571-23620-6

Belize – Son – Father – Coming of age – Environmental destruction – Forest conservation

With his mother dead and no other family ties, Kid »spontaneously« decides to travel from England all the way to Belize and search for his father, whom he has never met before. The boy almost comes to regret this decision when he arrives in the noisy and intimidating city of Belize without a lead to follow. Sent on a dangerous wild goose chase through dense forest and jungle regions, he stumbles upon a group of gap year volunteers starting a project of forest conservation. The reluctant teenager has no choice but to join them. Within the next few months, both his new fellow workers and Kid are irrevocably changed by their experiences. Pauline Fisk's engaging novel is set in a Caribbean country with flora and fauna that offer the perfect backdrop for an adventurous coming-of-age story. (Age: 14+) ♦

48

Stephens, Helen (text/illus.)

The night iceberg

London: Alison Green Books, 2010. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-1-407107-90-5

Siblings – Jealousy – Sharing – Night

Tofta's had enough. Not only does the baby cuddle HER Jack Rabbit and scrunch HER favourite book, now he also wants to sleep in HER very own bedroom. That's the last straw. So when an iceberg floats past her window at night, the little girl eagerly climbs aboard and drifts away – happy to be completely alone – until ... a penguin turns up and wants to share her iceberg and her sardines; and so do his five-hundred penguin friends. Witty and colourful matt illustrations in various sizes perfectly complement the droll and drily humorous text. Executed in mixed-media technique with a 1950s touch, they show a strong-minded but endearing protagonist who eventually comes to the conclusion that sharing may sometimes be fun. (Age: 3+)

49

Wallace, Jason

Out of shadows

London: Andersen Press, 2010. – 277 p.

ISBN 978-1-84939-048-4

Zimbabwe/1983-1987 – Boarding school – Racism – Bullying – Peer pressure – Friendship

It's 1983 and thirteen-year-old Robert and his parents have just moved to Zimbabwe where, according to his father, the newly elected black Prime Minister Mugabe is a hero to look up to. Yet some white students at his tough new boarding school wouldn't agree and force the »pommie« boy to quickly learn about their point of view. In his complex and thought-provoking debut novel, Jason Wallace paints a shocking picture of betrayed friendships, cruel bullying, and racism in a post-colonial society that leaves readers speechless. The haunting narrative convincingly relates how Robert's eagerness for acceptance leads him down a dangerous path where taking sides gets increasingly difficult as right and wrong, black and white are not always obvious. (Age: 14+) ♦

50

Walsh, Pat

The Crowfield curse

Frome, Somerset: Chicken House, 2010. – 319 p.

ISBN 978-1-906427-15-3

England/1347 – Abbey – Secret – Elf – Magic

This sinister historical fantasy set in England in 1347 convincingly portrays day-to-day life in the Middle Ages. Weaving more than just a hint of the supernatural into the plot, Pat Walsh sends the young protagonist on a bone-chilling adventure. Fourteen-year-old William makes his meagre living as servant boy at Crowfield Abbey since his family perished in a fire. Soon after he rescues a wounded hobgoblin from a trap, mysterious guests arrive at the abbey trying to pry information from William about the secret burial of an angel one-hundred years earlier. Slowly but surely, the kind-hearted boy and his new hobgoblin friend are involuntarily drawn into the faerie realm fight between the Dark King and the Seelie fays of light, which may put them in lethal danger. (Age: 12+)

Ireland

51

Prendergast, P. R.

Dancing in the dark

Dublin: O'Brien, 2010. – 183 p.

ISBN 978-1-84717-185-6.

Brother – Death – Sister – Grief – Ghost – School – Bullying – Friendship

Coping with grief about a sibling's death seems quite a prominent topic in this year's English-language teenage novels. Unlike many other, rather serious ones, however, P. R. Prendergast's contribution takes a more light-hearted approach to the topic. She delivers a moving but at the same time very funny narrative interspersed with plenty of witty and sarcastic dialogue. True, Jessie is sad and angry that her popular older school-rugby-star brother James died six months ago, but while her parents are still overwhelmed with grief, she herself is constantly visited by his ghost, and they keep quarrelling. So basically, she feels as irritated with him as when he was alive. Still, in some way, he might be able to help her fight the bullies in her dance team and win back some self-confidence. (Age: 12+)

52

Wilkinson, Sheena

Taking flight

Dublin: Little Island, 2010. – 310 p.

ISBN 978-1-84840-949-1

Mother – Alcoholism – Son – Bullying – Social class – Self-confidence – Jealousy

Fifteen-year-old Declan has never been interested in horses; yet when his alcoholic mum is taken first to hospital and then to a rehabilitation centre, he has to leave their shabby house and stay in the posh suburb home of his aunt Collette. Grudgingly, he accompanies his cousin Vicky to her riding lessons, and is surprised to fall in love with her horse Flight. Suddenly, he can envision a meaningful future for himself – unless spoiled and jealous Vicky manages to destroy all his hopes. This engaging and fast-paced debut novel is told in alternating chapters from both protagonists' points of view. Playing with clichés, the author has created believable, well-rounded characters and a convincing plot that brings the two vastly different worlds of Declan and Vicky alive for the readers. (Age: 14+)

North America

Canada

53

Choyce, Lesley

Random. If you think life makes sense, do not read this book

Markham, Ont.: Red Deer Press, 2010. – 170 p.

ISBN 978-0-88995-443-4

Parents – Death – Grief – Adoptive parents – Coming of age – Search for identity

According to sixteen-year-old Joseph, life has no meaning, and human existence is merely a series of random events – hence the title of this book. The reason for his nihilistic world view might be his birth parents' death in a car accident when he was twelve. In his digital diary, which he starts as a favour to his caring adoptive parents, Joey offers his (implied) audience »some random thoughts« about his past life, his feelings, and his family and friends in a train-of-thought-like rambling about memories, school, friendship, grief, philosophy, etc. Piece by piece, readers can try to complete the puzzle of Joseph's life and ponder why the teenage boy keeps insisting on the absence of any meaning while he is clearly searching for exactly the opposite in his life. (Age: 14+)

54

Croza, Laurel (text)

James, Matt (illus.)

I know here

Toronto, Ont.: Groundwood Books / House of Anansi Press, 2010. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-0-88899-923-8

Countryside – Moving – City – Fear – Memories

Moving to a new place is always a huge step for children – all the more so when your current home is a small cluster of trailers near a dam site where you know every stone, tree, hill, and animal, while your future home will be a modern metropolis. Being the only child in third grade in her trailer school, the little first-person narrator feels anxious about leaving her familiar world behind and entering the bustling city of Toronto. The »howling sound a wolf makes«, »an old moose standing still in the water«, and »the squishy spot by the beaver dam« are some of the precious memories that she will take with her. The quiet poetic text and the colourful acrylic-and-India-ink illustrations aptly express the girl's reservations and sadness at having to move. (Age: 5+)

55

Dyer, Hadley (text)

Ngui, Marc (illus.)

Watch this space. Designing, defending and sharing public spaces

Toronto, Ont. [et al.]: Kids Can Press, 2010. – 80 p.

ISBN 978-1-55453-293-3

Public space

According to Wikipedia, »public space« is a term widely used to mean a place »that is open and accessible to all, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, age or socio-economic level.« Although this definition may look simple enough at first glance, the concept of public spaces turns out to be more complex and multi-layered upon close scrutiny, as Hadley Dyer explains in this slim yet concise non-fiction book. The short, perspicuous texts are complemented by personal anecdotes, informative asides, illuminating examples from all over the world, and attractively designed computer illustrations. Geared towards a teenage readership yet equally insightful for an adult audience, »Watch This Space« deals with questions like »Is it [truly] a public space?«, »What makes a great public space?«, and »Are you willing to share your space with anyone?« These questions ask readers to look at public spaces from a different angle and may even inspire people to fight for their right to those places in their own neighbourhoods. (Age: 14+) ★Special Mention ●

56

Nielsen, Susin

Dear George Clooney, please marry my mom

Toronto, Ont. [et al.]: Tundra Books, 2010. – 229 p.

ISBN 978-0-88776-977-1

Divorce – Mother – Daughter – Step family

Two years ago, Violet's father divorced her mother and left their family to hook up with a large-breasted young actress, produce twins, and move to sunny L.A. As if that alone wasn't bad enough, her mom now seems to be date-crazy and tends to choose the worst men possible. So Violet decides to take matters into her own hands. She proves very creative in attempting to discourage undesirable suitors from pursuing her mother, finding her the perfect guy (George Clooney!), and punishing her dad for abandoning them. The hilarious first-person narration with its dry humorous comments relates how the teenage girl feeds her baby half-sisters cat poo or how she subjects a new would-be stepdad to a fierce inquisition. This amusing but also touching novel deals with divorce and step families in a light-hearted way. (Age: 12+)

57

Oppel, Kenneth

Half brother

Toronto, Ontario: HarperCollins, 2010. – 377 p.

ISBN 978-1-55468-812-8

Chimpanzee – Experiment – Language acquisition – Animal rights

In his new teenage novel, Kenneth Oppel tackles some controversial issues. Set in the 1970s and inspired by two real-life projects, the popular author's thought-provoking book explores the questions of animal rights and the ethics of animal experiments. Ben's parents plan to »adopt« a baby chimpanzee, raise him in a human environment, and try to teach him sign language to prove that human-chimp communication is possible. Initially, the thirteen-year-old protagonist is not particularly interested in his scientist father's project but surprisingly, Ben and little Zan bond quickly. Soon, the boy starts questioning his father's motives behind the project as well as its benefits for his chimp brother – especially when the project fails and Zan needs Ben's protection. (Age: 12+)

58

Oron, Judie

Cry of the giraffe. Based on a true story

Toronto, Ont. [et al.]: Annick Press, 2010. – xii p. + 193 p.

ISBN 978-1-55451-271-3

Ethiopia/1985-1992 – Persecution of the Jews – Refugee camp – Child slavery

Written by journalist Judie Oron and narrated from the point of view of her adopted Ethiopian daughter, this gruesome novel brings to life a disastrous chapter in the history of Jewish communities in Ethiopia. Beta Israel, as they are called, were often the target of mistrust and racism from Christian and Muslim neighbours. When the situation becomes unbearable in the mid 1980s, Wuditu's family decides to brave the exhausting and perilous trek to a refugee camp in southern Sudan, hoping to escape to Israel somehow. The courageous thirteen-year-old and her younger sister get separated from the relatives and are forced to return across the border. Trying to earn some money for survival, Wuditu gets raped and sold into slavery before she is eventually rescued and reunited with her family in Israel. (Age: 14+) ◆

USA

59

DiCamillo, Kate / McGhee, Alison (text)

Fucile, Tony (illus.)

Bink & Gollie <proper names>

Somerville, Mass.: Candlewick Press, 2010. – 81 p.

ISBN 978-0-7636-3266-3

Friendship – Otherness – Tolerance

Small, wild-haired, vivacious peanut-butter addict Bink and tall, lean, neat pancake baker Gollie are an odd pair of friends. Yet, even if their opinions on lots of matters diverge considerably, e.g. on whether »outrageously bright socks« are great or on whether a fish can be a marvellous companion, the two girls always find some sort of compromise in the end. This enchanting cross between picture book and first reader chronicles three of their adventures together in short, witty, fast-paced dialogue. The entertaining cartoon-like digital illustrations are mostly black and white with only occasional splashes of colour. They admirably bring the two protagonists and their world to life and make it easy for young readers to identify with the girls (and discuss the meaning of friendship). (2011 Theodor-Seuss-Geisel-Award) (Age: 7+)

60

Lee, Suzy (illus.)

Shadow

San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2010. – [40] p.

ISBN 978-0-8118-7280-5

Shadow – Imagination

In this virtually wordless picture book in black and white and yellow, Korean artist Suzy Lee explores the boundaries between the real and the imaginary world. The pages in the unusual landscape-format book flip from bottom to top instead of right to left with the top page initially representing the real world and the bottom page the silhouette-like fantasy realm until they blur into each other. The story takes off with a vivacious little girl in an attic surrounded by a clutter of objects that cast mysterious shadows on the floor. Soon the shadows take on a life of their own. The small protagonist pirouettes and jumps through a magical jungle scenery, is pursued by a wolf-like demon, escapes by creating a ferocious jungle monster, and... is suddenly whizzed back to reality by her parents' call to dinner. This exuberant and carefully designed treasure will be read again and again and inspire children to initiate their own imaginary shadow-play world. (Age: 3+) ★Special Mention

61

Perkins, Mitali

Bamboo people. A novel

Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2010. – 272 p.

ISBN 978-1-58089-328-2

Burma – Civil war – Child soldier – Survival – Ethnic minority – Refugee camp

The protagonists in this coming-of-age novel are two adolescent boys living in modern-day multi-ethnic Burma. Frail and timid Burmese boy Chiko, who loves nothing more than reading books and hates physical violence, is abducted and forced to train as a soldier while his doctor father serves a prison sentence for allegedly resisting the government. Angry and tough Tu Reh, however, is a member of the Karenni people, an oppressed ethnic minority. Since his family had to flee to a refugee camp when Burmese soldiers burned down their village home, he is eager to join the fight against their violent oppressors. The two first-person narrations of this thought-provoking novel plunge readers into a frightening conflict zone and make them witness how the budding friendship between these two unlikely friends changes their view of the war and of people from other cultures. (Age: 14+) ♦

62

Ryan, Pam Muñoz (text)

Sis, Peter (illus.)

The dreamer

New York, NY: Scholastic Press, 2010. – 372 p.

ISBN 978-0-439-26970-4

Neruda, Pablo – Childhood – Outsider – Son – Father – Poetry – Biography

This absorbing fictional biography of renowned poet Pablo Neruda takes readers back to a small town in early twentieth-century Chile. Neftali Reyes – which is Neruda's real name – is a small and skinny boy, prone to daydreaming and fascinated by the wonderful things he discovers around him. His strict father, however, determined that his children work towards a successful career in a sensible profession, such as doctor or lawyer, forbids any imaginative or creative foraging and despises his son's dreaminess. In a highly poetic text interspersed with philosophic questions and snippets of poetry imitating the style of the Nobel-prize-winning writer, Pam Muñoz Ryan reimagines Neruda's childhood and youth. Peter Sis's delicate pointillist illustrations in green and white perfectly capture the text's atmosphere of magic realism. (Pura Belpré Award; 2011) (Age: 10+)

63

Seibold, Jotto (text/illus.)

Other goose re-nursed, re-rhymed, re-mothered, and re-goosed ...

San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2010. – 69 p.

ISBN 978-0-8118-6882-2

Nursery rhyme – Poetry

Mother Goose rhymes are probably the most widely-known nursery rhymes – not only in the English-speaking world. In his »Other Goose« collection, Jotto Seibold presents twenty-some of his favourite classics in awesomely illustrated new versions. From Humpty Dumpty and Little Bo Peep to the Cat with the Fiddle, Seibold's »re-nursed, re-rhymed, re-mothered, and re-goosed« variants include the same nursery-rhyme stuff, but tell slightly twisted (or even completely mutated) tales compared to those with which readers may have grown up. The artist's computer-generated, loudly coloured trademark illustrations show flat, goggle-eyed protagonists with distorted features. The pictures are brimming with witty allusions and amusing details that perfectly complement the quirky texts. (Age: 5+) ●

64

Shiga, Jason

Meanwhile

New York, NY: Amulet Books, 2010. – [80] p.

ISBN 978-0-8109-8423-3

Inventor – Time machine – Quantum physics – Entropy

Choose-your-own-adventure books are nothing new, but this CYOA-graphic novel is on a completely different scale: Claiming to offer 3,856 different story possibilities, the book keeps readers flipping back and forth as they follow the picture sequences from right to left, left to right, up, down, across, and along differently coloured tubes. Although the story starts fairly simple with young Jimmy treating himself to some ice cream (either vanilla or chocolate), the adventure gets increasingly challenging, apocalyptic, and outright crazy as Jimmy meets an inventor and tests his memory-transferring SQUID, his time machine, and the killitron, which can eliminate the entire Earth's population. Readers will love the puzzling paths and may even learn something about quantum physics, parallel universes, and entropy along the way. (Age: 10+) ●

65

Sidman, Joyce (text)

Prange, Beckie (illus.)

Ubiquitous. Celebrating nature's survivors

Boston [et al.]: Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, 2010. – [36] p.

ISBN 978-0-618-71719-4

Nature – Life forms – Survival

In their latest collaboration, Joyce Sidman and Beckie Prange continue the format of their award-winning »Song of the Water Boatman & Other Pond Poems« (2005). Delivering a combination of catchy poetry, informative science facts, and striking linocut illustrations, the author and illustrator let children in on the secret of successful survival on Earth during the past 4.6 billion years. Species as diverse as bacteria (3.8 billion years old), geckos (160 million years old), squirrels (36 million years old), and dandelions (5 millions years old) are gathered in this volume. Complemented by notes, a glossary, and a stunning timeline printed on the endpapers, texts and pictures provide readers with astonishing details about the most imperishable of our planet's inhabitants. (Age: 5+) ●

66

Williams-Garcia, Rita

One crazy summer

New York: Amistad / HarperCollins, 2010. – 218 p.

ISBN 978-0-06-076088-5

USA/1968 – African-Americans – Black Panther Party – Siblings – Mother – Alienation – Summer camp

When their father decides it is high time that his three little girls flew right across the country to Oakland (California) to visit their mother, Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern have mixed feelings. Yet little do they expect such a cold-hearted and disinterested welcome from poetry-writing Cecile, who abandoned them seven years earlier. Instead of caring for her daughters, she insists they spend their days at the nearby summer camp, where the girls are introduced to the Black Panther Party's ideology. Set in 1968 against the backdrop of the African-American revolutionary movement and narrated from eleven-year-old Delphine's point of view, this book tells the touching story of an unusual summer holiday during which the vivacious sisters learn a lot about black identity, their mother, and themselves. (Age: 10+) ◆

German Language

Austria

67

Anger-Schmidt, Gerda (text)

Habinger, Renate (illus.)

Das Buch, gegen das kein Kraut gewachsen ist. Kräuter und Gewürze von Augentrost bis Zimt

(The book for which there is no cure. Herbs and spices from A to Z)

St. Pölten [et al.]: Residenz-Verl., 2010. – 116 p.

+ supplement

(Series: Nilpferd in Residenz)

ISBN 978-3-7017-2065-1

Kitchen herbs – Healing plants

Encyclopaedia, recipe book, or even fairytale? This book, a home companion, is slightly unusual and thus not easy to classify, yet it is certainly much more than a simple reference work and one will never want to part from it. It introduces herbs and spices from A to Z. First, they are all listed on a double page under the heading »All of them.« Then they are each presented alphabetically, but in an unexpected way: rosemary, for instance, is under letter A, because it activates and animates. Not only is this idiosyncratic system characteristic of Gerda Anger-Schmidt and Renate Habinger, but the profusion of detail is also typical of the congenial duo. Hence it is quite easy to realize that all involved in creating this book love what they do. (Age: 6+)

68

Janisch, Heinz (text)

Bansch, Helga (illus.)

Die Brücke

(The bridge)

Wien: Jungbrunnen, 2010. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-3-7026-5819-9

Egoism – Cooperation

Initially, this parable deals with egoism and hard-headedness: the bear and the giant want to cross the bridge at the same time, but it is far too narrow. Neither wants to give way to the other, in fact each wants the other to jump into the river to make room. But then they come to admit that they ought not act against one another, but instead with each other: »I'll hold you and you'll hold me. That way, no one can fall into the depths. And then we'll turn around.« Helga Bansch makes this rapprochement seem like a light-footed dance by creating an illustration that is divided into multiple single scenes. This

picture book does not stand out only because of the clear style of the story, but also because of the brilliance of the pictorial interpretation. (Age: 4+)

69

Schmid, Sophie (text/illus.)

Opa ist der Größte

(Grandpa is the greatest)

Wien: Picus, 2010. – [28] p.

ISBN 978-3-85452-150-1

Grandfather – Granddaughter – Zoo – Hubris

At one time Grandpa was »a world-famous big game hunter, adventurer, and hero.« This is evidenced by numerous photos, stamps, and travel maps, but also the anecdotes he is constantly telling. On a trip to the zoo with his granddaughter Marlene, however, Grandpa does not notice (because he is too busy story-telling) that he is getting himself into one hairy situation after another. Marlene prevents worse things from happening. For instance when Grandpa sticks his head into a lion's mouth, she thrusts a stick into the jaw of the big cat. Schmid's cartoonish line expresses Grandpa's penchant to hubris with a wink – even if small children remain unsure whether to believe Grandpa's tall tales, picture and reading fun will not be diminished in the least. (Age: 4+)

70

Stavarič, Michael (text)

Schwab, Dorothee (illus.)

Die kleine Sensenfrau

(The little scythe lady)

Wien: Luftschacht, 2010. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-3-902373-55-7

Life – Death

Godfather Death sends his daughter, whom he has christened »the Little Scythe Lady«, out into the world, so that she may learn something of living and dying. Thus the daughter journeys, growing ever bigger and more brave and brash. She colours her black robe yellow and uses her scythe to swirl the dense smog over a sad industrial city. Thanks to the *joie de vivre* of the little scythe lady, the book is more a commendation of life than a commentary on death. Still, precisely because of this it makes clear that death belongs to life. Embellished with curious notions, the book awakens a new world on every page – not least thanks to Dorothee Schwab's perky line and her wild collages, which strive against the ordinary, just as does the turbulent typography. (Age: 5+)

Germany

71

Baisch, Milena (text)

Kusche, Elke (illus.)

Anton taucht ab

(Anton dives down)

Weinheim [et al.]: Beltz & Gelberg, 2010. – 101 p.

ISBN 978-3-407-79966-1

Grandparents – Grandson – Search for identity

King of computer games and silver-tongued in the chat room – that's Anton all right. The real world – containing other children and a murky pond – is not quite his thing.

When he must come to terms with both of these on a camping trip, he does badly at first, but in the end grows beyond himself. Told from Anton's perspective, the story lends insight into the ambiguous emotional world of a boy who would love to be a courageous superhero, but who can't quite make it so. Anton is thus a sympathetic figure for all who find themselves in similar straits.

What's more, he is a charming conversationalist, whose description of his (self)doubts and feelings of being torn between his aims and those of others are never dry nor boring. (Age: 8+)

72

Baltscheit, Martin (text)

K., Ulf (illus.)

Bauklotz und Luftballon

(Building block and balloon)

Leipzig: Klett Kinderbuch, 2010. – 30 p.

(Series: Akkuratus 2; 1)

ISBN 978-3-941411-19-7

Robot – Extraterrestrials – Voyage of discovery

Created by two renowned artists, this picture book is a true gift for little ones! Little robot Akkuratus is a character that children will immediately identify with. Like them, Akkuratus strolls through the world and discovers: that building blocks do not speak, that they do not taste good, but that they are perfectly suited for throwing around and building on one another, in contrast to balloons. The pictures and text focus on what is essential and at the same time provide enough opportunities for laughing aloud. Watching Akkuratus's experiments is a lot of fun, as is listening to his karak-kuruk imaginary language. In the meantime, two further stories starring Akkuratus have appeared, and all three volumes are wonderful as trusted stand-by books for reading and looking! (Age: 2+)

73

Blazon, Nina (text)

Harvey, Franziska (illus.)

Polinas Geheimnis

(Polina's secret)

[Ravensburg]: Ravensburger Buchverl., 2010. – 123 p.

ISBN 978-3-473-36806-8

Siblings – Prank – Au-pair girl – Secret

Twins Joanna and Erik have managed to scare off every au-pair girl up until now, but Polina is proving up to the challenge. The ketchup blood baths initiated by Joanna do not unsettle her; in fact Polina turns the tables on them by serving them frog's eggs to eat. Because she has other very idiosyncratic habits, Joanna and Erik start to sense that she can't be of this world. They are right: their ominous nanny is really a mermaid! Hinting at Andersen's fairytale, this children's novel connects realism and magic in an enjoyable way, and because the story is told from Erik's point of view, the book is also interesting for boys. (Age: 8+)

74

Brater, Jürgen (text)

Sperber, Annabelle von (illus.)

100 kluge Dinge von eins bis unendlich.

Die erstaunliche Welt der Zahlen

(100 clever things from one to infinity. The astounding world of numbers)

München: cbj, 2010. – 224 p.

ISBN 978-3-570-13715-4

Mathematics – Number – Numeric value – General knowledge

There are people who cannot even remember their own telephone number. But even such numerically unsophisticated people will leaf around in this book – fascinated, for instance, by the »amazing 9«. Take any four-digit or higher number, switch around the digits to make a new number, then subtract the smaller from the greater of these two four-digit numbers, and the sum total of the solution will always equal 9 – wow! This seems like magic, and that is why many mathematicians love to play number games. However, number games – as the book shows – are also much-loved in religion and superstition. Clearly understandable texts and an appealing layout make this journey into the realm of numbers very educational and enjoyable, even if the little boxes containing three-variable exercises will surely awaken traumatic math class memories for some. (Age: 12+)

75

Bruder, Karin

Zusammen allein. Roman

(Together alone. A novel)

München: Dt. Taschenbuch-Verl., 2010. – 270 p.

(Series: dtv; 62450: Reihe Hanser)

ISBN 978-3-423-62450-3

Romania/1986 – Dictatorship – Escape – Coming of age – Integrity – Parents – Daughter

In 1986, the parents of fifteen-year-old Agnes flee Romania for West Germany, leaving their daughter behind. Her eccentric grandmother begrudgingly allows her to stay with her. »Together alone« considers Agnes's disappointment and her attempt to get used to the situation. However, it also takes up the central question about how one is to find not only personal happiness, but also integrity and dignity while living in a totalitarian state that spies, starves, and freezes its citizens. Told from Agnes' perspective, the book compellingly shows the reader that there is no simple solution to this soul-wrenching dilemma, but that finding acceptable ways to cope is vitally necessary. (Age: 13+)

76

Dörr, Stefanie

Ich sehe was, was du nicht siehst.

Wie mir mein wild gewordenes Spiegelbild die Sicht verhaselte

(I see something that you don't see. How my mirror reflection went wild and blocked my view)

Würzburg: Arena, 2010. – 247 p.

ISBN 978-3-401-060507-6

Personality – Identity

Taking mirror reflection as its theme, this novel recalls Romantic literature. Yet unlike Romantic texts, where the line into the uncanny is swiftly crossed, the existence of various mirror beings has an existential, but no really threatening dimension for Maja, who is the narrator. When she wakes up one morning, Mitu stands before her – a facet of her personality that has come alive. Mitu is very moody in comparison to Maja, so chaos is soon at hand. Going into her »mirror room« – i.e. inside her own head – Maja gets to know her gentle, her aggressive, and her intellectual sides. Stefanie Dörr's novel takes on the question »Who am I and how many?« in an amusing way, without robbing the topic of its ultimately quite justly weighty core. (Age: 12+)

77

Feth, Monika (text)

Pin, Isabel (illus.)

Eigentlich ist Tante Lynn Prinzessin

(Actually Aunt Lynn is a Princess)

Mannheim: Sauerländer, 2010. – [24] p.

ISBN 978-3-7941-5219-3

Aunt – Niece – Dementia – Nursing home – Visit – Imagination

In contrast to her parents, Mia does not find visiting Aunt Lynn in the nursing home to be an irritating duty. While her parents note that the aunt is not wearing matching shoes, Mia perceives her just as she perceives herself – as a princess. Thanks to Mia's child-level perspective which does not distinguish between »normal« and »sick«, she and the old lady communicate with each other in a »different« world. Even if Aunt Lynn's dementia and Mia's imagination seem analogous, and even though text and image emphasize Mia's value-free perspective, it becomes clear in this striking picture book that Lynn and Mia's world is not identical with the 'normal' one. This is noticeable, for instance, by the fact that everything that only exists in their world is marked in yellow. (Age: 4+)

78

Gleichauf, Ingeborg

Jetzt nicht die Wut verlieren.

Max Frisch – eine Biographie

(Don't stay calm, stay angry. Max Frisch – a biography)

München: Nagel & Kimche im Hanser Verl., 2010. – 269 p.

ISBN 978-3-312-00989-3

Frisch, Max – Biography

On May 15, 2011, Max Frisch would have turned hundred years old. Ingeborg Gleichauf, the renowned author of many biographies, let this fact inspire her to write a biography of the famous Swiss-German novelist, dramatist, and essayist. Carefully yet still forcefully, Gleichauf takes on Frisch's life and work. Interlacing the two, the author is able to present glimpses of Max Frisch's life from childhood through high age, as well as to newly revisit his works, which in German-speaking countries are often part of school curricula. The personal interpretations throw an unfamiliar light onto texts such as the play »Andorra« or the novel »Homo Faber« and thus also inspire the reader to take another look at these and other Frisch books. (Age: 12+)

79

Gricksch, Gernot

Im Tal der Buchstabennudeln

(In the valley of alphabet pasta)

Hamburg: Dressler, 2010. – 222 p.

ISBN 978-3-7915-0723-1

Holiday camp – Clique – Secret – Adventure

It's away to vacation camp: to the kids' club! But soon Emma, Sarah, Nucki, Fitze, and Torben realise that things are not quite kosher. For the strange kimono sisters, who deliver them to the club, immediately disappear and leave the five alone, equipped with nothing but a few packets of alphabet soup. After an initial period of sullenness, the five children quickly learn to enjoy their unexpected freedom, as a result of which they not only become friends and are transformed, but also get wind of a marvellous secret. In his second children's novel, Gernot Gricksch tells a somewhat nutty and absurd, yet very entertaining story, which will equally please both boys and girls. (Age: 8+)

80

Grimm, Jacob / Grimm, Wilhelm (text)

Ensikat, Klaus (illus.)

Grimms Märchen

(Grimms' Fairytales)

Berlin: Tulipan, 2010. – 210 p.

ISBN 978-3-939944-50-8

Fairy tale

Grimms' Fairytales ought not be absent from any child's room – especially in the case of an edition as noteworthy as the one put out by the Tulipan publishing house. Well-known classics are collected here, such as »Hansel and Gretel«, alongside texts that are not necessarily commonly known, such as, for instance, »Doctor Know-it-all«. Because the texts follow Grimms' version found in the third edition of »Children's stories and folktales« of 1837, they possess a certain old-fashioned ring to them, which may help bring out spine-tingling fairytale flair while also creating a certain distance from what is being told. Klaus Ensikat's illustrations belong in a league of their own: they depict individual fairytale scenes with great narrative force and – typically Ensikat – are thankfully not kitschy, so that they echo the fascinating austere charm of the texts. (Age: 5+)

81

Hanika, Beate Teresa

Erzähl mir von der Liebe. Roman

(Tell me of love. A novel)

Frankfurt am Main: Fischer, 2010. – 159 p.

ISBN 978-3-8414-2101-2

Professional model – Coercion – Dream – Love

In her second novel, Beate Teresa Hanika artfully knits multiple temporal planes together and allows the border of reality and dream to become porous. Leni, the narrator, went to Paris to work as a model; now in Berlin, her window to work as a model has closed. Leni reflects on the spatial and psychic narrowness of her family, on the unglamorous and misogynistic modelling industry, on friendship and trust, and on her longing for true love. She develops a crush on Levi, but whether that which occurs next happens in reality or whether it unfolds only in Leni's imagination, is left open; many scenes seem surreal. »Erzähl mir von der Liebe« (Tell me of love) is a complex book, which touches on many things, yet remains purposely vague. (Age: 14+)

82

Hölker, Wolfgang (ed.)

Sommer-Guist, Christine (text)

Saleina, Thorsten (illus.)

Mach mit! 85 Tipps für eine bessere Umwelt

(Get involved! 85 tips for a better world)

Münster: Coppenrath, 2010. – 127 p.

ISBN 978-3-8157-9722-8

Environmental protection – Natural resources – Social justice – Globalisation

»Nothing good will come of doing nothing.« In short chapters, this book clearly and concisely provides background information on the most urgent issues and questions of current debate concerning the environment and globalisation. Topics include, »Biodiversity and its protection«, »How natural is our food?« or »War and violence in the world«. Consciousness is raised about the fact that not all human beings are well-off, as well as that one ought to respect natural resources. Concrete suggestions, which can easily be integrated into everyday life and which range from instructions for building bee hotels to a »garbage diet«, show how simply everyone can contribute to making the world a more just and liveable place by means of small behavioural adjustments. (Age: 5+) ♦

83

Kaminer, Wladimir (text)
Kahane, Kitty (illus.)

Das Leben ist kein Joghurt. Wladimir Kaminer & Kitty Kahane erzählen eine Geschichte von Adam & Eva

(Life is not yoghurt. Wladimir Kaminer & Kitty Kahane tell a story of Adam and Eve)

Frankfurt am Main: Ed. Chrismon, 2010. – 31 p.
ISBN 978-3-86921-025-4

Creation story – Adam and Eve – Paradise

Adam and Eve reloaded: Suffering from boredom, God creates the earth, animals, and Adam, whom he appoints as janitor to keep an eye on paradise. When Eve is added to the mix, the snake, who at first was Adam's playmate, exits the picture. The jealous snake seduces Eve to eat from the tree of knowledge. Turmoil ensues. Without exaggerated humility in the face of the original, Kaminer and Kahane lend the well-known tale new verve, by inserting a slew of off-the-wall ideas into the biblical source: Kaminer as laconic sentence crafter, Kahane with paint and brush. Despite its garish feast of colour, the book remains non-heretical since Kahane respects the Second Commandment: »Thou shalt not make for yourself an idol.« (Age: 6+)

84

Krause, Ute (text/illus.)

Wann gehen die wieder?

(When are they going already?)

Berlin: Berlin-Verl., 2010. – [28] p.

(Series: Bloomsbury Kinderbücher & Jugendbücher)
ISBN 978-3-8270-5410-4

Separated parents – Step family

Right off the bat, the cover confronts the reader with an indignant bandit child, from whose mouth one literally can hear the words: »When are they going already?« After the separation of their parents, the seven bandit children have been shuttling back and forth from mommy to daddy. Suddenly a princess and her children turn up at daddy's: he is newly in love. The bandit children at first try to get rid of the intruders using any means necessary, but they then realize that this is no solution, and that getting along functions quite well. Narrated by an outspoken bandit child, and with cheeky illustrations setting the scene, this picture book forthrightly shows how annoying it can be to suddenly be a part of a patchwork family – but also how much fun can come out of being a part of such a colourful crew. (Age: 4+)

85

Krejschi, Tobias (text/illus.)

Wie der Kiwi seine Flügel verlor. Nach einem Mythos der Maori

(How the kiwi lost its wings. Based on a Maori myth)

Wuppertal: Hammer, 2010. – [28] p.

ISBN 978-3-7795-0301-9

Forest – Rescue – Kiwi – Responsibility – Myth

Why exactly is it that the flightless kiwi is the favourite bird of New Zealanders? The answer to this question is provided by a story of the Maori. When an insect plague threatens to destroy a forest, a bird must be chosen to descend from the tree tops to the forest floor to eat the insects up. But all the birds have an excuse – only the kiwi doesn't seek an excuse. In order to take on the responsibility for rescuing the forest, he must exchange his marvellous feather cloak for an inconspicuous one and he must lose his ability to fly, but for these very reasons he becomes the national animal of New Zealand. Tobias Krejschi retells the story of the kiwi and includes expressive illustrations. The images, in which brown tones dominate, are inspired by Maori art and are powerful yet also delicate. (Age: 4+)

86

Muggenthaler, Eva (text/illus.)

Als die Fische spazieren gingen ... Erzählbilder

(When the fish went walking ... Story pictures)

München: Mixtvision, 2010. – 31 p.

ISBN 978-3-939435-24-2

Contrast – Feeling

Hi you, we have to – no, we want to – talk! Eva Muggenthaler's twelve pictures animate readers to do just that. The double spreads are each assigned a main theme that has to do with a pair of contrasts, for instance »Fighting – Getting along« or »Being strong – Getting help.« Aside from these taglines (and the afterword of Kristina Calvert), the book is without text. And even though each double-page especially features one pair of contrasts, the pictures have a lot more to offer. Lively, colourful and expressive, they reveal much sparkling detail to be sought out. They want to be looked and marveled at – and talked about. (Age: 3+)

87

Nesch, Thorsten

Joyride Ost. Ein Roadmovie-Roman

(Joyride east. A road-movie novel)

Reinbek: Rowohlt Taschenbuch-Verl., 2010. – 160 p.

(Series: rororo ; 21531: Rotfuchs)

ISBN 978-3-499-21531-5

**Small town – Adolescence – Car theft –
Mafia – Pursuit – Love – Tolerance**

Who would believe that a mafia vehicle complete with mafiosi would park at a gas station in boring hicksville? On an illegal joyride, Turkish-born Tarik and Russian immigrant Jana cannot believe their eyes when they first find a pistol and then Mr. Tedesco in the trunk. All the two fifteen-year-olds wanted was a quick break from their drab everyday lives, to get away from their families who are against their dating. Now they are speeding eastwards, pursued by the car's owner and her brothers. When it comes to a movie-worthy showdown, Tarik and Jana's families finally realise that different ethnic origins don't have to present an obstacle to being a couple. Told from Tarik's perspective and bursting with dialogue, the story's appeal to tolerance occurs without moralistic finger-wagging and is energy-packed. (Age: 12+)

88

Plenzdorf, Ulrich (text)

Harjes, Stefanie (illus.)

Gutenachtgeschichte

(Bedtime story)

Rostock: Hinstorff, 2010. – 47 p.

ISBN 978-3-356-01345-0

Falling asleep – Story-telling

Not quaint in the least, but rather moody and slightly mocking in tone – this is how Ulrich Plenzdorf (1934-2007), one of the best-known authors of the former German Democratic Republic (GDR), chooses to tell his »Bedtime story.« Counting sheep or other such classic themes are left out; instead, Plenzdorf freely associates regarding children, parents, and bedtime stories as such. These last need to be boring if one is to fall asleep to them. Well – Plenzdorf's text and Stefanie Harje's illustrations, too, are far from boring. Like the typography, her filigreed floating line, collaged with stamped images and paper snips, embraces the flightiness of the text and plays with it, so that image and word wonderfully enhance one another. (Age: 8+)

89

Poznanski, Ursula

Erebos. Thriller

<proper name>

Bindlach: Loewe, 2010. – 485 p.

ISBN 978-3-7855-6957-3

Computer game – Virtual reality – Artificial intelligence – Power – Manipulation

A mysterious computer game is making the rounds. Nick gets it and is immediately hooked. Erebos is unbelievably fascinating: it seems to know its players and assigns them tasks which they must complete in the virtual as well as the real world. Ever more dramatic events take place. After Nick is kicked out of the game due to his moral scruples, he realises the power of Erebos – and also that the game is playing out its developer's perfidious plans for revenge. »Erebos« is an extraordinarily suspenseful thriller, which interlaces realism, fantasy, and science fiction, in order to raise questions concerning manipulation, power abuse, and the influence of the virtual world on reality. (Age: 13+)

90

Rank, Elisabeth

Und im Zweifel für dich selbst. Roman

(In the end you are the one who counts. A novel)

Berlin: Suhrkamp, 2010. – 200 p.

(Series: Suhrkamp-Taschenbuch: Suhrkamp nova; 4143)

ISBN 978-3-518-46143-3

Friendship – Death – Grief – Trip

Tim and Lene are a couple, yet Tim dies in a traffic accident. Lene quits the city with her best friend Tonia. They drive about, restlessly and aimlessly, ending at the Baltic Sea. Very slowly, they begin to extract themselves from cocoons of grief and recognise that life goes on. Groping and brittle, yet at the same time very concrete and precise, Tonia tells of her trip, of Lene's sadness and her own helplessness. Thus, »Und im Zweifel für dich selbst« is a book on loss, but also on friendship and on unconditional being there for each other. It does not lose itself in sentimentality, but in the end transmits hope, for it shows that one can let go and start anew. (Age: 15+)

91

Rautenberg, Arne (text)

Teich, Karsten (illus.)

Der Wind lässt tausend Hütchen fliegen

(The wind blows a thousand little hats)

Köln: Boje, 2010. – 60 p.

(Series: Gedichte für neugierige Kinder)

ISBN 978-3-414-82237-6

Poetry – Pun

»The wind blows a thousand little hats« is Arne Rautenberg's contribution to the Boje Press series »Gedichte für neugierige Kinder« (Poems for curious readers), and it has made it into a no longer so well-kept »best kept secret« in the realm of children's verse. In this latest romp, Arne Rautenberg's rhapsodising is a pure joy. Reflective phrases play their part, but the Dadaist wordplays are especially fun. They almost seem to call out: taste me, poke me! Juggling syllables and sounds makes language plastic – this is how poetry enchants. Karsten Teich's illustrations are the icing on the cake; their humour surfaces in the subtle two-tone colourisation characteristic of the series. (Age: 5+) ●

92

Scheerer, Jana

Mein innerer Elvis. Roman

(My inner Elvis. A novel)

Frankfurt am Main: Schöffling, 2010. – 244 p.

ISBN 978-3-89561-351-7

Holidays – USA – Trip – Coming of age

»My inner Elvis« is a wonderful coming-of-age story. Fifteen-year-old Antje worships Elvis Presley and is convinced that he is alive. When Nelli, a girl that was brought on the trip against both her own and Antje's wishes, disappears, Antje, too, senses her chance for escape from her annoying parents and little sister. And after she has found Nelli, both head off for an Elvis-commemoration day. On their exciting road trip, which is full of bizarre moments, they gain distance from the parental nest and learn to accept themselves as they are, even when others pick on them. Thus, Antje, the narrator, engages many teenagers' hearts, despite or perhaps precisely because of her odd Elvis obsession. (Age: 14+)

93

Schössow, Peter (text/illus.)

Mein erstes Auto war rot

(My first car was red)

München: Hanser, 2010. – 48 p.

ISBN 978-3-446-23593-9

Pedal car – Siblings – Excursion

Ready, set, go! No pain, no gain, Grandpa dryly remarks, giving his grandson an old rusty pedal car as a gift. After a complete overhaul and first rounds on the practice course, however, there is no stopping the boy. With his little brother on the backseat, he gears up for a boisterous joyride over stick and stone. The book picks up the pace with suggestive, elliptical text alongside illustrations. Two pages at a time, they magically create the dynamism of a flip book by depicting multiple phases of the wild ride on one page. The text and images are well-met in terms of precision and irony, too, bristling as they are with more-than-meets-the-eye commentary. (Age: 4+)

94

Schulz, Hermann

Mandela & Nelson. Das Länderspiel

(Mandela & Nelson. The international match)

Hamburg: Carlsen, 2010. – 127 p.

ISBN 978-3-551-55571-7

Tanzania – Football – Understanding between peoples

Eleven-year-old Nelson, captain of the mixed soccer team of Bagamoyo, energetically describes the preparations for a very special game – against a team from Germany. Of course everything must be in tip-top shape: the field, the goals, and the team, which has an abundance of motivation, but lacks discipline and practice time. One player loves to pee in the sidelines, while another rarely comes to training because he has to work long hours to support his family. Nelson brings them all together, though, and in one brilliant match they win – even if that, in the end, is not the main point. The book delights with light-footed wit, and it provides many glimpses into the not always easy African everyday, which is nonetheless mastered with much optimism and chutzpah. (Age: 8+) ♦

95

Turkowski, Einar (text/illus.)

Der Schäfer, der Wind, der Wolf und das Meer

(The shepherd, the wind, the wolf, and the sea)

Hildesheim: Gerstenberg, 2010. – 40 p.

ISBN 978-3-8369-5273-6

Danger – Loss – Fear – New beginning – Happiness

The courage to let go is a key to happiness – Einar Turkowski weaves this idea into a philosophical-poetic parable. Rather than tending white-fleeced sheep, an Irish shepherd crafts his flock out of metal, wood, and fabric. There is a Trojan sheep that offers a hiding place, and a breakfast sheep that serves toast. But there is a wolf threatening the sheep, and other dangers lurk around every corner. Fearing greatly for his animals, the shepherd ultimately separates himself from them, becomes a fisherman and is very happy. Intricate black-and-white drawings create a world between dream and reality; the fantastic mechanical sheep slightly resemble the idiosyncratic creatures of Australian illustrator Shaun Tan, yet Turkowski's pencil stroke remains unmistakable. (Age: 4+)

96

Werner, Brigitte (text)

Müller, Birte (illus.)

Wum und Bum und die Damen Ding Dong. Eine Bilderbuch-Geschichte ...

(Wum and Bum and the Ding Dong Ladies.

A picturebook story ...)

Stuttgart: Verl. Freies Geistesleben, 2010. – [52] p.

ISBN 978-3-7725-2145-4

Neighbour – Music – Dispute – Tolerance

Clack clack clackety clack! This book should be read aloud as it is brim full of alliterations, assonances, exclamations, and onomatopoeic sounds. It is about special people – Mr. Wum and Mr. Bum, and the Ding Dong ladies. They all live in the same apartment building. Each has his or her own special habits, which unfortunately get on everyone else's nerves. These are typical neighbour conflicts: Lady Dong is bothered by Lady Ding's singing, Mr. Bum by Mr. Wum's hammering on the walls. No one wants to soft pedal, so there's only one way out: they must talk to each other to get it together in the end. All's well that ends well! Tolerance can be fun – the text conveys this, as do Birte Müller's lively, eye-catching illustrations. (Age: 2+)

97

Westhoff, Angie (text)

Bayer, Michael (illus.)

Das Buch der seltsamen Wünsche

(The book of strange wishes)

Hamburg: Klopp, 2010. – 253 p.

ISBN 978-3-7817-2319-1

Gang of children – Book – Secret – Wish fulfillment – Adventure

Flint, Charlotte, Ben, and Jette come upon a strange book that is handwritten and only a few pages long. They are not supposed to open it, but when of course they do it anyway, what they see knocks their socks off. The book presents them with a new brainteaser every day – one day they must find a magical place, the next they must get by with only one egg as both victual and means of payment. Fulfilling intricate wishes bonds the four children ever more strongly, though they are actually quite different from one another, and they all learn a lot about themselves, too. The book is a warm-hearted paean to the imagination, to reflection on one's desires, and to the fact that the first impression is not always necessarily the best. A real thrill! (Age: 8+)

98

Zeevaert, Sigrïd

Tage & Nächte

(Days & nights)

Stuttgart [et al.]: Thienemann, 2010. – 237 p.

ISBN 978-3-522-20086-8

Love – Trust – Holocaust

The past and the present, loss and closeness, fear and longing. Jana and Jul meet in Paris and fall in love – Jana having run away from an insulated home life, and Jul having come to the city in order to visit his mother, who abandoned the family years earlier, one more time before her death. Jul receives a book from her with her story, and suddenly everything appears to him in a new light. Jul also realises how closely his life – and the present in general – is connected with the past and with German history. The narrative focuses alternately on the two protagonists. In this way, this cleverly constructed, impressive novel also reflects the influence of perspective on (his) stories. It is at the same time clear, however, how close Jana and Jul are to one another. (Age: 14+)

Switzerland

99

Camenzind, Robert (text)

Riecke, Vanessa (illus.)

Rutzlibutz und Schwarznase

(Rutzlibutz and Blacknose)

Zürich [et al.]: Monster-Salat, 2009. – [28] p.

ISBN 978-3-033-02181-5

Witch – Magician – Abduction – Trick

Blacknose the mean magician has abducted Ernstli and Vreneli! Everyone is in a frenzy, but Rutzlibutz the witch knows what to do. Together with parents and neighbours, she heads northwards on her broom, where the magician is holding the children in a palace made of ice. Rutzlibutz makes Blacknose very uncomfortable with a giant hairdryer, and in a split second Ernstli and Vreneli are free. Rutzlibutz is a sweet original that – like Pippi Longstocking – was once invented by parents for their ill children. The collages play with different perspectives and humorously stage the grouchy magician and the witch, who loves to tease. »Rutzlibutz bei den Krokodilen« (Rutzlibutz among the crocodiles) (2010) is the second adventure of the mischievous witch. (Age: 4+)

100

Duda, Christian (text)

Friese Julia (illus.)

Schnipselgestrüpp. Eine Geschichte

(Snippetbriar. A story)

Zürich: Bajazzo, 2010. – [36] p.

ISBN 978-3-905871-16-6

Poverty – Creativity – Imagination – Escapism

Material, but also emotional and intellectual poverty hold sway in a boy's home: his parents spend the whole day in front of the television, caught in their apathy. The boy, on the other hand, daily crafts himself a new world out of old newspapers. When he reads of a praying mantis, he transforms his room – »because I want to« – into a green jungle, which is literally audible, touchable, and smellable. The boy's father initially calls this game »non-sense«, but he later falls in with it and forgets his sadness for a short time. In the end, even the lethargic mother suddenly has a bright flower in her hair. In the picture book »Schnipselgestrüpp« (Snippetbriar), text and image mutually inform one another, thus creating a richly metaphoric artwork. (Age: 4+)

101

Huwyler, Max (text)

Obrist, Jürg (illus.)

Das Zebra ist das Zebra

(The zebra is the zebra)

Zürich: Atlantis, 2010. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-3-7152-0581-6

Children's question – Philosophy – Identity

After encountering a horse, a little zebra is preoccupied by the existential question: what makes a zebra a zebra? Is it the striped coat? And if so, are the stripes what make an animal a zebra? Or is it the other way around, and an animal is given stripes because it is a zebra? The other animals cannot understand why anyone would occupy their mind with such confusing stuff. »The zebra is a zebra« – this tautological and trivial answer might satisfy the rest of the herd, but for the little zebra it brings about a veritable crisis of identity. This picture book is a gem for philosophers big and small. Max Huwyler's concise, laconic text stands in contrast to the heavy reflections, while Jürg Obrist's collages portray how confusing such a merry-go-round of ideas can be. (Age: 4+)

Romance Languages

Africa

Mayotte (France) (French)

102

Hamad, Yazoo (text)

Jamet, Marc (photogr.)

Boumi, bébé d'ailleurs. Le gâteau de riz

(Boumi, a baby from another world. The rice cake)

Sada (Mayotte): Coccinelle Éd., 2009. – [22] p.

(Series: Bébé d'ailleurs) (La P'tite scène qui bouge)

ISBN 978-2-9528217-1-1

Indian Ocean – Comoros – Cooking – Rice

Boumi is whimpering: she is so hungry! Her mood improves at once, however, when the little girl hears familiar sounds from the kitchen. Her mother is preparing a traditional rice cake. Boumi – with her nose over the pots – can observe how the rice is first placed into water, then sieved and tamped down multiple times, and worked into a yummy dough. With a clearly laid out recipe and detailed cooking instructions for somewhat older children, the book tells about the delicious traditional cooking of the island Mayotte, which lies north-westerly of Madagascar. Fun clay figures made by Marie Pinault populate Marc Jamet's photo collages, into which amusing onomatopoeic words are integrated. (Age: 2+)

La Réunion (France) (French)

103

Arsego, Chiara (text/illus.)

Vincenot, Aymeric (text)

Colette <proper name>

Saint-André (La Réunion): Océan Ed., 2010. – [36] p.

(Series: Océan Jeunesse)

ISBN 978-2-36247-000-4

Nearsightedness – Mix up – Glasses – Animals

One day strange changes occur in Colette's life. She peers in her mirror and sees a black-and-white face, the bath tub seems to have shrunk, her hair brush is moving, and her dog Balto has developed enormous strength overnight. Is all this related to putting on the wrong pair of glasses by mistake? Is there a connection with the news of the day that the animals from the zoo have escaped? Chiara Arsego's charming pictures show us how, unbeknownst to her, Colette's house is changing into a commune for fleeing zoo animals, while she is lost

in thought and uses a little clueless turtle as a television remote control or treats the kangaroo like a refrigerator. This gently teasing book ends with a short text about the usefulness of a pair of glasses. (Age: 4+)

Europe

Belgium (French)

104

Aubry, Florence

Biture express. Roman

(Binge express. A novel)

Namur: Mijade, 2010. – 188 p.

ISBN 978-2-87423-059-2

Addiction – Alcoholism – Siblings

What happened last night? Sarah is lying almost naked in her tent and cannot remember anything. Until now, with the help of her little sisters she has been able to conceal her excessive alcohol consumption from her parents. But on this family camping vacation in southern France, her strenuous double life threatens to be exposed: daily binge drinking and in the evenings heading off to the next party. Sarah feels how her life is slipping away. The book, alternately narrated from the perspective of the two different sisters, is very convincing due to the authenticity of the characters, as well as the language. Having created a gripping story, Florence Aubry masterfully gets at the heart of the symptoms of the illness and the consequences of alcoholism, without moralising. (Age: 15+)

105

Bournier, Isabelle (text)

Ferrandez, Jacques (illus.)

Des hommes dans la Guerre d'Algérie

(People in the Algerian war)

[Bruxelles et al.]: Casterman, 2010. – 72 p.

ISBN 978-2-203-02608-7

Algeria/1954-1962 – War – Algerian

National Liberation Front (FLN) –

Sovereignty – Decolonisation – Torture

Discussing the Algerian war (1954-1962) continues to be a painful topic even fifty years after its end. All the more reason to praise this non-fiction book, which systematically begins with the start of the conflict, the French occupation of Algeria in 1830. In six thematically focused and clearly introduced chapters, researcher Isabelle Bournier gives the podium to various French and Algerian protagonists affect-

ed by the conflict, who can thus express their differing opinions and perspectives. Bournier also takes up taboo topics such as the debate concerning the systematic torture conducted by the French army in Algeria. The logically constructed illustration perfectly corresponds with the heterogeneous character of the documents (ranging from poems, newspaper articles, photographs, flyers to comics of Jacques Ferrandez). The book delivers much incitement for young people to engage in the critical work of remembering, which aside from reconciliation and understanding also entails the »decolonization of thought«. (Age: 10+)

★Special Mention ◆

106

Sorin, Céline (text)

Chauffrey, Célia (illus.)

Hibiscus <proper name>

Bruxelles [et al.]: École des Loisirs, 2010. – [28] p.

(Series: Pastel)

ISBN 978-2-211-20174-2

Longing for a baby – Adoption – Otherness – Identity – Fable

Shy Hibiscus, a female animal, wants to have a baby. Full of questions she turns to Marabu, but he only mumbles on about strange recipes, like eating geranium leaves or drinking the most disgusting herbal concoction. These lead to tummy ache, but not success. Finally, Hibiscus finds out that under her very chic knitted kangaroo costume she is in fact wearing a hyena pelt. Once the costume has been whipped off, she finds happiness in life as a spotted hyena and comes closer to fulfilling several of her dreams. Young illustrator Célia Chauffrey has transported Céline Sorin's gentle fable about difference, identity, and wishes into an impressive bark forest and, with subtle irony, lets a bright orange wool thread run through the whole story to masterfully allow it to unfold. (Age: 6+)

107

Valentin, Elsa (text)

Carrier, Isabelle (illus.)

Derrière le mur

(Behind the wall)

Bruxelles: Alice Jeunesse, 2010. – [28] p.

(Series: Histoires comme ça)

ISBN 978-2-87426-126-8

Prison – Father – Son

A little boy misses his father. Many weeks have passed since he last saw him. No more shared cooking fun or games; the promised vacation by the sea seems indefinitely

postponed. Finally he is allowed to visit his father. Curiously, his father seems to not be particularly happy about his son's visit or about the present to him. Only now, in the last third of the book, does it become clear that the father is in prison and will be away for at least a year. The topic of imprisonment is extremely rare in picture books. Author Elsa Valentin treats it with empathy and respect from the perception of the child, who suffers from the absence of his father. The pudgy, amiable figures of Isabelle Carrier lend the text a certain lightness. (Age: 4+)

France (French)

108

Bondoux, Anne-Laure

Le temps des miracles

(The time of wonders)

Montrouge: Bayard éd. Jeunesse, 2009. – 254 p.

(Series: Millézime)

ISBN 978-2-7470-2645-1

Caucasus – War – Escape – Refugee – Identity

Twelve-year-old Koumail from Georgia flees war and poverty in the Caucasus. Equipped with a tattered atlas, he searches, accompanied at first by older Gloria, for the way to France, the ardently idealised country of his birth. At first, his own dreamy optimism and especially Gloria's cleverness protect him from all the dangers of the trip. Unexpectedly, though, he arrives all alone in France, where he is received very gruffly. Only years after his arrival does he – now under the name of Blaise Fortune – clear up the puzzle of his ancestry. Anne-Laure Bondoux – without any false sentimentality – makes an unaccompanied refugee child into the narrator of an evocative novel full of zest for narrative invention, which deals with truth, lies, and the wide realm in between. (Age: 13+) ◆

109

Cali, Davide (text)
Bougueva, Sonja (illus.)

Marlène Baleine

(Marlene Whale)

Paris: Éd. Sarbacane, 2009. – [28] p.

ISBN 978-2-84865-306-8

Obesity – Swimming – Bullying – Self-confidence

Wednesdays is swimming day and Marlene's nightmare. She loves to swim, but hates being called a »whale« by her taunting classmates who think she is too fat. The swim instructor stands by Marlene and tells her a trick to win back fun in life and in swimming. Gradually the sides and the pool itself become peopled by characters from Marlene's imagination. In the end, Marlene even jumps from the ten-metre board and her wonderful splash shuts up all the bullies for once and for all. Author Davide Cali is also an artist, and for this reason his witty text harmonises especially well with the expansive paintings that Sonja Bougueva has created using a broad brush and a lot of vim. (Age: 5+)

110

Corentin, Philippe (text/illus.)

N'oublie pas de te laver les dents!

(Don't forget to brush your teeth!)

Paris: École des loisirs, 2009. – [24] p.

ISBN 978-2-211-09767-3

Neighbour – Human being – Crocodile – Family – Curiosity

A crocodile family and a human family live next door to each other. The intellectual fathers are always absorbed in their reading, but from time to time call out random control questions to the children in the room: Did you do your homework? Did you brush your teeth? And they aren't really waiting for answers. The children are lively, curious and want to find out who actually lives next door... whether one could perhaps eat the mysterious neighbours? The short journey to the yummy treats in the human house enlists the crocodile child in a firework of highly comical situations. Philippe Corentin's sense for surreal parallel worlds and absurd dialogue trap the reader in laughter and amazement. (Age: 5+)

111

Didier, Claire (text)

Giacobbe, Beppe (illus.)

Le livre des têtes

(The book of heads)

[Paris]: Nathan, 2009. – 80 p.

(Album Nathan)

ISBN 978-209-251-740-6

Body – Head – Face – Arts

This book, offering many opportunities to turn, pull and open things, is full of surprises, imaginative notions and insights: an intelligent, funny and, in the best sense of the word, encyclopaedic book on the topic of the »head«, in which the collecting work of Claire Didier is nicely complemented by the fetching illustrations of Beppe Giacobbe. The »head hunter« Têtatoto playfully leads the reader through five large chapters containing many secrets, all of which connect to the term »head«: from its physical appearance and its composition and aesthetics to the head as containing the realm of ideas, dreams and feelings. The reader also learns about the head in art and about the uniqueness of a face, and can have a lot of fun uncovering the term's use in idioms and proverbs. (Age: 7+)

112

Fontenaille, Élise

La cérémonie d'hiver

(The winter ritual)

Rodez: Éd. du Rouergue, 2010. – 88 p.

(Series: Do a do: Noir)

ISBN 978-2-8126-0117-0

American Indians – Environmental destruction – Revenge – Murder

Violet, an old Haida Indian woman, participates in the bitter protest against the construction of a highway, which will destroy one of the most beautiful regions of Canada near the city of Vancouver. Violet is made an example of and given a wholly inappropriate prison sentence, which she in effect dies from. Her granddaughter Eden wants to avenge the death of her grandmother and trains Sky, a tame eagle, into a murder weapon twice over. Élise Fontenaille, who herself lived in Vancouver as a journalist, uses her sizeable knowledge of the life of First Nations' peoples to construct a believable detective story. This short story is characterised by nervous sentences and an almost breathless tempo. (Age: 14+) ♦

113

Henry, Jean-Marie (ed.)
Poirot Cherif, Sandra (illus.)

Une baleine dans mon jardin.

60 comptines d'écrivains

(A whale in my garden. 60 literary nursery rhymes)
[Paris]: Rue du Monde, 2010. – 51 p.

(Series: Oh! Les comptines!)

ISBN 978-2-35504-107-5

Rhyme – Pun – Poetry

Jean-Marie Henry has put together an excellent anthology of 60 children's rhymes and in the process introduces entirely new material. All the rhymes were written by important poets. Readers will find rhyme specimens forged by the likes of Andrée Chédid, Federico García Lorca, Victor Hugo, Raymond Queneau, Max Jacob, Philippe Soupault, Claude Roy, and Boris Vian, to name a few. Reading and browsing, one travels in amazement through a still unknown linguistic landscape full of absurdity and the most enigmatic shenanigans. In addition one falls under the spell of Sandra Poirot Cherif's illustrations. This book inspires one to play around with letters oneself, to invent word games, and to embark on many a journey of discovery into the realm of language. (Age: 3+)

114

Hervieu-Wane, Fabrice

L' Afrique

(Africa)

[Paris]: Gallimard jeunesse, 2009. – 121 p.

ISBN 978-2-07-062671-7

Africa – History – Politics – Economics

Journalist Fabrice Hervieu-Wane presents a non-fiction book that takes up Africa in all of its complexity. The book serves as a well-founded antidote to distorted representations of Africa as the »continent of catastrophes, wars, and crises« and also avoids the common trigger words attached to current reporting on it. Africa is presented as a totality, but also in terms of its regional and national distinctions. In addition, every country is portrayed with carefully researched economic, political, cultural, and geographical facts. Thematic pages treat perspectives, chances, but also the current challenges of the continent in a straightforward manner. The book is easy to navigate and uses maps, chronologies, illustrations, and photographs. (Age: 10+) ♦

115

Mabankou, Alain (text)
Gueyfier, Judith (illus.)

Ma Sœur-Etoile

(My star sister)

[Paris]: Seuil Jeunesse, 2010. – [36] p.

ISBN 978-2-02-100588-2

Congo <People's Republic>/1970-1980 – Death – Story-telling – Childhood memories

The 1970s: ten-year-old Alain from Point Noire (in the former People's Republic of the Congo) is an enthusiastic reader. Totally absorbed in his poetic cosmos, he talks with his dead sister, who shines as a bright star in the sky for him and one day even draws him a little jumping sheep in the night sky. Alain only tells one classmate of his secret, and the latter does not want to believe him, until he, too, sees a drawing by Alain's sister one night. The shining, mysterious pictures of Judith Gueyfier are kept largely to violet, brown, and turquoise hues and form a harmonious enhancement for the childhood memories of well-known African author Alain Mabankou, which tell strikingly of the »marvellous« in the everyday. (Age: 7+)

116

Mongin, Jean Paul (text)
Schwoebel, François (illus.)

Le malin génie de Monsieur Descartes.

D'après les Méditations métaphysiques

(The mean ghost of Mr. Descartes. Based on Descartes's »Meditations«)

Paris: Les Petits Platons, 2010. – 63 p.

(Series: Philosophes en folie!)

ISBN 978-2-36165-001-8

Descartes, René – Philosophy – Theory of knowledge

A cold winter night in Holland in 1929. Philosopher René Descartes sits wearily in his study, losing himself ever more deeply in the fundamental questions of his philosophy. Is the human being capable of discerning truth and, if yes, on what basis? Is that which surrounds him or her but a dream? Contributing in no small way to Descartes's confusions is his parrot Baruch, whose mischievous behaviour follows Descartes from his »Meditations« into his dreams, but also helps him to recognise truth. François Schwoebel sets Descartes's altercations with his feathered pest to paper with pictures that seem to emit sparks. Jean Paul Mongin's text whets children's appetites for the adventure of thinking and playfully introduces them to the story of philosophy. (Age: 9+)

117

Morel, Fabienne / Bizouerne, Gilles (ed.)
Gambini, Cécile (illus.)

Les histoires de Barbe bleue racontées dans le monde

(The stories of Bluebeard – as they are told the world over)

[Paris]: Syros, 2009. – [91] p.

(Series: Le tour du monde d'un conte; 6)

ISBN 978-2-7485-0838-3

Bluebeard – Murder – Curiosity – Marriage – Fairy tale

The content and motives of »Bluebeard« are universal. Utterly contrary to the romanticising fairytale emphasis on love and relationships, this story tells of a violent marriage and describes a devious killer of women, who after his marriage shows his true character. In the end he must face a brave wife, whose curiosity puts her in danger, but who is then able to stop the murderous actions of her husband. This magnificent volume, which contains Cécile Gambini's illustrations, includes the literary version of »Bluebeard« by Charles Perrault, which draws on folktales of the Auvergne and Brittany regions of France. Editors Fabienne Morel and Gilles Bizouerne also present interesting newly told versions from Italy, India, Scotland, Palestine, and Chad. (Age: 6+)

118

Noël, James (text)

Monnin, Pascale (illus.)

La fleur de Guernica

(The flower of Guernica)

La Roque-d'Anthéron: Vents d'Ailleurs, 2010. – [26] p.

ISBN 978-2-911412-72-1

Haiti/2010 – Earthquake – Survival – Love

The earthquake in Haiti on January 12, 2010 split the lives of all the island's inhabitants into a before and after. On the morning of the quake, Sismo receives a photo of the bizarre beauty from his girlfriend Rosemonde. In the foreground is Pablo Picasso's painting »Guernica«; but the attentive boy discovers an unlikely flower at the corner of the picture, blooming in the middle of the bombed ruins of the Spanish city. This picture accompanies Sismo in the days after the earthquake, in his desperate search for Rosemonde. The expressive pastel paintings of Haitian illustrator Pascale Monnier make the poetic text of young award-winning Haitian poet James Noël shine. (Age: 7+)

119

Rajak, Hélène / Laverdunt, Damien (text/illus.)

Petites et grandes histoires des animaux disparus

(Little and big stories about extinct animals)

Arles: Actes Sud, 2010. – 77 p.

(Series: Les Tigres gauchers) (Actes Sud Junior)

ISBN 978-2-7427-9213-9

Extinct animals – Prehistory and early history – Research history

Over the course of the Earth's history many animal species have died out. This decorative book by Helene Rajak and Damien Laverdunt – a marvellous eye-catcher in large format – offers a mix of biology, exploratory history, prehistory, and early history. It provides interesting glimpses into the history of particular animal species and cleverly connects the possibilities of a graphic novel with those of a precise classification guide. The reader also encounters supposed »mythical beasts« – including a lemur species with the onomapoetic name *tratratrata*, which until the present really did populate various parts of the planet, but who now only lives on in many myths. In most cases, the reasons for extinction are given and humankind's role therein is explained. (Age: 9+)

120

Roman, Nadia (text)

Blanpain, Jean-Pierre (illus.)

La surprise

(The surprise)

Paris: Magnier, 2010. – [28] p.

ISBN 978-2-84420-875-0

Grandmother – Grandson – Old age – Love

The little boy's grandmother has always been an active lady, whose character and life does not fit the old worn categories (widow, retiree, »old« woman) in the least. Now the grandson – along with the rest of the family – registers mysterious changes in the life of Grandma with amazement. Why is she spending so many afternoons in the library? Why has she bought a cell phone and nonetheless calls the family less often? Why did she go on vacation and most of all: with whom? The answer is a big surprise: the lady is in love! Jean-Pierre Blanpain colours his black-and-white drawings using bright colours and reflects the gentle irony of Nadia Roman's story in numerous witty details and fun word games. (Age: 4+)

121

Sorman, Joy (text)
Tallec, Olivier (illus.)

Pas de pitié pour les baskets

(No pity for these trainers)
[Paris]: Hélium, 2010. – [36] p.
ISBN 978-2-35851-041-7

Fashion – Dress code – Peer group – Bullying

Little Joseph dreams of a pair of trainers, »Mike Air« brand. But what does he discover inside his mother's shopping bag: horrors! a pair of generic shoes replete with Velcro fasteners, total baby shoes! He quickly reflects on how he might avoid the snide commentaries of his classmates regarding his awkward outfit. What's clear is that the shoes must be worn out as quickly as possible and then discarded. But then Joseph discovers that he dances up a storm in these of all trainers. Joy Sorman wrote this lightly ironic story about the dictatorship of brand-name clothing, and Ollivier Tallec translates it into delightful illustrations of wonderful dance scenes. The book is also remarkable for its use of a bold large format. (Age: 6+)

122

Thers, Nicolas (text/illus.)

Le géant

(The giant)
Le Puy-en-Velay: Atelier du Poisson Soluble,
2010. – [28] p.
ISBN 978-2-35871-009-1

Patchwork family – Step-father – Daughter – Giant

»My mother and I have adopted a giant.« Thus begins a little girl's description of her mother's new partner. He seems pretty nice to her, but she's not entirely convinced because he is so very big and blessed with a gigantic appetite. In time, this »giant« proves himself to be, for instance, a sensitive protector. He is clever with practical things, magically creates order in her chaotic room and is ... »actually not so big!« The strategy of the two, »Transformation through familiarity«, proves successful, and the »pseudo-giant« becomes a part of the family. Nicolas Thers has succeeded in creating a book with a positive voice and modern look that deals with the topics of »step-father« and »patchwork family«: the illustrations are artistically constructed photos and collages in brightly shining colours. (Age: 8+)

123

Tretiakov, Serge (= Tretjakov, Sergej) (text)
Stepanova, Varvara (paper cut-outs design)
Rodtchenko, Alexandre (= Rodčenko, Aleksandr)
(photogr.) / Rouzeau, Valérie (transl.)

Animaux à mimer = Samozveri

(Imitating animals)
Nantes: Éd. MeMo, 2010. – [32] p. + supplement
(Series: Collection des Trois oursues)
ISBN 978-2-35289-074-4
(Text French and Russian)

Constructivism – Animals – Poetry

The avant-garde artists Sergei Tretiakov and Alexander Rodtchenko left behind an unpublished book project, made in the 1920s. It is a pioneering work of Russian constructivism, published for the first time in this loving bilingual edition from MeMo publishing house. Tretiakov's poems deal with the humorous metamorphosis of children Vanja and Katja into animal forms – giraffes, ostriches, seals –, which seem timelessly modern to us in their geometrical formal language, expressed in paper figures designed by Varvara Stepanova. Alexander Rodtchenko's photographs set the scene for the animal shapes by means of sophisticated light and shading effects cast on little stages. The book is a feast for the eyes for children and art lovers alike, and thanks to the cut-out figures, there is much incitement to reach for the scissors right away. (Age: 8+)

Italy (Italian)

124

Capriolo, Paola

No

(No)
San Dorligo della Valle (Trieste): Ed. EL, 2010. – [91] p.
(Series: Narrativa)
ISBN 978-88-477-2636-9

Parks, Rosa – Black woman – Discrimination – Civil rights movement – Human rights

The true story of Rosa Parks and the African-American Civil Rights Movement of the last century is told in a powerful, comprehensive, precise, and intriguing style. The novel is striking due to the perspective of the narrating voice, the compelling theme, and the attention to detail and historical truth. The figure of Parks becomes a likeable and interesting person, and the story gets at the individual's responsibility and courage to do his or her

own part for the sake of dignity and human rights. Inspiring and engaging, the novel is an example of a great way to communicate with young readers about important issues; this is literature serving its crucial civic function. In the pages of the novel, young Martin Luther King, Jr. and the first African-American President of the United States, Barack Hussein Obama, also make appearances. (Age: 12+) ♦

125

Cerasoli, Anna (text)

Faccioli, Ilaria (Illus.)

Io conto

(I am counting)

Milano: Feltrinelli Kids, 2010. – 127 p.

(Series: Feltrinelli Kids: Saggistica narrativa)

ISBN 978-88-07-92154-4

Mathematics – Numbers – Fractions

Math is a language, a system of thought, a tool for grasping reality, a fascinating game for the brain. It can make you discover new ways to do and see things, but can also be a barrier for learning if not taught in a dynamic way. In everyday life, as in a school class, there are little problems, e.g., to divide and share a chocolate bar, to calculate how much colour paint we need to finish an artwork and so on. This book – nicely illustrated, light-hearted, and amusing – tells stories, concise and brilliant, to connect math with the imagination, to shorten the distance between numbers and reality, calculation and visualising, studying and playing. It offers tricks, anecdotes, and a game to explore the world of numbers, thus nurturing the natural curiosity of children. (Age: 7+)

126

Cinquetti, Nicola

Sposerò Berlusconi

(I'll get married to Berlusconi)

[Milano]: Rizzoli, 2010. – 103 p.

(Series: 24/7)

ISBN 978-88-17-03820-1

School – Philosophy – Love – Coming of age

Fresh, dynamic, and witty, this novel is written by a talented and poetic storyteller. The main character, Noe, is fifteen and lives with his smart (and single) mum, surrounded by homeopathy, philosophy, chocolate surprise eggs, and doubts both great and small about everything around him. Noe is an unconventional person, an anti-hero of contemporary Italy, and a complete dreamer who longs to have a cute blonde girlfriend and to enjoy the

intricate beauties of nature. Growing up, reading, and imaginatively conversing with ancient philosophers, Noe is a sensitive and fun protagonist, walking with grace into everyday life in the Berlusconi era, when reading classic literature can be a sort of revolutionary resistance against revolution. (Age: 13+)

127

Draghetti, Manuela (text)

Decarli, Flavia (illus.)

Favole dello zodiaco

(Tales of the zodiac)

Bologna: Stoppani, 2009. – 53 p.

ISBN 978-88-86124-69-0

Zodiac – Astronomy – Astrology

This unique book, masterfully illustrated by Flavia Decarli, is elegant from a graphic point of view and sober in narrative style. It presents the zodiac through twelve constellation stories, which have travelled down through history and different cultures to be told to us today. They draw on Hellenistic and Babylonian astronomy, Italian Renaissance storytelling, and the long tradition of ways in which humankind has looked not only to the sky.

They also revive powerful ancient narrations dedicated to nature, metamorphosis, love, and other relations between humans, animals, and legendary figures. (Age: 9+)

128

Faeti, Antonio (text/illus.)

L'estate del lianto

(The summer of the Ailanthus)

Milano: Topipittori, 2009. – 108 p.

(Gli anni in tasca)

ISBN 978-88-89210-39-0

Faeti, Antonio – Bologna – Italy/1945-1955 – Childhood memories

This novel by Antonio Faeti, a volume in the series of autobiographic childhood novels published by Topipittori, depicts the first years of life of the scholar and professor internationally known for his contribution to children's literature. After World War II, in the heart of Bologna, two kids are chasing their dreams and encountering the gallery of characters that all live on Orfeo road, which is the centre of their world. Fighting to protect a tree, listening to life stories of the past, exploring and playing in the margins of reality and fear, enthusiasm and social changes, Topi and Fioretta are classic characters capable of inspiring and amusing, thanks to the straight-forward style and beautiful writing of the author. (Age: 10+)

129

Losa, Valérie (text/illus.)

Sapere italiano. Piccole storie di pranzi domenicali

(Italian taste. Little stories about Sunday lunches)

Reggio Emilia: Zoolibri, 2010. – [76] p.

(Series: Narrativa illustrata)

ISBN 978-88-88254-57-9

Migration – Cultural identity – Cooking – Tradition

This is a unique picture book for children, teenagers, and adults, which in brief captions reports on the cultural identity – the food and lifestyle – of Italian immigrants in Switzerland. Tradition and expressive gestures are their way to preserve their identity. Losa's book is like a collective diary, interviewing immigrants of the first and second generation, in the process creating a historical document, a poetic matrix of sentences illuminated by her own drawings. The recollected places of the past are presented as if behind a glass pane, while the present is portrayed with colour and life. Here, the soul of a country is identified with its tasty cuisine, with a way of preparing the table for dinner, with the expressions on old people's faces, and most of all with memories that must be retold to be retained. Memories and a mindfulness of the taste of life, which are dear to every traveller and every reader seeking a way to depict his or her own culture, characterise this delicate and intense book, which ends with recipes for Sunday dinner. (Age: 8+)

★ Special Mention

130

Lossani, Chiara (text)

Monaco, Octavia (illus.)

Vincent Van Gogh e i colori del vento. Ispirato a »Lettere a Theo« di Vincent Van Gogh

(Vincent Van Gogh and the colours of the wind.

Inspired by »The letters to Theo« of Vincent van Gogh)

Milano: Ed. ARKA, 2010. – [36] p.

ISBN 978-88-8072-194-9

Gogh, Vincent van – Gogh, Theo van – Friendship – Arts – Painting

This picture book is a welcoming invitation into the heart and universe of the painter Vincent van Gogh, and also a window on the life story of two brothers who are different, but still love each other. Many things happen, both joyous and sad, and most of the time they are bittersweet. There is suffering in Van Gogh's life, a desperate search-

ing for a sensibility, for a language to tell the world, for a balance so as not to lose himself. The book has a vivid and perfectly musical text, alongside amazing and deeply poetical images that permit the original paintings to come into dialogue with the illustrations. The wind is a character in the story, and the reader can discover the fascinating true story of a great artist and his most human side. (Age: 5+)

131

Masini, Beatrice (text)

Nidasio, Grazia (illus.)

Io e gli invisibili

(Me and the invisibles)

San Dorligo della Valle (Trieste): Einaudi Ragazzi, 2010. – 156 p.

(Series: Einaudi Ragazzi: Storie e rime; 414)

ISBN 978-88-7926-838-7

Illegal immigration – School – Culture clash – Sympathy – Tolerance

This novel is set in contemporary Italian society, where there are many travelling people, immigrants, and nomads from other countries and cultures. The public school is the place where different destinies cross each other: living together is not always easy, not even for children, in the growing wave of intolerance and racism. The child who is telling the story, ten-year-old Marcello, describes his everyday life and his meeting new friends from abroad, which subverts his familiar ideas and opens him up to a new perspective. With the child's pure voice, he depicts an interesting fresco that stimulates reflections, doubts, and dialogue between generations and cultures. (Age: 9+) ♦

132

Novelli, Luca

I fratelli Lumière. La straordinaria invenzione del cinema

(The brothers Lumière. The extraordinary invention of cinema)

Firenze [et al.]: Ed. Scienza, 2010. – 127 p. + DVD

(Series: Lampi di genio)

ISBN 978-88-7307-472-4

Lumière, Auguste – Lumière, Louis – Cinema/History

This beautiful non-fiction book tells the fascinating story of the Lumière brothers and the invention of cinema, camera, and film. It presents precise historical reconstructions of the different contributions of inventors and cinematographers, who converged to create the magic of the modern movie. The author has a light, happy, and charming way of telling the story of the Lumière family, using comics, witty drawings, captions, and a pleasant-sounding prose. The book has a glossary and a rich appendix with useful information on how to shoot a short film. It also comes with a DVD of a TV series by Luca Novelli, which presents the first examples of motion pictures, a documentary, and projections made by means of a magic lantern or other charming machines. (Age: 8+)

133

Tognolini, Bruno (text)

Orecchia, Giulia (illus.)

Rime di rabbia. Cinquanta invettive per le rabbie di tutti i giorni

(Poems of rage. Fifty diatribes for anger in everyday life)

Milano: Salani, 2010. – 71 p.

ISBN 978-88-6256-233-1

Anger – Civil obedience – Poetry

Fifty poems for all children, fifty poems to express the rage, to get it out of the cage, to express the anger, to fill the page and communicate with it, to give shape to it, to express the truth, to be free to use words like swords, like dance, like rap, like snack on a break. Fifty poems designed for the child's voice, in a little book of civil disobedience, psychological rebellion, and revolution, which exercises the power of words to liberate »the wild things«, to meet them, to put them on the page, and to go and come back from where the »the wild things« are. This is an important and refined book from a prolific poet, who plays and chants out magic spells of the everyday, working strictly with our mundane selves and the inner music of human voice. (Age: 9+)

134

Tuono Pettinato [i.e. Andrea Paggiaro] (text/illus.)

Garibaldi. Resoconto veritiero delle sue valorose imprese, ad uso delle giovani menti

(Garibaldi – a true account of his valiant enterprises, for use by the young and young at heart)

Milano: Rizzoli Lizard, 2010. – 119 p.

ISBN 978-88-17-04377-9

Garibaldi, Giuseppe – Italy/1807-1882 – Italy/Unification

This original graphic novel has an irresistible irony and humour, both in its text and in its drawings. The young author is a comic artist, a talented writer, and a capable drawer who imbues his works with a surrealist and poetic tension. The book tells the »truthful« story of a »hero« of Italian national identity, Giuseppe Garibaldi, who participated in Italy's political unification and who is part of the Italian collective imagination and an indispensable figure in Italian school books. He and other characters, all still very present in the place names in Italian cities, act on the great stage of the story, as it is directed by the brilliant Tuono Pettinato. This book makes readers laugh and invites them to reflect about heroism, the circulation of ideas, and political participation. (Age: 12+)

135

Zoboli, Giovanna (text)

Mulazzani, Simona (illus.)

Vorrei avere ...

(I wish I had ...)

Milano: Topipittori, 2010. – [28] p.

ISBN 978-88-89210-47-5

Animals – Characteristic trait – Poetry

This beautiful picture book presents a poem where the reader is invited to move through different landscapes on every page. The simple text is a list of wishes of sorts: »I wish I had« is one way to translate the title, but inside, double page after double page, wonderful possibilities are revealed which are not material, but rather are connected to the verb »to be«. Every feature of an animal, like the huge ears of the elephant, is connected to the inner sense of using it to feel the world, to listen to the voice of the sky or to blend in, like the panther does, with the black of the night. The book is an invitation for eyes and ears to imagine such beauty, and to feel connected to the natural world and the harmony of the universe. (Age: 3+)

Portugal (Portuguese)

136

Cruz, Afonso (text/illus.)

A contradição humana.**Com o devido espirito de contradição**

(The human contradiction.)

With the proper spirit of contradiction)

Alfragride: Caminho, 2010. - [28] p.

ISBN 978-972-21-2135-4

Behaviour – Contradiction – Paradox

A boy's reflections on the people in his environment are only seemingly naive. Why does his aunt shut birds in cages, though she claims to love them? Why does Mr. Oliveira ignore a poor person on the street, while paying such close attention to the traffic? Why is the neighbour happy, when he hears sad melodies on the piano? Such mundane observations guide readers' attention to the contradictions and gaps in human nature. This picture book is a feast for the eyes. Using three colours – white, a lot of black, and a bright popping red –, raw shapes, »false« perspectives, and a text hand-written using the most diverse scripts, Afonso Cruz visually captures the clever-subversive character of children's thoughts. (Age: 7+) ●

Spain (Spanish)

137

Arnal, Txabi (text)

Amekan, Hassan (illus.)

Caja de cartón

(Cardboard box)

Pontevedra: OQO, 2010. – [36] p.

(Series: Qontextos)

ISBN 978-84-9871-215-5

Poverty – Migration – Refugee – Homeland

This touching picture book tells the story of a girl who must flee to another country with her mother to escape miserable living conditions at home. Yet there, too, they live in a cardboard shack. After her mother perishes in a fire, the girl must find a new family. The titular cardboard box forms the leading thread of the story. It symbolises poverty, exclusion, homelessness, and is also a metaphor for the need to remember. The search for a dignified life is represented in a timeless manner by the author and illustrator: people and places exemplify similar fates. In the fascinating, mainly brown-and-red hued illustrations,

the protagonists move statically, like the figures in a shadow theatre, across a line-dominated, nearly two-dimensional scenery. (Age: 6+) ♦

138

Berenguer, José Luis (text)

Fra, Irene (illus.)

De punta a punta

(From one end to the other)

[Madrid]: Los cuatro azules, 2010. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-84-937295-0-9

War – Destruction – Violence – Death

A city, a bomber squadron, a midnight-blue sky, a glowing red sky, bombs, destroyed buildings – as if taken from varying camera perspectives, this book offers a panorama of violence and destruction. At its centre a dead soldier lies on the street; the camera zooms in very close. In his trouser pocket there is a letter from his father, who from a great distance away is hoping that his son is alright. José Luis Berenguer and Irene Fra have created a complex book about war and the senselessness of dying in war. The feast of colour of the dramatic illustrations establishes a tense contrast to the hesitant, nearly austere language of the text, whose typography recalls a telegram or a report punched out on a typewriter. (Age: 10+) ♦

139

Carranza, Maite

Palabras envenenadas

(Poisoned words)

Barcelona: Edebé, 2010. – 253 p.

(Series: Periscopio; 78)

ISBN 978-84-236-9650-5

Child abuse – Sexual abuse – Kidnapping – Betrayal

Four years after then fifteen-year-old Bárbara Molina was kidnapped and disappeared without a trace, a police inspector opens up the mysterious case again, shortly before his retirement. Piece by piece like a mosaic, this novel's plot unfolds over the course of one day and ends with a surprising turn of events. It is told from three perspectives – that of the investigator, the mother, and Bárbara's supposed best friend Eva. Bárbara's own voice is added as the fourth voice, in the form of an inner monologue. With the tools of crime fiction, Maite Carranza takes on topics such as sexual abuse, familial violence, and betrayal in this cleverly constructed, suspense-driven book. In the process, she exposes the dark sides of an indifferent, self-absorbed society. (Age: 15+)

140

Geis, Patricia

Las Meninas

(Las Meninas)

Barcelona: Combel, 2010. – [16] p. + supplement

(Series: ¡Mira qué arte!)

ISBN 978-84-9825-487-7

Velázquez, Diego / Las Meninas – Arts – Painting

»Las Meninas« is one of the most well-known and analysed paintings of European art history. The work, created in 1656 by Diego Velázquez, depicts the then five-year-old Infanta Margarita, members of the royal household, and the artist himself in a hall of the royal palace. It continues to prompt questions and speculations even today. This attractive, lavishly designed non-fiction book gives children well-researched information concerning the creation, content, and historical context of the painting. In addition, interactive elements including fold-out pages, three-dimensional models, and supplements invite readers to discover the painting through play and to unlock its secrets. This is the fourth volume in the series »¡Mira, qué arte! ¡Mira qué artista!«, which looks at well-known artworks and visual artists. (Age: 7+)

141

Huertas, Rosa

Tuerto, maldito y enamorado

(One-eyed, cursed, and in love)

Zaragoza: Edelvives, 2010. – 235 p.

(Series: Alandar; 119)

ISBN 978-84-263-7533-9

Ghost – Curse – Secret – Madrid/History

Elisa's ordered life suddenly turns topsy-turvy one day. In her school's library – the former Imperial College in her hometown of Madrid, which boasts famous authors such as Lope de Vega and Pedro Calderón de la Barca among its alumni – she meets a ghost. For centuries he has been waiting desperately for his curse to be lifted. Elisa feels compassion for the smitten poor one-eyed soul, who cannot even remember what his name is and why he was cursed. Little does she know what an adventure she is about to embark on. This fluidly told, suspense-driven novel concerns love and fear and cleverly interweaves the life of the adolescent protagonist with the history as well as the legends and stories of the city of Madrid. (Age: 14+)

142

Santos, Care (text)

Guerrero, Andrés (illus.)

Se vende mamá

(Mommy for sale)

Boadilla del Monte (Madrid): Ed. SM, 2009. – 169 p.

(Series: El barco de vapor)

ISBN 978-84-675-3528-0

Siblings – Jealousy – Mother – Son

New siblings can be the worst. They aren't useful for anything, they make themselves at home, and they demand all the attention. Óscar has had enough of his brother »Garbanzo« (Chickpea), but has had more than enough of his mother. Because he feels unjustly treated by her, he puts her up for sale on the Internet without much ado. Out of his emotional turmoil and through constant discussions with his friend Nora, Óscar slowly realises that his mommy is actually pretty decent and really quite irreplaceable. Care Santos tells this humorous story about family and friendship in a funny, quick-paced way, accurately appraising the emotions, needs, and world of ideas of an eight-year-old. The many cartoon-like line drawings take up the tempo of the exciting story in a skilled way. (Age: 7+)

143

Toro, Grassa (text)

Fernín, Diego (illus.)

El barranco

(The gorge)

Barcelona: Thule Ed., 2010. – [64] p.

ISBN 978-84-92595-62-4

Parents – Death – Grief – Growing up

The cover image of this slender portrait-format book shows a bus winding its way along a road high above a dark gorge. It refers to the traffic accident which killed the parents of the five protagonists. One day, the children, who now live in an orphanage, decide to go and plumb the depths of the gorge. The trip to the gorge is not just a descent into a place of anxiety, but also a metaphor for the path to knowledge and growing up that the children undertake. At its end, a new stage of life awaits them. »El barranco« (The gorge) tells a direct, unsparing story about death and mourning. At the same time, it is a mysterious book with disturbing pictures in dark, muted colours, which challenges readers to grapple with the story. (Age: 8+)

144

Toro, Grassa (text)

Duran, Meritxell (illus.)

Fábulas morales de una vez para siempre – para el aprendizaje virtuoso en la feliz juventud

(Moral fables once and for all – for virtuous gain in happy youth)

[Barcelona]: A buen paso, 2010. – 93 p.

ISBN 978-84-057211-9-0

Fable

This book expertly plays with literary traditions and components. The title as well as the publishing information on the last page are tongue-in-cheek tributes to the elaborate style of old etiquette books. What readers will discover within its one-hundred pages are traditional yet also refreshingly different animal fables – encompassing new topics and new characters. In the texts, things are raw, cold, and ruthless. Blood flows, and there is no mercy. The law of the strongest, the most cunning, or the youngest holds. Some of the fables, none of which are more than two pages long, are easily understandable; others are cryptic and likely to leave the reader mystified – which does not in any way diminish one's reading pleasure. The surreal seeming illustrations aptly capture the overall tone of this unusual book. (Age: 11+)

Spain (Catalan)

145

Janer Manila, Gabriel

He jugat amb els llops

(I have played with wolves)

Barcelona: La Galera, 2010. – 164 p.

(Series: Bridge)

ISBN 978-84-246-3646-3

Wolf child – Survival – Loneliness – Spain/1952-1965

This novel is based on the true story of a boy who from age six to nineteen lived in the Spanish Sierra Morena and had only himself to rely on. Many years ago, Gabriel Janer Manila took up this story in connection with his doctoral dissertation. Now the well-known author has transformed the barely believable fate of Marcos, today sixty-five years old, into a gripping novel, which has been filmed as well. From the eyes of the first-person narrator, who was sold by his father to a large land owner as a goat shepherd, the fight for survival, the fear, lone-

liness, and the gradual disappearance of language are portrayed in a stark and unsparing manner. At the same time, the text possesses a fundamentally poetic voice, movingly conveying to readers Marcos's search for intimacy and his almost gentle communication with wolves and other wild animals. (Age: 14+)

Spain (Galician)

146

Calveiro, Marcos (text)

Trigo, Ramón (illus.)

O pintor do sombreiro de malvas

(The painter with the hollyhock hat)

Vigo: Xerais, 2010. – 174 p.

(Series: Fôra de xogo; 129)

ISBN 978-84-9914-135-0

France/1890 – Gogh, Vincent van – Arts – Painting – Nonconformism

In the summer of 1890, the first-person narrator of this novel, a hot-headed young man in a difficult period of life, is sent by his mother to his great-aunt living near Paris in the town of Auvers-sur-Oise. There he becomes acquainted with Vincent Van Gogh, who invites him to accompany him on his painting trips. The ensuing conversations construct a detailed picture of the famous painter weeks before his death. Van Gogh's inability to fit in, which the boy recognises in himself, too, the painter's self-destructive alcohol consumption, and his close relationship to his brother Theo are well-illuminated, as are the paintings of Van Gogh's manically productive creative phase. Set against the historical foil of life in the last years of the nineteenth century, this sensitively »painted« portrait of the artist and the representation of the young protagonist's emotional world are harmoniously connected. (Age: 14+)

147

Pinto / Chinto (text/illus.)

Contos para nenos que dormen deseguida

(Stories for children who fall asleep right away)

Pontevedra: Kalandraka, 2010. – 63 p.

(Series: Seteleguas)

ISBN 978-84-8464-700-3

Bedtime story

Bedtime stories ought to be short, Pinto and Chinto write in their foreword, and they hold themselves to this stricture. None of the twenty-eight stories is longer than a page; some are even only a few lines. The two writing and illustrating artists have created artistic miniatures using pared-down, almost sparse language without extraneous matter and choosing their words most carefully. Still, the texts are poetic and possess a sophisticated, sometimes ironic and, true to the purpose of the book, soft-spoken humour. The stories, which tell of a blooming wooden leg, an amorous witch, or a dreaming volcano, for example, as well as the accompanying full-page colour illustrations are characterised by a lightly surreal note. (Age: 6+)

Switzerland (French)

148

Zullo, Germano (text)

Albertine (illus.)

Les oiseaux

(The birds)

Genève: Joie de Lire, 2010. – 69 p.

ISBN 978-2-88908-027-4

Bird – Human being – Flying – Moment – Transformation – Courage – Freedom

A red truck drives through an ochre-coloured landscape. At the end of the road, the driver stops at an embankment to set free his truckload of multi-coloured birds, who fly up and away. When he wants to close the trunk, however, he discovers a very small black bird, who – out of fear or out of apathy? – cannot quite decide what to do. The charming rapprochement between man and bird that ensues lends both the power the fly. Germano Zullo's quite philosophical text on the power of one moment to effect transformation, is extremely effective in its brevity and frequently creates clever contrasts with the shining pictures of Albertine, which portray a poetic fable of solidarity and freedom. (Age: 4+)

Latin America

Argentina (Spanish)

149

Bianki, Diego / Kaufman, Ruth (text)

Various artists (photogr./illus.)

Con la cabeza en las nubes

(Head in the clouds)

Buenos Aires: Pequeño Editor, 2010. – 64 p.

ISBN 978-987-1374-12-0

Cloud – Sky – Imagination

Picture book, photo album, colouring book, non-fiction book, and dream diary in one, this unusual work offers readers of all ages various entry ways into the topic of the clouds and the sky. Photos of clouds forming the most diverse shapes provided the jumping-off point for more than a dozen illustrators to give free reign to their imaginations. Equipped with pen and paintbrush, they have poetically teased out heavenly discoveries from the photos: doves, hippopotami, elephants, a sleeping princess, a genie in a bottle, and much more. This attractively designed book is, however, not only there to be looked at. Many untouched photos invite readers to get to work with pen and colour themselves. And whoever wishes to know more about the world of clouds can find information about cirrostratus, cumulus and company in the appendix. (Age: 5+)

150

Muzzio, Diego (text)

Arias, Leo (illus.)

Galería universal de malhechores

(Universal gallery of miscreants)

Buenos Aires: Norma, 2010. – 166 p.

(Series: Torre de papel: Amarilla)

ISBN 978-987-545-580-1

Misdeed – Nonsense

This book is a wonderful example of Argentinean nonsense literature, which boasts a long tradition. Now and again, a new and utterly odd blossom unfolds. Even the mere titles of these eight stories imply that this panopticon of ne'er-do-wells will explore a number of very special instances of astounding misdeed. In »Wilma and Vanda von Müller, fearsome mustard factory owners«, »Nina Orlov, the tsar of telekinesis«, or »Gumersindo Lucero and the merciless jumping gauchos«, the author gives his imagination free reign – or better: he taps into pure fantasy. The stories are crazy, completely absurd,

continually take new turns, and are, simply put, a lot of fun. This book is also wonderfully suited to reading aloud. (Age: 10+)

151

Rivera, Iris (text)

Wernicke, María (illus.)

Haiku <proper name>

Buenos Aires: Calibrosco, 2010. – [32] p.

(Series: Líneas de arena; 8)

ISBN 978-987-24914-2-0

Friendship – Imagination – Parting

This book tells of two girls' close friendship that only lasts one summer. In this short timeframe, before one of the two goes back to Japan with her parents, the children experience a lively time together, filled with fantasy and nourished by the power of the imagination. For example, the two bead a necklace made of songs, and they look for the key that can open a grain of rice. In the end, the girl narrating the story plants a feather in the earth so that a bird may grow to whom she can dictate a letter to her friend. The text, which flows like a poem, and the double-sided, brown-toned illustrations sensitively capture the fragile atmosphere and fleeting nature of the moment. (Age: 6+)

Brazil (Portuguese)

152

Carneiro, Levindo (photogr./design)

Que bicho que é?

(What animal is this?)

Rio de Janeiro: Réptil, 2010. – [72] p.

ISBN 978-85-99625-25-5

Animals – Shadow – Outline

With photographs showing shadows of many different animals projected onto many different surfaces, such as sand, walls, plants, and water, Levindo Carneiro takes readers on a journey from Rio de Janeiro in Brazil to Marrakesh in Morocco. The shadow of a rhinoceros, for example, appears in tree bark texture, and an elephant's shadow is projected onto coconut tree trunks. The artist connects animals with places that are not necessarily their natural habitats, which makes for surprising, unexpected sensations that both entertain and incite the reader's imagination to reinvent reality. Working with photographic material and digital techniques, Carneiro builds a channel between fantasy and the reader. At the

end of the charming book, there is a chapter containing miniature photos and explanatory captions. (Age: 5+)

153

Mello, Roger (illus.)

Selvagem

(Wild)

São Paulo: Global, 2010. – [32] p.

(Series: Só Imagem)

ISBN 978-85-260-1476-3

Tiger – Hunter – Role reversal

In his sixth wordless picture book, Roger Mello tells the story of a tiger and a hunter who continuously exchange places and roles, with all the action taking place in the same room. Within this setting, Mello plays with perspective and with cinematographic language, showing multiple points-of-view and action sequences using unusual cuts. Objects such as mirrors, doors, letters, photo albums, and picture frames invite the reader to discover details and to build up an extended vision of the story – just as the two characters do. In the end: Who's chasing whom? The book is drawn entirely in black and white, except for the bright orange tiger, who stands out. Mello once more reveals his affection for animals, sharing with readers an unbiased vision of the wild – both in moral and aesthetic terms. (Age: 7+)

154

Neves, André (text/illus.)

Obax <proper name>

São Paulo: Brinque-Book, 2010. – 33 p.

ISBN 978-85-7412-297-7

Africa – Diversity – Acceptance

With Africa as the backdrop, André Neves tells the story of little Obax, a brave young girl who has only a few friends, but plenty of imagination. Adults don't always take her day-dreaming seriously, so one day she heads out into the world with her new friend Nafia, an elephant, hoping to find the land where it rains flowers. They see many things rain down: water, stones, stars, but not flowers. In the end they return home. The brief, light-hearted narrative abounds with imagination and play. The end is both charming and surprising, and the entire story is food for the imagination, not paying too much attention to the laws of likelihood. Like the words, the images, ever-changing, take readers on a ride between reality and fantasy, and between different worlds: that of the reader and that of the story, the world of adults and the world of childhood. (Age: 6+)

155

Silva, Flávia Lins e

Mururu no Amazonas

(Mururu on the Amazon)

Rio de Janeiro: Manati, 2010. – 82 p.

ISBN 978-85-86218-69-9

Amazon – Journey – Search – Coming of age

This story is told from a little girl's perspective: Andorinha (Sparrow), or Dorinha (Little Dora), as they call her at school. Andorinha sets out on her tiny boat Mururu for the vast waters of the Amazon, attempting to find her father as well as a tracajá (turtle) for her mother's birthday. Travelling the water world alone, she has to cope with fear and hunger. On her adventurous trip on the tiniest of waterways, rivers and rapids, she comes across a young man who tastes like fruit and smells like earth, and soon she becomes a woman. Flávia Lins e Silva's poetic prose flows to the rhythm of the waters, sometimes calmly, sometimes rapidly. The narrative of Dorinha's search and of her transformation, which has an open ending, at times unfolds mildly, at others tensely, but always with delicacy. (Age: 14+)

156

Zappi, Lucrecia

Mil-folhas. História ilustrada do doce

(Mille-feuille. Illustrated history of sweets)

São Paulo: Cosac Naify, 2010. – 86 p.

(Series: Prismas)

ISBN 978-85-7503-689-1

Sweets – Dessert

This informative book introduces the history of many sweets alongside their creators. Readers learn, for example, about the role of sugar as a flavouring and its importance in Arab and Portuguese cuisines, and about the influence of gastronomy in different cultures. They can also find information on the origin of ice cream, chocolate, chewing gum, and other delicious goodies. Forget linear reading and let this book take you to the treat of your choice. Written accessibly for children, it informs, entertains, and engages the reader. Like the other volumes in the unusual non-fiction book series »Prismas«, the attractive, careful design of this original book is appealing. The use of historical photos, advertisements, and geographical maps introduce variety and make reading it a pleasure. (Age: 10+)

Chile (Spanish)

157

Hayden, Consuelo [et al.] (text)

Silva, Catalina (illus.)

El Patas de Hilo. Cuento basado en relatos campesinos

(Threadfoot. A folktale based on peasant stories)

Santiago: Ed. Amanuta, 2010. – [32] p.

(Series: Milsur) ISBN 978-956-8209-55-1

Devil's pact – Ambition – Greed

The devil as cunning seducer of human beings is a figure found around the world in countless folktales, myths, and legends. These are often orally transmitted and hence continually transformed. In this example from Chile, the ne'er-do-well is called »Patas de Hilo« (Threadfoot). As in comparable stories, a man seals a pact with him and thereby pawns his soul. His ambition and desire to be the richest man of the region comes at a bitter price. The text of the book is based on multiple sources, which are found in the archive for oral literature in the Chilean National Library. The vital and lively, partially grotesquely drawn-over colour illustrations fit very well to the folk character of the story. (Age: 8+)

Colombia (Spanish)

158

Buitrago, Jairo (text)

Yockteng, Rafael (illus.)

Eloísa y los bichos

(Eloísa and the critters)

Bogotá: Babel Libros, 2009. – [40] p.

978-958-8445-03-8

Outsider – Exclusion – Inclusion – Otherness

»I'm not from around here.« The story's opening line captures its essence. Eloísa retrospectively talks about how hard it was for her and her father to acclimatise to the foreign, new place. Her father's search for work and Eloísa's feeling of not belonging in the school are typical challenges that confront people who move to another city or foreign country. Eloísa feels like an »odd critter«. And this is exactly what the illustrations show: Father and daughter are the only human beings in the city, which is inhabited by human-size insects, bugs, snails, worms, and other creatures. This original picture book illustrates a universal experience undergone daily by children all over the world in a simple, ingenious way. (Age: 5+) ♦

159

Dipacho (= Sánchez, Diego Francisco) (illus.)

Dos pajaritos

(Two little birds)

Bogotá: Lumen, 2010. – [34] p.

(Series: La biblioteca)

ISBN 978-958-8639-07-9

Rivalry – Escalation – Consumer society

A strange competition arises between two birds who share a tree. First one drags in a desk lamp, then, in response, the other procures a book. Objects such as a guitar, record player, bucket, and toilet bowl are collected, until in the end the hopelessly loaded-down tree top breaks together under the weight of double basses, grand pianos, cabinets, and cars. The two opponents stay behind, on the sad rests of their ruined home. Humorously and imaginatively, the double-sided illustrations show the absurdity of their escalating rivalry. Whether the protagonists act out of boredom, envy, or a desire to show off, and whether the unfettered consumption of a society that amasses material things is being scrutinised – this wordless picture book can be read in many different ways. (Age: 4+)

Ecuador (Spanish)

160

González, Ana Carlota (text)

Martínez, Tito (illus.)

Un perro puertas afuera

(Stray dog)

Quito: Alfaguara, 2010. – 126 p.

(Series: Alfaguara Infantil)

ISBN 978-9978-29-742-1

Friendship – Dog

This book is about the unbreakable friendship that exists between Clarita and Perri, a crafty, freedom-loving dog. The two meet at a difficult time for the girl. Her unemployed father, who left the city to look for a new job, has not contacted home in weeks. Clarita finds solace and distraction in Perri as well as in her classmate David. Because she is not allowed a pet, Perri lives on the street, until in the end a solution is found that makes everyone happy. This entertaining story about friendship and optimism gains its charm mainly through the fact that it is alternately told from the differing perspectives of Clarita and of Perri (all dogs can talk, but only animal-loving humans can understand them!). (Age: 8+)

Mexico (Spanish)

161

Malpica, Javier (text)

Morales, Héctor (illus.)

Akuika, el cazador de fuegos

(Akuika the fire hunter)

México, D.F.: CIDCLI, 2009. – 143 p.

(Series: Delta 3)

ISBN 978-607-7749-02-8

Stone Age – Disability – Outsider – Cooperation – Friendship

This book about life in the Stone Age links fact with fiction, adventure with excitement. The story tells of Akuika, a Neanderthal man living about 100,000 years ago, who is kicked out of his tribe because of his short-sightedness. He bonds with others who were outlawed due to various other physical abnormalities. By cooperating, using their specific talents, and developing their intellectual capabilities, the colourful tribe ensures its survival. The author connects this portrayal of the Stone Age with issues of disability and discrimination by making funny, surprising references to the knowledge and experiences of young readers. The in part very »crooked« and vivid comparisons, as well as the quick-paced language, make this book easily accessible and graspable. (Age: 10+)

162

Malpica, Javier (text)

Torralla, Enrique (illus.)

Para Nina. Un diario sobre la identidad sexual

(For Nina. A diary about sexual identity)

México, D.F.: El Naranjo, 2010. – 190 p.

ISBN 978-607-7661-03-0

Transsexualism – Gender identity – Search for identity – Outsider

This book is about a person who is stuck in a boy's body, but since his childhood has felt he is a woman. In a diary which he dedicates to his deceased grandmother, eighteen-year-old Eduardo, who will later call himself Victoria, talks about his inner and outer development. Javier Malpica treats the topic of transsexualism without kitsch or false turns of phrase. Using situation comedy and persuasive dialogue, he portrays the thoughts, feelings, and psyche of a human being who self-consciously tries to find harmony with him- or herself and his or her environment. Because Eduardo/Victoria, like the other characters, is not depicted as smooth, but rather full of

Romance Languages

corners, edges, and breaks, the portrayal of his/her difficult process of self-discovery and transformation seems realistic and plausible. (Age: 15+)

163

Serrano, Lucía (text/illus.)

¡Qué niño más lento!

(What a slow boy!)

México, D.F.: Fondo de Cultura Económica, 2010. – [36] p.

(Series: Los Especiales de A la Orilla del Viento)

ISBN 978-607-16-0200-8

Individuality – Acceptance

Néstor, a somewhat day-dreamy boy content with himself and the world, has a tempo that is unique to himself. He will not be rushed; he ignores noise, yelling, or impatient scolding as unimportant »tam tam«. When one day he becomes aware of how much people at home and at school pick on him, his rhythm is thrown out of whack. Sad and confused, he only regains his equilibrium and light-heartedness within a mysterious park, a paradisiacal »hortus conclusus« in the middle of the big city. There he is accepted for who he is. This prize-winning picture book is appealing by virtue of the simplicity of its story, its clear structure, and its careful use of language. Using a few powerful words and perceptive illustrations, Lucía Serrano creates an atmosphere which captures the state of the sensitive boy's soul. (Age: 5+)

Venezuela (Spanish)

164

Duran, Teresa (text)

Val, Elena (illus.)

Diablote

(Rascal-devil)

Caracas [et al.]: Ed. Ekaré, 2010. – [28] p.

(Series: El jardín de los niños)

ISBN 978-84-937212-8-2

Devil – Curiosity – Lust for adventure – Colour

It's hard to believe, but even a devil can get a »hellish« bout of cabin fever. One is surrounded by red and glowing heat all day long – even a devil can't take that for ever. Thus, Diablote heads out... and initially ends up at the North Pole. But there, too, he becomes restless after a while, and he travels to a desert, a jungle, and finally the sea. There he takes it easy, but who knows whether his zeal for adventure will catch him again. The kobold-like devil's journey of discovery is a fast-paced tour through

the colourful diversity of nature: icy and white, dry and yellow, humid and green, cool and blue – this is how the parts of the world appear. The illustrations capture the story's tempo as well as the qualities of the protagonist and the places in a lively and creative manner. (Age: 3+)

North America

Canada (French)

165

Aurelie, Laurence / Marcotte, Danielle (text)

Casson, Sophie (illus.)

Au lit, Moka!

(Off to bed, Moka!)

Montréal (Québec): La Courte échelle, 2010. – [32] p.

(Series: Moka) ISBN 978-2-89651-248-5

Bedtime – Daughter – Parents – Imagination

Moka is just in the midst of riding into wild adventure and eternal glory on her horse, when, as usually during this time of day, she is interrupted in decisive battles. Someone yells: it's time for bed, Moka! How can her parents just crash into her imaginary world like that? It's mean. Moka rebels! Her parents try to be a little more diplomatic after this, trying to trick angry Moka and her brave steed Rodéo into getting awful bath time and teeth-brushing over with, in order to jump into bed for a bedtime story. The appealing prints of Sophie Casson show how Moka defends her imaginary world against the pedagogical encroachments of her parents, and then plays along with the grown-ups in a conciliatory fashion to appease them. (Age: 3+)

166

Bouchard, Hervé (text)

Nadeau, Janice (illus.)

Harvey. Comment je suis devenu invisible

(Harvey, or how I turned invisible)

Montréal (Québec): Éd. de la Pastèque, 2009. – [168] p.

ISBN 978-2-922585-67-4

Son – Father – Death – Grief – Family

For Harvey, spring is not a time of renewal but rather a time for recalling a great loss: One evening he came home with his brother and, joining a mob of curious bystanders in front of his parents' house, saw the body of his father being carried out the door. All family members are still in shock and everyone mourns in his or her own way. Harvey, however, discovers that great sorrow and the

feeling of inner hollowness can make one »invisible«, even though one remains visible to others. Janice Nadeau's drawings in beige, brown, and grey gently translate into image the unusually dense text of Hervé Bouchard in all of its shadings from laconic to humorous. (Age: 9+)

167

Christos (text)

Quentric, Lauranne (illus.)

Le mangeur de sons

(The sound eater)

Montréal [Québec]: 400 Coups, 2010. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-2-89540-501-6

City – Noise – Sound – Glutton – Poetry

A very special glutton eats all sounds, tones, and noises of the city. As he grows older he suffers from severe digestive problems as a result. The doctor puts him on a diet – unsuccessfully, since he continues to uncontrollably gorge himself on city noise. One day he becomes very sick from this. The children of the city want him to become well again and together with the adults find ways to reduce the noise in the city. Suddenly, wholly forgotten sounds can be heard again, such as the singing of house keepers, the rustling of leaves or even just the wind. Illustrator Lauranne Quentric transforms Christos's clever poem into sassy colourful collages. (Age: 6+)

168

Rouy, Maryse

Un avion dans la nuit

(An airplane in the night)

[Montréal]: Hurtubise, 2010. – 107 p.

(Series: Collection Atout; 129: Histoire)

ISBN 978-2-89647-237-6

France/1944 – World War II – Résistance

In a village in southern France in 1944, two eleven-year-old children monitor the events of the war. They seem to be leading normal lives, but in fact they are full of dangerous secrets because the two friends' older brothers are members of the Résistance. One night, an airplane carrying weapons lands in a nearby forest. This secret campaign of the Allied Forces causes informants working for the German army to look into the area more carefully. And Vivian and Juliette are forced to take on a desperate solo effort in order to save the lives of their brothers and their comrades. Maryse Rouy's exciting novel authentically recreates everyday life in occupied France. Avoiding sensationalism, it portrays the experiences of adolescents involved in the Résistance. (Age: 10+) ♦

Denmark (Danish)

169

Aakeson, Kim Fupz (text)

Bregnhøi, Rasmus (illus.)

Lillebror

(Little brother)

[København]: Gyldendal, 2010. – [28] p.

ISBN 978-87-02-07949-4

Siblings – Topsy-turvy world – Bullying

Elias's family is expecting a new member: that means his days as runt of the litter are numbered. Until now he was pushed around by big boys, but he is gleefully imagining how he will soon get to be the boss. Fantastic. But then everything happens differently than expected, because instead of a tiny baby, he gets a giant, red-haired sister – twice as big as Elias and equipped with a quick tongue, too: »Get me juice«, she commands him. Even though at first it seems like Elias has gone from the frying pan into the fire, soon his sister shows herself to be an effective weapon against those mean boys. Once again, Kim Fupz Aakeson shows his soft spot for oddball stories with a serious core, here wonderfully portrayed by Rasmus Bregnhøi, whose wild illustrations are full of ironic detail. (Age: 4+)

170

Mortensen, Mette Hegnhøj (text)

Vegas, Lars (illus.)

Møgungen. Billedroman

(The brat. An illustrated novel)

[København]: Dansk lærerforeningens Forlag, 2010. – 47 p.

ISBN 978-87-7996-491-4

Forest – Aggression – Danger – Rescue

»Møgunge« Martin is sent into the Swedish forest for several days with Helge, a stuttering teacher; he carries a magnifying glass, a knife, and dynamite in his pack. At first bristling with aggression, he has to act when Helge injures herself. This earns him praise and makes him open up. Building on associations, loaded with retrospective scenes and symbolism, this book is very linguistically powerful. Elliptical staccato sentences express Martin's anger, and the imitation of Helge's speech errors lend the text a clear rhythmic character. The collages are also experimental: they are extreme, which makes the book unsettling at first glance. Though text and images leave some gaps, it becomes clear that Martin's anger is the expression of his helplessness in the face of his parents' indiscriminate decisions. (Age: 10+)

171

Wung-Sung, Jesper

Kopierne

(The copies)

København: Høst, 2010. – 160 p.

ISBN 978-87-638-1471-3

Genetic engineering – Clone – Identity – Escape – Science Fiction

When Jonas comes home his parents lock the door. Suddenly two gray-clad men – KBers («Copy Liberators») – appear, ready to »destroy« him. Jonas runs away and meets Ian, and later Ronnie joins them. All three are copies, created for the parents of sick children, and they become unwanted once the real child recovers. The three flee into the forest. Their goal is to reach the sea, where there is a ship supposedly waiting. When Ronnie and Ian die, Jonas comes to the brink of losing his mind. The text mirrors Jonas's breathlessness and his deterioration, as run-on sentences are replaced with rapid-fire short sentences. The book develops an oppressive vision of the future and recalls Michael Ende's »Momo«, for one because of the grey KB men, – and like »Momo«, it questions the nature of identity and social connectedness. (Age: 12+)

Faroe Islands (Faroese)

172

Syderbø, Marjun Kjelnæs (= Kjelnæs, Marjun Syderbø)

Skriva í sandin

(Written in the sand)

[Tórshavn]: Bókadeild Føroya Lærarafelags, 2010. – 153 p.

ISBN 978-99918-1-769-9

Friendship – Love – Homosexuality – Coming of age

This book is part short story collection and part vignette-based novel. Its ten stories play out over the course of a weekend in Tórshavn, the capital of the Faroe Islands. Ten boys and girls stand at its centre, who are more or less closely connected to one another. They are friends, they fight, they are in love. The narrative stance focuses on a different character in each story. The tone changes with the shift in perspective, too. Erla is angry, Bjørt frustrated, Súni desirous: he is in love with his best friend, but when he works up the courage to share his feelings – he is utterly drunk –, Tróndur, a real womanizer who had never thought about falling in love with a boy, does not take him seriously. »Skriva í sandin« gets

at the pulse of the teenage generation and is a true rarity: it is the first young adult book published on the Faroe Islands in 15 years! (Age: 14+)

Finland (Finnish)

173

Itkonen, Jukka (text)

Pikkujämsä, Matti (illus.)

Krokotiili hikoaa ja muita eläinrunoja

(The crocodile is sweating and other animal poems]

Helsinki: Kirjapaja, 2010. – 32 p.

ISBN 978-951-607-835-2

Animals – Poetry

The book cover announces it: this book is good for you! And it's true. Jukka Itkonen's entertaining poems and children's riddles bring the animal kingdom to life. It's especially the exotic animals of Africa who bound across the pages – like a zebra whose white jacket gets black stripes from the shade of the baobab tree, or like a termite who is never home alone because it is always surrounded by a thousand friends. Very witty, sometimes also spooky and exciting, these poems are pure fun. The illustrations of Matti Pikkujämsä lend Jukka Itkonen's verses special shading: colourful and surprising in their creativity, they add an extra dimension to the work. (Age: 3+)

174

Toivola, Ritva

Tuomas Karhumiehi

(Tuomas Bearheart)

Helsinki: Tammi, 2009. – 260 p.

ISBN 978-951-31-4652-8

Bear – Metamorphosis – Legendary figure – Theft

»Tuomas Bearheart« is an adventure story embellished with many elements of Finnish folktales. Tuomas lives as a young apprentice on a farm, until one day he is accused of stealing and is imprisoned. To keep himself warm he puts on an old fur pelt and at once turns into a bear. He flees into the woods, where he encounters elves, kobolds, speaking stones, and other beings, and finally he succeeds in casting off the pelt. Upon returning to the farm, he finds out that Juko the coachman had committed the crime and had fled. Juko secretly returns to the farm in order to steal again, and Tuomas follows him in bear form and gets the loot back. In the end Tuomas leaves his bear pelt in the woods, but he later calls himself Tuomas Bearheart. (Age: 8+)

175

Törhönen, Lauri

Sello & Pallo. Vaaleansininen rakkaustarina

(Cello & Ball. A bright-blue love story)

Helsinki: Tammi, 2009. – 221 p.

ISBN 978-951-31-4936-9

Grief – Love – Search – Otherness

In the centre of this novel stand two adolescents: sheltered Aino, who studies cello at Sibelius Academy, and Mikael, who wants to become a football player and who just lost his father. The two meet at the funeral, and Mikael is attracted to Aino from the start. In the following weeks, he is haunted by a troubled conscience. He absolutely wants to see the mysterious cellist again, but at the same time he has the feeling that he is not mourning profoundly enough, although he senses a deep longing for his lost father, whom he often misses. Even though Mikael and Aino are very different, they do in the end become close. The book thrives in its multifacetedness; it broaches topics as diverse as grief, love, and the wish for change and a related fear of the future. (Age: 16+)

Finland (Swedish)

176

Stark, Ulf (text)

Bondestam, Linda (illus.)

Diktatorn

(The dictator)

Helsingfors: Söderströms, 2010. – [36] p.

ISBN 978-52-2745-4

Kindergarten – Hubris – Role playing

Everyone knows that kindergartners can seem like dictators: their blown-up fantasies of powerfulness turn them into emperors. So, too, the boy in this book, who, wearing a green hat with a red star on his head (a conniving prankster), lets the sun shine, or graciously receives sandwiches. But when he looks into Sirkka's blueberry blue eyes, he becomes very gentle; she on the other hand would rather play with a monkey than with him. So the dictator decides to go as a chimpanzee the next day: The distance from tyrant to primate is not great... This Swedish-Finnish co-production by old master Ulf Stark and the young illustrator Linda Bondestam delights with clever humour and collages reminiscent of the work of Gunilla Bergström and Lasse Sandberg. (Age: 4+)

Norway (Norwegian)

177

Flatland, Helga

Bli hvis du kan. Reis hvis du må. Roman

(Stay if you can. Go if you must. A novel)

Oslo: Aschehoug, 2010 – 170 p.

ISBN 978-82-03-19591-4

Afghanistan War – Soldier – Death – Coming of age – Childhood memories

Tarjei is dying – on a road somewhere in Afghanistan. He and his childhood friends Trygve and Kristian die while on a military operation. During his last moments, he sees scenes of his life pass before his eyes: his childhood and youth spent in a small Norwegian village, his dreams and fears. Tarjei's personal memories are complemented by others; his mother, their neighbour Jon Olav, and Trygve get their say, too. The four narratives, clearly different in style, offer each person's respective wishes and worries. At the same time, the narratives intertwine and shed light on each other, yet without filling all the gaps. The book is as moving as it is complex; despite its current social references, it has a timeless, epic quality as well as a very personal one. Flatland has created a stunning debut novel. (Age: 16+)

178

Gaux, Martina

Fluen

(The fly)

Oslo: Gyldendal, 2010. – 153 p.

ISBN 978-82-05-39735-4

Love – Homosexuality – Cancer – Death – Grief

Vivian and Lillian, both fifteen and a couple, fuse their names to Villi and Livvi. When Livvi becomes terminally ill with cancer, they read necrologies together and reflect on Livvi's funeral. Livvi's parents, however, overrule all of her wishes and ignore their daughter's girlfriend. Villi tells of her worry and her anger, of her frustrated attempts to defend Livvi's memory against the overpowering parents, and of the great emptiness which she feels after Livvi's death. She recalls both the unencumbered days and the difficult time following the diagnosis. Far from tear-jerking pathos, the process of mourning is overwhelming precisely due to Villi's matter-of-fact language. A few quirky moments do pop up in the story, thus not everything is gray on gray. (Age: 12+)

179

Kvalvaag, Hilde K.

Fengsla. Roman

(Imprisonment. A novel)

Oslo: Det Norske Samlaget, 2010. – 138 p.

ISBN 978-82-521-7426-7

Coming of age – Love – Prison – Death

Idun and Mai could not be more different. Idun is self-controlled and ambitious and wants to finally win the 800 metre race. Mai is open-hearted and impulsive. She can have any man she wants, but she falls in love with Johan, who sits on a prison island on the fjord. Mai absolutely wants to visit him there and persuades Idun to secretly row over there with her. One time it works, the second time not. When they are caught, Johan and Mai flee. The next day, an empty boat is found adrift on the fjord. Whether it was an accident or suicide remains unexplained. »Fengsla«, awarded the prestigious Brage Award, constructs two multi-layered psychological portraits and captivates also through its dramatic line, its symbolism, and its intertextual references. (Age: 14+)

180

Markhus, Vegard (text/illus.)

Timothy mister seg sjølv

(Timothy loses himself)

Oslo: Aschehoug, 2010. – [28] p.

ISBN 978-82-03-25216-7

Identity – Personality disorder – Crisis – New beginning

One day Timothy the loner loses a tooth, the next day an arm breaks off. Thus it continues, until just his head remains. Timothy decides to superglue himself together, but he doesn't recall what goes where. So he packs all of his parts into a wagon and asks the trees, a swing, and the rain what a human being looks like. But none of them can help him. Timothy nonetheless attempts to piece himself together. The fact that his arms end up on his head and his ears on his shoulders does not bother him. Awkward line drawings emphasise the absurd and comical impact of the story, while the drama brings out its earnestness by metaphorically transforming, yet still clearly conveying issues of loss of self identity, crisis, and new beginning. (Age: 4+)

181

Nerberg, Tore (text)

Torseter, Øyvind (illus.)

Gi gass, Ine

(Give it gas, Ine)

[Oslo]: Cappelen Damm, 2010. – [30] p.

ISBN 978-82-02-32562-6

Siblings – Winter – Forest – Imagination

Øyvind Torseter's picture books create three-dimensional worlds sandwiched between two book covers. Torseter builds sets, combines them with drawings, and photographs them; the same goes for this newest work. Ine, who is about six years old, goes alone into the snowy forest with her little brother Hasse to chop down a big tree with an axe, which she succeeds in doing, to the great jubilation of the forest animals. The child's perspective is reflected in the matter-of-factness with which boundaries between reality and fantasy blend together. It also inhabits the short, paratactic sentences and repetitions. They supply a rhythmic motion as well as comical moments – for instance, Hasse's favourite colour is »tractor«, but so is his favourite animal, and it goes without saying that his favourite thing in general is, you guessed it, the »tractor«. A marvellous book! (Age: 4+)

Sweden (Swedish)

182

Adbåge, Emma (text/illus.)

Leni är ett sockerhjärta

(Leni is a sweetie)

Stockholm: Rabén & Sjögren, 2010. – [28] p.

ISBN 978-91-29-67339-5

Father – Daughter – High spirits – Overconfidence

Being a sweetie is a thing of the past – Leni is a big girl now! One needn't wear a hat anymore (superb). Also, being big means eating mustard (well...), drinking coffee (into the flowerpot it goes), and taking out the trash (groan). Leni earns high praise for this, she is even called a »young woman«! But that's going too far: »I am not a young woman! I am a sweetie, and I am going to go play now.« Sometimes it is a very nice thing to be a sweetie. Emma Adbåge's picture book delights in its use of a child's perspective, a striking punch line, and especially its illustrations. The spacious and colourful compositions include many funny details and are as much a success as the unusually accurate portrayal of Leni's mood swings. (Age: 3+)

183

Jägerfeld, Jenny

Här ligger jag och blöder

(I am lying here bleeding)

Stockholm: Gilla Böcker, 2010. – 251 p.

ISBN 978-91-86634-03-2

Search for identity – Asperger's syndrome – Daughter – Mother

In a wonderfully self-deprecating, partly slapstick-like, yet also very reflective style, and with a deliberately casual air, Maja talks about her family and her search for identity. She lives at her father's place and visits her mother Jana every two weeks. One day, Jana is not at home at the agreed time; Maja ends up at a party but can't shed a feeling of uncertainty. Gradually, she learns what happened. Jana had herself examined by a psychiatrist and is now shocked to hear the diagnosis: Asperger's syndrome. When Maja visits her unexpectedly, Jana brusquely rejects her. It takes quite some time before mother and daughter are able to deal with the diagnosis. On various levels, the book examines what it means to have parents who are »different«. The novel was awarded the August-priset, one of the most prestigious literary awards in Sweden, and deservedly so. (Age: 15+)

184

Sjöberg, Lena (text/illus.)

Kalla fakta om is

(The cold facts about ice)

[Bromma]: Opal, 2010. – 45 p.

ISBN 978-91-7299-394-5

Ice – Arctic – Antarctica – Fauna – Climate

Winters are quite cold in Sweden – did this inspire Lena Sjöberg's »The cold facts about ice«? This appealing and witty non-fiction book revolves around the topic of ice. Sjöberg explains, for instance, how ice is made and how differently fresh water and salt water behave. An excursion into the fauna of the Arctic and Antarctic is covered, as are the rules of ice-skating etiquette. There are tips to prevent global warming, so that not even the problem of global climate change is spared coverage. Illustrated mainly in blue and white, this eclectic book seems almost to radiate its own frosty cold, and suitably so. One ought to think about putting on mittens before turning its pages and reading. (Age: 5+)

185

Thydell, Johanna

Ursäkta att man vill bli lite älskad

(Sorry for wanting some love)

Stockholm: Alfabet, 2010. – 245 p.

ISBN 978-91-501-1167-5

Love – Self-doubt – School – Friendship – Coming of age

You can have the one you don't want, but not the one you want; and if you get the one you want you lose interest pretty quickly. Nora Jonasson is seventeen, thinks she's a bore and wants a boyfriend more than anything else. When, after some back and forth, she gets together with Stoffe, the friend of her older brother, she's assured everyone's amazement. Finally everything is perfect, just a question of how long. Johanna Thydell succeeds in bringing energy to her third book – a kind of diary novel and typical teenager story. With her verbal, self-deprecating style, neologisms, and the wonderful idea to regularly insert little aphorisms along the bottom edge of the page, she is able to hone in the emotional states of the protagonist. (Age: 13+)

186

Unenge, Johan (text/illus.)

Mitt extra liv. En serie roman

(My second life. A comic novel]

Stockholm: Bonnier Carlsen, 2009. – 253 p.

ISBN 978-91-638-5414-9

Racism – Xenophobia – Love – Growing up

Racism and xenophobia: in Hellevik, increasing numbers of inhabitants are participating in the persecution of refugees. Mattias can't stand the fascistic talk. He takes Abdi, who is fleeing the mob, under his protection. But Mattias has also fallen in love with a girl who wears a swastika around her neck. He is torn, but in the end he decides that he cannot tolerate Alva's attitude. This story is told from Mattias's point of view and in a tone of voice that alternates between being distanced and being tormented. Though the coming of age of the boy stands at the centre, social contexts are not ignored. The novel gives no explanations; instead it challenges and educates mature readers, by leaving open spaces that invite reflection and discussion. At the same time, Johan Unenge reveals the drastic nature of the events – as when he lets pictures speak instead of words. Placing graphic and textual passages side by side allows visual and verbal meanings to be equally productively evoked. (Age: 12+) ★Special Mention

Slavic and Baltic Languages

Croatia (Croatian)

187

Lovrenčić, Sanja (text)

Zlatić, Tomislav (illus.)

Kako je dobro sa svim tim životinjama

(It's so good with all these animals)

Zagreb: Leykam international, 2009. – [28] p.

(Biblioteka Vrtuljak)

ISBN 978-953-7534-36-3

Animals – Friendship

For the past two years, Leykam international has been publishing a picture book series called »Vrtuljak« (Merry-go-round) that features renowned Croatian children's book authors and illustrators; all titles in the series were on the Croatian Children's Book Centre's list of best picture books in 2009. In Sanja Lovrenčić's book, a young first-person narrator uses each page to introduce his animal friends who accompany him through life and who have some truly weird habits: Zebra eats only green things for breakfast; Woodpecker enjoys pecking at window panes; and Bella, the turtle, makes sure her friend gets to school safely but not too quickly. Through comical scenes, young illustrator Tomislav Zlatić successfully evokes great sympathy for the protagonist and the animals. Into his pictures, he cleverly inserts photographs that will catch the readers' eyes. (Age: 3+)

188

Paljetak, Luko (text)

Petrlík Huseinović, Andrea (illus.)

Marin Držić <proper name>

Dubrovnik: Matica hrvatska 2009. – [52] p.

(Biblioteka Cvijeta; 2)

ISBN 978-953-6316-72-4

Držić, Marin – Theatre – Renaissance

Marin Držić, one of the most renowned Croatian Renaissance dramatists and poets (1508-1567), now reaches modern nurseries; this happens thanks to Luko Paljetak, a scholar of literature, who describes the poet's life in a very imaginative story. In addition to the writer's biography, the author offers details about Držić's ideas for his works, about contemporary performance practice, historical people, and even the financial difficulties of the Writers' Guild, explaining it all in a child-friendly way. According to Paljetak, good and evil fairies, some of which originate in Držić's dramas, are responsible for success and failure in Držić's life. Colours and themes in Andrea Petrlík Huseinović's illustrations are clearly based

on Renaissance theatre and do not only depict the events visually but also reflect their atmosphere. (Age: 7+)

189

Stantić, Mirta

Kako smo odrastali. Slobodni pad

(How we came of age. Free fall)

Zagreb: Algoritam, 2010. – 211 p.

ISBN 978-953-316-136-5

Coming of age

A sixteen-year-old writes about puberty and directly hits the teenage soul: new school, new friends, first love ... problems at school, problems with old friends, lovesickness. In addition to these dramatic events, text messages and diary entries reveal the teenagers' dreams about a successful career in sports, writing, or ballet, as well as the protagonists' emotional turmoil. Mirta Stantić, the »most successful Croatian teenager of 2010«, describes everything that the group around Tamara, Lorna, Ivan, Filip, and Juraj is assailed by from one summer to the next. The short scenes trace the characters' developments and together create a believable picture of the typical adolescent universe. (Age: 13+)

Czech Republic (Czech)

190

Kratochvíl, Miloš (text)

Vydrová, Markéta (illus.)

Strašibraši aneb tajemství věže v Kamsehrabech

(Ghost mates or: The mysteries of the tower of Littlesomewhere)

Praha: Mladá fronta 2010. – 171 p.

ISBN 978-80-204-2143-2

Ghost – School

Baf and Bubu, ghosts and best mates, are expelled from their ghost school for not doing their magic homework correctly; so they use the nearby tower of Littlesomewhere as their new hideout. Granddad Long-Outdated and his granddaughter Monika are delighted that the tower is finally haunted. Unfortunately, however, Baf and Bubu haven't yet learned how to haunt a place properly, and so quite a lot of things go awry: The local police officer suddenly feels most comfortable when wearing opulent dresses, old crosspatch Jouzová's cat turns from black to white, and Monika's friend Emil grows a toucan's beak. Speaking names, weird events – and all of it told in a

hilarious, breathtaking manner that is right to the point. Each page of this book is truly entertaining and whets the reader's appetite for more of the same. (Age: 5+) ●

191

Novotná, Anna (text)

Votruba, Jiří (illus.)

Balet nás baví

(Ballet is fun)

Praha: Práh [et al.], 2010. – 137 p.

ISBN 978-80-7252-315-3

Ballet – Dance

This non-fiction series about opera, theatre, and ballet, a cooperation between the publishing house Práh and the Czech National Theatre, is now rounded off with a volume about dance. In addition to twenty famous ballet libretti, ranging from »Swan Lake« to »Coppélia«, readers will discover drawings for step and motion sequences, biographical notes about composers and ballet masters, premiere posters, and the like; they'll also find explanations of typical ballet terms – such as »pas de bourrée« and »prima ballerina« – that even adult readers will welcome. Using a plausible system of boxes with text and pictures, the author introduces the audience to terminology step by step and repeatedly refers back to these terms. Jiří Votruba's brightly coloured illustrations with thick outlines that are a far cry from the delicately fragile image of ballet splendidly support the text. (Age: 7+)

192

Reiner, Martin / Viewegh, Michal / Šrut, Pavel (text)

Miklínová, Galina (illus.)

Tři tatínci a maminka

(Three dads and Mum)

Praha: Brio, 2010. – 61 p.

ISBN 978-80-86113-93-7

Mother – Life story – Family

Take three children's book authors and ask them to write about »Mum«. The result is the story of a mother's life, starting with her as a child playing with and mothering her dolls; later comes her wedding, the birth of her twins and family bliss, until she is faced with marital problems and goes on a trip of self-discovery with yoga and a journey to India. In a calm, affectionate, and contemporary voice, Martin Reiner, Michal Viewegh, and Pavel Šrut describe a family life that naturally has its share of problems and conflicts, as well as of joy and security. The authors' different writing styles and viewpoints add to the book's appeal; and Galina Miklínová's warm-hearted

illustrations, which are created to look like sewing patterns, literally capture Mum's life story as single clippings. (Age: 8+)

193

Stará, Ester (text)

Matlovičová, Martina (illus.)

A pak se to stalo!

(And then it happened!)

Praha: Albatros, 2010. – 52 p.

ISBN 978-80-00-02598-8

Manners – Education

Uncombed hair, »alternative« table manners, refusing to wash one's hands or brush one's teeth – there are endless possibilities to drive parents nuts. Without wagging her finger, Ester Stará relates some of the unbelievable things that may happen if children are allowed to indulge their proclivities unchecked: Little Helenka, who never brushes her hair, wakes one day with a huge nest of hair piling up on her head. Various inhabitants have snugly settled in there, so that Helenka is soon fed up with her special hairdo and has it cut off. The book has no intention of providing a strict educational message – as much is obvious from the funny, slightly trenchant illustrations by Martina Matlovičová that turn »A pak se to stalo!« into a truly entertaining read. (Age: 5+)

194

Toman, Marek (text)

Puchová, Hana (illus.)

Můj Golem

(My Golem)

Praha: Argo, 2009. – 163 p.

ISBN 978-80-257-0219-2

Prague/16th century – Jews – Legend

This book tells the legend of the Golem, the clay figure created by Rabbi Loew to protect the Jews in sixteenth-century Prague, from the perspective of teenage boy Jakub. Together with him, the rabbi's pupil and son-in-law, readers gain an insight into the Jewish community's life, which is increasingly defined by conflicts with the Christian neighbours. Nevertheless, a delicate friendship develops between Jakub and Klara, a Christian girl, whose death has far-reaching consequences for both communities. The short episodes, the visual retelling in black and white, and the accompanying notes help create a mystical mosaic of a distant time. »My Golem« is also a plea for human cooperation and makes evident how easily well-intentioned actions can result in the opposite. (Age: 12+) ◆

195

Urbánková, Dagmar (text/illus.)

Hladík, Michal (photogr.)

Chlebová Lhotá

(Breadby <toponym>)

Praha: Baobab, 2010. – [56] p.

ISBN 978-80-87060-35-3

Bread – Village – Chronicle

»Chlebová Lhotá« (Breadby), yet another unusual picture book published by Baobab, chronicles the history of a village that consists solely of bread. In addition to the village map, which lists live-in-croissants as well as the pub »The Sourdough«, the book mainly introduces its inhabitants Jan, Jasmina, immigrant Pako, and Patková, the village elder, and describes how they ended up in this village, to which no path leads. The comic-strip-like tales are complemented by remarkable photographs of village scenes, built, carved, and shaped entirely from bread; for in Breadby, people shape-bite their own dwellings and have matching furniture baked for them. A catalogue, with the prices given in yeast, offers an overview of the range of crust-shelves, bread-roll-armchairs, and ciabatta-blankets. (Age: 5+)

Estonia (Estonian)

196

Priilinn, Ketlin

Sefiirist loss

(Meringue castle)

[Tallinn]: Tänapäev 2010. – 155 p.

ISBN 978-9985-62-908-6

Homosexuality – Bullying – Friendship

The story revolving around Inga-Kerstin and her best friend Jakob has less in common with the sweetness of the »Meringue castle« that serves as its title, but all the more with its fragility. Jakob unintentionally comes out as a homosexual at school and is suddenly faced with severe bullying, discrimination, and hatred. Despite his close friendship with Inga-Kerstin, the feeling of existential threat worms its way deeper and deeper into Jakob's life and into the text of this tale, which eventually ends in a catastrophe. In her impressive novel, Ketlin Priilinn describes Jakob's fragile situation with enormous empathy and sensibility, making readers aware of »other« life plans and implicitly urging them to accept these. The multi-award-winning author, born in 1982, thus deals with a topic that has so far been mostly neglected in Eastern Europe. (Age: 14+)

Latvia (Latvian)

197

Brūveris, Pēters (text)

Maurīte, Ieva (illus.)

Raibajā pasaulē

(Multi-coloured world)

Rīga: Zvaigzne, [2010]. – 78 p.

ISBN 978-9934-0-0181-9

Everyday life – Nature – Poetry

Pēters Brūveris is one of Latvia's most popular and renowned poets. This time, he has not written poems for an adult audience but for children. Complemented by Ieva Maurīte's illustrations partly drawn on dyed pages, each of the poems shows through its rhythm, language, and topic how varied the »Multi-Coloured World« can be. With lightness and charm, the texts offer a glimpse into wondrous worlds within our everyday experiences: This includes fantastical mirages and amusing animal antics as well as thoughts about friendship. One special aim of this book is to promote mutual understanding: It contains three Russian poems that serve as an introduction for Latvian children to the mother tongue of the Russian minority living in their home country. (Age: 5+) ♦

Lithuania (Lithuanian)

198

Černiauskas, Rimantas (text)

Jakutė, Goda (illus.)

Vaikai ir vaiduokliai

(Children and ghosts)

Vilnius: Versus aureus 2009. – 114 p.

ISBN 978-9955-34-225-0

Friendship – Ghost – Self-confidence

In 2009, this book received the »Book of the Year« award in Lithuania. Life's not easy for little outsider Petja. Because of some illness that repeatedly confines him to his bed, the young boy doesn't make any friends at school and therefore can't tell anyone about the wondrous things that happen to him at home: The computer blinks its green eyes at him, books start leading adventurous lives, and, one day, Petja even discovers a ghost in his wardrobe. The invisible spirit accompanies Petja everywhere, whispers the correct answers to him at school, gives advice about good excuses, and so boosts the boy's self-confidence. In twenty-eight splendid tales, Rimantas Černiauskas describes in a non-sentimental and very

humorous way how the ghost slowly but surely turns Petja's home life and that of the whole school upside down. (Age: 7+)

Montenegro (Montenegrin)

199

Kršenković-Brković, Dragana (text)

Pajović-Živković, Suzana (illus.)

Duh manitog jezera i druge bajke

(The spirit of the raving lake and other tales)

Podgorica: Zavod za udžbenike i nastavna sredstva,

2010. – 156 p.

(Series: Zublja: crnogorska književnost za djecu i mlade)

ISBN 978-86-303-1447-6

Good – Evil – Fairy tale – Drama

Since their first publication in 1996, Dragana Kršenković-Brković's fairy-tale dramas have become her trademark and even been turned into required reading at primary schools in Montenegro. In these four new dramas, the author makes good and evil meet in a typical fairy-tale manner and weaves the resulting conflict into different scenarios: into a mystical underwater world adventure, a Scandinavian saga, a Zorro-legend, and the present time, in which the son of a business magnate fights for a more just society. Thanks to their dialogue form and their classical dramatic structure of exposition, rising action, climax, and resolution, the texts achieve a quality of immediacy that makes them resemble fantasy film sequences; thus they create an enormous reading-maelstrom that readers can hardly resist. (Age: 7+)

Poland (Polish)

200

Jaromir, Adam (text)

Cichowska, Gabriela (illus.)

Stoniątko

(Baby Elephant)

Warszawa: Muchomor, 2010. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-83-89774-41-5

(German parallel ed.: Fantje, Hannover: Gimpel, 2011)

Elephant – Outsider – Journey – Search for identity

This is the tale of a character who sets off to find both a home and himself. In this case, a shy little white elephant, who neither enjoys mud baths nor thinks spraying water through his trunk is much fun, plucks up the courage to

go on a journey. He takes five macadamia nuts as means of payment and travels from Mombasa via Amsterdam to Meißen in Germany. He ends up in a china shop, yet unlike the proverbial bull, he doesn't shatter any china there; instead, he meets a herd of little white elephants among whom he finally feels at home. Adam Jaromir's story is adorned with ingenious details – e.g. on his journey, the elephant spontaneously decides to get one ear pierced. The wonderful illustrations by Gabriela Cichowska, which thanks to the book's large format can be fully appreciated, further add to the story's great charm. (Age: 3+)

201

Kiereś, Emilia (text.)

Musierowicz, Małgorzata (illus.)

Srebrny dzwoneczek

(The little silver bell)

Łódź: Akapit Press, 2010. – 119 p.

ISBN 978-83-62199-20-4

Childhood – Ideal world – Trust

Summer, holidays in the countryside, playing outdoors: In her debut novel, Emilia Kiereś carefully and quietly sketches an ideal childhood without turning it into kitsch. Little Marysia spends her summer at her aunt's place while her parents are getting ready for her brother's birth. The girl loves helping in the garden and exploring every corner; yet, she is shy when she meets other people, and she is terrified of her first school year. An old woman who lives in a nearby hut gradually gains Marysia's trust. Eventually, Marysia befriends the neighbours' girl Dorota, who is the same age as she is, and learns that everybody is afraid of something – even Marysia's aunt, who seems to have something on her mind, too. (Age: 7+)

202

Mizielińska, Aleksandra (text/illus.)

Mizieliński, Daniel (text/illus.) / Byliniak, Maciej (text)

Co z ciebie wyrośnie?

(What will become of you?)

Warszawa: Dwie Siostry, 2010. – [136] p.

ISBN 978-83-60850-45-9

Profession – Job profile

An extraordinary font, typographical quotations from comic strips or film posters, and crudely comical, seemingly archaic wood-cut-like illustrations; even without further content, these alone would ensure the readers' complete satisfaction. Yet the authors of the internationally renowned non-fiction book »D.O.M.E.K.« (2009; Engl. ed.: H.O.U.S.E.) also present a highly amusing read

about professions that will make readers rub their eyes in wonder and surprise. Children as well as undecided graduates are offered a creative bunch of possible answers to their parents' question of »What do you want to be?« Fire fighter and doctor are now a thing of the past; instead, golf ball diver, dog food examiner, vegetable carver, chicken-sexer, exorcist, and mystery shopper will become the new dream professions. (Age: 7+)

203

Strzałkowska, Małgorzata (text)

Fąfrowicz, Piotr (illus.)

Zielony i Nikt

(Green and Nobody)

Warszawa: Bajka 2009. – [20] p.

ISBN 978-83-61824-13-8

Reclusion – Isolation – Loneliness

In a dried-up well lives Nobody. Day in day out, he follows the rays of sunlight dancing along the well's round walls, the movement of the tree tops that bend low over its rim, and the shimmering moonlight at night. When one day, the voice of Green reaches down to him, Nobody reluctantly leaves his world, discovers a whole universe, becomes aware of the narrowness of his former horizon, and decides never to return to his well. This highly poetic parable of self-inflicted (?) reclusion and how to overcome it, told in a quiet voice and wonderful, calm pictures, was the 2009 children's book of the year in Poland. It shows the great potential of Bajka, a young publishing house that received the children's book of the year award again in 2010. (Age: 3+) ●

Russia (Russian)

(Romanisation according to RAK-WB

[German cataloguing rules])

204

Aromštam, Marina (text)

Donec, Il'ja / Ščetinskaja, Margarita (illus.)

Kogda otдыхajut angely

(When the angels rest)

Moskva: KompasGid 2010. – 199 p.

(Series: Deti vs vzroslye) ISBN 978-5-904561-05-5

School – Pupil – Teacher

Alina, whose parents are separated, joins the class of teacher Marsem. Readers accompany the girl through the first four years of her day-to-day school life that, thanks to Marsem and her group games, storytelling, and

unusual set of rules, is quite different from the typical ex-cathedra teaching. In an attractive double perspective, a seemingly idyllic everyday life is described by first-person narrator Alina; Marsem's diaries however provide a different view. Repeatedly, the teacher struggles with her educational ideals and her relationship with the children. When they begin to push Marsem's limits, she is forced to act. This award-winning novel, released by the young publishing house KompasGid, offers children a direct and unvarnished view of themselves as pupils and of the unknown inner life of a teacher. (Age: 11+)

205

Djadina, Galina (text)

Bichter, Aleksandr (illus.)

Knižka v tel'njaške. Morskaja azbuka

(Little book in a sailor's shirt. A marine alphabet)

Sankt-Peterburg: Grif [et al.], 2010. – 61 p.

ISBN 978-5-85388-040-5

Sea – Water – Poetry

In 2010, the publisher Detgiz organised its second festival for young children's book authors. In cooperation with the publishing house Grif, they have now published the first book written exclusively by Galina Djadina, who belongs to this new generation of authors. Her poetic kaleidoscope about life in and at the sea is brimming with ideas. From albatross to life belt, from Neptune to tsunami, from sea cucumber to tiger shark – this volume gathers everything connected with the marine world. Djadina turned the content into wonderful verses and arranged them cleverly. For example, she separates the word »iceberg« into two parts and puts the shorter »ice« on top of the longer »berg«. Thus she linguistically imitates a phenomenon observed in nature: Often the ice above the water is only the tip of the iceberg. (Age: 5+)

206

Ponomareva, Svetlana / Ponomarev, Nikolaj (text)
Sapunova, Nadežda (illus.)

Boiš'sja li ty temnoť?

(Are you afraid of the dark?)

Moskva: Centr Narnija, 2010. – 275 p.

(Series: Mir dlja vsech: mir gde my živëm)

ISBN 978-5-901975-63-3

Orphanage – Foster family – Adolescence – War trauma – Chechnya

The Ponomarevs do not only know the diffuse emotional state of teenagers very well, they've also listened attentively to adolescents and thus manage to aptly imitate their linguistic style. Talented fourteen-year-old Jaroslav is sent to an orphanage after his parents die in an accident. He meets Sergej there, a staff member who recently returned from Chechnya as war veteran. Jaroslav is considered a problematic child who suffers from anxieties and a lack of self-confidence; apart from that, he is also confronted with the typical problems of adolescents. Sergej, on the other hand, tries to cope with his traumatic war experiences. After a few errors and misunderstandings, it becomes obvious that these two need each other to come to terms with their lives. (Age: 14+)

207

Usačev, Andrej (text)
Olejnikov, Igor' (illus.)

Kolybel'naja kniga

(The lullaby book)

Moskva: Ripol-Klassik, 2009. – [36] p.

ISBN 978-5-386-01704-0

Night – Lullaby – Good night story – Poetry

When you read Russian children's poetry, you are bound to encounter Andrej Usačev – not only because he likes putting his poems to music and performing them, but also because his truly harmonious poetry is varied in terms of metre, rhythm, and topic. In his »Lullaby Book«, the poetic universe touches upon everything connected with sleeping and the night: pillows, dream worlds, hibernation, not-wanting-to-go-to-sleep, darkness, quietness, the moon, and fireflies. What Usačev achieves in his onomatopoeic rustling poems, his counting-out-rhymes and wordplays, Igor' Olejnikov accomplishes just as well in his illustrations: He depicts the ocean's stillness in serene blue within a static maritime landscape, places the wakeful little dragon with its bright red head into a swinging scene, and employs colours and composition flexibly to trace the literary motifs. (Age: 3+)

208

Vostokov, Stanislav (text/illus.)

Ne kormi' i ne dražni'. Rasskazy o Moskovskom zooparke

(No feeding, no teasing. Tales from the Moscow Zoo)

Moskva: Samokat, 2011. – 71 p.

ISBN 978-5-91759-026-4

Zoo – Animals

If you were to enter the Moscow Zoo equipped with this exercise-book-like notebook belonging to a shrewd, shirt-sleeved, likeable zookeeper, you would see the park in a completely different light. Stanislav Vostokov captures remarkable facts about animals, staff members, visitors, and the zoo facilities in a pacy and, thanks to its unfamiliar viewpoint, highly entertaining way, full of puns and punch lines. Linguistic piquancy and a smattering of knowledge turn the keeper's observations into great anecdotes: »It's easy to appear to be threatening if you have claws, horns, or tusks. Yet I want to see you try that, if you are a peacock and have nothing but a green feathery tuft on your head... Then you need to let your personality do the work... with conceit...« (Age: 7+) ●

Slovakia (Slovak)

209

Gregušová, Andrea (text)
Martiška, Juraj (illus.)

Červík Ervín

(Ervin, the little worm)

Bratislava: Slovart, 2009. – 102 p.

ISBN 978-80-8085-777-6

Worm – Adventure – Educational journey

Ervin the worm, hat aficionado and worm-home-biter, witnesses his life go to pieces. His apple-home is blown from the tree, carried away from Twig-Street, threatened to be turned into apple-pie, plonked down into the mud as a ball for playing, and can only just avoid being claimed as Globus cruciger by the Frog Prince. Ervin suffers quite a few adventures before he finally falls in love with worm-lady Evička. Together they return to his apple tree, where he hollows out a new family-friendly apple home. This animal variety of a journey of growth and discovery is a truly humorous read with uproarious details that make fun of human habits. The chain of events can be easily traced and even re-enacted on the inside of the book's folded dust jacket. (Age: 5+)

210

Groch, Erik Jakub (text)

Groch, Martin (illus.)

Ábé, Aha a spol. Rozprávky pre indigové deti

(Ábé, Aha & Co. Tales for indigo children)

Prešov: Slniečkovo, [2010]. – 66 p.

ISBN 978-80-89314-12-6

Reality – Virtual reality – Imaginary world – Philosophy

Linked through their key theme, these stories in lyrical prose about two seven-year-olds trace the essence of today's world in a philosophical way. Children's imagination blossoms between concrete and bitumen, Apple Macintoshes and the Internet, and book worlds, too. The virtual, real, and imaginary excursions of two children, Ábé and Aha, depict in a tender tone how different realities meet and put each other into perspective. Martin Groch's delicate water-colour illustrations rendered in a reduced palette do not only mirror the lyrical nature of the text; they also develop their own story. Moreover, they show an additional narrative level in two comic-strip episodes: It's the level of the first-person narrator who creates Ábé and Aha and eventually releases them from his world. (Age: 9+)

Slovenia (Slovenian)

211

Štampe Žmavc, Bina (text)

Sottler, Alenka (illus.)

Cesar in roža

(Emperor and Rose)

Dob pri Domžalah: Miš 2009. – 76 p.

ISBN 978-961-272-003-2

Fairy tale – Literary fairy tale – Parody

Fairy tales yet again? Yes, but there is a lot to them. True, the well-known fairy-tale components are gathered here, too: princes, witches, roses, frogs, tests; yet these alone would not make this award-winning book special. Bina Štampe Žmavc's witty and ironic view of the fairy-tale genre, which she imitates and comments perfectly, becomes evident in elements such as the text message from a royal mobile, or the princess who immediately takes the frog as her husband because she knows from reading fairytales that he will turn into a prince. At first glance, Alenka Sottler's illustrations resemble precious textile wall papers or heavy woven carpets; yet they often depict

modern everyday objects like price tags or bottles of washing-up liquid and thus offer a tongue-in-cheek comment on the time-honoured genre of fairy tales. (Age: 7+)

212

Stepančič, Damijan (illus.)

Zgodba o sidru

(The tale about the anchor)

Ljubljana: Mladinska knjiga, 2010. – 61 p.

(Series: Zbirka Velike slikanice)

ISBN 978-961-01-1159-7

Anchor – Ship – Sea – Maritime traffic

No words, only pictures: A boy living in a seaport reads about a ship's unusual journey – which the reader witnesses as a story within a story. When the captain of that ship suddenly materialises in the boy's bedroom, both realities intertwine. It becomes obvious that the town's monument of an anchor is actually part of the boy's nautical book and belongs to the captain's ship. Damijan Stepančič creates a profound maritime atmosphere in a book, full of details and with multiple zooming in and out among the various narrative levels; rendered in a historicising yellowish shade and black ink, the pictures are reminiscent of ancient drawings and nautical maps and offers readers new discoveries with every reading. (Age: 3+)

213

Svetina, Peter (text)

Štepančič, Damijan (illus.)

Modrost nilskih konjev

(The hippos' wisdom)

Ljubljana: DZS, 2010. – 60 p.

ISBN 978-961-02-0103-8

World – Knowledge – Nonsense – Pun

How do you measure a summer's length? How to best explain the rainy season? What are the appropriate manners when meeting a kangaroo? How do you fill a skunk's garden with water? Marcel and Hubert, two hippos who love to sit under the sycamore tree and ponder while they throw mud balls into the river, have a ready solution for every problem – be it constructing a tape measure, using onomatopoeia, behaving correctly, or creating flood waves. In entertaining, partly absurd episodes, Peter Svetina has the sedate, and slightly clumsy and slowcoach protagonists transform into helpers and world-explainers without them even realising it. And because Marcel and Hubert often take things literally, their stories are great fun to read. (Age: 7+)

Ukraine (Ukrainian)

(Romanisation according to RAK-WB
[German cataloguing rules])

214

Holoborod'ko, Vasył' (text)
Levi, Inha (illus.)

Viršiv povna rukavyčka. Poézija

(A glove full of verses. Poetry)

Kyïv: Hrani-T, 2010. – 73 p.

(Series: Sučasna dytjača poézija)

ISBN 978-966-465-300-5

Poetry – Haiku – Aphorism

This book constitutes Vasył' Holoborod'ko's extraordinary contribution to Ukrainian children's poetry. The renowned poet is a member of the equally renowned »Kiev School«, which has produced modernist poems undermining Socialist realism since the 1960s. Holoborod'ko's short verses about animals, wind and weather, and a child's experience – inspired by Japanese haiku – stand out for their pithiness, their immediacy, and their partly thoughtful, partly witty characteristic style. Thanks to their intentionally and cleverly placed gaps and breaks, the poems make readers pause for a moment, and thus provide ample room for thought. Inha Levi's colour-pencil drawings hint at each text's subject, but also leave enough space for the readers' own imagination. (Age: 5+)

Belgium (Dutch)

215

De Sterck, Marita

Stoute meisjes overal. Volksverhalen over liefde en lef

(Bad girls all over the world. Folktales about love and courage)

Antwerpen: Manteau, 2010. – 295 p.

ISBN 978-90-223-2512-4

Woman – Ritual – Sexuality – Love – Initiation – Courage – Folk tale

Anthropologist Marita de Sterck has collected sixty folktales about love and courage from Africa, America, Asia, Europe, and Oceania. Many of these stories depict the process of growing up, fertility, love, jealousy, being forced to choose a partner, menstruation, and the fear that some men have of female sexuality. For example, one African story is about a mother who casts out her beautiful daughter, and one story from America is about a man who will be punished if he marries his attractive daughter. A story that is also featured in this collection is the Chinese version of Little Red Riding Hood. This intriguing and varied collection shows the reader that some themes are the same everywhere, but differ in the way they are presented across cultures. The collection is aimed at young people with an interest in other cultures. The collection has also appeared in a version aimed at adult readers under the title »Bloei.« (Age: 15+) ♦

216

De Vlieger, Evelien (text)
Smit, Noëlle (illus.)

Job en de duif

(Job and the dove)

Tielt: Lannoo, 2010. – 121 p.

ISBN 978-90-209-8555-9

Anger – Rivalry – Competitive thinking – Usefulness

Job is in a bad mood every now and then, but that is nothing compared to the dove he meets. The dove tempers all of Job's displeasures with her own misery. She has had enough of having to fly in competitions for her owner. Moreover, her owner wants to sell her husband because he is too slow. Then Job comes up with a clever plan to save both pigeons. Evelien de Vlieger manages to portray her characters vividly, to create a believable setting and to tell a great story, while using only a few words. Despite the limitations imposed by the level of

Other Languages

language of the readers, the author has succeeded very well in creating a true children's book. The attractive, atmospheric illustrations support the text and thus the child in learning to read. (Age: 6+)

217

Mortier, Tine (text)

Vermeire, Kaatje (illus.)

Mare en de dingen

(Mare and the things)

Wielsbeke: De Eenhoorn, 2010. – [28] p.

ISBN 978-90-5838-624-3

Grandmother – Granddaughter – Friendship – Dementia

Mare has a strong relationship with her grandmother – they are best friends and share their passion for good food. Grandma is just as impatient and greedy as her granddaughter. One day grandmother falls, after which she starts forgetting lots of things and loses her ability to speak. Mare finds all these things very odd and develops her own way of communicating with her grandmother. This large-size picture book fascinates both textually and visually. Tine Mortier chooses her words carefully and shows herself as a sober and precise story-teller. She manages to portray feelings and relationships with few words. The unusual illustrations, which combine graphic techniques with collages, paint and pencil, are grave, expressive, and full of imagination. (Age: 6+)

218

Nelen, Marleen (text)

Over zee

(Over Sea)

Leuven: Davidsfonds/Infodok, 2010. – 207 p.

ISBN 978-90-5908-387-5

England/19th century – Sea – Flying

Fifteen-year-old Acker, who is a rather odd boy, lives in a small town on the English coast in 1804, together with his father and brother. All inhabitants of this town are fishermen and thus are often at sea. Acker does not like sea fishing; he prefers staying ashore, doing what the women do: repairing fishnets and cleaning fish. Furthermore, he is obsessed with learning how to fly. One day, a stranger gets washed ashore; the whole town wonders who he is, and Acker secretly works with him to build a flying machine. However, when one is trying to fly, crashing is also part of the process. This historically-set novel contains striking observations and credible characters and is written in a poetic language. (Age: 13+)

219

Van Ranst, Do

Mombakkkes

(Mask)

Leuven: Davidsfonds/Infodok, [2010]. – 168 p.

ISBN 978-90-5908-344-8

Carnival – Family conflict – Father – Son

It is Shrove Tuesday and like every year, masked »loonsies« are stopping by the house of architect Van Beemt. His son Frank is hiding behind the sofa to witness this spectacle. He describes his way to the living room, while recalling events from the past regarding his family. His father is an egocentric, straightforward man who does not leave much to the imagination; moreover, due to a family scandal, they live an isolated life. On Shrove Tuesday, Frank witnesses the confrontation between his parents and the »Shrove Tuesday Loonies«. It is not them who are being unmasked, though, but his own father. The author manages to portray father Van Beemt, who is a fame-seeking architect and who terrorizes his family with his neurotic urge for order and perfection; this sheds a totally different light on the events initially sketched by Frank. (Age: 13+)

The Netherlands (Dutch)

220

Bie, Cécil de (text/photogr.)

Inkt. Word een tekentalent!

(Ink. Become talented in drawing!)

Amsterdam: Ploegsma, 2010. – 96 p.

ISBN 978-90-216-6821-5

Drawing – Illustrator – Arts

This book offers a textual and visual exploration of seven well-known Dutch illustrators, in which the reader has to discover why these artists liked working with ink so much. The reader is addressed in an informal, friendly, and enthusiastic way; drawing is fun, especially when telling stories with your illustrations. Aside from offering a nice peek into each artist's way of working, the visits with the various illustrators also provide the reader with a lot of useful tips. Furthermore, the illustrators give the reader some clear and accessible drawing exercises. Information about ink, drawing, paper, and using the right tools is displayed in separate text fields. The few technical words and concepts are carefully and clearly explained in the text. The illustrations and colour photos are good supplements to the text. (Age: 8+)

221

Biemans, Ienne (text)

Jitta, Ceseli Josephus (illus.)

Rosa en de wonderschoenen

(Rosa and her wonder shoes)

[Amsterdam]: Nieuw Amsterdam, 2010. – 62 p.

ISBN 978-90-468-0711-8

Poetry

Rosa is paying a visit to Sister and her mother Toketore while wearing her magic shoes. Thirty-two poems tell of the adventures of the main characters, in which animals and being together are central themes. Biemans writes in a vivid style and often uses absurd humour. The poems have an agreeable rhythm. Feelings are described powerfully, for example the homesickness Sister experiences when she stays the night at a friend's house, or the sudden tears that come when watching a sad movie about nature. The illustrations, which combine black and red, fit the book perfectly; sometimes they give the reader a better understanding of the poem, but they may also offer a different interpretation of the text. This is poetry that stimulates the imagination of young children. (Age: 5+)

222

Geest, Simon van der (text)

Jutte, Jan (illus.)

Dissus <proper name>

Amsterdam: Querido, 2010. – 119 p.

ISBN 978-90-451-1082-0

Odyssey

The slender boy Dissus often is the target of bullies. When he goes to the swimming pool with his friends, first they are provoked by »The Big Boys« and then, on their way home, they get hopelessly lost. Nonetheless, Dissus leads his friends through various dangerous situations including confrontations with a one-eyed farmer, two grasping cranes, seductive sirens, and the enchantments of Circe. When he finally arrives home, his parents appear to have a monstrous dog also named Dissus. The boy Dissus has been replaced, just like the suitors of Penelope tried to replace Odysseus. Dissus, however, has changed during his journey home; he is no longer a nobody and has become a hero. This is an original and successful adaptation of Homer's epic poem. Simon van der Geest's epic poetry fascinates and moves at the same time; it is new and modern, but nonetheless stays faithful to the spirit of the original story. The illustrations relate to the text seamlessly. »Dissus« features language, image, and design of the highest level. (Age: 13+) ★ Special Mention

223

Lindelauf, Benny

De hemel van Heivisj

(The heaven of Heivisj)

Amsterdam [et al.]: Querido, 2010. – 405 p.

ISBN 978-90-451-1040-0

World War II – Poverty – Single-parent family – Coming of age

1938: Fing is offered a scholarship, but it is frowned on by her grandmother Mei, who has been raising her grandchildren after her daughter passed away. Fing has to accept a job that will cause her to work for rich people. While the WWII is raging, her four brothers and her father get arrested and are transported to Germany, where they are placed in a hard labour camp. One of this book's merits is that it breaks with the tradition of showing the »spectacular« side of WWII; despite the war, life goes on in the village. The book's main topic is Fing's path to adulthood. The way she makes the transition to puberty and distinguishes herself from her siblings is described in detail and in a way that allows the reader to empathise. There are not many writers who portray their characters as breathtakingly realistic and original as Benny Lindelauf does. (Age: 13+)

224

Rempt, Fiona (text)

Smit, Noëlle, Jan (illus.)

Supervrienden. Verhalen uit het Elzen-Eikenbos

(Super friends. Stories from the Alder-Oak Forest)

Houten: Van Goor, 2010. – 107 p.

ISBN 978-90-475-1313-1

Forest – Animals – Friendship

The first story of this collection introduces the Super Friends: Ant, who is always tidy; Beaver, a real artist; Duck, who loves flying (but cannot fly that well); Squirrel, who is always joking; Frog, who is always restless; Mole, whose sight is bad both inside and outside his hole; and Snail, who wakes up very slowly. The Super Friends live at a very special spot inside the Alder-Oak Forest and experience a lot of adventures together, because ordinary things become adventures when one is in the Alder-Oak Forest in the company of the Super Friends. The bright and fun adventures are sure to resonate with children. Furthermore, the colourful and pleasant illustrations fit the text seamlessly. The world of the Super Friends is one that every young reader will want to be a part of. (Age: 4+)

225

Robben, Jaap (text)

Leroy, Benjamin (illus.)

De Zuurpjes

(The brothers Sour)

Breda: De Geus, 2010. – [160] p.

ISBN 978-90-445-1671-5

Siblings – Boredom

Harry and Hubert Zuur (English: Sour) are two enormous grumblers. Everything annoys them and their favourite meal is sour herring with chicory tea. Their very boring garden is almost completely tiled, but has a small rectangular strip of grass in the middle. Without knowing why, they take great care of this piece of grass. When Miss Gerrie and cousin Niko arrive, their sour existence seems to end – seems, because when the dog of the neighbours starts digging on their beloved grass, a lurid secret is discovered. In this funny story, the extremely boring lives of the protagonists are described in an enthusiastic and hilarious way. Text and pencil drawings in black and white, often with added colours, help tell the story. Text and drawings elegantly and continuously provide new surprises. (Age: 8+)

226

Samson, Gideon (text)

Rauwerda, Peter-Paul (illus.)

Met je hoofd boven water

(With your head above the water)

Amsterdam: Leopold, 2010. – 121 p.

ISBN 978-90-258-5672-4

Swimming – Fear – Superstition – Single-parent family

Gied is afraid of swimming, and he hates Thursdays because that is the day they go swimming at school. Every ride in the school bus to the swimming pool, he performs a number of rituals to protect himself against his fear. Always sitting on the same seat is one of them, but more importantly, he must »keep looking outside through the window« because Gied knows that when the man with the pigeons is sitting on his bench, everything will be fine. After some weeks have passed without having seen the man, Gied decides to search for him. The boy's feelings are described perfectly so that the reader can fully empathize with him and understand him: his fear, the fact that he does not know who his father is, his tricks to feel stronger, and his courage to search for answers. (Age: 9+)

227

Westera, Bette (text)

Weve, Sylvia (illus.)

Ik leer je liedjes van verlangen, en aan je apenstaartje hangen.

47 verdichte dierenverhalen

(I teach you the songs of desire, and of dangling on the @-sign. 47 rhyming animal stories)

Haarlem: Gottmer, 2010. – 100 p.

ISBN 978-90-257-4741-1

Animals – Fate – Meaning of life – Rhyme

This humorous book offers forty-seven short rhyming animal stories. The animals live in their natural habitats, but have human characteristics. Bette Westera tells these stories about fate and the meaning of life by means of humour and a little bit of drama. Every animal copes with these things in a different way; where one animal decides to choose its own way, the other finds rest in »the way things go.« The stories are layered, resourceful, and very entertaining, though not always equally accessible, meaning the reader and listener have to keep paying attention. Every double page contains one story with fantastic, often humorous animal portraits, created with various techniques. Sylvia Weve adds computer drawings to many of her water colours, which lets the details stand out even more. (Age: 9+)

The Netherlands (Frisian)

228

Wadman, Thys (text)

Jong, Gerrit de (illus.)

De oerwinnings fan Tido Houtsma

(The conquests of Tido Houtsma)

Ljouwert [Leeuwarden]: Afûk, 2010. – 159 p.

ISBN 978-90-6273-847-2

Everyday life – School

The debut of author Thys Wadman consists of a collection of stories, in which Tido tells his adventures; some of which are small, others somewhat larger. Tido is a fairly naïve, at times clumsy and day-dreaming boy who lives in a small Frisian town. There are a lot of things going on in his life and often things do not go as planned. The stories are told in an appealing way, featuring a lot of dialogue and with a surprising and humorous end. The thoughts of the boy are very mature at times, but will resonate with young readers. There also is a dumb bully called Jetse, whose character is given more depth

when he is grieving about his colourful drawing having been destroyed by the rain. All of the stories can be read separately, with Tido as the main character in every story. (Age: 10+)

Hungary (Hungarian)

229

Ivány, Gábor / Ivády, Zsombor (text)

Takács, Mari (illus.)

Gyerekszem

(Children's eyes)

Budapest: Scolar K., 2010. – [34] p.

ISBN 978-963-244-158-00

Perception – Children's sayings

In this picture book, children's everyday questions concerning topics such as love, friendship, fighting, fear, work, and leisure time are solved from a child's perspective. Children have a very special view of mundane things and of diverse lifestyles. While adults frequently thoughtlessly perceive their familiar environments, children inquire into their surroundings, the instructions of their parents, and parental attempts to rear them with irresistibly simple, logical questions. Just as straightforward and comprehensible are their conclusions, which will cause readers to smile and chuckle. Large-area illustrations accompany the questions and emphasise the charm of children's logic. (Age: 5+)

230

Lackfi, János (text)

Molnár, Jacqueline (illus.)

Domboninnyi mesék

(Fairytale of the hilly suburb)

Budapest: Móra, 2010. – 70 p.

ISBN 978-963-11-8860-8

Suburb – Everyday life – Friendship

On a hill, just beside the bustling, beautiful, loud city, new residential constructions proliferate. By and by, cars start to park in front of these new neighbourhoods, and more and more families move in. In time, they get to know one another, they visit one another, plant increasingly beautiful flowers, and feel at home. The thirteen stories contained in this book describe the children of the residents of the new suburban community. Elemér the fox, Koeles the bat, Janka the wild cat, and Dinnye the ant-eater become friends, play and have fun, experience love and friendship, joy and suffering. They organise

fantastic races to determine who among them is the fastest, they learn to do magic together and they vanquish the bad dragon. These exciting texts are accompanied by lush, partially coloured black-and-white illustrations. (Age: 5+)

231

Varró, Dániel (text)

Maros, Krisztina (illus.)

Akinek a lába hatos.

Korszerű mondókák kisbabáknak

(Feet in size six. Modern children's songs for the littlest ones)

Budapest: Manó Könyvek K., 2010. – 31 p.

(Series: Manó könyvek)

ISBN 978-615-5028-05-2

Father – Child – Poetry

In fun, reflective poems, a young father experiences and accompanies the first months of his child's life. From waiting in anticipation of the birth, to diaper changing, feeding, burping, going for walks, all the way to a bedtime song for baby and daddy, the young man takes on his new role responsibly. Tongue in cheek, the author includes a performance instruction for each part of the poem. So, for instance, one is advised to »speak with a high voice«, »to speak next to the computer«, or »When we don't know what else to do«. The book offers a fresh take on daily familial life, which a man meets with enthusiasm and joy. Large amusing illustrations that combine water colour with pastel chalk sensitively and aptly accompany the poems. (Age: 1+)

Greece (Greek)

(Romanisation according to RAK-WB

[German cataloguing rules])

232

Artzanidou, Elena (= Artzanidou, Elena) (text)

Pepona, Maria (illus.)

O philos mu o Tzimes

(My friend Tzimis)

Athēna: Psychogios, 2010. – 39 p.

(Series: Batomuro; 65)

ISBN 978-960-453-695-5

Reality – Imagination – Friend

Tzimis is Dimitri's best friend – invisible to all but himself. They share the same dreams and games, and mother always places a second glass of milk at the

Other Languages

breakfast table for the new »family member«. At school, too, where Dmitri is ostracized by the other children due to his odd behaviour, Tzimis is Dimitri's loyal partner. When Dimitri does befriend a classmate, Tzimis departs. Elena Artzanidu creates a straight-forward and very plausible glimpse into the emotional world of the protagonist, who in his loneliness has need of an imaginary friend, until real children can take Tzimis's place. The gentle lines of Maria Pepona's delicate illustrations mirror the text's statement. (Age: 7+)

233

Charalas, Kōstas (= Haralas, Kostas) (text)
Stamatiadē, Ntaniela (= Stamatiadi, Daniela) (illus.)

To kufi tu thymu

(The box of wrath)

Athēna: Metaichmio, 2010. – 40 p.

(Series: Diabazō stories: 7+)

ISBN 978-960-455-810-0

Rage – Family

For a long time, the pigeons and cats living on the roof have had company. In the family dwelling below, outbursts of fury often create havoc. Boxes of wrath open up and hurl around needles, fire, hammers, and gales. Those who can't separate themselves from their rage are banished onto the roof tiles with their boxes. Yet the complete and irrevocable move to the house's roof is prevented by some weird event that has everyone busily searching for the boxes. This book tells a refreshing and ingenious tale that describes in a humorous way how to deal with rage. Its unconventional, surrealistic traits are further underlined by the lively, bizarre illustrations. Daniela Stamatiadi was awarded the Greek Illustrators' Award in 2010. (Age: 7+)

234

Dendrinu, Philia (= Dendrinou, Filia)

To kapelo tu kallitechnē Ban Gkonk

(The hat of the artist Van Gogh)

Athēna: Libanē, 2010. – 80 p.

(Series: Ē technē san paramythi) (Paidikē bibliothēkē)

ISBN 978-960-14-2142-1

Arts – Artist – Gogh, Vincent van

A straw hat jumps out of a painting and heads out to pursue its destiny. A breeze carries it over beguilingly scented gardens, olive groves, golden wheat fields lit up by the midday sun, and murmuring streams on enchanted moon-lit nights. In the colourful room behind the green window shutters of a house in the south, it finally finds

its new owner: none other than Vincent Van Gogh. The paintings of the famous artist depict the landscape and people of this marvellous adventure and aptly accompany the text. The story invites the reader to be transported into the atmosphere of the pictures and elicits the creative engagement of the imagination. This is Philia Dendrinu's sixth book to appear in the series »Ē technē san paramythi«. (Age: 6+)

235

Ēliopulos, Bangelēs (= Iliopoulos, Vangelis) (text)

Bankner, Ephē (= Wagner, Efi) (illus.)

Thalasses tu erōta utopikes

(Utopian seas of love)

Athēna: Elix, 2010. – [36] p.

ISBN 4262-1584-2658-412

Love – Confidence – Patience – Otherness – Sea

Irresistibly drawn to one another, a fish and a jellyfish fall in love. Both know that their love will remain unconsummated, for were they to touch one another, the fish would die instantly. They can, however, glance lovingly at and speak to one another. A coral reef is formed from their words, poems, glances, and wishes. Time holds them captive there, until one day it actually forgets about them and the two lovers are freed. Vangelis Iliopoulos presents this wondrous love story as a fairytale with an enchantingly lyrical tone. Efi Wagner's illustrations, which stay close to the text, seduce the observer into the beauty of the sea. They shine into the utter darkness of sea depths with strong, warm colours. (Age: 13+)

236

Kontoleōn, Manos

Anischyros angelos. Mythistorēma

(Powerless angel. A novel)

Athēna: Ekd. Patakēs, 2010. – 129 p.

(Series: Synchronē logotechnia gia neus)

ISBN 978-960-16-3600-9

Police officer – Murder – Daughter – Identity crisis – Guilt – Responsibility

Athens, December 6, 2008: During a dispute, fifteen-year-old Alexis Grigoropoulos is shot by a police officer. This is a true story; but similar ones could take place in a different place anytime – such as this one: An angel fears for a boy's life. Angela, a twelve-year-old girl, seems to recognise – or maybe not – her own father as the police officer who shot the boy. Now the angel guards Angela and watches her every step from her search for love and

dignity to her protest and eventual salvation. The multi-layered story, which effortlessly moves between fact and fiction, aptly describes the characters' various emotional states and analyses the questions of guilt, responsibility, and understanding. The book was shortlisted for the Greek readers' award in 2010. (Age: 12+) ♦

237

Mpulōtēs, Chrēstos (= Boulotis, Christos) (text)
Stephanidē, Phōteinē (= Stefanidi, Fotini) (illus.)

Oneiro apo sokolata

(Dream of chocolate)

Athēna: Metaichmio, 2010 – [20] p.

(Series: Metaichmio paidiko)

ISBN 978-960-455-861-2

Sweets – Desire – Exaggeration

Everything along Eleni's familiar route to school is suddenly transformed into chocolate, which she loves above all else! Besotted, she nibbles on irresistibly shiny brown roses, pieces of paper, park benches, even pebbles.

Thankfully, shortly before Eleni succumbs to thirst and becomes herself a chocolate figure, her mother wakes her up. The author approaches the topic of the much-loved consumption of sweets as surreally as would the boundless imagination of a child. He places emphasis to create gentle and humorous discussion opportunities. Fotini Stephanidi's illustrations are marvellously staged scenes, which express the exciting play between temptation and childish naiveté by means of evocative, bright pastel colours. (Age: 5+)

238

Nyphudēs, Nikos (= Nyfoudis, Nikos) (text)
Beetroot (illus.)

O kyrios Eurōpaïos kai ē pareia tu.

Ena paramythi gia na mathume tēn

Eurōpaikē Enōsē

(Mr European and his society. An instructive story about the European Union)

Thessalonikē: Mangel-Wurzel, 2010. – 29 p., [36] p.

ISBN 978-960-99222-0-3

Europe – European Union/History

Once upon a time, Mr European wanted to have many friends around him. Therefore, he invited some friends from other parts of his huge home country. Initially the group is small; it arrives in Brussels and decides to encourage friendship and mutual support. The group grows bigger and bigger, and this doesn't always go smoothly. Yet with the help of Mr European, they all march along,

together as well as on their own respective paths, so that in the end the positive exchange prevails. In an endearing and informative way, this book recounts the history of the European Union in the form of a literary fairy tale. With their bountiful black and monochrome planes, the illustrations on hand-bound pages are reminiscent of the commercial art of the 1950s. (Age: 6+) ♦

239

Papatheodulu, Antōnēs (= Papatheodoulou, Antonis) (text)

Deleboria, Myrtō (= Delivoria, Myrto) (illus.)

Ē polē pu edīēxe ton polemo

(The town that drove away war)

Athēna: Patakēs, 2010. – [36] p.

(Series: Logotechnika biblia me polychrōme eikonographēsē)

ISBN 978-960-16-3509-5

War

Mr War knows only one thing: how to spread fear. Still, unexpected reactions make him stumble. When he tries to attack a town, its streets play tricks on the tanks and airplanes; its trees in the park abduct the soldiers and lead them into dreamy fairy tales; fountains and statues show no respect towards Mr War and his army; inside the museum, there is no space for humourless generals; and eventually, the post office deals him the final blow with a manipulated letter. The final brush strokes of the pictures show that nonviolence may prove worthwhile for Mr War after all. Myrto Delivoria's illustrations perfectly complement the magical and playful plot with vivid associations and surprise readers with an original and high-contrast play of colours and materials. Antonis Papatheodoulou's text radiates poetic creativity and a positive attitude towards life. (Age: 5+) ★Special Mention

240

Pitaulē, Myrtō (= Pitaouli, Myrto)

To ēmerologio mias anorexikēs

(The diary of an anorexic)

Athēna: Kedros, 2010. – 203 p.

(Series: Teenager book lovers)

ISBN 978-960-04-3974-8

Anorexia nervosa – Search for identity

Twelve-year-old Myrto is enjoying her summer carefree, until she alters her eating habits after an implied comment about her weight. Things quickly lead to anorexia. The tense climate in the family, especially her mother's behaviour, thrusts her ever deeper into the vicious circle. As a highly intelligent child she can assert herself, but still she continually feels pressured by her environment, because her appearance continues to elicit pity and denigration. Hospital stays and conversations with psychologists prove to be merely provisional solutions. Only the achievement of personal space, acceptance, and genuine love ultimately prove themselves the most effective therapy. Dynamic and sensitive at the same time, the novel conveys the personal testimony of its author, which distinguishes itself with humanity and an infectious courage to live. (Age: 12+)

241

Zapheiriu, Kōstas (= Zafiriou, Kostas) / Tyrikos-Ergas, Giōrgos (text) / Gribas, Basilēs (= Grivas, Vasilis) / Stamatiadē, Ntaniela (= Stamatiadi, Daniela) (illus.)

Aulēēs kai Pappulanthrōpos. Magemenes istories ap' tē Lesbo kai tē Lēmno

(The flute player and the old man. Enchanted stories from Lesbos and Limnos)

Mytilēnē: Ekd. Aiolida, 2010. – 64 p. + CD

ISBN 978-960-99323-3-2

Island – Folk tale

Upon their unusual meeting, the flute player and the old man recognise one another very well, despite having never met before. This volume collects these and other wondrous events portrayed in the folktales of the islands of Lesbos and Limnos. They convey their ancient roots as well as elements of the traditional music and the medieval character of the islands. The young authors of the book handle the transmitted myths and fables respectfully. By adding their own elements, however, they playfully and masterfully create new, contemporary texts. The stories are full of courage, cunning, dread, humour, and beauty, and are accompanied by colourful, shadowy, and mysteriously glowing illustrations. (Age: 6+)

Turkey (Turkish)

242

Fişekçi, Turgay

Yeşil tatil

(Green vacation)

İstanbul: Güneşiği Kitaplığı, 2010. – 120 p.

(Series: Köprü kitaplar: Roman; 8)

ISBN 978-9944-717-48-9

Trip – Diary – Writing

Kerem goes on a trip through his homeland, Turkey, with his family and his friend Hasan. The trip's destinations are not at the centre of this book, but rather the personal experiences and impressions which Kerem has while on it. The glimpses into the life of people in different places fascinate the boy very much and awaken his interest in the everyday life of people whom he encounters. Kerem begins to put down what he experiences in a travel diary, and in the process learns to formulate his thoughts and feelings and to communicate with other people also in written form. Thus this lively told children's novel inspires readers to follow suit, and, by means of writing, find ways to express themselves and their inner world. (Age: 10+)

Lebanon (Arabic)

(Romanisation according to RAK-WB

[German cataloguing rules])

243

Muḥammad 'Alī, Inṭilāq (= Mohammed Ali, Intelaq) (text/illus.)

Hakaḡā tataḡaiyaru 'al-alwān

(= **Hakaza Tataghayyar Al Alwan**)

(Thus the colours change)

Bairūt: Dār al-Ḥadā'iq (= Dar Al Hada'ek), 2009. – [24] p.

ISBN 978-9953-496-35-1

Colour – Nature

This book shows in an accessible way how the colours of nature change, in people, animals, as well as plants. Every double page presents such a natural process and explains it concisely. So, for instance, »My grandpa's hair colour is white – but my grandpa says that his hair was black when he was young.« Black tadpoles grow into green frogs. A bright yellow apple becomes wrinkly and brown with time. The rising sun is orange, at noon it is yellow, and at night, when it is setting, it is red. White light can generate a rainbow, shimmering in the most

beautiful colours. The book invites readers to think of other examples themselves and to reflect on change and transience. (Age: 3+)

Palestine (Arabic)

(Romanisation according to RAK-WB

[German cataloguing rules])

244

Šaraf-ad-Dīn, Fāṭima (= Sharafeddine, Fatima) (text)

Ḥallāq, Sinān (= Halak, Sinan) (illus.)

al- 'Amma Zaiyūn wa-šaḡarat al-zaitūn

(= **Al Amma Zayon wa Shajaret Al Zaitoun**)

(Aunt Zaitoun and the olive tree)

Ramallah: Tamer, 2010. – [24] p.

ISBN 978-614-402-179-8

(published simultaneously in Beirut by Asala Publishers)

Old age – Tree – Friendliness – Usefulness

In a simple yet at the same time poetic way, this picture book links a one-hundred-year-old woman with a three-hundred-year-old olive tree. Friendly Aunt Zaitoun, who lives in a little hut on a hill, is loved and respected among the villagers. In terms of her experience, wisdom, and constancy, she seems just like the gnarled old tree. Both were once fragile plants and now so to speak stand at the heart of the town: the aunt, whom people trust and share their feelings with in the safety of her hut, and the tree, under whose sprawling branches people find shade and children play. The colourful illustrations express the warmth of the feelings which the villagers entertain towards Aunt Zaitoun and the olive tree. (Age: 4+)

Iran (Persian [Farsi])

(Romanisation according to RAK-WB

[German cataloguing rules])

245

Aḥmadi, Aḥmad Riḍā (= Ahmadi, Ahmad Reza) (text)

Taḥwīlī, Nāzli (= Tahvili, Nazli) (illus.)

Sih guldān

(Three flower pots)

Tihrān: Kānūn-i Parwariš-i Fikr-i Kūdakān wa Nauḡa-wānān (= Kanoon), [2009] (= 1388 [h.š.]). – 46 p.

ISBN 978-964-391-453-0

War – Violence – Escape – Flower – Peace

This book contains three short stories about war, violence, expulsion, and the consequences thereof. Diary-

like, the first story tells of a boy who escapes the war with his grandfather. The only thing that he can take with him from his village is a rockrose. The two following stories vary the basic theme by replacing the rockrose with a narcissus and a geranium, respectively. The three plants symbolise freedom, which must be protected, cared for, carried on and spread in the world. The text as well as the illustrations, do not just recreate reality, but rather add another dimension to it through the use of fantastical, surreal elements. The artistic, graphically designed text pages are also of note. (Age: 8+) ♦

246

Ḥalatbarī, Farīda (= Khalatbaree, Farideh) (text)

Naḡafi, Firišta (= Najafi, Fereshteh) (illus.)

Šahzāda hānum

(The king's daughter)

Tihrān: Šabāwīz (= Shabaviz), [2009] (= 1388 [h.š.]). – [48] p.

ISBN 978-964-505-300-8

Choice of partner – Marriage – Freedom – Gender role – Literary fairy tale

Counter to the strict rules of the royal house, a princess, the only child of the king, wishes to choose whom she marries. Since no agreeable suitors are lined up and she does not wish to marry for position, she dresses herself as a man and journeys to the four corners of the world. In the end she finds her husband in the form of a shepherd, who was himself born a king's son and hid his identity for the same reasons that the princess hid hers. By questioning traditional mores and roles, this unusual literary fairytale encourages readers to take their own fate into their hands. The detail-rich illustrations recall the colour and design of old tapestries. (Age: 8+)

247

Rūmī, Ġalāl-ad-Dīn (= Rūmī, Jalāl ad-Dīn Muḥammad)

(orig. text) / Sarlak, Firišta (= Sarlak, Fereshteh) (adapt.)

Gulmuḥammadi, Firūza (= Golmohammadi, Feeroozeh) (illus.)

Ġināb-i šuḡāl rang-i mā rā duzdīda.

Bar girifta az Maṭnawī-i Manawī

(Mr. Jackal stole my paints)

Tihrān: Kitāb-i Hurūs, [2010] (= 1388 [h.š.]). – [32] p.

ISBN 978-600-5191-68-4

Beauty – Appearance – Fable

The animal fables of the well-known thirteenth-century poet Rumi have been re-told for young and old countless times. This picture book edition presents one of these

fables, textually reworked and illustrated by two well-known contemporary artists. The story is about a jackal who is depressed by the impossible fulfilment of his wish to be as attractive and brightly colourful as a peacock. In order to make his dream come true after all, he steals the most beautiful colours from a dyer and applies these to his coat. As pretty and proud as a peacock, he then falls off a tree in an escape attempt – the illusion that he has outsmarted nature ending then and there. The illustrator paints the story in bright colours and portrays the vain protagonist with humour. (Age: 5+)

248

Rūmī, Ġalāl-ad-Dīn (= Rūmī, Jalāl ad-Dīn Muḥammad) (text)
Gulmuḥammadi, Fīrūza (= Golmohammadi, Feeroozeh) (illus.)

ṬŪṬI wa bāzargān. Hikāyatī az Majnawī-i Manawī

(The merchant and the parrot)

Tīhrān: Našr-i Ufuq (= Ofoq), [2009] (= 1388 [h.š.]). – [40] p.
ISBN 978-964-369-581-1

Captivity – Freedom – Cunning

Publishing traditional fairytales, legends, and fables in new renditions is much loved in Iranian children's and young adult literature. The present story has also been regularly re-told in verse or prose form by well-known poets. Aside from Rumi's version from the thirteenth century, this picture book also contains two further renditions in the appendix: one in verse form by Shaikh Atar Nishabouri and one in prose form by Khaqani Shervani, both written in the twelfth century. The story is about a merchant who unwittingly lets his parrot escape the captivity of his cage by revealing a trick to ingeniously attract wild parrots to their conspecifics. Feeroozeh Golmohammadi has equipped the text with expressive colour illustrations. (Age: 6+)

249

Saiyidābādī, 'Alī Aṣḡar (= Seidabadi, Ali Asghar) (text)
Gulḏūziyīn, Alīrīdā (= Goldouzian, Alireza) (illus.)

Hāla Sūska bā kī izdiwāg kard?

(Whom did Aunt Sūska marry?)

Tīhrān: Kitāb-i Fanduq, [2009] (= 1388 [h.š.]). – 28 p.
(Series: Qiṣṣahā-i šīrīn-i maḡzḏār)
ISBN 978-964-369-583-5

Bug – Mouse – Marriage – Tradition

The series »Intelligent stories« renders traditional Persian children's stories anew. The books orient themselves to the experiences and expectations of today's young readers, enabling them to have easier access and fresh reading experiences. Readers can dive into a world of fantasy, while at the same time being encouraged to pose questions about the stories and to reflect how and why they could have unfolded and ended differently. The present volume tells of a bug lady who wishes to marry Mr. Mouse. In the process, she also considers other ways that a lifelong bond could be sealed. The modernisation of the transmitted material is made visible through the book's fascinatingly powerful, vivacious colour illustrations and its fresh typography. (Age: 7+)

250

Šuḡāī, Mahḏī (= Shojai, Mehdi) (adapt.)
Raḥīmizāda, Piḏmān (= Rahimizada, Pizman) (illus.)

Dūstī gum nīm īšawad, dušmanī ham

(Friendship is not lost, neither is enmity)

Tīhrān: Kitāb-i Niyistān (= Neyestan), [2009]
(= 1388 [h.š.]). – 22 p.
ISBN 978-964-337-488-4

Helpfulness – Thankfulness – Greed – Betrayal – Fable

This book contains a new rendition of an animal fable from the book »Kalila and Dimna«, whose origins reach back to the over 2,000-year-old Indian fable collection »Panchatantra«. The story of greed, betrayal, and thankfulness concerns a jeweller, a snake, a tiger, and a monkey, who are caught in a deep hole in the forest together. A traveller, who frees them from their peril, receives a necklace from the tiger as a thank-you gift. When the traveller meets the jeweller again, the latter is driven by greed to lie and betray his way to the necklace and get the traveller thrown in jail. The snake comes to the rescue and saves the traveller from a sentence. Detailed full-page and double-page colour illustrations make this book a great pleasure to read. (Age: 7+)

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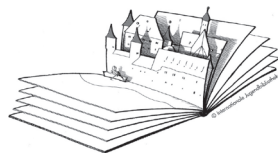
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