



## The White Ravens 2021

A Selection of International  
Children's and Youth Literature

Selected and published by the  
International Youth Library,  
in English

112 pages, in colour

Printed catalogue +  
Free download



Munich, the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021

### **The new *White Ravens* are here and they are celebrating their 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary!**

This year, there are several reasons to celebrate: One of them is that, in a year that unfortunately continues to be dominated by the pandemic, publishers and institutions from all over the world have spared no effort in sending new titles to the International Youth Library Foundation/IYL in Munich, Germany, for this year's recommendation catalogue. To all of them, we extend our heartfelt thanks!

Another reason is the *White Ravens Catalogue's* anniversary: In 1986, the recommendation list of new publications in international children's and young adult literature was first published in English under the title *The White Ravens*. We think that 35 years of *The White Ravens* are reason enough to be a little proud and very grateful for the many years of support! A huge THANK YOU!

The anniversary also provides an opportunity to look back: What has changed since then? What developments has international children's literature gone through? What trends can be detected in current books? On the one hand, the relevance of children's and young people's books is increasing worldwide, even in countries where education and literary mediation are not easily accessible. In addition, the variety of topics is growing: Nature and climate protection, cultural identity, anti-racism and diversity, the rights of people of indigenous origin – to name just a few examples – are reflected in children's literature. Many books tackle historical themes and events or address current political and social issues. On the other hand, in some countries, certain content is deemed so sensitive and controversial that warnings are issued against individual books or their distribution is hindered. This is especially true for titles that feature LGBTQ+ issues.

### **And so we are very pleased to present to you the *White Ravens 2021*!**

This year's edition contains 200 titles from 54 countries in 38 languages:

Picture books, stories and novels, fairy tales and poems, graphic novels, non-fiction and biographies – reading material for small children and young adults alike.

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*The International Youth Library Foundation is funded by:*



Bundesministerium  
für Familie, Senioren, Frauen  
und Jugend

Bayerisches Staatsministerium für  
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The books are recommended by the language specialists of the International Youth Library with the help of a large network of children's and youth book experts from all over the world. The criteria for selection were literary and/or pictorial quality, the relevance of the topics dealt with, originality, innovative approaches or book design. The experts have read and evaluated the new books that arrived at the International Youth Library, researched and collected information, and contacted publishers and experts in institutions and organisations.

The *White Ravens* list aims to highlight and promote high quality books for children and young people. It has become a useful tool for all those who want to find out about highlights and trends in international children's and young people's literature and who want to look beyond national and linguistic borders, whether they are editors, booksellers, librarians, literary educators and mediators, academics, or parents.

*The White Ravens 2021* can be ordered as a printed catalogue (via e-mail at [info@ijb.de](mailto:info@ijb.de)) or downloaded free of charge at [www.ijb.de](http://www.ijb.de) : [bit.ly/WhiteRavens2021](https://bit.ly/WhiteRavens2021).

In addition, the reviews, bibliographic data, and book covers are also available in the *White Ravens* database at [whiteravens.ijb.de/list](http://whiteravens.ijb.de/list). Furthermore, the Instagram channel [@thewhiteravens.books](https://www.instagram.com/thewhiteravens.books) will introduce every single *White Raven* on their account in the upcoming weeks and months.

The cover of this year's catalogue was created by Nahid Kazemi, whose book "Over the Rooftops, Under the Moon" was selected for *The White Ravens 2020*. The illustrator is from Iran and lives in Montréal, Canada.

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Frankfurt Book Fair: Unfortunately, it won't be possible to present the catalogue in a public event this year, due to the pandemic.

Please feel free to pick up a copy of the catalogue at the International Youth Library booth in hall 3.0 F 54.

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Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information:

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