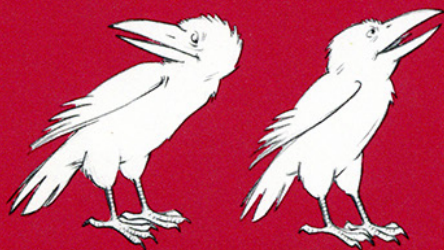


The White Ravens 2013

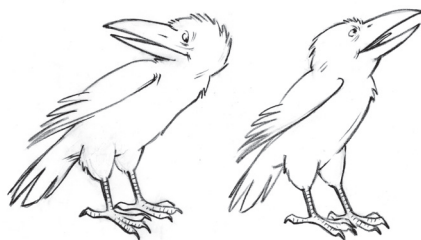
A Selection of International Children's and Youth Literature



Internationale Jugendbibliothek

The White Ravens 2013

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 2013

A Selection of International Children's and Youth Literature

Copyright © 2013 by Internationale Jugendbibliothek

Editor: Dr. Christiane Raabe

Editorial work: Jochen Weber

Translation: Dr. Frances Bottenberg and Claudia Söffner

Copy editing: Dr. Nikola von Merveldt

Selection and texts:

East-Asian Languages

Fumiko Ganzenmüller (Japanese)

Fang Weiping and Zhao Xia (Chinese [People's Republic of China])

Lucia Obi (Chinese [Republic of China – Taiwan])

Prof. Dr. Young-Eun Chang, Dr. Moonsoon Choi,

Prof. Dr. Eunja Yoo, Hyungioo Park (Korean)

English

Claudia Söffner

German

Dr. Ines Galling

Romance Languages

Sibylle Weingart (French)

Silvana Sola (Italian), with the support of Gabriele Poeschke

Jochen Weber (Portuguese, Spanish),

with the support of FNLIJ (IBBY Brazil)

Scandinavian Languages

Dr. Ines Galling (Danish, Faroese, Norwegian, Swedish)

Slavic and Baltic Languages

Dr. Katja Wiebe (Croatian, Czech, Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Russian, Slovak, Slovenian, Ukrainian)

Other Languages

Toin Duijx (Dutch, Frisian)

Claudia Söffner (Irish)

Doris Amberg (Hungarian)

Theodora Arampatzi (Greek)

Lili Sadjadi-Grübel (Arabic, Hebrew, Persian [Farsi], Turkish)

Layout: Eva Geck

Cover illustration: Reinhard Michl

© Internationale Jugendbibliothek

Typesetting: Thomas Pleiner

Printed by: Danuvia Druckhaus Neuburg

This publication is available from:

Internationale Jugendbibliothek

Schloss Blumenburg

81247 München, Germany

Tel.: +49 (0)89 8912110

E-mail: info@ijb.de

www.ijb.de

ISSN 1818-6319

The publication of this catalogue was supported by the German Federal Ministry for Youth Affairs, the Bavarian State Ministry for Education, and the City of Munich.



Bundesministerium
für Familie, Senioren, Frauen
und Jugend

Bayerisches Staatsministerium für
Unterricht und Kultus



Landeshauptstadt
München
Kulturreferat

Contents

Preface.....	4
--------------	---

East Asian Languages

Japan (Japanese)	6
People's Republic of China (Chinese)	10
Republic of China (Taiwan) (Chinese)	11
Republic of Korea (Korean).....	11

English Language

Asia and Oceania

Australia	13
India	16
New Zealand	16

Europe

Great Britain	17
----------------------------	----

Ireland	20
----------------------	----

North America

Canada	20
USA	21

German Language

Austria	24
Germany	25
Switzerland	31

Romance Languages

Africa

Benin (French).....	32
Morocco (French)	32
La Réunion (France) (French)	32

Europe

Belgium (French).....	32
France (French).....	33
Italy (Italian)	38
Portugal (Portuguese).....	41
Spain (Spanish).....	41
Switzerland (French).....	43

Latin America

Argentina (Spanish)	44
Brazil (Portuguese).....	45
Chile (Spanish)	46
Colombia (Spanish).....	46

Mexico (Spanish)	47
Venezuela (Spanish)	48
North America	
Canada (French).....	48

Scandinavian Languages

Denmark (Danish)	49
Faroe Islands (Faroese).....	50
Finland (Swedish)	50
Norway (Norwegian).....	51
Sweden (Swedish).....	52

Slavic and Baltic Languages

Croatia (Croatian).....	54
Czech Republic (Czech)	54
Estonia (Estonian)	55
Latvia (Latvian)	56
Lithuania (Lithuanian)	56
Poland (Polish)	56
Russia (Russian)	58
Slovakia (Slovak)	58
Slovenia (Slovenian)	59
Ukraine (Ukrainian).....	60

Other Languages

Belgium (Dutch)	61
The Netherlands (Dutch)	62
The Netherlands (Frisian)	64
Ireland (Irish)	64
Hungary (Hungarian)	64
Cyprus (Greek).....	65
Greece (Greek).....	65
Turkey (Turkish).....	67
Israel (Hebrew).....	68
Lebanon (Arabic)	68
Iran (Persian [Farsi]).....	69

Name Index	71
------------------	----

Subject Index.....	75
--------------------	----

Reading Age Index.....	79
------------------------	----

Preface

The annual catalogue »The White Ravens« features 250 new and notable titles of children's and young adult literature from 50 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
Director of the International Youth Library
February 2013

East Asian Languages

Japan (Japanese)

(Romanisation according to the Hepburn system)

1

Arai, Ryōji (text/illus.)

Asa ni nattanode mado o akemasuyo

(It's morning! I am opening the window)

Tōkyō: Kaiseisha, 2011. – [34] p.

ISBN 978-4-03-232380-1

Morning – Nature – City – Everyday life – Joy of living

The day begins. A boy opens his window and is gladdened by the well-familiar view: trees, houses, fields and hills on a sunny day in the mountains. Elsewhere, a girl is enjoying the morning bustle of her city, the only way she knows it. Other children feel just as good, living by a river, a sea or at the edge of a desert. Everything is as it was yesterday, even if something bad occurred in the meantime. In his book, Ryōji Arai conveys this feeling of familiarity and security to his audience. Thanks to the text, which builds on word repetitions and rhymed refrains, and the striking, painterly landscapes in refreshing colours, the reader can also experience the life-embracing, happy moment of the morning. (Age: 7+)
(59th Sankei Award for Children's Books & Publications; 2012)

2

Binard, Arthur (text)

Okakura, Tadashi (photos)

Sagashite imasu

(In search of)

Tōkyō: Dōshinsha, 2012. – 32 p.

ISBN 978-4-494-00750-9

Hiroshima – Dropping of the atomic bomb – War – Everyday life

»Good morning!... that is all I can repeat. What I'm looking for is »Have a nice day!« This is how a wall clock begins to report as a »survivor«, explaining that it was caught in the atomic flash of the bomb and since then is stuck at 8:15AM. In his prose poem, American poet Arthur Binard portrays the fates of fourteen victims of the atomic bomb, relying on objects found among the 21,000 collected in the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. This clock is among these, in search of its owner, just as a pair of gloves, a dress, glass marbles, and a tea kettle. Even black-flecked steps (»shadow stones«) wait for the person who once sat on them. The atomic flash took innumerable lives. The text deals not only with

these human tragedies but also with the absurdity of war and the dangers of atomic splitting. This unusual picture book, containing the striking photographs of Tadashi Okakura, possesses very timely connections. (Age: 9+)



3

Funazaki, Yoshihiko (text)

Ajito, Keiko (illus.)

Koko ni iru

(I feel you)

Tōkyō: Popurasha (= Poplar-sha), 2011. – 31 p.

ISBN 978-4-591-12616-5

Death – Grief – Poetry

Illustrator Keiko Ajito is a master at depicting the spiritual state of girls in real stories and fairy tales. Her black-and-white images are delicate and floating. They avoid background detail and thus seem quietly symbolic, sometimes even eerie. For this poem, too, the illustrator draws a girl who has lost those she loves most. Her deep-set eyes reflect pain and emptiness, but there is also hope. Memories and love can give the one in mourning the feeling that the departed are still present in the souls of those who remain, giving them the power to go on. With poetic intensity, the text and pictures provide consolation to overcome loss and grief. (Age: 11+)

4

Hajjima, Nobuhiko (text/illus.)

Kikoeru?

(Can you hear that sound?)

Tōkyō: Fukuinkan Shoten, 2012. – [40] p.

(Series: Nihon kessaku ehon shirūzu)

ISBN 978-4-8340-2709-9

Nature – Sound – Visual perception – Sound perception – Feeling

Can you hear delicate blossoms opening, stars ringing in the sky, animals breathing...? These questions invite the observer into a world of lovely subdued shades of yellow, green, violet, and coal grey, among others. Tone on tone, the aesthetically appealing pictures intimate the silhouettes of various objects. The reader's senses are gradually sensitised page after page, until, at the climax of the book, there are only of two coloured planes to be seen, and it feels as if one was facing a great sea under a wide sky, hearing the waves rushing in. This fascinating picture book proves that an extreme simplification of imagery can activate the imagination to an intense degree. (Age: 3+)

5

Imanishi, Noriko (text)
Hamada, Kazuo (photos)

Kokoro no okuribito – Higashinihon daishinsai fukugen nōkanshi. Omoide ga ugokidasu hi

(The Tsunami victims' mortician. The day of farewell, on which memories are revived)

Tōkyō Kin no hoshisha, 2011. – 157 p.

(Series: Nonfikushon shirarezaru sekai)

ISBN 978-4-323-06088-0

Japan/2011 – Tsunami – Death – Funeral – Beneficence – Thanatology

Non-fiction writer Noriko Imanishi introduces young readers to Ruiko Sasahara, her selfless efforts and her little known profession. Working in a hospice where she came into contact with life and death, she decided to become a mortician. After the earthquake and the tsunami in north-eastern Japan in 2011, she volunteered with a great deal of passion, using her expertise to visually reconstruct more than 300 physically disfigured tsunami dead. Survivors who had become numb with pain and shock and were even in denial about the death of their loved ones, could have a last look at their dead, whom they now could recognise, and thus have a chance to grieve and find consolation. Imanishi carefully explains the pain-staking process that makes such a reverent and dignified farewell possible. (Age: 11+) ♦

6

Kako, Satoshi (text/illus.)
Chang, Jiahuang (illus.)

Banri no chōjō

(The Great Wall of China)

Tōkyō: Fukuinkan Shoten, 2011. – 63 p.

ISBN 978-4-8340-2652-8

China/History – Great Wall of China

Satoshi Kako is a multiple award-winning children's book author and illustrator for non-fiction works. In this book, he provides an accessible overview of the history of China. The Great Wall appears as not only an epoch-making architectural construction, but also as a defence wall and as a bridge between East and West. Individual dynasties and their emperors, those fighting for power and diplomacy, all change the Wall's evolving meaning. Depending on such circumstances, it is either expanded or restored. Kako also introduces historical personages, including thinkers, poets, religious figures, learned men, politicians, and others. This work offers an excellent entry point into China's complex history, given

its informative text and supplementary materials, which include time tables, maps on national and global scales, and illustrations of cultural themes co-created by Chang Jiahuang, a Chinese painter of Buddhist wall paintings. (Age: 11+) ♦

7

Kuroda, Seitarō (text/illus.)

Hi no hanashi

(The history of fire)

Fukuoka: Sekifūsha, 2011. – [34] p.

ISBN 978-4-88344-206-5

Fire – Energy – Civilisation – War – Nuclear energy

A little spark pities the humans, who dwell in dark caves suffering from cold and hunger. The spark asks the sun, the god of fire whom he serves, to bring fire to humankind. The god believes that human intelligence and cleverness will permit them to improve their lives with the advent of fire, so he brings it to them, but only on the condition they never use it to kill others. This story about human civilization possesses a mythological character and spans from ancient times to the present day, in which modern forms of energy bring great danger with them. Pacifist artist Seitarō Kuroda issues a warning in his treatment of this timely topic, but also hopes for the rationality of humankind. Concrete examples, such as the dropping of the atomic bombs and nuclear catastrophe are visualised in abstract, expressive pictures that are breath-taking. (Age: 7+) ♦

8

Matsumoto, Takeshi (text)
Higashiyama, Kaii (illus.)

Shirōi uma

(The white horse)

Tōkyō: Kōdansha, 2012. – [34] p.

ISBN 978-4-06-217795-5

Germany – Austria – Imaginary journey – Painting

Kaii Higashiyama (1908-1999) is one of the most important twentieth-century masters of the traditional Japanese art of painting with mineral pigments. His travels through Bavaria, Salzburg, and Tyrol were artistically transformed into a romantic and lyrical journey through paintings cast in resounding greens. Picture book specialist and long-time museum director Takeshi Matsumoto has compiled these images into this narrative art picture book. The titular white horse is the key character in the fantastical story, which Matsumoto based on Higashiyama's essays and the artist's love of Mozart.

East Asian Languages

Riding on the flying horse, a boy explores a mountain landscape with its lakes, meadows, town, and castle. Traditional Japanese painting and European culture meet and intermingle in the images. (Age: 6+) ♦

9

Ōtani, Miwako (text)
Takayama, Kenta (illus.)

Kamiya Mieko. Hansenbyō to ayunda inochi no michinori

(Mieko Kamiya. A life's journey with lepers)

Tōkyō: Kumon Shuppan, 2012. – 175 p.

ISBN 978-4-7743-2139-4

Kamiya, Mieko – Meaning of life – Humanity – Leprosy – Biography

Mieko Kamiya (1914-1979) is generally known for her philosophical book »Ikigai ni tsuite« (On the meaning of life). Written from her perspective as a psychiatrist, it continues to be widely read by those eager to reflect on the meaning of life. Highly educated and gifted for languages, Kamiya worked as a language teacher, translator for the government, professor of French literature, and later also as a psychiatrist, translator of European philosophical texts and as a mother. However, ever since having met some lepers when she was twenty, her greatest career aim was to help those suffering with leprosy. Due to professional pressures and illness, she only later turned to this life task. This portrait of a multi-faceted and strong-willed woman places Kamiya's message about life front and centre. (Age: 12+) ♦

10

Takahashi, Kuninori (text/photos)

»Ano hi«, soshite korekara. Higashinihon daishinsai 2011.3.11

(»That day« and from now on. The great earthquake catastrophe in East Japan on March 11, 2011)

Tōkyō: Popurasha (= Poplar-sha), 2012. – 157 p.

ISBN 978-4-591-13156-5

Japan/2011-2012 – Tsunami – Natural disaster – Coping with life

Photo journalist Kuninori Takahashi, who works in zones of war and crisis, visited places in Japan affected by the tsunami disaster of 2011. This documentation became the basis of the moving photo book »Ano hi no koto« (About that day), in which survivors spoke amidst their devastated surroundings. One year later, Takahashi interviewed the same people about their present situation. Many express grief over their losses, yet also harbour

feelings of guilt for having survived or hold a deep fear of the future. Others talk about their constructive hopes, new family commitments, solidarity in the reconstruction process, and so on. Their discipline and sociality with fellow sufferers is striking. This well-designed book prompts readers towards deep reflection on life and questions concerning its meaning. (Age: 11+) ♦

11

Takenaka, Yoshiko / Negishi, Takako (text)

Suzuki, Kōji (illus.)

Hajimete no Kojiki. Nihon no shinwa

(My first Kojiki. Japanese mythology)

Tōkyō: Tokuma Shoten, 2012. – 125 p.

ISBN 978-4-19-863517-6

Mythology

The »Kojiki« is one of two national historical works of Japan. These chronicles of ancient events are linked to the genealogy of the imperial house and were completed under Emperor Genmei's reign in 712. They are chronologically organized into three volumes. The first tells of the creation of heaven and earth, the birth of the ancient gods and the creation of the islands of Japan. Also included are the deeds of many subsequent gods, who continually surface in Japanese children's literature. The careful collaboration of the two authors is an impressive example of how effortlessly one can teach children about the complex world of Japanese deities. The book reads fluidly and creates suspense, using cultivated language without entirely casting out the ancient vocabulary. This is an exemplary treatment, best to be read aloud. (Age: 8+) ♦ ●

12

Tang, Yaming (= Tō, Amei) (text)

Cai, Gao (= Sai, Kō) (illus.)

Namida de kuzureta Banri no chōjō.

Chūgoku no minwa

(The Great Wall that broke under the weight of tears. Chinese legend)

Tōkyō: Iwanami Shoten, 2012. – [50] p.

ISBN 978-4-00-111230-6

Great Wall of China – Construction – Forced labour – Death – Grief – Legend

A young farmer's wife undertakes the long journey north to find her husband, who is a forced labourer for the Great Wall. Once arrived, she learns that he has died. Despairing and deeply saddened, she begins to cry. A storm arises, and the wall collapses. The emperor takes

this as a sign from God. In order to soothe the angered God, he offers to make her into his wife and empress. But after having requested a burial ceremony to honour the many dead workers, she throws herself into the sea. This retelling of Chinese folklore by an author living in Japan is illustrated by a Chinese artist in the traditional picture scroll style. Using earthy watercolours and gouache, she is able to dramatically accentuate the heroine's emotions in a modern and individual way. (Age: 6+)

13

Tashima, Seizō (text/illus.)

Boku no koe ga kikoemasuka

(Do you hear my voice?)

Tōkyō: Dōshinsha, 2012. – 32 p.

(Series: Nitchūkan heiwa ehon)

ISBN 978-4-494-01967-0

War – Senselessness – Peace

In 2011, three publishers in Japan, China, and South Korea started to co-produce a twelve-volume picture book series that deals with overcoming the past and promoting world peace. The second original work, titled »Do you hear my voice?«, has now been published by Dōshinsha Publishers in Japan, the publisher that initiated the whole project. Seizō Tashima, embracing as always the topics of vital energy and zest for life, portrays the senselessness of war through the power of his masterful brushstroke. The soul of a war victim tells of the horrors it experienced. It feels the pain of its former mother and the love of its former brother, along with the brother's hatred for the enemy, which pulled him into the war. Tashima asks a profound question regarding war's murderous cycle: whom or against whom are we actually fighting? The dynamic, abstract pictures are deeply compelling. (Age: 7+) ●

14

Tomiyasu, Yōko (text)

Takahashi, Kazue (illus.)

Bonmaneki

(An invitation to the festival of departed souls)

Tōkyō: Kaiseisha, 2011. – 191 p.

ISBN 978-4-03-530610-8

Death – Soul – Moon – Afterlife – Ancestor worship – Memory

Natsumi and her parents visit her grandparents in the countryside on the occasion of the Bon Festival, when the souls of the departed are honoured. Many relatives come, too. Grandpa and her great aunts tell three won-

drous, poetic, and charming tall tales about experiences from their childhoods, in which snails, rabbits, and water spirits (»Kappa«) appear. Two further stories describe, in the first case, how Natsumi wrestles with the shadows of the souls of the dead, and, in the second case, the reality and the bitterness of life, drawing on the example of Natsumi's great-uncle's experiences. In these cleverly constructed stories, the mo on, a metaphor for the afterlife, connects the living with the dead through fantasy creatures, so that ancestors can live on in their descendants' memory. The book is illustrated with great empathy. (Age: 9+) (50th Noma Children's Literature Award; 2011. 59th Sankei Award for Children's Books & Publications; 2012) ◆ ●

15

Yoshihashi, Michio

Kaze no kaikyō. Jō. Hatō o koete

(Wind strait. Vol. 1. On the crests of waves)

Tōkyō: Kōdansha, 2011. – 190 p.

ISBN 978-4-06-217195-3

Japan/Korea/1592-1598 – Invasion – War – Friendship – Love – Reconciliation

After a century of civil war, Toyotomi Hideyoshi reunites Japan. Amid objections from his clan princes, he wages costly wars against China and his vassal state Korea to consolidate his power in 1592 and 1597. These events change the life of Shingo, the son of a merchant, who has lived in Korea with his father well before the political upheavals. During the invasion, they become entangled in the war and lose their Korean friends. This two-volume historical novel deals with questions of conscience, such as love for one's homeland, respect for another culture, friendship and love. Shingo, having to negotiate these divides, becomes a symbolic figure for the countries' reconciliation. Ultimately, the author muses about whether people could ever prohibit the powerful from commanding others to kill. (Age: 13+) ◆

People's Republic of China (Chinese) (Romanisation according to the Pinyin system)

16

Lin, Huanzhang (text)

Li, Qingyue (illus.)

Zai xin li zhong yi ke shu

(Plant a tree in your heart)

Chengdu: Sichuan shao nian er tong chu ban she
(= Sichuan Juvenile and Children's Books Publishing
House), 2012. – 183 p. + CD

(Series: Zhongguo er tong wen xue ming jia jing pin
chang xiao shu xi)

ISBN 978-7-5365-5524-2

Nature – Language – Poetry

Lin Huanzhang is one of the most esteemed writers of modern Chinese children's verse. With his talent and creativity, the Taiwanese poet has contributed much to Chinese children's literature. Many of his poems demonstrate the unique rhythm and expressiveness of children's poetry in the Chinese language. This book is a collection mainly of his poems as well as of a few animal stories and essays about his own childhood. Lin's works show a close kinship with nature. Not only do they explore a wide variety of natural imageries, but they also convey a profound respect and love for the natural world. (Age: 5+)

17

Peng, Xuejun (text)

Liao, Liao (illus.)

Zhen de hen tian zhen

(True innocence)

Nanchang: Er shi yi shi ji chu ban she (= 21st Century
Publishing House), 2012. – 119 p.

(Series: Peng Xuejun san wen)

ISBN 978-7-5391-7596-6

Memory – Nostalgia – Helpfulness

Peng Xuejun writes about her childhood in an ethnic district in the countryside in Hunan Province of China. The writer believes that »to a certain extent, childhood exists for future memories.« Hence, it is with a very tender tone that she remembers being a naughty yet shy girl, immersing herself in a world of books at a time when books could seldom be found and read, and being heartened by a light shining in an unfamiliar house to walk through the darkness on her way back home every day. The paper-cut illustrations add a special beauty to the book. (Age: 9+)

18

Zhang, Yuqing (= Yu Qing) (text)

Hualiban (illus.)

Di xia shi li de mao

(The cat in the basement)

Shijiazhuang: Hebei shao nian er tong chu ban she
(= Hebei Juvenile and Children's Books Publishing
House), 2012. – 191 p.

(Series: Dang dai er tong wen xue zuo jia yuan chuang
shu xi)

ISBN 978-7-5376-4457-0

China/1966-1976 – Cultural Revolution – Human nature – Memory – Understanding

This is a collection of short novels by Zhang Yuqing, also known under the pen name Yu Qing, who is a renowned writer of young adult literature and whose works have been read widely since the 1990s. The eleven stories included in this book were written and published in recent years. About half of the novels deal with Yu's own childhood memories during the Cultural Revolution in China, while the others concern themselves with contemporary childhood experiences. Though written from a child's perspective, many of the texts dig into the very depth of human nature, making the book impressive in its scope. (Age: 10+)

19

Zhu, Ziqiang / Zuo, Wei (text)

Tianguoshi (illus.)

Shu shu ban de sheng ri hui

(The birthday party of the Zodiac Rat Class)

Jinan: Ming tian chu ban she (= Tomorrow Publishing
House), 2012. – 124 p.

(Series: Shu shu lan he shu shu hui)

ISBN 978-7-5332-6872-5

School – Education – Friendship – Everyday life

This is the fourth book in the series titled »Zodiac Rat Blue and Zodiac Rat Grey« by the husband-and-wife team. Writing about the childhood of their own now grown-up son, Zhu and Zuo weave stories around a class of young children with the same Chinese zodiac sign of the rat. The first three instalments of the series gained rapid popularity among young readers. In this fourth book, the stories continue as the children grow into second-grade students in elementary school. Zhu, a scholar of children's literature and education, explores his ideas concerning childhood and children's education in his literary writing. (Age: 8+)

Republic of China (Taiwan) (Chinese)
(Romanisation according to the Pinyin system)

20

Lin, Fangping (text)

Lin, Xiaobei (illus.)

Ai hua hua de shi

(Painting with poetry)

Taibei shi: Xin yi ji jin chu ban she (= Hsin Yi Publications), 2012. – [44] p.

(Series: Wen xue jiang xi lie)

ISBN 978-986-161-446-5

Chinese characters – Visual poetry – Poetry

This charming book is filled with »poems that love to paint« – as the Chinese title reads. Chinese characters are arranged to create »concrete poetry«, visual depictions of the topics addressed. These images proliferate joyfully amid colourful drawings, while verbal images add even more layers of meaning. Chinese characters flutter through peach-hued pages, snacking on flowers, or swim past mermaids, who sweep blue oceans clean. Are these poems umbrellas or candy canes topped by mountain peaks? Are these mountains of verse a giant's green fingers stretching towards the shining gold ring of sun? Are those drunken girls wearing shoes of poetry adorned with bows of red wine? The old idea of using the typography of a poem to shape its subject is realised here in most enchanting ways. (Age: 6+)

21

Lin, Manqiu (= Lin, Man-Qiu) (text)

Qiu, Zhongjun (= Qiu, Zhong-Jun) (illus.)

A gong de jia dong shu

(Grandpa's red cedar)

Gaoxiong shi (= Kaohsiung City): Du jia wen hua chu ban you xian gong si (= Reader Publishing Co., Ltd.); Gaoxiong shi zheng fu wen hua ju (= Bureau of Cultural Affairs Kaohsiung City Government), 2011. – [36] p.

(Series: Yi hui ben; 13)

ISBN 978-986-876260-2

Grandson – Grandfather – Death – Grief – Country life

Haohao is sitting in Grandfather's favourite red cedar, watching the farmhouse, Mother and Auntie quietly planting bananas, Father and Uncle silently sitting in the tree's shade. Next to them, Grandfather's chair is empty. While everyone is mourning a life lost, Haohao is furious about an experience missed: Hadn't Grandfather promised to take him on a trip to Mount Chai? Wouldn't

he be standing on top of the hill now, watching ships float by, if Grandfather hadn't suddenly died? While memories come flooding back, Haohao realises that Grandfather is not really gone, but will be there for him in the tree forever. Beautiful watercolours of traditional Taiwanese rural life and simple, unadorned sentences weave together this story about the soothing power of memories. (Age: 4+)

Republic of Korea (Korean)

(Romanisation according to the McCune-Reischauer system)

22

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

Ömma ka hwanatta

(= Ummagk whanatda) (Mommy got mad)

Söul-si (= Seoul): Ch'aek Ingnŭn Kom (= Bearbooks), 2011. – 32 p.

(Series: Kürimch'aek i ch'am choa; 003)

ISBN 978-89-93242-44-7

Child care – Attachment – Discipline

Sani, a little boy, always makes a mess while eating at the table or bathing in the bathtub. Worse than that, he paints on the wall. His mother shouts at him and gets very angry at his naughtiness. Sani, terrified, disappears and his mother cannot find him anywhere. Her adventure starts when she encounters Sani's alter ego, who denies he is Sani. Sani's mother, bedraggled and heart-broken, starts crying. When Sani reappears all of a sudden, they hug each other and his mother says, »I am sorry. I love you.« The comic-like, pastel-hued illustrations lend the issue of discipline easy appeal, and the book's dramatic and dynamic structure attracts readers. At the same time, the story provides young readers with an opportunity to realise that even if mom gets mad, she still loves them. (Age: 4+)

23

Chöng, Ŭn-suk (= Jung, Eun Suk) (text)

Pae, Hyöŋ-jöng (= Bae, Hyun Jung) (illus.)

Myöng'amgyöŋ Odŭri

(= Myungtamgyun Audrey) (Audrey the dog-detective)

Söul-si (= Seoul): Param ũi Aidŭl (= Baram Books), 2012. – 139 p. (Series: Tolgae param; 30)

ISBN 978-89-94475-27-1

Dog – Humanity – Detective

This detective story for children features a dog as a great detective. The dog calls herself »Audrey« after Audrey

Hepburn because she is so proud of her beauty. Audrey is convinced that she surely is a descendant of the dog who accompanied the legendary detective Park MunSu during the Joseon Dynasty. Whenever something happens around her, Audrey likes to poke her nose into it. She is extremely good at finding clues using her sharp sense of smell, prying into all kinds of situations with her speedy reflexes, and finally finding out whodunit. Since Audrey has no way to tell people about what happened, she solves the cases her own way, which turns out to be a more humane way than the methods human crime-busters use. (Age: 6+)

24

I, Hwan-che (= Lee, Hwan-je) (text)

Sin, Chi-su (= Shin, Ji-su) (illus.)

Mamtaero maül

(= Mamdaero Maöl) (Neverland)

Söul-si (= Seoul): P'arangsae (= Parangsae),
2012. – 95 p.

(Series: Chöhangnyön sagwa mun'go; 3)

ISBN 978-89-6155-378-0

School – Stress – Dream – Self-confidence

Daeyoung, an elementary-school boy, always feels under pressure because he never gets to do what he wants to do. In fact, he is fed up with his daily schedule – school, private lessons, tutoring, homework, and writing a journal every night. He feels like a robot controlled by his parents and the school. »Why aren't children allowed to make their own schedule and to have enough time to play as adults do?« he thinks. One day, Daeyoung sees an invitation letter from a village called Mamdaero Maöl (Neverland) posted in his apartment building elevator. Dreaming of doing whatever he wants, he is very excited and goes to the village, but he only feels lonely, sick, and sad there. He realises that the place he has dreamed of does not exist. He returns to his real life and does not want to go back to Neverland again. This children's novel describes the requirements of daily routine that children have to face. (Age: 6+)

25

Nam, Ho-söp (= Nam, Hoseop) (text)

Ko, Ch'an-gyu (= Ko, Chankyu) (illus.)

Pöl e ssoyötta

(= Bule ssoyetda) (Stung by a bee)

Söul-si (= Seoul): Ch'angbi (= Changbee Publishing),
2012. – 134 p.

ISBN 978-89-36446-30-7

Aging – Death – Everyday life – Poetry

This book includes forty-nine poems for children that deal with the lives of ordinary people – especially neighbours, both young and old. Although written for young readers, the poems do not only address the interests of children. Also, they do not only show the bright side of the world. Rather, the poet attempts to share every aspect of life, dealing with children's common environments, the people next door, and their plain and unpretentious daily lives, thus blurring the boundaries between adults and children. He also addresses the issues of aging and death, inviting children to feel more empathy towards the world and towards people, and to realise that the world is a place in which everyone, young or old, must face sadness, joy, aging, and even death. (Age: 7+)

26

Paek, Hui-na (= Baek, Hee-na) (text/illus.)

Changsu t'ang sönnyönim

(= Jangsutang Seonnyeönim) (Jangsu bath fairy)

Söul-si (= Seoul): Ch'aek Ingnün Kom (= Bearbooks),
2012. – [36] p.

(Series: Kürimch'aek i ch'am choa; 007)

ISBN 978-89-93242-70-6

Public bathhouse – Fairy – Old age – Friendship

Deokji's village has a very old public bath called Jangsu (longevity). »Spa Land« just opened down the street and has a game hall and an ice room, but mom still goes to Jangsu Bath. The only reason Deokji can bear going to Jangsu Bath is because mom buys her yoghurt if she doesn't cry while being scrubbed and because Deokji has the cold bath all to herself. But then, a strange old woman appears in the cold bath, saying she is a fairy who lost a robe of feathers a long time ago, and cannot return to the sky. The old fairy woman is really good at having fun in the water, perhaps because she has lived in a bathhouse for so long. Deokji loves her and wants to give her yoghurt as a gift. This story describes a generation-spanning friendship between an old woman and a little girl, making readers laugh and feel good. (Age: 4+)

27

Sŏng, Sŏk-che (= Sung, Suk-je) (text)

Kim, Se-hyŏn (= Kim, Se-hyun) (illus.)

P'yŏnggang kongju wa Pabo Ondal

(= Pyeong-gang gongju wa Babo On-dal)

(Princess Pyeong-gang and On-dal the Fool)

Sŏul-si (= Seoul): Piryongso (= BIR Publishing),

2012. – [36] p.

(Series: Piryongso chŏllae tonghwa; 24)

ISBN 978-89-491-0136-1

Princess – Love – Folk tale

This Korean folk tale, a historic love story, is retold skilfully by renowned novelist Suk-je Sung and illustrated beautifully by collage artist Se-hyun Kim. Princess Pyeong-gang, a daughter of King Pyung-won, the twenty-fifth king of Goguryeo, one of the ancient kingdoms in Korea, was such a crybaby that no one could stop her once she burst into tears. In order to make her stop crying, the King would threaten to marry her to On-dal the Fool if she kept howling like that. Eventually, Princess Pyeong-gang married On-dal and was very happy. And with the help of his wise bride, On-dal studied very hard and became first a general and later a king. (Age: 4+)

Asia and Oceania

Australia

28

Baynton, Terri Rose (text/illus.)

Mr Bear Branches and the cloud conundrum

Sydney, NSW [et al.]: HarperCollins, 2012. – [24] p.

(ABC books)

ISBN 978-0-7333-2921-0

Friendship – Difference – Wish – Disappointment

Long-legged Mr Bear Branches has an almost academic interest in subjects such as quantum physics; long-eared Lintfrey Longfellow is fond of simpler entertainment such as chasing pigeons. Despite their differences, however, the two are best friends and spend every day together. Yet when dreamy Lintfrey longs to sit among the fluffy clouds and the bear's down-to-earth scientific explanations threaten to burst the bubble, a quick solution needs to be found. Young New Zealand author Terri Rose Baynton's first picture book features a heart-warming story of true friendship and black-and-white line drawings partly coloured in red and brown. The enchanting hand-written text and the simple yet expressive pictures with plenty of white space give the book a pleasantly antiquated look. (Age: 5+)

29

Collins, Paul (ed.)

Ridge, Judith (introd.)

Trust me too

Melbourne, VIC: Ford Street, 2012. – XIV p. + 481 p.

ISBN 978-1-921665-58-5

Short story

Following the great success of the first anthology »Trust Me«, this weighty tome is another treasure trove of short stories from the best of Australian writers for children and teenagers. On almost 500 pages, author and editor Paul Collins has gathered one story (or illustration or poem) each from 57 creative minds from Down Under – including Michael Gerard Bauer, Gary Crew, Phillip Gwynne, Steven Herrick, Sofie Laguna, Kirsty Murray, Michael Pryor, Shaun Tan, and Mark Wilson, to name but a few. He has grouped them under various headings ranging from Adventure, Crime, and Fantasy, to Romance, Historical, Contemporary, and Sport. With such a great diversity of works, this volume is bound to have more than just one entertaining story for every reader. (Age: 12+)

30

Foley, James (text/illus.)

In the lion

Newtown, N.S.W.: Walker Books Australia, 2012. – [26] p.
ISBN 978-1-921720-32-1

Zoo – Lion – Eating – Danger – Rescue – Courage

The scary cover of this darkly funny picture book says it all: There is a ferocious lion in the zoo and he's hungrily gobbling up everything and everyone who comes within his range. The dentist, the hairdresser, the chef, ... they all disappear in the mean predator's maw. Since all the remaining adults (those who are not yet swallowed whole) run and hide, it seems that it is up to brave little Richard to save the day. Written in the tradition of cumulative tales, James Foley's second picture book combines a short, joyfully repetitive text with colourful, comical illustrations. The detailed drawings occasionally add their own little episodes to the main tale and more often than not offer readers an unexpected twist to the story. (Age: 4+)

31

Kwaymullina, Ambelin

The interrogation of Ashala Wolf

Newtown, N.S.W.: Walker Books Australia, 2012. – 395 p.
(Series: The tribe; 1)
ISBN 978-1-921720-08-6

Special ability – Prosecution – Freedom – Truth – Manipulation

Ambelin Kwaymullina is an acclaimed Palyku author and illustrator of various picture books featuring Aboriginal stories. Her new book, however, is a dystopian novel set in our world, three hundred years after an environmental collapse destroyed modern life. People with special abilities threaten the »balance« and are therefore locked away. When Ashala, leader of a small group of »Illegals« hiding in the huge forest, is captured by the government, she struggles fiercely not to disclose vital information. The gripping first-person narrative, interspersed with dreams and memories, reveals an ambitious and hateful politician who manipulates the society through misinformation. Ashala's deep connection to the land and other echoes of Aboriginal culture are skilfully woven into this thought-provoking new series. (Age: 14+)

32

Lester, Alison (text/illus.)

Sophie Scott goes south

Melbourne [et al.]: Penguin / Viking, 2012. – [32] p.
ISBN 978-0-670-88068-3

Antarctica – Research station – Sea voyage – Adventure

Inspired by her own trip to Antarctica in 2005, current Australian Children's Laureate Alison Lester has created an entertaining and informative book about the world's southernmost continent. The book's heroine, nine-year-old Sophie, accompanies her father, who is captain of the ship *Aurora Australis*, on a six-week voyage to Australia's Mawson Station. In her diary, curious Sophie records all her adventures from blizzards and icebergs to the sightings of penguins, seals, and the aurora. The engaging text is accompanied by numerous drawings, photographs, paintings, maps, explanations, and a glossary that bring an unusual and freezing holiday trip alive for young readers. (Age: 5+)

33

McKimmie, Chris (text/illus.)

Alex and the watermelon boat

Crows Nest, N.S.W.: Allen & Unwin, 2012. – [32] p.
ISBN 978-1-74331-007-6

Flood – Toy – Adventure – Imagination

Executed in his trademark style of colourful collage and naïve, childlike drawings, Chris McKimmie's sixth picture book tackles the topic of floods. Yet, unlike some other books inspired by the 2011 Queensland catastrophe, it doesn't dwell on the frightening and depressing aspects of the flooding. Told entirely from a young child's perspective, the witty story focuses on the imaginative and wondrous adventures of little Alex who – despite his mother's warnings – leaves the house to rescue his little toy rabbit. Paddling about in his watermelon boat, the boy passes flooded shops and homes, witnesses a traffic jam caused by a stranded shark, watches lost possessions float past, and gets lost for a brief moment but eventually returns home safely with his cuddly friend. (Age: 4+)

34

McPherson, Sue

Grace beside me

Broome, W.A.: Magabala Books, 2012. – 219 p.

ISBN 978-1-921248-49-8

Granddaughter – Grandparents – Country life – Racism – Storytelling – Identity

Laurel Dare, or Laurie as the locals call it, is an ordinary little country town in the mountains. Life in this small town is far from exciting, but Fuzzy Mac – named for her frizzy hair – doesn't mind too much. In an unruffled voice, the Aboriginal teenage girl chats about school, friends, her dead mother, and her Nan Tilly's conversations with and premonitions from the spirit world. At the same time, she introduces her various neighbours and their peculiarities – such as Mrs M with the bug phobia, dotty but good-hearted Yar, who dresses weirdly, and Lefty, who spent some time in prison. This witty and touching novel with its episodic structure and a memorable protagonist touches upon important topics including racism, domestic violence, abuse, identity, family, and the value of storytelling. (Age: 12+)

35

Moriarty, Jaclyn

A corner of white

Sydney: Pan Macmillan Australia, 2012. – 413 p.

(Series: The colours of Madeleine; 1)

ISBN 978-1-7426-1139-6

Parallel world – Missing father – Friendship – Letter writing – Colour

In her latest offering, popular author Jaclyn Moriarty deviates from her usual domain of contemporary teenage novel to delve into the realms of fantasy. Or does she? True, the hefty first volume of the »Colours of Madeleine« trilogy offers plenty of traditional fantasy fare including a parallel world, the quest for a missing father, evil powers, and the handsome hero. However, in her inimitable way, Moriarty combines these with a sassy modern real-world heroine who doesn't believe in the Kingdom of Cello nor in the viciousness of dangerous colour attacks. Add to that a young hero who is constantly hindered in trying to set off on his quest, and a fairy-like creature who is supposed to save the town of Bonfire yet does nothing but sleep, and what you get is a highly amusing and engaging fantasy novel with a difference. (Age: 12+)

36

Nowra, Louis

Into that forest

Crow's Nest, N.S.W.: Allen & Unwin, 2012. – 172 p.

ISBN 978-1-74331-164-6

Tasmania – Wilderness – Civilisation – Tasmanian Tiger – Human – Survival

Set in the Tasmanian wilderness at the end of the nineteenth century, this slender novel tells a haunting fairy-tale-like story. After a boating accident kills Hannah's parents, the frightened six-year-old and her friend stumble through the woods. By some fortunate bout of fate, they are rescued and adopted by two Tasmanian tigers and slowly but surely adapt to their new lives: They eat raw meat, run on all fours, and speak in grunts, coughs, and growls, forgetting their human language. When Becky's father eventually discovers them after several years in the forest, the girls have trouble returning to life as humans. The rugged but poetic prose of seventy-six-year-old Hannah as she recalls her simple forest happiness draws readers into this tale of survival, family bonds, and human vs. animal nature. (Age: 12+)

37

Roy, James

City

St Lucia, Qld.: University of Queensland Press,

2012. – 298 p.

ISBN 978-0-7022-4926-6

City life

Just like his award-winning book »Town«, James Roy's new work »City« provides a kaleidoscope of glimpses into the lives of modern teenagers. What might look like a collection of unrelated short stories to some readers, could also be considered a novel written from different points of view. The protagonists in each chapter may not be friends or even know each other, but through some mysterious link their lives and their tales are connected, and readers are invited to find these links. The book introduces characters such as Hugh and Lily, who meet at a speed dating event, friends Jonathan and Damien, who wag school to buy a suit, and Sam, who secretly listens in on a girl's phone conversation on a train. And who is the mysterious street poet whose haikus turn up all over the city and throughout the book? (Age: 14+)

India

38

Ravishankar, Anushka (text)

Manglou, Gabrielle (illus.)

Excuses excuses

[Chennai]: Tara Books, 2011. – [48] p.

ISBN 978-93-80340-12-8

Rule – Disobedience – Misunderstanding – Excuse

Little Neel has nothing but the best intentions for this week: From getting to school in time and doing all his homework to being a helpful son and obeying every rule, he is dead set on good behaviour. And it is definitely not his fault that his clock suddenly starts ticking anti-clockwise at night, that his homework turns into a frog and hops into a pond, or that he loses his socks when he tries to soothe a scared elephant stuck in a traffic jam. The energetic and imaginative boy's hilarious excuses, uttered in confident rhymed verses, will inspire young readers to fabricate their own outrageous explanations for things gone wrong. Anushka Ravishankar's amusing text is accompanied by Réunion artist Gabrielle Manglou's colourful mixed-media collages, which aptly portray the absurdity of the situations. (Age: 5+)

New Zealand

39

Lasenby, Jack

Uncle Trev and his whistling bull

Wellington: Gecko, 2012. – 207 p.

ISBN 978-1-877467-15-8

Storytelling – Tall tale

Due to some illness, the young first-person narrator of this book is confined to his bed for great lengths at a time. It is the 1930s, and therefore distraction in the form of computer games, Internet, and the like is not yet available; so the boy is eagerly waiting for Uncle Trev to turn up. Unfortunately, his resolute mother is far from keen on Uncle Trev and his larger-than-life tall tales that feature Trev's new bull Hubert, who can whistle, his neighbour Gotta Henry, or the family of elephants who moved into the old farm down the road. Told in short chapters always ending with the mother's return to the house and Uncle Trev's hurried escape, this collection of absurd tales, written in a tongue-in-cheek voice, underlines the importance of the tradition of storytelling. (Age: 6+)

40

Mahy, Margaret (text)

Duder, Tessa (ed.)

Elliot, David (illus.)

The word witch

Auckland, N.Z. [et al.]: HarperCollins, 2012. – 168 p. + CD

ISBN 978-1-77554-001-4

Poetry

The late Margaret Mahy, great dame of New Zealand children's literature, was renowned not only for her many children's and young adult books but also for her innumerable poems. This collection of sixty-six of her rhymed works includes funny and popular classics such as »Dashing Dog«, the tongue-twisting »Bubble Trouble«, or the limerick »My Sister«, as well as lesser-known texts such as »When I am Old and Wrinkled Like a Raisin«. All the poems are beautifully illustrated by David Elliot with atmospheric drawings in various sizes and different hues of colour that perfectly capture the texts' peculiar moods. Originally published in 2009, the book now features a CD with twelve poems recited by the author herself. The performed poems, enhanced with subtle background sounds, sparkle with Mahy's wit and make this a special treat. (Age: 4+)

41

Mewburn, Kyle (text)

Teo, Ali / O'Reilly, John (illus.)

Melu <proper name>

Auckland, N.Z. [et al.]: Scholastic, 2012. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-1-77543-027-8

Conformity – Individuality – Dream

Melu is one stubborn mule if ever there was one. Unlike the rest of his mule herd, he is not content with clip-clopping around the sun-baked hills of their island in the same direction day in day out. Melu wants something different: He dreams of racing across succulent green fields and swimming in the endless sea. And so, one day, he turns around and sets off on an adventure, meeting new friends along the way. The charming story is written in a fairy-tale tone with some pleasant repetition and witty, playful vocabulary. It is brought to life by colourful digital illustrations in matt finish. The clear, reduced shapes and cartoony facial expressions perfectly express the various animals' personalities. (Age: 4+)

Europe

Great Britain

42

Bray, Libba

The diviners

London: Atom, 2012. – 583 p.

ISBN 978-1-907410-39-0

(Parallel ed.: New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2012)

New York/1926 – Occultism – Murder – Supernatural – Mystery

Popular American author Libby Bray's new book whisks readers away into glamorous New York during the 1920s. Seventeen-year-old flapper Evie, evicted from her small hometown in Ohio, is looking forward to spending some time at her uncle's house in the big city. But her plans of shopping, drinking, and partying are thwarted when a mysterious serial killer is let loose. Will Evie, runner boy Memphis, pickpocket Sam, and the other diviners – people with supernatural abilities – be able to stop the evil murderer? Several narrative strands, a number of arresting (if sometimes irritating) characters, clues hinting to a strange cult or some religious fanatic – all this comes together neatly to form a fast-paced and creepy historical fantasy. (Age: 14+)

43

Constable, Cathryn

The wolf princess

Frome, Somerset: Chicken House, 2012. – 278 p.

ISBN 978-1-9084353-4-7

School trip – Russia – Princess – Mystery – Identity

Life at her boarding school in London feels dull to Sophie Smith. The young orphan girl dreams of wild adventures and the wondrous stories that her late father used to tell her. On a school trip to Russia, Sophie and her two best friends suddenly end up at the winter palace of mysterious Princess Anna Volkonskaya. Sophie is excited, but danger seems to be lurking in the deep dark forest and something sinister is going on. Cathryn Constable creates a fairytale-like atmosphere that effortlessly whisks readers into a Russian wonderland with her vivid descriptions of the snow-covered landscape. The mixed cast of almost magical characters (both good and possibly evil) and down-to-earth, authentic protagonists makes this a timeless story with a modern touch to it. (Age: 10+)

44

Crossan, Sarah

The weight of water

London [et al.]: Bloomsbury, 2012. – 227 p.

ISBN 978-1-4088-2300-2

Immigration – Bullying – Self-confidence – Swimming

Ever since Kasienka's father left the family and disappeared to England, her mother has been desperate and depressed. So it's not particularly surprising when she drags her twelve-year-old daughter away from Poland to Coventry in search of her missing husband. However, with their one-room flat cold and bare, and the girls in her class mean (and much younger than she is), Kasienka feels lonely and out of place. The girl's only refuge is the swimming pool. While ploughing through the water, Kasienka forgets her worries – and she meets William there and falls in love with him. Sarah Crossan has created a quiet, arresting verse novel about a young girl's new life in a foreign country. The engaging first-person narration reveals Kasienka's fears and troubles but also her hopes and growing self-confidence. (Age: 11+) ♦

45

Edge, Christopher

Twelve minutes to midnight

London: Nosy Crow, 2012. – 254 p.

ISBN 978-0-85763-050-6

London/1899 – Writer – Mystery – Vision – Power

Thirteen-year-old Penelope Tredwell is an imaginative and resourceful young girl. Her thrilling tales of horror, written under the pen name Montgomery Flinch and published in the magazine »The Penny Dreadful«, which she inherited from her late father, keep readers all over London mesmerised. When she, or rather her alter ego, is summoned by Doctor Morris of London's lunatic asylum Bedlam to solve a series of sinister and supernatural events there, she is intrigued. This captivating story skillfully evokes Victorian London at the brink of the twentieth century. The feisty heroine, who gets herself into deadly trouble, a colourful cast of supporting characters, and a creepy villain make this debut novel a truly satisfying read. (Age: 11+)

46

Haughton, Chris (text/illus.)

Oh no, George!

London [et al.]: Walker, 2012. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-1-4063-3225-4

Dog – Disobedience – Promise

George the orange-pink-red-purple dog has promised to be good while his owner Harris is away. And he is determined to be true to his word; but then temptation intervenes ... in the form of a delicious cake on the kitchen counter, and the cat, and the soft soil in the flower pot. Oops. The flat is ruined and Harris is not amused.

George is so ashamed and vows never to be naughty again – or will he? What might have turned into a soppy and didactic story in less able hands, is a hilarious and witty take on messing up one's good intentions. Chris Haughton knows perfectly well how to bring across emotions with nothing but a single tear or a large-eyed look. His limited colour palette of reds and blues in matt finish and his reduced shapes and uncluttered backgrounds make the digital illustrations particularly attractive. (Age: 2+)

47

Jenkins, Martin (text)

White, Vicky (illus.)

Can we save the tiger?

London [et al.]: Walker Books, 2012. – 50 p.

(First edition: 2011)

ISBN 978-1-4063-3208-7

Endangered animals

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List, roughly 17,000 animals and plants on our planet are in danger of becoming extinct. This marvellous non-fiction book introduces readers to a small selection of these endangered animals ranging from tigers and ground iguanas to albatrosses and tiny parula snails. The poetic and informative text reads like a captivating story, which connects the respective animals through their common (or opposing) features, foes, or living conditions. Small blocks of text in italics, similar to signs at the zoo, add basic information about the species. The stunning, expressive pencil illustrations – some in black-and-white, some in colour, some completely naturalistic, some more sketchy – present the animals from various angles and draw readers into the book.

(Age: 6+) ●

48

Lucas, John

Turf

London: The Bodley Head, 2012. – 360 p.

ISBN 978-0-370-33234-5

City – Gang – Violence – Peer pressure – Murder – Religion

John Lucas's debut novel is a tough read that's not for the faint-hearted. Set in Hackney, a north-eastern district of London, this book describes a troubled teenager's life dominated by street gang rules, violence, drugs, and peer pressure. The author, who himself grew up in that area, clearly knows what he is writing about and doesn't shy away from gruesome and shocking details. Fifteen-year-old Jaylon will soon be allowed to join the »Olders« of his Blake Street Boyz gang. However, in order to do so, brutal gang leader Shads demands that he kill a member of the rivaling gang. Although Jay's doubts about the gang's definition of right and wrong grow, he doesn't see a way around it and feels increasingly desperate as his life slowly spirals out of control. (Age: 16+)

49

Lupton, Hugh / Morden, Daniel (retell.)

Hénaff, Carole (illus.)

The adventures of Achilles

Oxford: Barefoot Books, 2012. – 94 p. + 2 CDs

ISBN 978-1-84686-406-3

Achilles – Trojan War – Love – Betrayal – Gods

This retelling of a part of Homer's classic epic »The Iliad« focuses on the adventures of the brave Greek warrior Achilles. In twelve short chapters, acclaimed storytellers Hugh Lupton and Daniel Morden bring to life the events that lead to the great Trojan War. The book opens with Zeus, »king of all immortals«, devising a scheme to marry off the sea nymph Thetis to the Greek king Peleus (they become Achilles's parents) and ends with the destruction of Troy after the murder of Achilles by Paris. The large-format book is adorned with expressive illustrations in muted shades dominated by blues and dark reds, which perfectly capture the mood of the tale. As an additional treat, the book includes two CDs on which the two authors provide an atmospheric reading of their complete text. (Age: 10+)

50

Morpurgo, Clare / Morpurgo, Michael (ed.)
Gill, Olivia Lomenech (illus.)

Where my wellies take me. A childhood scrapbook with poems and pictures

Dorking: Templar, 2012. – 97 p.

ISBN 978-1-84877-544-2

Countryside – Girl – Walk – Animals – Nature – Poetry

Inspired by the love for poetry of former children's laureate Michael Morpurgo and his wife Clare and by their happy childhood memories, this magnificent collaboration takes readers on a walk with little Pippa. Setting off from her aunt's village home, the girl ambles along a country lane, across bridges, past fields and pastures, admiring the flora and fauna on her way. Cleverly embedded into the enchanting story of Pippa's countryside ramble are the Morpurgos' favourite poems by well-known poets such as Ted Hughes, William Blake, Edward Lear, and Grace Nichols. Olivia Lomenech Gill's exquisite scrapbook-like design, including handwritten text, mixed-media collage pictures, a map of Pippa's walk, etc. make this anthology-cum-diary a truly enjoyable read for readers of any age. (Age: 6+) ●

51

Reeve, Philip

Goblins

London: Marion Lloyd Books, 2012. – 306 p.

ISBN 978-1-407115-27-6

Goblin – Quest – Magic

Everybody knows that goblins are a dirty, ferocious, and greedy lot – and a bit dumb, too. Skarper, however, seems to be cut from a different cloth: He likes reading and is unusually clever, which unfortunately gets him into trouble with his batch-brothers. When he is catapulted from the top of Blackspike, one of the seven towers around the Clovenstone Keep, his life takes an adventurous turn. Starting off like a classic fantasy novel with old magic, good and evil, and a serious quest, this book soon turns out to be a witty, light-hearted read peppered with humorous asides and peopled with zany characters. Skarper's sidekicks include cheesewright and would-be hero Henwyn, hands-on princess Eluned, and gentle giant Fraddon, whose antics will delight readers and keep them enthralled until the last page. (Age: 8+)

52

Wein, Elizabeth

Code name Verity

London: Electric Monkey, 2012. – 451 p.

ISBN 978-1-4052-5821-0

(Parallel edition: New York: Hyperion, 2012)

World War II – Female pilot – Spy – Prisoner – Torture – Truth – Lie – Friendship – Death

Set in a small French town in 1943, this novel follows the fate of a young British spy who has been captured by the Nazis and is being tortured until she agrees to make a deal: She promises to betray her country by naming everything she knows about the British war effort. For the first two thirds of the book, her »report« of British aircraft types, airfields, and events, written in first person on a limited supply of paper, is what the reader gets. Among outbursts of guilt about her own cowardice, she lists crucial facts but also reminisces about her friendship with female pilot Maddie. Not until the second part of the book – told from Maddie's viewpoint while in hiding in the same town – do readers slowly realise: Things are not as they seem. Who and what is V/verity? Lies, truth, deception, a secret mission, and an unreliable narrator – this exceptional novel tells a gripping and gruesome story about two best friends but also about the role of courageous women during World War II. (Age: 14+) ★

53

Yates, Louise (text/illus.)

Dog loves drawing

London: Jonathan Cape, 2012. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-0-224-08371-3

Drawing – Creativity – Imagination – Adventure

In this follow-up to the popular »Dog Loves Books«, the bibliophile canine protagonist receives a sketch book from his aunt, inviting him to enter the world of creativity. Dog is intrigued: He gets his brush, pens, and pencils, draws a door, and steps through. With a quickly sketched stick-man at his side as well as newly created companions Duck, Owl, and Crab, Dog draws a train – and they board it. In this metafictional story, Louise Yates lets her characters contribute to their own adventures and change the course of action with their respective drawings and doodles. The various styles and media she uses, and in particular the scanned-in pencils and pens, cleverly serve to underline the different levels of fiction in the story and will inspire young readers to start their own scribbled stories. (Age: 4+)

Ireland

54

McDermott, Kevin

Valentina <proper name>

Dublin: Little Island, 2012. – 266 p.

ISBN 978-1-908195-20-3

Environmental catastrophe – Island – Wealth – Poverty – Kidnapping – Terrorism – Violence

After various climatic catastrophes, many zones of the earth are uninhabitable and the surviving people try to flee to safe places. As the daughter of a small island's president, living in the fortified citadel together with three-hundred other wealthy families, headstrong Valentina has led a very sheltered but also lonely life so far. However, when she secretly ventures out into the dangerous Badlands with her new friends and gets kidnapped by a group of terrorists, her partly naïve view of the world changes radically. Through an engaging first-person narrative with frequent witty asides, Kevin McDermott introduces a slightly spoilt and snooty protagonist whose sharp, critical self-analysis and caring personality will endear her to the readers. (Age: 12+)

North America

Canada

55

Dowding, Philippa

The gargoyle at the gates

Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2012. – 188 p.

(Series: The lost gargoyle; 3)

ISBN 978-1-4597-0394-0

Loneliness – Friendship – Kidnapping – Rescue

As the youngest, Christopher is used to being dragged around by his »many-assorted-brothers-and-slightly-older-sister«, but after the family moves to Toronto, he feels lonely despite his siblings. One evening, he explores the strange park near their new house and comes across two gargoyles, Gargoth and Ambergine. The four-hundred-year-old creatures are alive and mischievous but friendly; and when a sinister man called the »Collector« kidnaps Ambergine, Christopher and his new friend Katherine set out to rescue her. »The Gargoyle at the Gates« is an entertaining read about friendship with amiable

human and gargoyle protagonists. As the third volume of the popular »Lost Gargoyle« series, it is sure to entice readers into seeking out the gargoyles' other adventures. (Age: 10+)

56

Fitch, Sheree (text)

Yayo (illus.)

Night sky wheel ride

Vancouver [et al.]: Tradewind Books, 2012. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-1-896580-67-8

Funfair – Big wheel – Courage

Renowned Canadian poet Sheree Fitch's latest book describes two siblings' exciting visit to the funfair at night. In rhythmic verses with evocative words and a refrain-like exclamation, the story follows the little boy and girl, who have obviously been waiting for years to ride the big wheel (»Are we big enough this year, Mama?«). Naturally, they are now extremely eager to finally give it a go. Their joyous ride is visually transposed into several vibrant double-spread pictures by award-winning illustrator Yayo. Bursting with colourful, imaginative details – such as mermaids spinning around the wheel in small bathtubs – the illustrations depict the siblings' excitement and ebullience as they climb into a cart and fly through the night. (Age: 4+)

57

Fullerton, Alma (text)

Patkau, Karen (illus.)

A good trade

Toronto: Pajama Press, 2012. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-0-9869495-9-3

Uganda – Civil War – Country life – Humanitarian aid

Kato lives in a small village in Uganda. He wakes early because his daily chores include trekking to the well outside the village and fetching the water his family will need during the day in his two large jerry cans. On his way back, he spots an aid-worker's lorry that carries wonderful gifts. Kato would love to offer the aid-worker something in return – and in the family garden, he finds just the right thing: a beautiful white poppy. In this deceptively simple and positive story of a little boy's daily life in an African village, readers will discover subtle hints and overt references to the effects of civil war both in the quiet text and the brightly coloured digital illustrations. Thus the book will serve as a wonderful incentive to discuss this serious topic with younger and older children alike. (Age: 6+) ♦

58

Leavitt, Martine

My book of life by Angel

Toronto: Groundwood Books / House of Anansi Press, 2012. – 246 p.

ISBN 978-1-55498-117-5

City – Child prostitution – Drugs – Addiction – Escape – Murder

Angel's downfall begins when her mother dies. Unable to cope with the emptiness at home, the sixteen-year-old starts hanging out in the mall and stealing bits like lipstick and shoes. Then she meets Call, a »businessman«, who buys her food, makes her compliments, and introduces her to drugs. Still, it is only when her father throws her out and she moves in with Call, that she realises what his »business« actually is: young prostitutes. At first, Angel is too scared to resist, but suddenly girls disappear mysteriously – the rumour is they are murdered. In a lyrical yet urgent tone, this haunting, journal-like verse novel describes Angel's increasingly desperate struggle to protect a new eleven-year-old friend and save herself from the vicious circle of drugs, violence, and prostitution. (Age: 14+)

59

Macleary, Kyo (text)

Arsenault, Isabelle (illus.)

Virginia Wolf

Toronto: Kids Can Press, 2012. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-1-55453-649-8

Siblings – Depression – Painting – Imagination

»One day my sister Virginia woke up feeling wolfish.« No matter what Vanessa does to try and cheer her up, nothing helps. The wolf-girl groans and moans and growls, and the whole house is drawn into her dark mood. But then Vanessa has an idea: She grabs her paintbox and brushes and paints colourful flowers, trees, birds – thus slowly creating a huge imaginary garden-like refuge, which the sisters call Bloomsberry. Inspired by the relationship between famous British author Virginia Woolf and her sister, the painter Vanessa Bell, this moving story depicts a girl suffering from depression and a devoted and loving sister trying her best to help. The hand-lettered text in varying sizes and the arresting mixed-media illustrations reflect the protagonists' moods and perfectly complement the text. (Age: 6+) ●

60

Stewart, Elizabeth

The lynching of Louie Sam. A novel

Toronto [et al.]: Annick Press, 2012. – 288 p.

ISBN 978-1-55451-438-0

Washington Territory/1884 – Settler – Murder – Scapegoat – First Nations

This compelling teenage novel deals with prejudice and racism against indigenous people in America and Canada in the late nineteenth century. Set in the Washington territory close to the Canadian border in 1884, the book is based on a true story: When a white shopkeeper in a small settlement is found murdered, teenage boy Louie Sam, member of the Stó:lō First Nation, is proclaimed guilty by the villagers and later snatched from custody and hanged by a lynch mob of about a hundred angry white people. Award-winning screenwriter Elizabeth Stewart creates a fictionalised account of the events, told from fifteen-year-old George's point of view. Although initially convinced of Louie Sam's guilt, the white village boy slowly begins to realise that the boy might have been only a scapegoat. Unfortunately his attempts at finding out the truth are met with a wall of resistance from the majority of his white neighbours, making it impossible to convict the true murderer. (Age: 14+) ★ ◆

USA

61

Barnett, Mac (text) / Klassen, Jon (illus.)

Extra yarn

New York: Balzer & Bray / HarperCollins, 2012. – [40] p.

ISBN 978-0-06-195338-5

Magic – Happiness – Greed – Punishment

Life in Annabel's small town is cold and colourless: People wear dark, dull clothes, houses and streets are covered in snow and soot. So when the young girl finds a wooden box filled with never-ending multicoloured yarn, she starts knitting colourful sweaters for everyone and everything in her town (including a letter box and a bird's house) until a greedy aristocrat turns up to grab the magical box for himself. Mac Barnett's sparse text tells a simple but touching tale about the positive power of small deeds. Jon Klassen's ink and gouache illustrations are at first dominated by black and white. Step by step, however, Annabel's fabulous knitwear adds sparkling stitches to the pictures as well as to the lives of the townspeople; and it puts a happy smile on their faces. (Age: 4+) (Caldecott Honour Book; 2013)

62

Cole, Henry (illus.)

Unspoken. A story from the Underground Railroad

New York: Scholastic Press, 2012. – [40] p.

ISBN 978-0-545-39997-5

USA/1861-1865 – Civil War – Slavery – Escape – Underground Railroad

This stunning wordless picture book, with its black-and-white illustrations created entirely in pencil, is set on a small farm in Virginia during the American Civil War. While collecting vegetables from the family's storage shed, a young girl notices that an escaped slave is using their stack of corn stalks as a hiding place. After her initial shock, she quietly returns to the shed, always bringing along small bits of leftover food. The powerful full-page and double-page pictures clearly show the girl's fear and unease but also her determination to help this poor person. Although the pictures are fairly detailed and realistic, they leave ample room for interpretation and will initiate in-depth discussions about the Civil War, slavery, and the Underground Railroad, a secret network that helped slaves escape to the North. (Age: 8+) ♦ ●

63

Garza, Xavier (text/illus.)

Crosthwaite, Luis Humberto / González Campos, Carla (transl.)

Maximilian & the mystery of the Guardian Angel. A bilingual lucha libre thriller = Maximiliano y el misterio del Ángel de la Guarda

El Paso, TX: Cinco Puntos Press, 2011. – 207 p.

ISBN 978-1-933693-98-9

Lucha libre <Wrestling> – Wish – Secret – Idol

The small independent publishing house Cinco Puntos Press in Texas has published English and Spanish bilingual editions for more than twenty-five years. Xavier Garza's latest children's novel is a fast-paced story about lucha libre, the Mexican form of free wrestling. Eleven-year-old Maximilian is a devout fan of lucha libre. He longs to see a live fight of his idol, the invincible luchador called the Guardian Angel. Yet when his father, brother, and uncle Lalo eventually go to the stadium, Maximilian is in for a big surprise. Short chapters, lively dialogue, and comic-like black-and-white pictures, which give an idea of the famous lucha libre masks, make this bilingual book an exciting read – especially (but not only) for boys. (Age: 8+) (Pura Belpré Award Honour Book; 2012)

64

Grant, Michael / Applegate, Katherine

Eve & Adam

New York: Feiwel and Friends, 2012. – 291 p.

ISBN 978-0-312-58351-4

Genetic manipulation – Illegality – Secret – Computer simulation

This action-filled science-fiction thriller, told from two alternating points of view, explores the possibilities of and moral qualms about genetic modification and the creation of artificial life. Evening – or E.V. to her friends – is the teenage daughter of the boss of Spiker Biopharmaceuticals, a large (in)famous research facility in San Francisco. After having been run over by a streetcar, E.V. is lucky to be alive; yet, within days of the supposedly maiming accident, the girl is back to her healthy old self. This doesn't make sense to her until she meets Solo, an inscrutable boy who seems to know a lot about her parents' illegal meddling. Then E.V. is set the task of creating a perfect boy – and what starts off as computer simulation, turns out to be spookily real. (Age: 14+)

65

Green, John

The fault in our stars

New York: Dutton Books, 2012. – 318 p.

ISBN 978-0-525-47881-2

Cancer – Support group – First love – Death – Grief – Literature – Reality

John Green, acclaimed author of teenage novels such as »Looking for Alaska« and »Paper Towns«, says he hates cancer books – and so does his new work's sixteen-year-old heroine, Hazel Grace. Therefore, although this novel does feature two teenagers who suffer from cancer, it is definitely not your typical cancer book. It is less about depression and death and more about love, life, and literature. Hazel, whose lungs »suck at being lungs«, and seventeen-year old, one-legged-and-thus-still-virginal Gus meet at support group, fall in love, and set off on a journey to Amsterdam to ask the author of their favourite novel a truly important question. Green's trademark dialogue, peppered with irony and humour, and the convincing protagonists and cleverly structured plot ensure that readers are drawn into the book right from the beginning. (14+)

66

Lambert, Joseph (text/illus.)

Annie Sullivan and the trials of Helen Keller

New York: Disney / Hyperion Books, 2012. – 92 p.

ISBN 978-1-423-11336-2

Keller, Helen – Sullivan, Annie / Biography – Deafblindness – Education – Friendship

The story of Helen Keller (1880-1968), deafblind author, public speaker, and activist, is well known not only to Americans but also to people around the world. This new biography focuses on Helen's childhood and on her deep friendship with her teacher and companion Annie Sullivan. It makes clever use of a graphic novel's means of visual codes to weave three different narrative strands together. In addition to depicting Helen's early life, as told from Annie's point of view, as well as the young governess's memories of her own difficult childhood in full colour panels of varying hues, Joseph Lambert also creates panels with black background and blurry shapes of people and objects to resemble Helen's perception of life. Thus he ingeniously mirrors the deafblind girl's slow realisation that words are attached to everything in the world around her. (Age: 12+) ●

67

Mack, Jeff (text/illus.)

Good news, bad news

San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2012. – [36] p.

ISBN 978-1-452-10110-1

Optimism – Pessimism – Friendship

When Rabbit and Mouse go on a picnic, things don't go as smoothly as anticipated. Pessimistic Mouse greets every unexpected twist of events with grumpiness and exasperation, while optimistic Rabbit comes up with one ingenious (if sometimes misguided) attempt after the other to save the day. A bouncy character by nature, Rabbit always sees the good in everything, be it a swarm of angry bees, a ferocious bear, or even a bolt of lightning that leaves the two rodents slightly frazzled. Charming cartoon-like mixed-media illustrations follow the various (mis)adventures and unmistakably show the two friends' opposing moods. Can you write a hilarious picture book using just four words? The good news is: Jeff Mack can! The bad news? Hmmm, can't think of any. (Age: 3+)

68

McElfresh, Lynn

Strong deaf

South Hampton, N.H.: Namelos, 2012. – 122 p.

ISBN 978-1-60898-126-7

Siblings – Rivalry – Outsider – Softball – Deafness

Twelve-year-old Jade is an early riser, loves loud music, and enjoys cooking with her Dad. Marla, two years older, considers her younger sister a pest. She wants to sleep late, text her friends, and discuss politics. So far, this sounds like a typical setting for sibling rivalry but for one detail: Marla is deaf, like their parents and maternal relatives. Lynn McElfresh successfully turns common stereotypes around: Deaf Marla is confident and outgoing while hearing Jade sometimes feels like an unwelcome intruder in this deaf world. The sisters' fierce daily fights as well as their respective hate and narrow-mindedness towards each other make readers cringe and fear the worst. The chapters written from Marla's perspective are told in a direct transcription of American Sign Language, which adds authenticity to the story and draws readers in. (Age: 12+)

69

Nelson, Marilyn (text)

Various artists (illus.)

Ostrich and lark

Honesdale, Pa.: Boyds Mills Press, 2012. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-1-59078-702-1

Africa – Landscape – Animals – Friendship – Identity

Ostrich and lark are good friends. Despite being very different, they spend every day together and enjoy each other's company. Still, while little lark eagerly joins all the other birds in their full-hearted joyful songs, ostrich remains silent all day long; until one day, when he eventually discovers his own booming voice. The sparse, poetic text about the difficulty of finding one's own identity reads like a traditional African folktale. The real stars of this book, however, are the striking oil paintings. Created by six San artists, members of the Kuru Art Project of Botswana, the pictures feature bright colours and aptly convey the »breathtaking beauty of the southern African landscape«. (Age: 4+)

70

Siegel, Randy (text)

Bloch Serge (illus.)

My snake Blake

New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2012. – [32] p.

(A Neal Porter book)

ISBN 978-1-596-43584-1

Pet – Snake – Prejudice – Friendship

A snake may be quite an unusual pet, but this doesn't mean it's a bad one. On the contrary! Not only can Blake, the snake, write words (by twisting his body into letter-shapes), he can also cook delicious meals, solve most homework problems, defend his owner against bullies, and is extremely polite – as even the boy's mother has to admit reluctantly. This amusing picture book in long landscape format clearly visualises how much fun the little boy has with his decidedly un-creepy new companion. The short, witty text is cunningly translated into sketchy red-green-and-black ink illustrations, which feature exaggerated cartoony figures and a retro 1960s illustration style. It's a perfect gift book for little snake-loving boys and snake-fearing parents. (Age: 4+)

Austria

71

Gaisbauer, Hubert (text)

Habinger, Renate (illus.)

Schlaf jetzt, kleines Kamel

(Sleep now, little camel)

Wien: Wiener Dom-Verl., 2012. – [28] p.

ISBN 978-3-85351-237-1

Going to bed – Night – Sleep – Philosophy

»And the moon? When does the moon sleep?« A legitimate question, no doubt, but it's only one of many that are swirling around in the little camel's head, keeping it awake. Patiently, the big camel finds answers and, together with the little one, muses about this and that – all the while trying to make it fall asleep, which is not exactly an easy task. For the past few years, the publishing house Dom-Verlag in Vienna has distinguished itself through high-quality philosophical picture books. The simple yet poetic text and the visual language make »Schlaf jetzt, kleines Kamel« (Sleep now, little camel) particularly attractive: Renate Habinger uses Oriental illustrations as a guideline and works with a colour palette of blues and blacks that convey a quiet atmosphere – very fitting for the nightly topic. (Age: 3+)

72

Hula, Saskia (text)

Hattenhauer, Ina (illus.)

Die beste Bande der Welt

(The world's best gang)

St. Pölten: Residenz, 2012. – [36] p.

ISBN 978-3-7017-2107-8

Individuality – Community – Interaction

Oskar feels frustrated. Everyone belongs to a gang – except him. Every time he tries to join one, something just doesn't fit. That is why the boy decides to start his own gang. He sure knows how to create myths and arouse curiosity and desires – secrecy and a code name are the key. Nevertheless, as gang leader, Oskar adheres to a policy of inclusion: Everybody is welcome! In a tongue-in-cheek way, this book exposes the laws of social behaviour. Ina Hattenhauer's illustrations are an added bonus: They don't always stay within the page boundaries but spread across the border into the following page. Several recurring motives also serve to connect the various pictures. (Age: 4+)

73

Roher, Michael (text/illus.)

Oma, Huhn und Kümmelfritz

(Granny, Chicken, and Caraway Fritz)

Wien: Jungbrunnen, 2012. – 103 p.

ISBN 978-3-7026-5843-4

Adventure – Pun

The honourable Chicko-Fucius knows it all: »Wise is he who say work goodbye and make holiday.« How true. In other matters, too, Chicko-Fucius, aka Chicken, who lives with Caraway Fritz and his grandma, rarely holds his beak. Although Caraway Fritz's life can hardly be called uneventful in the first place, the over-confident chicken jazzes it up even more. Thanks to his resemblance to Karlsson-on-the-roof, one of the anarchic heroes of Swedish author Astrid Lindgren, Chicken frequently leads the boy into hazardous situations. The up-and-coming Austrian children's book author Michael Roher tells wild but truly touching tales with linguistic finesse and wit and a smattering of Viennese charm. The stories are spiced up with illustrations in his characteristically sketchy retro style. (Age: 6+)

Germany

74

Andres, Kristina (text/illus.)

Immer, wenn du wiederkommst

(Every time you return)

Rostock: Hinstorff, 2012. – [32] p. + activity sheet

ISBN 978-3-356-01485-3

Friendship – Farewell – New beginning

At the beach, Ferdinand finds an injured little bird with blue feathers. He takes him home and nurses him back to health. Bird, as he is simply called, gives Ferdinand »little blue songs«, and they both have a wonderful summer together. Yet when autumn arrives, Bird gets restless. He longs for ice and snow and thus, one day, he flies away. Ferdinand, who misses his little friend terribly, grows smaller and smaller with grief – until it's summer again and Bird returns. In both her text and her pictures, Kristina Andres creates a meaningful, maritime atmosphere. In a sensitive tone, she talks about elements of surprise, about loneliness and companionship, about saying farewell and making new beginnings. (Age: 4+)

75

Atelier Flora (i.e. Judith Drews, Andrea Peter, Cally Stronk, Regina Voss) (illus.)

Alles Farbe!

(All is colour!)

Weinheim [et al.]: Beltz & Gelberg, 2012. – 160 p.

ISBN 978-3-407-79455-0

Colour

The cover of »Alles Farbe!« (All Is Colour!) with its harmonious composition of coloured objects including a seahorse, some coins, and a bottle of nail polish, clearly leaves Goethe's classic colour wheel of 1809 in the dust. Yet the cover is not only stylish, it also offers a foretaste of the pages inside. In the book, a kaleidoscope of objects is gathered with colours ranging from white to green and rose. Eventually, everything culminates in an explosion of colours. Readers can thumb through the pages in flip-book style or get lost in the numerous details when gazing at the drawings and photographs. This collaboration by the members of Atelier Flora definitely helps to sharpen all readers' perception: It makes them realise that the world around them has terrific things in store, if only they walk through life with their eyes open. (Age: 2+)

76

Bach, Tamara

Was vom Sommer übrig ist

(What is left of the summer)

Hamburg: Carlsen, 2012. – 137 p.

ISBN 978-3-551-58242-3

Suicide – Grief – Loneliness – Escape – Friendship

How do you go on living after your big brother has jumped off a bridge? And after you have become so invisible to your parents that they even forget your birthday? This is what thirteen-year-old Jana struggles with, whose brother Tom is in a coma after trying to commit suicide. Aimlessly wandering around, she meets Louise. The older girl has crammed three jobs into her summer holidays both to earn money for her driving license and to smother her loneliness with activities. After a short orgy-like breakout from their everyday lives, the two girls return to reality with a painful thud: Tom dies and Jana falls into a deep dark hole; Louise, however, spins a thin thread that helps Jana to slowly claw her way back into life. The staccato-like, elliptical language tames the protagonists' fears and guilt and gives the text an unemotional yet poetic quality. (Age: 12+)

77

Bär, Anke (text/illus.)

Wilhelms Reise. Eine Auswanderergeschichte

(Wilhelm's journey. The story of an emigrant)

Hildesheim: Gerstenberg, 2012. – 62 p.

ISBN 978-3-8369-5409-9

Emigration/19th century – New York

Why did so many Germans emigrate to America in the nineteenth century? How long did the passage take, and what was life like on the ships? What happened once they arrived there? Anke Bär's non-fiction picture book answers all these questions (and many more). It focuses on the crossing of Wilhelm, who sets off from Bremerhaven to New York in 1872 on board the sailing ship »Columbia«. The ship's passage enables the author to give details about life on board (food, games, diseases) as well as to mention other topics. There is information about navigation, maritime fauna, and the route of travel. In terms of design, the book with its many pencil drawings and notes seems like a cross between photo album and sketch book. Thanks to its narrative but also matter-of-fact tone, it is both informative and personal. (Age: 8+)

78

Boie, Kirsten

Der Junge, der Gedanken lesen konnte.

Ein Friedhofskrimi

(The boy who could read minds. A cemetery thriller)

Hamburg: Oetinger, 2012. – 318 p.

ISBN 978-3-7891-3191-2

Telepathy – Criminal case – Siblings – Death – Loss

In her new novel, Kirsten Boie weaves the traumatic experience of losing a loved person into a suspenseful thriller plot. On top of that, she creates a crowd of amiable if slightly weird characters. One day, Valentin discovers that he can read people's minds. At the same time, he and his friend Mesut realise that something fishy is going on at the cemetery where they often hang out. They decide to get to the bottom of it. How lucky that Valentin loves reading crime fiction and Mesut's brother is a policeman. Thus, they both know exactly what to do. Valentin is a likeable and believable narrator. In the course of the story, he does not only solve the criminal case but also learns how to deal with his brother's death, which has constantly weighed him down. (Age: 10+)

79

Bühler, Lise [et al.] (ed.)

Ich bin unsichtbar.de. Eine künstlerische Kampagne mit und für Flüchtlinge

(I'm invisible.de. An artistic campaign with and for refugees)

Diedorf: Unsichtbar-Verl., 2012. – 142 p.

ISBN 978-3-942920-47-6

Refugee – Home country – Wish – Everyday life

The campaign »ICH BIN UNSICHTBAR.DE« (I'M inVISIBLE.DE) and the book in which it is documented intend to draw attention to the lives and living conditions of refugees in Germany. Members of a group of artists called Bluespots Productions accompanied refugees in Augsburg, a town in Southern Germany, for a couple of months. They visited them in their degrading accommodations, talked to them, and asked about their native countries and the reasons why they had to leave their homes. Moreover, they discussed their wishes and hopes as well as their new lives in Germany. These interviews resulted in texts, pictures, theatre plays, songs, etc., a selection of which is gathered in this book. It is a thought-provoking and honest book that manages to offer a glimmer of hope despite the dire realities it describes. (Age: 14+) ♦

80

Damm, Antje (text/illus.)

Hasenbrote

(Rabbit sandwiches)

Frankfurt am Main: Moritz-Verl., 2012. – 49 p.

(Series: Ein Moritz Kinderbuch)

ISBN 978-3-89565-243-1

Grandfather – Grandchildren – Visit – Anticipation

Oh, it's so exciting when someone comes for a visit; especially when it's grandpa, who lives »on the other side of the world«. Since his journey takes ages, he naturally packs lots of food. Yet, astonishingly enough, there are always quite a few »Hasenbrote« (left-over sandwiches) and the grandchildren are eagerly waiting to grab them. In addition to her well-known and popular picture books about philosophical questions, Antje Damm has also published several children's books over the past few years that focus on events in her own childhood. In these, she consistently sticks to the child narrator's perspective and skilfully talks about feelings, such as excitement and anticipation, or about spatial and temporal dimensions, which are often difficult to grasp for small children. (Age: 5+)

81

Endres, Brigitte (text)
Straßer, Susanne (illus.)

Rosita's große Reise

(Rosita's big trip)
Berlin: Tulipan-Verl., 2012. – [36] p.
ISBN 978-3-939944-81-2

Pig – Farm – Adventure trip – Death

»Rosita, dein Lebenszweck ist Schweinespeck!« (Rosita, your life's aim is giving ham.) Well rhymed and oh so true! Yet Rosita spends all her days performing acrobatic tricks and therefore doesn't gain any weight. So naturally, the »big trip« that all the other animals rave about and that allegedly ends in some paradise-like destination – so far no pig has ever returned – is not for her. Luckily enough, after the tour guide (aka the butcher) has spurned scrawny Rosita, a minstrel passes by and takes the agile, acrobatic, and adventurous pig with him on a totally different, far more pleasant journey. Brigitte Endres's text is bristling with rhymes, alliteration, and onomatopoeia. Susanne Straßer transforms this text into wonderful illustrations that both add to its meaning and contradict it. (Age: 4+)

82

Feldhaus, Jürgen (text/illus.)

Echt abgefahren. Ein Comic-Roman

(Freakin' cool. A graphic novel)
München: Dt. Taschenbuch-Verl., 2012 – 236 p.
ISBN 978-3-423-71502-7

Secret – Guilty conscience

Mega disaster: During Jan's holidays in Italy, super-nerd Henrik appears all of a sudden. What a drag. Not only does Henrik get on Jan's nerves. What's worse is that he knows some explosive details about the last school trip that Jan would rather keep secret. That's why he has given his parents an edited version of the events. However in Italy, Henrik is full of surprises and things develop a life of their own, so that Jan can hardly keep pace with the events in his travel diary. Jürgen Feldhaus has created a talented and entertaining narrator who could almost pass as a brother of Greg (of the popular Wimpy-Kid-books): Jan is witty, slightly naïve, and sometimes truly embarrassing. Thus the book has a perfect cringe factor (catharsis!). (Age: 10+)

83

Janisch, Heinz (text)
Godon, Ingrid (illus.)

Rita. Das Mädchen mit der roten Badekappe

(Rita. The girl with the red swim cap)
Berlin: Bloomsbury, 2012. – [32] p.
ISBN 978-3-8270-5501-9

Self-confidence – Courage

Rita's red swim cap is a symbol for her courage. Conspicuous as it is, there is no use trying to hide under it. Still, at first it looks as if at the swimming pool Rita is like a fish out of water. She clambers up the three-metre springboard, looks down into the pool and climbs back down again. Then she steps onto the one-metre board – but still doesn't jump. Instead she glides into the water from the pool edge. When a boy shouts »scaredy-cat«, Rita coolly retorts: »Fish don't jump from towers« and ploughs through the water. Ingrid Godon's illustrations, just like Heinz Janisch's text, avoid anything superfluous. Painted in muted shades of colour, they make Rita's swim cap glow even brighter. (Age: 3+)

84

Kästner, Erich (text)
Kreitz, Isabel (illus.)

Emil und die Detektive. Ein Comic

(Emil and the detectives. A comic book)
Hamburg: Dressler, 2012. – 111 p.
ISBN 978-3-7915-1168-9

Theft – City – Team spirit

Erich Kästner's children's book »Emil and the Detectives« is a German classic. Everybody knows the story of the young boy who gets mugged during his train ride to Berlin and then manages, with the help of a gang of children there, to have the thief arrested. The multi-award-winning illustrator Isabel Kreitz has already transposed some of Kästner's other books into comics. Her illustrations in »Emil« are again based on the pictures by Walter Trier from the original edition. This is clearly evident, for example, in the cover design of Gustav and Emil hiding behind an advertising column, a picture etched deep into the collective iconographic memory of readers. Apart from this, Kreitz shows great skill both in evoking the city atmosphere of Berlin during the 1920s and in imbuing the characters with powerful gestures and facial expressions. (Age: 8+)

85

Kreller, Susan

Elefanten sieht man nicht

(Elephants are invisible)

Hamburg: Carlsen, 2012. – 203 p.

ISBN 978-3-551-58246-1

Siblings – Domestic violence – Courage

Susan Kreller's debut is a multi-layered, psychologically believable, and linguistically convincing novel about domestic violence told from the point of view of thirteen-year-old Mascha. While on holidays at her grandparents' in a small town, Mascha meets siblings Max and Julia and soon realises that something isn't quite right. Since nobody believes her and all the adults fail to act, Mascha decides to save Max and Julia single-handedly, in an unconventional and slightly dubious way. Despite her uncompromising courage, Mascha gets condemned by everyone – her grandfather is the only one who takes her side. The teenage girl shows great empathy and is an astute and thoughtful observer. She notices Julia and Max's misery and manages to expose the hypocrisy and cowardice of the narrow-minded neighbours through her actions. (Age: 12+)

86

Lappert, Rolf

Pampa Blues

(Backwater blues)

München: Hanser, 2012. – 251 p.

ISBN 978-3-446-23895-4

Grandfather – Grandson – Dementia – Responsibility – Love – Country life

Ben lives in a sleepy backwater and has to take care of his grandfather, who suffers from dementia. Suddenly an UFO turns up. Not knowing that this is simply a clever marketing trick by Maslow, the local jack-of-all-trades, who intends to lure the media and investors to the village, the farmers are afraid of an alien invasion – which never happens. Instead, Lena arrives, steals Ben's heart, and puts him to the test. The village community gets shaken up, too; yet eventually everything ends well – and entirely without sentimentality. This novel's striking features are its naturalistic but weird characters, its pointed dialogues, and its poetic descriptions. Moreover it stands out for its well-balanced mixture of seriousness and light-heartedness in dealing with topics such as responsibility and the right for self-determination. (Age: 14+)

87

Maxeiner, Alexandra (text)

Klein, Horst (illus.)

Lexikon der Lästigkeiten

(Encyclopaedia of inconveniences)

Leipzig: Klett Kinderbuch, 2012. – 73 p.

ISBN 978-3-941411-54-8

Everyday life

In their »Encyclopaedia of Inconveniences«, author Alexandra Maxeiner, who received the Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis (German Youth Literature Award) in 2011, and illustrator Horst Klein have gathered all the irritations that poor little children have to suffer every day. Several of the encyclopaedia entries are all too familiar – even to the writer of this annotation – such as little siblings, the skin on hot milk, raisins, or Monday mornings, not least because quite a few of these inconveniences are still noticeable in adult life. Horst Klein's comic-book-like black-and-white illustrations accompany the amusing texts. In a witty way, Maxeiner gets to the bottom of who and what is distressing and annoying: »And moreover, little brothers or sisters often start whingeing and then you get the blame even if you haven't done (hardly) anything.« That's just how it is. (Age: 6+)

88

Müller, Birte (text/illus.)

Planet Willi

(Planet Willi)

Leipzig: Klett Kinderbuch, 2012. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-3-941411-64-7

Disability – Everyday life – Family

Birte Müller has a child with Down's syndrome and a »normal« child. In »Planet Willi«, she presents her little son in short texts and striking pictures in bright colours: What it was like when he was born; what he likes (basically everything, especially his sister, music, and cows); what he doesn't like at all (getting dressed); what he has learned (how to eat); and what he is particularly good at (running away). Some people may doubt that the other-planet and extra-terrestrial metaphor is a sensible choice but Birte Müller skilfully dispels these doubts. Not only is her book a far cry from the vagueness or tear-jerking sentimentality common for this topic, it also shows that Willi is cut from the same cloth as other children. This is an honest book that doesn't hide how challenging life with Willi can sometimes be, and how enriching, too. (Age: 4+)

89

Pin, Isabel (text/illus.)

A-B-Zebra. Der Doppelwörter-Spaß

(A-B-Zebra. Fun with portmanteau words)

Köln: Boje, 2012. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-3-414-82328-1

Alphabet – Pun

People who like playing Scrabble know how quickly words can change: As soon as you add a few letters, you create something new and score big time. With her new picture book »A-B-Zebra«, in which she merges two words into a new one, Isabel Pin scores full points. Even if fellow Scrabble players might rule out words like Alligatorwart (Alligator=alligator, Torwart=goal keeper), Chineseeräuber (Chinese=Chinese person, Seeräuber=pirate) or Papageist (Papagei=parrot, Geist=ghost), in this book they are more than welcome! Should readers have trouble understanding the word-formation process, they are guided by the letters' different colours. Moreover, the delicately coloured illustrations in Pin's characteristic style will also light the path. This book is great fun for all language aficionados. (Age: 4+)

90

Procházková, Iva

Orangentage

(Orange days)

Mannheim: Sauerländer, 2012. – 239 p.

ISBN 978-3-411-80979-0

Responsibility – Coming of age

Life is not easy for Darek: Since his mother died, his father struggles to manage things. Darek has to look after his disabled little sister Ema, a task that often irritates him and then makes him feel guilty. When his father decides to take in horses on his farm, Darek's life takes a turn for the better. The work with the animals fulfils Darek, and he is further spurred on by his feelings for the girl Hanka. Thus it comes as a great shock to him when he learns that the horses are only fattened up for the slaughterhouse. The multi-layered novel paints a subtly nuanced, honest, and perceptive picture of a boy who is burdened with a lot of responsibility. It touches upon relationships within a family and upon coping with grief but also upon Darek's first love. (Age: 12+) (Luchs Award; 2012)

91

Raab, Ann Cathrin (text/illus.)

Lennis Welt. Entdecke erste Bilder und Wörter

(Lenni's world. Discover first pictures and words)

Stuttgart [et al.]: Thienemann, 2012. – [18] p.

ISBN 978-3-522-43693-9

Language – Vocabulary

In this follow-up to »Lenni mag blau« (Lenni likes blue), little white mouse Lenni now discovers »first pictures and words« in the kitchen, at the playground, or at the birthday party. On each double spread, rooms or events form the background for the semantic field that Ann Cathrin Raab presents. She mostly draws items in full-frontal view. The single elements are either silhouetted – e.g. the slide and the tea towel – or put in larger groups – such as items on the birthday party table. Each page is accompanied by a suggestive exclamation or question that is directed towards Lenni but at the same time addresses the reader: »Your breakfast looks yummy. Enjoy, Lenni.« Therefore, the pictures invite readers to observe, discover, and talk. (Age: 2+)

92

Reffert, Thilo (text)

Mühle, Jörg (illus.)

Australien, ich komme!

(Australia, here I come!)

Vastorf: Little-Tiger-Verlag, 2012. – 143 p.

(Series: Chili tiger books)

ISBN 978-3-931081-82-9

Wombat – Curse – Journey

Yuppie couple Chris and Eva get themselves a truly trendy pet: a wombat. However, since the little fellow obviously doesn't feel at home in their front garden in the small German town, his owners put a memento from his home country into his pen: a stone from holy Uluru in Australia. Not a good idea because it is a well-known fact that you're not allowed to take anything from there. In order to avoid harm, the wombat decides to return the stone. Thus starts an adventurous journey from Germany to Australia. Thilo Reffert has written an entertaining roadmovie-like book that comes alive through the clash between man and animal as well as through the absurd encounters on the road. The text is enriched by Jörg Mühle's small vignettes, which accurately capture its wit. (Age: 6+)

93

Richter, Jutta

Das Schiff im Baum. Ein Sommerabenteuer

(The ship in the tree. A summer adventure)

München: Hanser, 2012. – 120 p.

ISBN 978-3-446-24018-6

Siblings – Country life – Imagination – Storytelling – Old age

Unsentimental, slightly cheeky, and brash, that's how Jutta Richter's narrative style often comes across – and it's no different in this book. However, hidden below the rather rough surface readers will discover a large dose of loyalty, compassion, and affection. As an ode to storytelling and imagination, »Das Schiff im Baum« seems pleasantly old-fashioned. In their summer holidays, siblings Ole and Katharina end up in some village in the back of beyond. There is nothing there but a single tree, a workshop, Aunt Polly, and Uncle Fiete, who once used to be a sailor but now is getting a bit senile. However, he is still great at spinning a yarn or two. So despite (or maybe thanks to) the lack of the latest technology gadgets, Katharina and Ole experience summer holidays they won't forget. (Age: 8+)

94

Scherz, Oliver (text)

K., Ulf (illus.)

Der fürchterliche Hermann

(Terrible Hermann)

Wuppertal: Hammer, 2012. – 24 p.

ISBN 978-3-7795-0417-7

Listening – Self-confidence – Dream

Hard shell, soft core – that's guard dog Hermann. When Stig rides past him on his bike, the dog barks angrily. Stig however is unimpressed and starts talking to Hermann. And guess what – he actually worms surprising tales out of the animal: »A long time ago, I wanted to become a dancer. But nobody cared. I wasn't elegant enough, they said. So guard dog was the only other option.« Yet Stig suspects that Hermann is a »guard dog with feelings«, and so he persuades him to do pirouettes again. Wonderful! Luckily enough, thanks to Oliver Scherz's nonchalant language and Ulf K.'s comic-strip-style illustrations, the parable of Stig and Hermann never turns soppy. Important topics are tackled, such as »First impressions may be deceiving«, »It's paramount to listen carefully«, and »Follow your heart.« (Age: 4+)

95

Schwartz, Simon (text/illus.)

Packeis

(Pack ice)

Berlin: Avant-Verl., 2012. – 175 p.

ISBN 978-3-939080-52-7

Racism – Imperialism – North Pole – Biography

»Packeis« tells the life story of African-American explorer Matthew Henson, who was the first person to reach the North Pole in 1909. Yet, since he was subjected to discrimination all his life, this honour was given to other people, and Henson's name sank into oblivion. In a condensed form, Simon Schwartz creates a connection between Henson's individual fate and that of all African-Americans and Inuit people. The panels in this graphic novel express the explorer's perceptions and feelings: Many flash-backs highlight the influence of past events on Henson's present life and point out the lifelong racism he experienced; moreover, the black-white-and-blue colour palette metaphorically illustrates the literally freezing atmosphere that Henson faces. Thanks to the mythical glorification of Henson's fate, »Packeis« clearly exposes inhuman imperialism and racism as well as a common practice of white historiography, which degrades people of a different skin colour as slaves and prey. An excellent book. (Age: 12+) ★ ◆

96

Siems, Annika (text/illus.)

Meister der Tarnung.

Überlebenskünstler in der Tierwelt

(Masters of camouflage. Animal survivalists)

Hildesheim: Gerstenberg, 2012. – [48] p.

ISBN 978-3-8369-5483-9

Animals – Camouflage

This book with its artistically ambitious and elaborate design is a hybrid of picture book and non-fiction book forming a conceptual »Gesamtkunstwerk«. It introduces different animals who are »masters of camouflage« in their natural habitats and shows their respective peculiar ways of becoming invisible. Yet, the author also plays with the topic in terms of creative design: The information about the various animals is presented both in easily detectable, eye-catching blocks of text, and in hidden, literally camouflaged text units. One time, the tiny print hugs a small twig, another time the text hides among a zebra's stripes. Annika Siems's large-format pictures are impressively naturalistic and detailed; the accompanying text is brief and informative. (Age: 5+)

97

Su, Meike

Paula Modersohn-Becker. Farbe in die Ohren

(Paula Modersohn-Becker. Paint into the ears)

München: Horncastle [et al.], 2012. – 84 p. + CD

ISBN 978-3-938822-38-8

Modersohn-Becker, Paula – Painting – Art – Music – Biography

The small publishing house Horncastle has carved a niche for itself: For the past few years, this publisher has focused on innovative non-fiction books on theatre, art, and museums. The remarkable thing about them is that they are often created in collaboration with teenagers. In addition, many of these books come with a CD, enabling readers to have synaesthetic experiences. This biography of expressionist painter Paula Modersohn-Becker (1876-1907), to which pupils from a school in Bremerhaven have contributed, also includes an audio part. Even if it may have the layman's charm of a self-made production, it nevertheless manages to make the artist's expressive paintings reverberate. The book is a felicitous combination of subjective involvement, facts and information, and interactive elements. (Age: 10+)

98

Turkowski, Einar (illus.)

Als die Häuser heimwärts schwebten ...**Erzählbilder von Einar Turkowski**

(When the houses were floating homewards ...)

Narrative pictures by Einar Turkowski)

München: mixtvision, 2012. – [28] p.

ISBN 978-3-939435-48-8

Opposites – Storytelling – Philosophy

Curious cloud formations, weird plants, fantastic mythical creatures in mystical surroundings – with precision and a sharp eye for detail, using all kinds of nuances between black and white, Einar Turkowski creates worlds that seem to hover between dream and reality. His pencil drawings have great narrative power. In »When the Houses Were Floating Homewards«, he stages contrasting pairs full of suspense: Heaven and earth, noise and silence, desert and ocean. Sometimes the opposition is immediately obvious; sometimes readers will have to look at the pictures more closely to discern the differentiating elements. Yet this uncertainty is sure to inspire people to ask questions, imagine things, philosophise, or tell stories. Thus it is fitting that this book is part of the series »Erzählbilder« (narrative pictures). (Age: 4+)

99

Voorhoeve, Anne C.

Unterland

(Lowlands)

[Ravensburg]: Ravensburger Buchverl., 2012. – 434 p.

ISBN 978-3-473-40074-4

World War II – Escape – Post-war era – Germany/1945

In 1945, twelve-year-old Alice and her family are being evacuated following a bomb attack on their home, the little island of Helgoland situated in the North Sea. The heavily bombed-out city of Hamburg, however, is already crowded with thousands of evacuees; the situation is tense. Even when the war is declared over soon afterwards, life is still dictated by hunger, cold, illnesses, silence, and feelings of guilt, fear, insecurity, and homesickness. The novel »Unterland« (Lowlands) is based on true facts. By using Alice as her narrator, author Anne C. Voorhoeve successfully evokes convincing pictures and moods and an authentic atmosphere, despite the fact that – or maybe because – the girl often chooses a dry and laconic tone that is decidedly un-mawkish and unsentimental. (Age: 12+) ♦

Switzerland

100

Pauli, Lorenz (text)

Zedelius, Miriam (illus.)

Zum Mitnehmen

(For free)

Zürich: Atlantis, 2012. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-3-7152-0643-1

Confusion

In their book »Zum Mitnehmen« (For Free), Lorenz Pauli and Miriam Zedelius present a fast-paced and enjoyable chain story: Since plenty of apples grow on Mr Schnippel's apple tree, he puts the best ones into a basket and sticks a note on it reading »for free«. Juri, who can't read yet, takes one apple but feels guilty because he believes he stole it. Ms Asperilla, on the other hand, thinks the message refers to the beautiful basket. She empties it and takes it with her. The note is blown away and gets stuck on Mr Schnippel's bike. In this way, the mix-up's ramifications are getting broader and broader and culminate in a surprising punch line. Atlantis picture books often stand out for the skilful way in which they utilise the book as artefact – and this one is no exception: endpapers and bastard title also constitute part of the story. (Age: 4+)

Romance Languages

Africa

Benin (French)

101

Young, Jeff (photos)

Guthier, Richard / Éthier, Diane (transl.)

Baké. L'histoire d'une petite fille placée

(Baké. Story of a placed girl)

Cotonou, Bénin: Ed. Ruisseaux d'Afrique, 2011. – 32 p.

(Series: Collection des grands livres du Bénin)

ISBN 978-99919-390-8-7

Child labour – Children's rights

Five-year-old Baké grows up in her aunt's family rather than with her parents. She gets water from the well early every morning, completes housework until evening, cooks and sells bananas on the street. Assiba, the daughter of her aunt, is treated very differently, and most of all she goes to school! Will this be possible for Baké, too? This trenchant story portrays non-voyeuristically the wide diversity of African childhoods. Its images and text work not with the assumption of deficiency, but instead show the independence and many capabilities of the five-year-old who must work for her subsistence. The large-format photographs offer plenty of material for subsequent discussion of children's rights, child labour, and schooling. (Age: 5+)

Morocco (French)

102

Le Guen, Laurence (text)

Cocain, Anthony (illus.)

Les fabuleux voyages d'Ibn Battouta

(The legendary travels of Ibn Battuta)

Rabat: Yomad éd., 2012. – 107 p.

(Series: Raconte-moi l'histoire)

ISBN 978-9954-531-12-9

North Africa/14th century – Berber <people> – Ibn Battuta – Expedition

Laurence Le Guen recounts the travels of the most famous Arab explorer of the late Middle Ages. At twenty-one years of age, Ibn Battuta set out on pilgrimage to Mecca. Only twenty-five years later did he return to Morocco from his extended travels, which took him to China and India, East and West Africa. This book replicates the ambivalence of his travel reports. Battuta's strength lies in giving detailed description of the geographical and social details of the countries he visited. However, he often »enhances«

these with elements of his own invention. Travel is thus shown to be an important way to educate oneself, yet it is circumscribed by subjective and ideological boundaries: what the traveller can see is defined by what he knows. (Age: 10+) ♦

La Réunion (France) (French)

103

Écormier, Joëlle (text)

Gaboriau, Claire (illus.)

Un cœur de sardine

(A sardine heart)

Saint-André (Réunion): Océan jeunesse, 2012. – [36] p.

ISBN 978-2-36247-042-4

Pet – Sardine – Poetry

A capricious sardine lives all alone in a tin on the kitchen counter. Robert (named after the well-known canning factory on the island of La Réunion) peers into a dim future, for his sardine mates have already disappeared into the frying pan. Does the same fate await him? Facing these bad prospects, »pet« Robert is not easy to keep in a good mood. His homesickness for the Atlantic, for instance, can only be cured with grandiose stories – complete with fictional starry sky, silvery »light show«, and the works. At worst, Robert barricades himself in his tin, annoyed. Claire Gaboriau's boldly shining illustrations emphasise the affectionate humour of Joëlle Écormier's quick rhymes. (Age: 5+)

Europe

Belgium (French)

104

Balpe, Anne-Gaëlle [et al.]

Petit, Aurore (illus.)

Hessel, Stéphane (preface)

»On n'a rien vu venir«. Roman à 7 voix

(»We didn't see it coming.« A novel in 7 voices)

Bruxelles: Alice Éd., 2012. – 111 p.

(Series: Deuzio)

ISBN 978-2-87426-162-6

Dictatorship – Resistance – Engagement

Right after their election victory, the now legally ruling liberty party effects its long-planned break with the present constitution and legislation. In this novel, seven people,

each penned by a different author, tell of the beginning of a dictatorship from different perspectives: from the first prohibitions, intimidation tactics, surveillance, and arrests. Stéphane Hessel introduces the topic in a very personal preface, after which the seven-headed team of authors grippingly portrays how people branded »enemies« by the party are mercilessly persecuted. The authors ask whether or how the dictatorship could have been prevented during the period of transition prior to its instalment. And what can the opponents of a dictatorship do? Can one excuse oneself by explaining that one »didn't see it coming«? (Age: 11+)

105
Dubois, Claude K. (text/illus.)

Akim court

(Akim runs)
[Bruxelles]: Pastel, DL 2012. – [86] p.
ISBN 978-2-211-20724-9

War – Escape – Refugee

Somewhere on the border between Asia and Europe, war suddenly invades the village where little Akim lives. Everyone around him takes flight. He also flees, but in the process gets separated from his family. Akim searches for them everywhere. He is taken prisoner by soldiers, but is able to escape their violent grasp. How will he find his family? Belgian illustrator Claude Dubois has once again taken on the topic of escape, relying on subtle black-and-white pencil drawings and sparse and concise text passages to capture the most important scenes from the story of the boy's escape. The book was created in very successful cooperation with Amnesty International, an organisation that is also currently fighting for the human rights of persecuted children. (Age: 5+) ♦

106
Herbauts, Anne (text/illus.)

De quelle couleur est le vent?

(What colour is the wind?)
[Bruxelles] [et al.]: Casterman, 2011. – [48] p.
(Series: Les albums Casterman)
ISBN 978-2-203-02016-0

Wind – Colour – Poetry

Early morning, the little giant leaves his home to find the wind and to learn more about its colour. Every being in its surroundings (dog, wolf, tree, window) gives the little giant a new answer. The topic of the book is inspired by Anne Herbaut's encounter with a blind child who asked: what colour is the wind? In this picture book she attempts

to answer the poetic question in various ways, which ultimately must remain open-ended. This is because things that one feels sometimes remain invisible and colourless even for the sighted. This is an extraordinary and tactile-focused book, made with a love for detail. It is lamentable that only the title was printed in Braille and not the entire text. (Age: 6+)

107
Lison-Leroy, Françoise / Nys-Mazure, Colette (text)
Chevrillon, Camille (illus.)

Encore un quart d'heure

(Another quarter hour)
Noville-sur-Mehaigne: Esperluète Ed., 2012. – [32] p.
ISBN 978-2-35984-026-1

Moment – Time – Present

Endowed with Camille Chevrillon's fine-lined drawings, this brightly coloured accordion-style book leads through pivoting folds into the everyday experience of children, who in many ways perceive time differently than adults. The poetic text of Françoise Lison-Leroy and Colette Nys-Mazure shows with astonishing delicacy how children shape and master the realm of the present: they create breaks and between-times when necessary (»Only another fifteen minutes!« is one of their tricks, as the book's title reveals). This helps to extend craft-time, play-time, dream-time, to not miss an event, to enjoy an important moment or – fully focused on what is coming – to look forward to the next moment and the next quarter hour. (Age: 4+)

France (French)

108
Aurouet, Carole (text)
Heitz, Bruno (illus.)

Petit Jacques deviendra Prévert

(Little Jacques becomes Prévert)
[Voisins-le-Bretonneux]: Rue du Monde, 2011. – 44 p.
(Series: Petit deviendra grand)
ISBN 978-2-35504-165-5

Prévert, Jacques – Biography

How did little Jacques become one of the best-known French poets of the 20th century? Carole Aurouet hones in on the poet's sound quite casually and describes great conflicts of Prévert's childhood and youth with equal amounts of energy and precision. Sticking closely to his biography, she tells in a gripping manner how some of the basic motifs of Prévert's multi-faceted oeuvre came about

(his poems, chansons, screenplays and collages): Jacques leaves the school he hated at fourteen, learns his most important lessons on the street, revolts early against the church, the military, poverty, and war. Bruno Heitz's fondly ironic illustrations pinpoint Prévert's love of subversion, ambivalence, and dreamy transformative art. This book is a little jewel. (Age: 8+)

109

Bebey, Kidi

Les Saï-Saï et le secret du marché

(The Saï-Saï and the secret of the market)

[Varves]: Hachette Livre international Édicef,

2012. – 138 p.

(Series : Buzz – Une enquête des Saï-Saï)

ISBN 978-2-7531-0616-1

Friendship – Crime – Criminality – Detective – Market

The new »Buzz« series from Édicef (in the Publishing Group Hachette-Livre) annually publishes twelve texts by renowned African children's and youth authors. Many problems continue to prevent a functioning independent publishing system in Africa. This goes especially for children's and youth literature. The »Buzz« series fills this market gap, offering good, affordable books by African authors, such as Pabé Mongo, S. Tanella Boni, and Alpha Manda Diarra. Franco-Cameroonian journalist and best-selling author Kidi Bebey is composing a detective series for »Buzz«, which unfolds amidst the life realities of young African readers. In the third volume of the series, the clever members of the »Saï-Saï« group (two girls and two boys) shield their city's old textile market from destruction and put a stop to the criminals' activities. (Age: 8+)

110

Böll, Heinrich (text)

Friot, Bernard (transl./adapt.)

Bravo, Émile (illus.)

La leçon de pêche

(Fishing lesson)

Grenoble: Glénat, 2012. – [34] p.

ISBN 978-2-7234-8233-2

Fishing – Work – Leisure – Growth – Work/life balance

Just like the original, this treatment of Heinrich Böll's »Anecdote to the Decline of the Work Ethic« thrives on the ironic opposition of two irreconcilable standpoints on the topic of life and work. A tourist tries to »convert« a poor fisherman to a work method geared only at pro-

ductivity, a method that supposedly guarantees increased prosperity and leisure. The fisherman defends his lifestyle shrewdly, until the tourist's ever more abstruse suggestions run their course, and the tourist is revealed to be an arrogant and clueless »high flyer«. This book offers a vibrant revitalisation of a classic, thanks both to the sophisticated interpretation of the literary Nobel laureate's text and to the extraordinary sense for graphic design and slapstick. Friot and Bravo extend the interpretive possibilities of Böll's text in new directions to address sustainability, balancing work and life, overfishing of the seas and more. (Age: 5+)

111

Chedid, Andrée (text)

Corvaisier, Laurent (illus.)

Le Chedid. Poèmes

(The Chedid. Poems)

Paris: Mango Jeunesse, 2012. – 40 p.

(Series : Album Dada)

ISBN 978-2-7404-2899-3

Poetry

Very shortly after the death of the great francophone poet and two-time Prix Goncourt award winner Andrée Chedid (1920-2011), Mango Jeunesse Publishers put out this selection of her most beautiful poems with illustrations by Laurent Corvaisier. Andrée Chedid was born in Cairo, grew up in the Egyptian capital and went to school there, then lived for many years in Lebanon, before coming to and staying in Paris. The poet was equally at home in the Arab as in the French world. Her poems bear witness to the tense as well as enriching encounter between the two cultural poles. Chedid's poems always speak of wonder and of the resilience, i.e. the creative power of human beings, to withstand existential threats such as loneliness, violence and war. (Age: 9+) ♦

112

Cornille, Didier

Toutes les maisons sont dans la nature

(All the houses are in the open)

[Paris]: Hélium, 2012. – 85 p.

ISBN 978-2-35851-095-0

Architecture/20th and 21st centuries – House

A highly successful children's lesson in modern architecture lies hidden behind a somewhat nondescript cover. Didier Cornille offers a brief primer on architectural styles of the 20th and 2nd centuries, using ten apartment buildings as exemplars. He also introduces the well-known architects who made those blueprints, from Le Corbusier

and Mies van der Rohe to Rem Koolhaas. The ten chapters focus on very practical concerns, too: what were the contractors' wishes and aims, before they moved into the houses? Children will most certainly be inspired by the reading to sketch houses themselves and to view their own apartments or their surroundings with fresh eyes. (Age: 7+)

113

Deveau, Jean-Michel (text)

Cachin, Claude (illus.)

Nzingha, reine d'Angola

(Nzinga, Queen of Angola)

Saint-Herblain: Gulf Stream éd., 2012. – 67 p.

(Series: L'histoire en images)

ISBN 978-2-35488-156-6

Nzinga <Queen> – Angola/17th century – Slave trade

The Angolan queen Nzinga (1582-1663) ruled her great land for forty years, thanks to her remarkable diplomatic and military cunning. During her whole reign she was able to keep her country largely independent of Portugal and protect it from colonial greediness. Jean-Michel Deveau, an internationally renowned historian and UNESCO specialist on the topic of the slave trade, presents an interesting biography of this African queen, which also addresses the great mistakes of her varied career. At the same time, Deveau makes it clear why the clever strategist, still widely unknown in Europe, to this day continues to serve as a symbolic figure in the fight for true liberty and independence in Africa. (Age: 9+) ♦

114

Ésope (text)

Mogenet, Jean-Philippe (adapt.)

Martin, Jean-François (illus.)

Fables

(Fables)

Paris: Milan Jeunesse, 2011. – 59 p.

ISBN 978-2-7459-4458-0

Human frailty – Animals – Fable

This book is enchanting! The (sur)realistic, ever-astonishing illustrations of Jean François Martin and Jean Philippe Mogenet's very contemporary linguistic reworking combine to utterly revitalise Aesop's fables. Martin's pictures masterfully set the scenes for the stories' key moments and transport the antagonists to a generous, set-like space where they go head to head, often starting from a stance of inequality. The reader has the freedom to engage

with these timeless stories concerning envy, goodness, ingratitude and other virtues or vices and to focus on the moments when the status quo is either strengthened or, on the contrary, toppled. (Age: 7+) (Bologna Ragazzi Award 2011; Grand Prix de l'Illustration, 2012)

115

Gervais, Bernadette / Pittau, Francesco (illus.)

Nacéo <proper name>

Paris: Éd. des Grandes Personnes, 2012. – [20] p.

ISBN 978-2-36193-134-6

Sea – Beach – Sea animals

With »Nacéo«, the innovative Publisher Les Grandes Personnes once again spiritedly embraces the large-format book (28 x 36 cm). Well-known illustrator team Bernadette Gervais and Francesco Pittau catch the wonders of the seas in this gorgeously coloured picture book. Surprises lie buried in the eight double spreads, which otherwise can only be found at oceanic depths or hidden on the beach. The marvellous, remarkably precise drawings reveal at first glance only a section of an animal's body; sophisticated folding techniques inspire the observer (of any age) to reflect and guess which animals might be hidden behind the individual flaps. At the close of the book one can assemble new fantasy fish using parts of very different fish. (Age: 4+)

116

Hajaji, Kamel

Paris, inch'Allah!

(Paris, inch'Allah!)

Paris: Éd. Sarbacane, 2012. – 243 p.

(Series: Roman Sarbacane – Exprim')

ISBN 978-2-84865-513-0

Coming of age – Poverty – Emigration

Mohamed lives in the poor district of Tunis with his moody and violent mother Dounia, who works as a prostitute. Pregnant again, Dounia kicks her son out of the house. Mohamed courageously makes his way in the world. He works regularly as a domestic staff member for Europeans, who despite all claims to the contrary are convinced of the insuperability of the social and neo-colonial borders separating them from him. Mohamed rejects the unbearable circumstances of »modern day serfdom« and heads to Paris with his young wife, where he hopes to find his destiny. This second novel by young journalist Kamel Hajaji is written in an unmistakable voice and was published by Sarbacane Publishers as part of the innovative series »Exprim'«. (Age: 14+) ♦

117

Hinckel, Florence

Théa pour l'éternité

(Théa forever)

[Paris]: Syros, 2012. – 238 p.

(Series: Soon; 15)

ISBN 978-2-7485-1223-6

Genetics – Adolescence – Beauty – Youthism

Sixteen-year-old Théa never wants to grow old. This fact, added to the frustrated and fruitless »youth obsession« of her own mother, leads her to an unscrupulous researcher who persuades her to become a tester for a sensational anti-aging product. This »miracle product« does not guarantee eternal life, but it does guarantee »eternal youth«.

Thus, at first glance, it seems to be the solution for all of mother's and daughter's problems. But can Théa properly gauge the risks of such a product? Florence Hinckel wrote this highly topical science fiction novel against the backdrop of genetic research and social debates about the aging process. (Age: 13+)

118

Hoarau, Isabelle (text)

Epanya, Christian (illus.)

Comment le désert a disparu

(How the desert disappeared)

Clermont-Ferrand: Reflets d'ailleurs, 2011. – [24] p.

(Series: P'tit Cipango) (Cipango jeunesse)

ISBN 978-2-918593-16-4

Desertification – Reforestation – Forest – Fairy tale

Drought continues to spread in a village in Senegal, the home of Papa Lai. Fortunately, Lai remembers the legend of the »grandfather of trees«, who planted trees in arid zones and helped re-establish wonderful forests. This story inspires successful community initiatives, which go beyond simply being reforestation projects. They preserve not only the earth as the basis for all life, but also protect the diversity of plants and animals, as well as stabilise the water supply. Réunionnais poet Isabelle Hoarau's fairy tale convincingly shows how an out-of-balance ecosystem can be brought back into harmony through collective efforts – starting at the local level. Cameroonian illustrator Christian Epanya supplies magical pictures. (Age: 7+)

119

Lehmann, Christian

No pasarán, endgame

(They will not pass, endgame)

Paris: École des Loisirs, 2012. – 516 p.

(Series: Médium) – ISBN 978-2-211-07967-9

Computer game – Time machine – Violence – World War II – Spanish Civil War – Suburb

In Part One of the »No Pasarán« trilogy, Thierry, Andreas, and Eric, a trio of teenage geeks, found a mysterious 3D computer game that turns out to be an interactive time machine, which transports all of its players into a historical situation of war. The »players« are faced with all the real dangers of military engagement as well as with the threat of never exiting the game. The latter is Andreas's fate, who has been absent since the end of Part One. Since that time, he has been living out violent fascist fantasies in 20th century wars. Who can stop his destruction? With »Endgame« (Part Three), Lehmann delivers a grandiose finish to his excellently written bestseller for all ages.

He presents excessive violent computer game playing as an initiation into real violence, without seeming overly moralistic. To do so, he cleverly draws on current political conflicts in France: right-wing extremism, racism, radical Islamic fundamentalism and the unrest in the suburbs.

(Age: 12+) ★

120

Martin, Nicolas / Rousseau, Éloi

L'art face à l'histoire. 50 événements racontés par les artistes

(Art facing history. 50 historical events described by artists)

[Paris]: Palette, 2012. – 93 p.

ISBN 978-2-35832-115-0

History – Art – Iconography

This excellent book by Nicolas Martin and Éloi Rousseau expertly documents how gripping, illuminating – but also misleading! – it can be, to investigate artworks of the past 200 years in terms of their relation to history and the reporting of history. The authors pursue the question whether or how art reconstructs historical events and personalities in an »authentic« way. Perhaps, however, the strength of art lies exactly in the opposite direction, namely in subjective construction from a particular social perspective, from »top« or »bottom«? This volume, equipped with a helpful glossary, can also be used as a primer in iconography and art history. (Age: 10+) (»Pépète du documentaire«, Salon de Montreuil; 2012)

121

Moundlic, Charlotte (text)
Tallec, Olivier (illus.)

Le slip de bain, ou, Les pires vacances de ma vie

(The swimming trunks or The most awful holidays of my life)

Paris: Père Castor Flammarion, 2011. – [44] p.
ISBN 978-2-0812-4535-8

Test of bravery – Fear – Grandchildren – Grandparents

Seven-year-old Michel, somewhat timid, is embarking on his first holidays alone with his grandparents. A week full of challenges! Michel must not only learn to see his slightly grumpy grandfather in a new light, but also stand up to the teasing of his older cousins, who have selected him as the target for their pranks. At the end of the week, the ultimate test of bravery looms, the jump from the three-metre board into the pool, one of his family's unavoidable trials of manliness. To top things off, Michel's mother packed him the wrong swimming trunks! Charlotte Moundlic's and Olivier Tallec's marvellously spun tale is sensitively narrated and illustrated with an unerring feel for punch lines. (Age: 6+) (Prix Livrentête; 2012)

122

Panafieu, Jean-Baptiste de

Préhistoire, la grande aventure de l'homme

(Prehistory, the great adventure of humankind)

Montrouge: Bayard, 2012. – 173 p.

(Series: Bayard Jeunesse – Images Doc)

ISBN 978-2-7470-3956-7

Prehistory – Early history – Human being – Theory of evolution

The well-known scientific journalist and biologist

Jean-Baptiste de Panafieu here delivers an excellently researched and written developmental account of humankind, which shows how exciting it can be to write about prehistory and early history. He describes the predecessors of so-called »homo sapiens« and what intriguing facts we have concerning life, work, technology and culture in the prehistoric and proto-historic periods. At the same time, the book addresses the formation, methods, and controversies (still raging today) of the domains of archaeology, prehistory and early history, and biology, especially in the context of evolutionary theory. Panafieu also provides valuable information that disproves pseudo-scientific and racist claims surrounding the evolution of human beings. (Age: 10+)

123

Panet, Sabine / Penot, Pauline

Le cœur n'est pas un genou que l'on peut plier. Roman

(The heart is not a knee that one can bend. A novel)

[Paris]: Magnier, 2012. – 164 p.

ISBN 978-2-36474-151-5

Immigration – Second generation immigrant – Paris – Suburb

In a suburb of Paris, sixteen-year-old Awa is a nervous wreck. Her father wants to marry her off this summer to an unknown cousin in Senegal. Luckily, she can count on her French best friend and the wonderful, energetic triumvirate of her family, consisting of Awa's aunt, her younger sister, and her mother. They put Awa's father in his place using wit and cunning. The gender relations in Molière's »The School for Wives« are here put on their head, defamiliarised and cleverly updated by female co-authors Panet and Penot. The result is a witty and sophisticated comedy with polished dialogue, well-developed characters, and a suspenseful deliberate confusion of all those involved up until the happy ending. (Age: 12+)

124

Rutten, Mélanie (text/illus.)

Nour, le moment venu

(Nour, at the right moment)

Nantes: Éd. MeMo, 2012. – [60] p.

ISBN 978-2-35289-136-9

Self-confidence – Decision – Moving – Friendship

Nour has to move and does not know where to go. She is afraid of having to make such an important decision all by herself. At the same time, she is waiting for a surprise that her friend Öko promised her. While she is waiting, wonderful coincidences occur. As if by intuition Nour eventually finds a place where she can finally build her dream home (a tree house). Mélanie Rutten's protagonists, the animals Nour, Basile, Elliott and Öko, are similar to people in all their little flaws and thus encourage reflection. Carefully and always surprisingly clearly, her sensitive coloured pencil drawings depict the things both great and small that make up the beauty of life. (Age: 8+) (Prix Libbylit de l'album; 2012)

Italy (Italian)

125

Dickens, Charles (text)
Maggioni, Federico (illus.)
Locatelli, Nicola (transl.)

Canto di natale

(A Christmas carol)

Mantova: Corraini, 2012. – 117 p.

ISBN 978-88-7570-383-7

Christmas – Old age – Unkindness – Ghost – Altruism

In this version of Charles Dickens's »A Christmas Carol«, the city of London is populated by anthropomorphised animals. Federico Maggioni drafts individual characters and highlights their characteristic traits by giving them rabbit ears, raptor beaks, pig features, or an elegant cat-like appearance, thus creating a very peculiar atmosphere. The exquisite elaborate illustrations play with the Christmas mood and are on a par with the text. In the figures portrayed, readers can easily detect social criticism, the characters' meanness regarding money and feelings, the iciness of their negative thoughts, but also their joy about acts of generosity. All this is rendered in vibrant colours such as the ones on the striking book cover, which shows the owl-headed main protagonist, Ebenezer Scrooge, in a shower of holly leaves – an entirely new visual interpretation. (Age: 10+)

126

Gentile, Andrea

Volevo nascere vento. Storia di Rita che sfidò la mafia con Paolo Borsellino

(I wanted to be born as wind. The tale of Rita who, together with Paolo Borsellino, challenged the Mafia)
Milano: Mondadori, 2012. – 155 p.

(Series: Contemporanea)

ISBN 978-88-04-61870-6

Mafia – Criminal charge – Murder – Witness – Atria, Rita – Biography

Andrea Gentile's novel deals with difficult topics such as complicity, denunciation, pain, and death. It tells the true story of Rita Atria, a girl living on the island of Sicily in a small village on the banks of the river Belice. When her father and brother are killed, the brave teenager denounces the »monsters«, i.e. the Mafia men, who committed the crime. She relates everything that she knows about the Mafia to an extraordinary man, the judge Paolo Borsellino. As a protection, she is given a new identity and leaves

her home island dreaming that a new future is possible. Sadly enough, her »hero« Borsellino and all men and women who tried to defy the criminal system of the heads of the Mafia are murdered, and thus Rita's dreams are destroyed. (Age: 14+)

127

Mattia, Luisa (text)
Facchini, Vittoria (illus.)

Per filo e per segno

(Through threads and signs [Clear as daylight]) <pun>
Roma: Donzelli, 2012. – [28] p.

ISBN 978-88-6036-696-2

Storytelling – Creativity – Imagination

Silvia's story is created from threads. A bunch of colourful threads, leftovers from a carefully carried-out piece of sewing, help the protagonist to keep the various tales together. The threads are woven into a net that serves as a haven for words swept away by the wind. Threaded together, the words form a large story book that talks about imagination, adventure, joy, and freedom. Yet everybody knows that words are dangerous, and soon a terrible tyrant sends someone to destroy Silvia's work. Those with a pure heart, however, are not discouraged; they simply start again, with the help of the children who are willing to take up the story yarn where it was torn apart, children who are eager to listen and look at the pictures. (Age: 5+)

128

Negrin, Fabian (text/illus.)

Bestie

(Beasts)

Roma: Gallucci, 2012. – [36] p.

ISBN 978-88-6145-467-5

Siblings – Forest – Imagination

This book directly invites readers to follow the foot- and paw-prints that Fabian Negrin has placed on the book cover. Tracing them, the reader and the child protagonist together reach a space of discovery and games: a space that they can experience physically, a brook, a bustling forest in which astonishing things happen that deliberately disorient readers and lead them astray. In this book, time expands and hovers between reality and the child's ability to create fantasy worlds. The pictures form a close bond with the words but also compete with them in offering a new perspective on things. They serve as a counterpoint for the boredom and monotony that the siblings experience during a long car trip. (Age: 5+)

129

Onlus, Asinitas (ed.)
Fejjari, Slim (illus.)

Animali

(Animals)

Roma: ELSE Ed. Libri Serigrafici e altro [et al.],
2012. – [40] p.

no ISBN

Animals – Home country – Memory

The publishing house ELSE has brought together several young migrants who, as authors and illustrators, have created very special works: unique, precious, hand-crafted books. »Animali« invites readers to meet animals through stories told by men and women from different countries. Connected to these animals are various viewpoints, emotions, and memories of faraway lands that are powerfully brought back to life on these pages. The book gathers the voices of seventeen authors in eighteen stories accompanied by eighteen illustrations by Slim Fejjari. The animals in the tales all serve as metaphors for life in which grief and joy, pain and emotion, action and idleness alternate. (Age: 10+) ◆

130

Papini, Arianna (text/illus.)

La quaglia e il sasso

(The quail and the stone)

Faella (Ar): Principi & Principi, 2012. – [32] p.
ISBN 978-88-9682765-9

Longing – Motherhood – Change – Otherness – Love

In this picture book, words and pictures offer attentive readers a perfect balance. The book touches upon loneliness, desires, new possibilities, devotion, otherness, and love. In both her text and the illustrations – which stand out for their simple, reduced shapes and for the large spectrum of different shades of colour – Arianna Papini describes the formative experiences in the life of a quail. One day, the bird discovers a large stone, squats down on it, and decides to remain there throughout the seasons. The quail's body temperature makes the stone grow warmer and warmer until it eventually comes to life. In an impressive way, the book talks about the happiness of an unusual motherhood, about adoption, and about the opportunity for change. (Age: 5+)

131

Parazzoli, Paola / Quarenghi, Giusi (ed.)
Valentinis, Pia / Evangelista, Mauro (illus.)

Raccontare gli alberi

(Talking about trees)

Milano: Rizzoli, 2012. – [44] p.
ISBN 978-88-17-05430-0

Tree

This large-format picture book offers a walk through forests and gardens. An exceptional feature of the surprising tree anthology is its carefully selected combination of poetical, mythological, and non-fiction texts. In addition, it also contains etymological explanations and poems. This volume is adorned with numerous elaborate and marvelous pictures. They were created by two illustrators whose artistic methods differ considerably and who imbue their illustrations with very different meanings. The profound illustrations invite readers to take their time when embarking on a literary walk through verdant nature. The book provides innumerable interesting suggestions about how to observe nature carefully. (Age: 8+) ●

132

Pulcinelli, Cristiana (text)

Agliardi, Allegra (illus.)

Pannocchie da Nobel. Storia e storie di Barbara McClintock

(Corncocks for the Nobel Prize. The history of and stories about Barbara McClintock)
Trieste: Ed. Scienza, 2012. – 75 p.
(Series: Donne nella scienza)
ISBN 978-88-7307-605-6

McClintock, Barbara – Genetics – Nobel Prize – Science – Biography

This »story of a woman«, written and illustrated by women, is about American scientist Barbara McClintock, who won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1983 at the age of eighty-one. This most renowned accolade of all was awarded to her for her studies about corncocks, which had accompanied her entire career as cytogeneticist. With verve and scientific precision, this book describes the life of the researcher who grew up among fields of maize in Connecticut and discovered the »jumping genes« known today as »transposable elements«. After she had committed herself to science all her life with vivacity and imagination, heedless of obstacles and hostility in the academic world, Barbara McClintock eventually received the highest distinction for her discovery. (Age: 13+)

133

Rodari, Gianni (text)
Gómez, Blanca (illus.)

Il filobus numero 75

(Trolley bus No. 75)

San Dorligo della Valle: Emme Ed., 2012. – [28] p.

ISBN 978-88-6079-889-3

City – Leisure – Time – Spring

»Il filobus numero 75« is a tale by Gianni Rodari first published in his collection »Favole al telefono« (Tales on the telephone) in 1962. It is about the possibility of giving each other the gift of time, neglecting the constraints that the constantly accelerating rhythm of our everyday life puts on us. Now published in picture book format, the story helps readers discover a new path. The exquisite, seemingly weightless pictures by Blanca Gómez highlight the motionlessness of time and float between present events and visual hints of the past. Characteristic for the illustrations is their lightness and minimalism. They trigger memories of a time when the streets in Italy were still dominated by scooters (such as the »Vespa«) and when you could still breathe real spring air outside the big cities. (Age: 5+)

134

Scarabottolo, Guido (illus.)

Bestiario accidentale

(Accidental bestiary)

Roma: Vànvere Ed., 2012. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-88-906842-1-0

Animals

A bestiary traditionally describes animals or »beasts«. In that sense, the »Accidental Bestiary« is a true member of its genre: an encyclopaedia brimming with animals that are »catalogued« according to strict scientific rules. Goat and bear, goose and cat, lion and elephant; on double pages, they are not only lined up one after the other, they also meet each other thanks to the fact that pages can be folded in the middle. Thus, when leafing through the book, readers are offered fantastically playful possibilities to combine animals in the most suitable (or unsuitable) ways. Although this picture book has no text other than the animals' names, it has to be viewed, read, disassembled, and re-assembled carefully. Guido Scarabottolo's delicate, nifty illustrations are full of irony. (Age: 4+)

135

Sironi, Marta (text)

Zoboli, Francesca (illus.)

Dame e cavalieri. Con 32 carte da ritagliare per vestire dame e cavalieri

(Ladies and knights. Including 32 cut-out sheets to dress ladies and knights)

Milano: Topipittori, 2012. – [64] p.

(Series: Pippo – Piccola Pinacoteca Portatile)

ISBN 978-88-89210-86-4

Painting/1330-1550 – Portraiture – Papercraft

This new series called PIPPO, an acronym for Piccola Pinacoteca PORTatile (small portable art gallery), is based on the idea that art exists in order to be encountered, discovered, played with, and taught, and that it should inspire you to be creative. The book »Dame e Cavalieri« (Ladies and Knights) depicts elegant dresses and precious fabrics from different periods of fashion as well as famous portraits of men and women. It provides readers with the opportunity to look carefully, colour in, cut out, add, piece together, and take apart. Masterpieces of fourteenth- to sixteenth-century art, ranging from Pisanello to Masaccio, from Paolo Uccello to Mantegna, and from Master John to Piero della Francesca are »on loan« to this unusual gallery. The readers examine their portable gallery and attend to it and thus leave their own mark on the book. (Age: 5+)

136

Spider [i.e. Daniele Melani] (text/illus.)

L'età d'oro. Racconti selvatici

(The golden era. Fierce stories)

Roma: Orecchio acerbo, 2012. – [74] p.

ISBN 978-88-9680636-4

Magic – Fantasy world

These stories are truly fierce stories. Their texts and pictures render readers speechless, make them laugh and wonder, and let them rush through the pages looking for new visual surprises. Spider, this book's author and illustrator, plays with surreal elements and motives but also with classical ones, familiar through fairy tales. With the help of his pictures, he edits the texts; the illustrations are just like words and, at the same time, the words evoke powerful pictures. Both, texts and pictures combined, create a perfect unity. The richly illustrated book pays homage to the golden era of reading and listening. It stands out for its language, which is based on oral traditions, its nonsense and contradictions, and its retro-style pictures, which are slightly reminiscent of graffiti art and German expressionism. (Age: 8+)

Portugal (Portuguese)

137

Casimiro, Nuno (text)
Carvalho, João Vaz de (illus.)

O mundo no chão

(The world under the flooring)

Gafanha da Nazaré: Bags of Books, 2011. – [28] p.
ISBN 978-989-97256-3-8

Past – Illusion – Dream – Reality – Identity

Boasting a text unusually long for the genre, this picture book tells of a time gone by. The first-person narrator – at the beginning a cat, at the end a human being – describes how he used to scare chickens and watch Mr. Antunes set up his film projector on the church square for the village theatre every week. He also reports how one day he (as a cat) discovered another world under the floorboards of an old house, how he jumped bravely into this unknown world and found himself there (as a human). The special appeal of this enigmatic story is that it resists deciphering. Nothing is explained or finally solved. Thus, the reader has complete freedom to reflect upon the nature of the past, the future, illusion, dream, reality and identity, aided by the witty colour illustrations that show the characters gazing into the world with big, astonished eyes. (Age: 7+)

138

Sobral, Catarina (text/illus.)

Greve

(Strike)

Lisboa: Orfeu Negro, 2011. – [48] p.
(Series: Orfeu Mini)
ISBN 978-989-8327-12-3

Language

The points are on strike! The points!? Which points? The unanticipated results of this event, which first seems insignificant, soon become apparent. For when points go on strike, »« lose their dot marks and without periods, sentences can never end – in short, great confusion ensues. The clocks are punctual no longer, math class is cancelled (perhaps less hard to cope with) and pointillist painters stand before empty canvasses. Cardinal points, vanishing points, reference points, meeting points, view-points – all no more! Catarina Sobral juggles language creatively in this entertaining picture book. She sharpens readers' appreciation for language and encourages them to add further examples to her collection. There is much to discover and to decipher on the attractively designed double-page illustrations. (Age: 8+)

Spain (Spanish)

139

Benedetti, Mario (text) / Zabala, Javier (illus.)

Árboles

(Trees)

Barcelona [et al.]: Libros del Zorro Rojo, 2012. – [24] p.
(Series: Libros de cordel)
ISBN 978-84-96509-99-3

Tree

Libros del Zorro Rojo presents another pearl of Spanish-language literature in the form of a picture book. It is based on a text of the famous Uruguayan author Mario Benedetti (1920-2009), which is taken from his 2008 publication »Vivir adrede« (Conscious living). In the style of a prose poem, Benedetti describes the beauty of trees, their agreeableness and modesty in a discreet, almost tender manner. Trees bear mute witness to the speechlessness that defines relations between humankind and nature. Spanish illustrator Javier Zabala has created airy, transparent pictures to accompany the text, using a mixed-media technique of ink, water colour, and paper collage. With a few lines, brush strokes, colour splotches, and abstract shapes he grows delicate, magical landscapes, which translate the subtle poetry of the text in a congenial manner. (Age: 6+)

140

Díaz Garrido, María Julia /

Álvarez Hernández, David Daniel (text/illus.)

Bandada

(Flock)

Pontevedra: Kalandraka, 2012. – [28] p.
ISBN 978-84-8464-804-8

Humankind/History – Civilisation – Decline

This impressive picture book only requires twelve pictures and as many sentences to sketch a history of human civilisation. Here, however, birds take the place of human beings. There is an initial period of soaring in the creative spirit of invention to benefit the greater good, after which decline follows: the birds become immoderate, greedy and power-hungry. They build themselves marvellous nests, which in reality are comfortable cages, and they wish to decorate themselves in foreign feathers, enslave other animals, and wage murderous wars against one another. Only the final image, in which a young bird »spreads its wings to learn to fly,« inspires a ray of hope. The double-page pencil drawings, executed with utmost care, bear witness to the great skill of the two young Mexican illustrators. Paired with the concise, laconic text, the pictures, com-

posed using a broad palette of various grey tones, radiate an ambivalent, unsettling stillness, permeated by melancholy and disillusionment. (Age: 8+) ★

141

Gasol, Anna / Blanch, Teresa (ed./retelling)

Cabassa Mariona (illus.)

Érase una vez la familia. 25 cuentos tradicionales sobre las diversas familias del mundo

(There once was the family. 25 traditional fairy tales about different kinds of families in the world)

Barcelona: Edebé, 2012. – 116 p.

ISBN 978-84-683-0721-3

Family – Fairy tale

Family relations are portrayed in numerous folktales. Who doesn't remember the wicked step-mother and step-siblings, brothers competing for their father's favour, or the siblings who save each other from captivity or from an evil curse? This volume, boasting pictures and vignettes printed in bright hues, collects and freshly recounts twenty-five examples of different familial constellations from all over the world. Readers most familiar with the fairy tales of Perrault and Grimm will find in this treasure trove other examples from the diverse riches of the fairy-tale world. At the same time, they will recognise that certain constellations, motifs, and characters are widely shared. The next edition of the book might contain more information about the origins of the fairy tales. (Age: 6+)

142

Hergueta, María (text/illus.)

Cuando no estás aquí

(When you are absent)

[Madrid]: El Jinete Azul, 2012. – [36] p.

ISBN 978-84-939213-2-3

Siblings

Having (and being) siblings is not always easy. One often teeters between conflicting feelings whose poles are rivalry and love, aversion and affection, self-concern and community. María Hergueta places these sensations centre stage in her picture book. The narrator, a little boy, speaks to his absent sister directly. At first he enjoys being alone, not being disturbed, doing as he pleases and just having more room to himself and for his world. But then the other emotions gently slip in: feeling alone and bored, wanting to share experiences with his sister. Hergueta captures the sibling relationship in both text and image, creating a tranquil tone and presenting restrained, almost contemplative coloured drawings. (Age: 4+)

143

Mallorquí, César

La estrategia del parásito

(The parasite's strategy)

Boadilla del Monte (Madrid): Ed. SM, 2012. – 183 p.

ISBN 978-84-675-5575-2

Information society – Control – Manipulation – Data protection – Artificial intelligence

When Óscar, a journalism student, and cool-headed Júdit seek to get to the bottom of a friend's death, their investigation turns into a desperate escape from the clutches of an omnipresent and omniscient organization, which in reality is the autonomous and unregulated acting of the Miyazaki computer program. Like a parasitic organism, it absorbs all available data and surreptitiously takes up world domination. This gripping novel – thriller and dystopian science fiction in one – masterfully plays with clichés of various genres. It cleverly blurs the boundaries separating reader and book, as well as fact and fiction. For example, it pronounces itself the product of Miyazaki's data manipulation. In the end much is left open and unanswered, so readers can perhaps hope for a sequel further developing the suspenseful plot. (Age: 14+)

144

Moure, Gonzalo / Rodríguez, Mónica

Esta, la vida

(This, which is life)

Zaragoza: Edelvives, 2012. – 115 p.

(Series: Colección Alandar; 132)

ISBN 978-84-263-8494-2

Nature – Wilderness – Survival –

Law of nature

The authors have found an appropriate form for this story about the permanent cycle in nature of eating and being eaten, of procreation, life, and death. Told from the perspectives of a female leopard and a young impala buck respectively, the book portrays life in the African savannah in quick alternating chapters. The last word of a chapter is also the first word of the following one, visibly binding together the protagonists on the linguistic level, too. The daily fight for survival in the animal world (which, from the human perspective, is seen as gruesome and merciless) is conveyed with a vivid verbal intensity. So, for example, readers can almost sense the smells and hear the sounds. At the same time, the text sustains an unsparing distance to the events, despite its heated language, which affects the reader viscerally. (Age: 12+)

145

Pascual, María (illus.)

¿Dónde están mis gafas?

(Where are my glasses?)

Barcelona: Thule, 2012. – [28] p.

(Series: Trampantojo)

ISBN 978-84-15357-05-6

Glasses – Search

In this book without text, the reader takes great pleasure in accompanying a spherical, certainly somewhat scatter-brained gentleman around his house. He becomes increasingly puzzled and exasperated by the fact that he cannot find his glasses anywhere. Not under the bed, nor in the fridge, nor between the sofa cushions, nor in the tuba, nor in the dog's mouth – they are nowhere to be found. Only when the glasses slip down off his bald head while he is in the bathroom and land in the toilet, does his restless search come to an end. The pictures, drawn with lead and coloured pencil, amuse with their funny ideas and details that drift towards the fantastical, with exaggerated gestures and facial expressions, as well as with surprising perspectives. The reader follows the turbulent events, knowing more than the frantic gentleman and chuckling over his cluelessness. (Age: 4+)

146

Pi Andreu, Andrés (text)

Amate, Kim (illus.)

La abeja de más

(One bee too many)

Barcelona: Takatuka, 2011. – [30] p.

ISBN 978-84-92696-58-1

Mistrust – Exclusion – Xenophobia

The citizens of a bee nation groan about their work overload. An investigate commission comes to the conclusion that there is one bee too many in the hive. With sophisticated and at the same time absurd methods of pursuit, the bees hunt for the supposed interloper, until the queen bee ends the hysterical climate of mistrust and xenophobia by wisely ordering an additional room be built. It becomes apparent that there is room for everyone, if one pushes a little closer together! In an accessible way, the Cuban-born author of this intelligent, humorous and parable-like story presents his call for a culture of welcome and against exclusion. Full of witty insight and tongue-in-cheek detail, the double-page, dynamic illustrations capture as if on camera the very human-seeming bee nation. (Age: 6+)

147

Zarraluki, Pedro

El hijo del virrey

(The son of the viceroy)

Madrid: Siruela, 2012. – 169 p.

(Series: Las tres edades; 232)

ISBN 978-84-9841-647-3

Colombia/1741 – War – Violence –

Social difference – Friendship – Father – Son

This novel is set in 1741 in the port city of Cartagena de Indias (in today's Colombia). At the centre is the friendship between Antón, the son of the Spanish viceroy, and Darío, a boy »of the people«. Against the backdrop of Cartagena's siege by British ships, which radically changes life there, the reader follows the two fifteen-year-olds in their everyday life and on their adventures. The tense relationship between Antón and his father is vividly portrayed; the father places high expectations on his son, who in turn is increasingly critical of the divide between the courtly world and that of the people. Pedro Zarraluki creates nuanced characters and lively and persuasively portrays the end of the protagonists' childhood and the ruthless brutality of the armed conflict. (Age: 13+)

Switzerland (French)

148

Roumiguère, Cécile (text)

Bobi + Bobi (illus.)

Ma sœur et moi

(My sister and I)

Genève: La Joie de lire, 2012. – 32 p.

ISBN 978-2-88908-128-8

Siblings – School – Rivalry – Intimacy

Little Lisette is finally beginning elementary school. Her older sister Lorna, who has already been in school a few years, observes the changes in their lives suspiciously, anxiously, but alsosomewhat smugly. After all, she's been through all that already! The two siblings spend their first year at the same school in different classes, yet nevertheless share similar experiences and conflicts, which play out between the poles of rivalry and intimacy, loneliness and solidarity, jealousy and gentleness. Cécile Roumiguère's marvellous text brings the exciting paradoxes in the sisters' lives to light, as do the large-format pictures of Bobi + Bobi, which possess a unique, and bizarre beauty. (Age: 6+)

Latin America

Argentina (Spanish)

149

Baredes, Carla / Lotersztain, Ileana (text)

Arroyo, Eleonora (illus.)

Abuelas con identidad. La historia de Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo y los nietos restituidos

(Grandmothers with identity. The story of the Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo and of the returned grandchildren)

[Buenos Aires]: Iamiqué, 2012. – 50 p.

ISBN 978-987-1217-38-0

Argentina/1976-1983 – Dictatorship – Missing persons – Forced adoption – Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo – Human rights

Having produced noteworthy non-fiction books on topics such as the history of education and the history of medicine, Iamiqué Publishing now for the first time turns to Argentinian history. This volume concerns a particularly dark and painful chapter of the military dictatorship (1976-1983) and addresses how that past is being accounted for. Even today, the NGO »Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo« continues its fight to recover the identity of children who were stolen from their parents during the dictatorship and forced into adoption. The co-authors masterfully present their carefully researched information. The chronology of events and particular aspects of the topic are presented in short and accessible chapters that rely on straight-forward language. Young readers will be touched and challenged, without being overwhelmed. The simple colour illustrations focusing on central points in the individual chapters, are equally convincing. Suggestions for further reading, listening, and viewing, along with useful websites and a chronology complete this exemplary book. (Age: 10+) ★ ◆

150

Bodoc, Liliana

La entrevista

(The interview)

Buenos Aires: Alfaguara, 2012. – 104 p.

(Series: Serie roja)

ISBN 978-987-04-2422-2

Search for identity – Coming of age – Theatre

Four students – two girls and two boys – who are not quite the best of friends are assigned the task of interviewing an outstanding person. A rather unknown actor declares himself willing to grant them a glimpse into his life. The interview only frames the story, which is arranged in a mosaic-like way, offering snapshots of the teenagers. All four of them, very different in terms of personality and demeanour, are transitioning into adulthood. They are on a search characterised by doubt and self-questioning. The chapter titles and many intertextual references allude to the theatre, creating the impression that the protagonists are acting on an imaginary stage where they are rehearsing and, while exploring themselves, are attempting to find their roles in life. (Age: 14+)

151

Olguín, Sergio S. (text)

Jankowski, Natalia (illus.)

Cómo cocinar un plato volador

(How to prepare a flying dish)

Buenos Aires: Grupo Ed. Norma, 2011. – 100 p.

(Series: Torre de Papel: Amarilla)

ISBN 978-987-545-263-3

Father – Son – Divorce – Friendship – First love – Separation

Julián is having a hard time dealing with his parents' divorce. His father has moved out, and Julián is visiting him over the weekend for the first time. It would be great if Mom came along and somehow things were like before. But that won't work. In conversation with his father, Julián learns how Mom and Dad met and fell in love. He experiences another separation when he falls for Belinda, the girl next door, because she must soon move to a foreign country with her parents. Gradually, Julián realises that separation belongs to life, that it hurts, but that other forms of being together can emerge from it. Sergio Olguín tells this story about a father and a son and about being together and apart with humour and a sensitivity to what children think and feel in such difficult situations. (Age: 9+)

Brazil (Portuguese)

152

Carrascoza, João Anzanello (text)

Brander, Leya Mira (illus.)

Aquela água toda

(All that water)

São Paulo: Cosac Naify, 2012. – 93 p.

ISBN 978-85-405-0171-3

Emotion – Short story

The eleven short stories contained in this book address feelings that are common to all of us. However, the author has a special aptitude in capturing what is most fragile in moments that would otherwise pass by unnoticed. In this way, simple themes, such as the joy of being where one wants to be, the rapid heartbeat that follows a kiss, the fear of the unknown, of ourselves and of others, the pulse of life in our hands, or even the sense of outrage over unjust laws that seem inexorable, all acquire a certain grandeur and profundity. Each story is accompanied by one illustration of an object or an animal, paired perfectly with the text. The illustrations are drawn on delicate tracing paper and some are filled with thin sheets of copper, which is also used for the cover of the book. (Age: 12+)

153

Machado, Luiz Raul (text)

Freitas, Ana (illus.)

As 17 cores do branco

(The 17 colours of white)

Rio de Janeiro: Galera Record, 2012. – 129 p.

ISBN 978-85-01-09448-3

Short story

This volume brings together three older and fourteen more recent short stories. The motif of the colour white pervades the timeless texts, which address everyday situations, such as a girl losing a toy, a student's drawing on a blank sheet of paper, reading a poem, the significance of a particular word for a woman throughout her life, and so on. Each story is preceded by an epigraph that takes white as its theme, adding up to a brief anthology of reflections on that colour. Thus snow, plaster, paper, transparency sheet, sand, ice, dirt, pearl, silver, enamel, crystal, and ivory are juxtaposed to one another and express the unfathomable contrasts of life itself. The text is accompanied by delicate drawings in black and white which, playing with the meaning of the words, leave room for the reader's imagination. (Age: 15+)

154

Tavano, Silvana (text)

Kondo, Daniel (illus.)

Psssssssssssiu!

(Pssssssssssst!)

São Paulo: Callis, 2012. [48] p.

ISBN 978-85-98750-64-4

Silence

Light-heartedly, and from an altogether unfamiliar perspective, the author shows how much meaning may lie in a speechless moment. The book's unusual graphic design – minimalistic sketched orange-colour drawings on black pages – helps enhance the meaning of the text and bring forth an extraordinary protagonist: Silence. At the beginning, two characters try not to disturb what seems like Silence at sleep. Over the course of the story, however, they provoke many different facial expressions from Silence, whom we know at first only as a lack of sound. These facial expressions both deepen and demystify the absence of sound, which is often unsettling. A frowning Silence, for instance, might suggest a problem in a friendship. After all, Silence can hide many things! This picture book, simple and at the same time profound, will appeal to readers of all ages. (Age: 10+)

155

Vasconcellos, Cláudia Maria de (text)

Moraes, Odilon (illus.)

A fome do lobo

(The wolf's hunger)

São Paulo: Ed. Iluminuras, 2012. – [40] p.

(Series: Livros da ilha)

ISBN 978-85-7321-377-5

Wolf – Hunger

This story of a wolf who wakes up very, very hungry is ordinary only at first glance. Following the pattern of a cumulative tale, where the same narrative sequence is repeated and added on to with each new element, this book shares the humour that is common to this literary genre, though it features an unexpected twist. In this story, told through first- and third-person voices, a girl relates how a hungry wolf, who went the day on an empty stomach, eventually came to her house and threatened the entire family. The fable-like text describes clever animals running for their lives when they cross paths with the wolf, who is on his way to the girl's home. Award-winning artist Odilon Moraes' illustrations mix realistic figures with details that call upon the reader's imagination, enhancing the text in a surprising and special manner. (Age: 8+)

156

Vilela, Fernando (text/illus.)

Caçada

(The hunt)

São Paulo: Scipione, 2012. – 63 p.

ISBN 978-85-262-8562-0

War – Hostility – Violence

Flying over a desert on his first mission, a young fighter plane pilot named John finds himself in a dream-come-true situation: he has always wished to »inhabit« the sky. His mission in a twenty-first-century high-tech war is to reach an enemy's coordinates and eliminate him. But John's enemy flies so close that he can look into the young pilot's eyes. Are they truly enemies? This picture book portrays a war in the Middle East, and the author switches between the perspectives of hunter and hunted. The expressive mixed-media illustrations use wood cut prints as their base layer, which are then overlaid with further etchings in vibrant hues of red, white, and black, creating the impression that both the characters and the airplane are in motion. Fernando Vilela began working on this book while a series of his large-scale wood cuts were being exhibited. That series, which he titled »Caçada« (the Hunt), depicted fighter planes (»hunter planes« in Portuguese) in life size. (Age: 12+)

Chile (Spanish)

157

Mistral, Gabriela (text)

Valdivia, Paloma (illus.)

Peña Muñoz, Manuel (afterword)

Caperucita Roja

(Little Red Riding Hood)

Santiago, Chile: Ed. Amanuta, 2012. – [33] p.

(Series: Colección Poesía ilustrada)

ISBN 978-956-8209-78-0

Fairy tale

Editorial Amanuta, which excels in publishing beautifully illustrated traditional legends and fairy tales of its country, here offers up another treasure of Chilean literature. In the 1920s, poet Gabriela Mistral, awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1945, retold in verse form three well-known Perrault fairy tales as well as one by the Brothers Grimm. Printed in diverse publications at the time, they are now collected together in this series as four illustrated single editions. »Caperucita Roja« tells the story of Little Red Riding Hood in rhythmic alexandrine verse. The language

is poetic, but Mistral does not shy away from calling on vivid and graphic words to portray the gruesome ending. Paloma Valdivia's illustrations play with spatial depth, combine round and angular shapes, and convince with their fresh take on the old tale. (Age: 5+)

158

Schwarzhaupt, Dominique (text/illus.)

Tot <proper name>

Santiago: Gata Gorda Ed., 2012. – [52] p.

(Series: Álbumes ilustrados)

ISBN 978-956-9212-00-0

Darkness – Fear – Courage – Friendship

Two very different characters meet in this cheerful picture book. On the one hand, there is the first-person narrator, a little girl who is afraid of nothing, not even spiders or vertigo-inducing heights. Only darkness puts her a little on edge. But that is nothing in comparison to Tot, a stately, hairy, exceedingly good-natured bear-like creature, who is afraid of practically everything. From then on, every night Tot watches over the little one's sleep, while she takes the hand of her new (imaginary?) friend, until he is no longer frightened either by birds or blown-up balloons. Dominique Schwarzhaupt enticingly illustrates her quiet, laconically told story about childhood fears, fantasies, and the passion of discovery predominantly in suggestive blue and green tones. (Age: 4+)

Colombia (Spanish)

159

Meneses Claros, Gerardo

La luna en los almendros

(The moon in the almond trees)

Bogotá: Ed. SM [et al.], 2012. – 83 p.

(Series: El barco de vapor: Serie naranja; 12 C)

(Biblioteca Luis Ángel Arango)

ISBN 978-958-705-608-2

Civil War – Violence – Refugee – Country life

Drawing on the example of a family living in a countryside hamlet, this book portrays how Colombian civil society is unravelled by the decades-long armed conflict between army and guerrilla fighters. Through the eyes of two brothers, the reader follows the simple and sheltered life of their family, which is defined by the rhythm of living in the country. Suddenly, the family becomes the pawn of opposing factions. Powerless to fight the culture of violence, the family flees their village to stay alive. They

have no choice but to begin a new life in an unfamiliar town. Gerardo Meneses Claros describes the abrupt end of a childhood in gentle, unpretentious language, without dramatising the events. This moving story gives those most vulnerable, namely children, a clearly heard voice. (Age: 9+) (Premio El Barco de Vapor – Biblioteca Luis Ángel Arango; 2011) ♦

Mexico (Spanish)

160

Chávez Castañeda, Ricardo (text)

Vélez Aguilera, Carlos (illus.)

El libro que se muere

(The dying book)

México, D.F. [et al.]: Grupo Ed. Norma, 2011. – 256 p.

(Series: Torre de papel: Naranja)

ISBN 978-607-9107-48-2

Death – Fear

Even when death has long been off the list of taboo subjects in children's literature, this book is a remarkable example of how the topic can be approached. The thirty stories treat different ways to fear death, to encounter death, to deal with death and to accept death. One story describes the loss of a pet, while others takes up the fear that one's parents will never come home again or the fear of losing them if one lets them out of one's sight for only a second. Death is feared, handled, wished for or cursed, but never swept under the carpet. As the author-narrator of the stories, Ricardo Chávez Castañeda connects the stories by sprinkling in autobiographical memories. He writes sensitively and empathically with a fine sense for children's feelings and ways of thinking. (Age: 11+)

161

Malpica, Toño (i.e. Antonio Malpica) (text)

Barrenetxea, Iban (illus.)

Por el color del trigo

(The colour of wheat)

México: Fondo de Cultura Económica (FCE), 2012. – 66 p.

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

ISBN 978-607-16-0924-3

Saint-Exupéry, Antoine de – Friendship – Writing process – Imagination

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry prefaced his world success

»The Little Prince« with a dedication to Léon Werth, a fact that inspired Antonio Malpica to write this book.

Malpica traces the close bond that existed between Saint-

Exupéry and Werth, who at first sight seemed to have little in common, to show that friendship can transcend age, nationality and other boundaries. This paean to friendship is embedded in a fictionalised biography that touches on moments in Saint-Exupéry's life using insightful short vignettes full of literary reference. The fictional character Bribonzuelo accompanies the protagonist. Bribonzuelo is a self-conscious character who symbolises the love of writing and the freedom of imagination. With him, the protagonist pursues philosophical conversations about life and literary creation. (Age: 10+)

162

Riva Palacio Obón, Martha (text)

Barraza, Paulina (illus.)

Las sirenas sueñan con trilobites

(Mermaids dream of trilobites)

México, D.F.: Ed. SM [et al.], 2011. – 158 p.

(Series: El barco de vapor: Serie Naranja; 62 M)

ISBN 978-607-455-733-6 (Parallel ed.: México:

Conaculta; ISBN 978-607-455-733-6)

Mother – Daughter – Grandmother –

Sexual abuse – Friendship – Death – Grief

Sofia is being harassed by her mother's partner, but her mother misunderstands her daughter's warning signs and takes the nine-year-old to stay with her grandmother in a village by the sea. As an outsider, Sofia needs some time to get used to her new surroundings. She befriends Luisa, whom she however soon loses to a tragic swimming accident. Martha Riva portrays Sofia's experiences without heaviness or pathos, and succeeds in linking depth with lightness. She draws the characters with empathy, creating multi-faceted protagonists with edges and breaks, and authentically presents emotions, fears and conflicts using a poetic language rich in imagery. Experiences of distance, loss and grief, as well as the (re)union of daughter, mother, and grandmother are also portrayed in a compelling fashion. (Age: 9+) (Premio El Barco de Vapor – México; 2011)

163

Tejada, Carlos (ed.) / Monroy, Manuel (illus.)

Impresiones en negro

(Impressions in black)

México, D.F.: Conaculta [et al.], 2012. – [32] p.

(Series: Alas y raíces)

ISBN 978-607-516-074-0

Black – Colour

This remarkable picture book shows that black is not the absence of light, but rather encompasses a multi-layered palette of the most varying nuances, textures, and meanings. Carlos Tejada combines dictionary entries with quotations from well-known authors like Jorge Luis Borges, Octavio Paz, and Ted Hughes. All kinds of emotions are associated with the supposedly colourless non-colour, whose depth and sensuousness are also developed, for example, in the listing of shades of black used in painting, including coal black, ivory black, jet black and blackberry. Manuel Monroy adds a further dimension to the text fragments with his calm, contemplative pictures. They take much space, yet also leave room; they show but do not explain. In combining these images with the thought-provoking texts, a fascinating whole is produced. (Age: 8+)

Venezuela (Spanish)

164

Nesquens, Daniel (text)

París, Ramón (illus.)

Un perro en casa

(A dog in the house)

Caracas [et al.]: Ed. Ekaré, 2012. – [36] p.

ISBN 978-84-939912-2-7

Dog – Colour – Dissolution

When Papa brings home a hungry dog from the street, the dirty creature is put straight in the tub. His fur is treated to a vigorous shower, fruit extract shampoo, and a terry cloth mitten. The water increasingly turns black, until in the end not just the dark colour, but the entire dog has disappeared down the drain. Daniel Nesquens writes this puzzling, absurd story with an open-ended twist using few sentences, which fully unfold their magic through contact with Ramón París' suggestive illustrations. The text's laconic brevity is appealing, while the pictures offer up a furious display. Ink-black lines, blotches, and sprays spread out in an ever wilder and expansive manner across the pages; they stand in startling contrast to the bright yellow and orange-coloured backgrounds. (Age: 4+)

North America

Canada (French)

165

Boisjoly, Véronique (text)

Maurey, Katty (illus.)

Renaud le petit renard

(Renaud the little fox)

Montréal: La Pastèque, 2012. – [48] p.

ISBN 978-2-923841-21-2

Father – Son – Laundrette – Prank

Renaud the little fox loves Saturdays, because on that day he doesn't have to share his dad with his little sister Lola. Instead, he accompanies his father to Monsieur Li's laundrette. The shared washing day has its little rituals: Renaud draws and invents games, while Papa Fox fills the laundry drums and then, while the laundry tumbles wildly in the machines, they make themselves comfortable on a bench and eat some ice cream. Things would be so quiet and peaceful were it not for the presence of Li's granddaughter Lily, thwarting with her pranks Renaud's dream of an idyllic Saturday with his father. Véronique Boisjoly gives a tongue-in-cheek account of Renaud's laundry odyssey, which Katty Maurey illustrated with much love for detail. (Age: 5+)

166

Bombardier, Louise (text)

Maurey, Katty (illus.)

Quand j'étais chien

(When I was a dog)

Montréal: La Courte Échelle, 2011. – 83 p.

ISBN 978-2-89651-813-5

Death – Grief – Disability – Abandonment – Siblings

Antoine is twenty-five years old according to his passport, but his emotional and cognitive capacities are that of a five-year-old. After his mother's death, for three years he is left helpless in the hands of his younger brother Jacques, who mistreats him and lets Antoine become visibly neglected. When Jacques does not return from a night of binge drinking, Antoine is left alone with his dog Delphine, his last point of contact. Louise Bombardier's arresting text, aided by Katty Maurey's sensitive illustrations, sustains the difficult balance between Antoine's dreamy grasp of the world and the forceful blows of fate from which he only barely escapes, in a near somnambulistic manner. (Age: 12+) (Prix du Gouverneur Général; 2011)

167

Brassard, Mario (text)

Verelst, Suana (illus.)

La saison des pluies

(The rainy season)

Saint-Lambert, Québec: Soulières éd., 2011 – 70 p.

(Series: Ma petite vache a mal aux pattes; 102)

ISBN 978-2-89607-127-2

Death – Father – Loss – Mourning

Seven-year-old Junior loses his father to a car accident.

The boy and his mother endure an unpredictable emotional rollercoaster together, and the boy must face the difficult task of learning to live with his loss. In this artfully concise text, Mario Brassard sensitively portrays Junior's personal journey through the grief of the first months. Recounting very authentic episodes, the author gives clear shape to the experiences of the child, alongside his emotional chaos of anger, fear, guilt, disappointment, rage, hopelessness, and denial. The delicate pencil drawings of Suana Verelst illustrate Junior's path through grief and give little hints as to the ways in which his life is imperceptibly changing. (Age: 8+)

168

Various authors (text)

Rogé (illus.)

Bacon, Joséphine (transl.)

Mingan, mon village.

Poèmes d'écoliers innus

(Mingan, my village. Poems by Innu students)

Montréal: Éd. de la Bagnole, 2012. – [41] p.

ISBN 978-2-923342-76-4

Mingan Indian Reservation – Innu – First Nations – Poetry

Together with the French poet Laure Morali and the Innu poet Rita Mestokosho, the illustrator Rogé held a writing workshop on the Mingan Reservation, which is located in the nearly inaccessible northern region of Québec.

Many Innu children of the Teueikan School there took part in the workshop. Out of it came poetic prose texts and short poems that stand up forcefully and hopefully to the contemporary worries of Innu society. Rogé presents fifteen of the selected poems from this writing workshop in French translation and includes portraits of the young poets. Unfortunately, the original Innu texts do not appear alongside the French, but only at the very end of the book after the poets Morali and Mestokosho have been introduced. (Age: 8+)

Denmark (Danish)

169

Dürr, Morten (text)

Christiansen, Teddy (illus.)

Det skjulte kort

(The hidden map)

København: Carlsen, 2012. – 87 p.

ISBN 978-87-1140-494-2

World War II – Revenge – Guilt – Atonement

Jutland 1945: the war is over. What is left is a beach filled with mines, which the defeated German soldiers must clear. One of them, Martin, knows that there is a map pinpointing the mines' exact locations. However, the Danish man in the white house on the beach keeps the map hidden out of revenge and jealousy: Martin fell in love with the girl whom this man was himself in love with. When Martin steps on an explosive device, he dies – and yet still lives. He is forever condemned to wander along the beach, searching for the last mine – forever gazing at the white house, where the map lies. »Det skjulte kort«, with its dissolved temporal structure and its ultimately unreliable narrator, is an unsettling story about individual and collective guilt, revenge, and atonement. (Age: 12+)

170

Futtrup, Dorte (text)

Brøgger, Lilian (illus.)

Hullet i himlen

(The hole in the sky)

København: Høst & Son, 2011. – [60] p.

ISBN 978-87-638-1836-0

Death – Grief – Despair – New beginning

Dorte Futtrup here presents a Greenlandic legend, which Lilian Brøgger pairs with expressive, almost archaic-seeming pictures, arranged in panels or on double spreads. Text and images expressively set the stage for despair, grief, and pain, for »Hullet i himlen« is about a woman who loses her two sons when they drown at sea while on the hunt. The woman almost dies of her grief – and suddenly travels through a hole in the sky into the afterlife. There she meets her grandmother, who brings the woman to her sons, so they can say farewell. Then she must return to Earth, however, to keep on living. The book was awarded the Danish Book Design Award. (Age: 12+)

171

Mouritzen, Peter (text)

Dickmeiss, Otto (illus.)

Ævlehovedet. Man kan vel selv fortælle

(Chatterbox. One ought to be able to tell a story oneself)

Fredriksberg: Alfa, 2011. – 41 p.

ISBN 978-87-7115-015-5

Imagination – Fantasy – Imagination – Storytelling

Psst! Whoever thinks that Hans Christian Andersen is one of the greatest fairy-tale writers of all time, is plain mistaken. In fact, he was a terrible writer! »Prinsessen på tærten« (The princess on the pie) and »De søde sko« (The sweet shoes) didn't knock anyone's socks off. Thankfully, Guffé Arnold Jensen – Andersen's classmate and Mad's grandfather – came to the rescue. As he tells Mad, he rewrote Andersen's lousy texts, turning »De søde sko« into »De røde sko« (»The red shoes«), and »Prinsessen på tærten« into »Prinsessen på ærten« (»The princess and the pea«). Every child certainly knows these fairytales! Otto Dickmeiss's cartoonish illustrations convey great narrative force and beautifully stage chatterbox Guffé Arnold Jensen's stories and fantastical ideas. (Age: 5+)

Faroe Islands (Faroese)

172

Oskarsson, Barður (text/illus.)

Stríðið um tað gøða grasið

(The quarrel over the good grass)

[Tórshavn]: Bókadeild Føroya Lærarafelags, 2012 – 33 p.

ISBN 978-99918-74-37-1

Quarrel – Tolerance

In Barður Oskarsson's newest picture book, dogs and rabbits lock horns. The dogs bother the rabbits because they are bored. The rabbits in turn are annoyed by the dogs' attacks and especially by their constant relieving themselves right on the rabbits' lawn, the most beautiful lawn around. So the rabbits shoo the dogs away using a trick: pasted-on teeth make every harmless bunny into a killer rabbit. The rabbits soon notice, however, that their grass is no longer as lush. Perhaps it needs fertiliser? Once again, Barður Oskarsson tells a modern fable about tolerance and getting along together without overt moralising. This succeeds especially well in the pictures, for their bold, fun lines make them quite cartoonish. (Age: 3+)

Finland (Swedish)

173

Härmälä, Anna (text/illus.)

Du hör inte hit, Beiron

(You don't belong here, Beiron)

Helsingfors (= Helsinki): Schildt, 2011. – [40] p.

ISBN 978-951-50-2128-1

Individuality – Community

Anna Härmälä's colourful debut is somewhat reminiscent of a »Wimmelbook« (a book whose pictures teem with activity). It is about being different, being imperfect, wanting to belong and being unique and an individual. Beiron the mutt – spotted fur, little ears, bristly coxcomb on his head – has decided to participate in a pure breed competition. Once there, he tries to pass himself off as an afghan dog – and is found out and ridiculed. The same thing happens when he enters himself as a dalmatian and a poodle. He shaves off his fur and earns first place as an alleged hairless dog, but he gives the medal back out of a guilty conscience. He is chased away, but when he gets back home from his adventure, his friends are awaiting him and marvel at his courage. (Age: 3+)

174

Topelius, Zacharias (text)

Frölander-Ulf, Lena (illus.)

Adalminas pärla

(Adalmina's pearl)

[Helsingfors (= Helsinki)]: Söderströms, 2011. – [40] p.

ISBN 978-951-52-2847-5

Pride – Fairy tale

Zacharias Topelius (1818-1898) is one of the most well-known Swedish-speaking Finnish authors. In addition to fairy tales, he wrote novels, dramas, songs, poems, psalms, scientific texts, and essays. »Adalminas pärla« is about the pride and hard-heartedness, as well as the reformation of character and the humility of Princess Adalmina. It is one of his best known fairy tales and a product of the romantic and Biedermeier periods. Lena Frölander-Ulf's illustrations pay homage not only to the famous Swedish fairy tale illustrator John Bauer, though, but also to Gustav Klimt, Jugendstil, and Art Nouveau. Her palette reaches from pastel to sepia, she chooses clear forms with grey contours and regularly smuggles in references to her artistic role models (like a little troll). (Age: 5+)

Norway (Norwegian)

175

Bjørnes, Anniken (text)
Johnsen, Mari Kanstad (illus.)

Ballongjegeren

(The balloon hunter)

Kolbotn: Magikon, 2012. – [36] p.
ISBN 978-82-92863-33-6

Death – Cosmos

A boy watches the stars at night. There are also stars above his bed, which his parents and sister hung there. The boy dreams of becoming an astronaut. Papa says: »Ingenting er umulig« (Nothing is impossible). It gradually becomes clear, however, that the boy is dying. This lends the text and the images a double meaning, which one only recognises in retrospect: yearning for the stars can be interpreted as the wish to be integrated into the larger cosmos and to continue living someplace new. Mari Kanstad Johnsen's pictures initially irritate because of their skewed proportions. Yet they also radiate the hopeful undertone of the story, which is told from the perspective of the boy. (Age: 5+)

176

Duus, Adele Lærum (text)
Moseng, Elisabeth (illus.)

Oldefars ulveskinns-pels

(Great-grandfather's wolf pelt)

Bergen: Mangschou, 2012. – [36] p.
ISBN 978-82-8238-053-9

Past – Doctor – Medicine – Grandfather – Granddaughter

A much cherished way to bring the past to life is through telling stories about family and everyday life. This volume also goes this route. It is a hybrid non-fiction and picture book that tells of the life of a doctor living in Norway about a century ago: how he pulls teeth, brings babies into the world, disinfects wounds and sometimes is defeated by death. The starting point for the stories is an old pelt coat, which is tucked away in the attic of a little girl's grandparents' home and whose re-discovery prompts Grandpa to tell his granddaughter of his father and his work as a doctor. The past also becomes visible in Elisabeth Moseng's illustrations, which are made of old papers and photos – for example of old needles and forceps (spooky!) – and compiled into collages. (Age: 4+)

177

Kaurin, Marianne

Nærmere høst

(Almost autumn)

Oslo: Aschehoug, 2012. – 245 p.
ISBN 978-82-03-25518-2

World War II – Persecution of Jews

Books about the Second World War exist in Norwegian children's and young adult literature, but the situation of Norwegian Jews at that time has until now been rarely addressed. Enter »Nærmere høst«. In German-occupied Norway in 1942, the Stern family lives in a worker district in Oslo. At first the father is picked up, then the mother with her daughters. Only Ilse survives, because she was out with her friend Hermann at the time of the deportation and is able to flee to Sweden. Solidarity, betrayal and guilt lie close together in this novel. Told from multiple perspectives, the book recounts the thoughts of various protagonists, portraying the events from the viewpoint of Ilse, the initially naïve teenager, her worried father, brooding Hermann and a guilt-laden neighbour. (Age: 12+)

178

Torseter, Øyvind (text/illus.)

Hullet

(The hole)

[Oslo]: Cappelen Damm, 2012. – [64] p.
ISBN 978-82-02-37576-8

Uncertainty – Hole

The special feature of »Hullet« is the hole drilled straight through its cover and pages. The book earns its name and its story from this hole. Øyvind Torseter develops these in interplay with and, quite literally, around the hole. The main character – a typical Torseter character with a human form and dog-like head – discovers a hole in his new apartment. Puzzled, he brings it to the lab after much reflection, so that it can be studied. There the hole undergoes many tests but without much result. Given its absurd characteristics, the story, illustrated with a swift ink stroke, can be read as a parable concerning the more or less latent and challenging presence of existential emptiness, which is best approached with prudence. (Age: 9+)

179

Yokoland (text/illus.)

Malermester Grønn

(Master painter Green)

[Oslo]: Gyldendal, 2012. – [44] p.

ISBN 978-82-05-42273-5

Colour

The artist collective Yokoland has already put out several picture books in the last few years, including an anthology of verse. Yokoland characteristically works with graphic design and computer-generated or strongly computer-edited illustrations in stylised forms and saturated colours, which are combined with a clear, sans-serif typeface along with hand-written insertions. »Malermester Grønn« is also an interactive book. The text mentions which colours things have and what colour the master should coat them with to give them a new appearance. On the page, however, the things themselves are only present in white silhouette against a black background, as in negative scissor cut-outs. In this way, the book plays with expectations and their disappointment and inspires one's own crafting. (Age: 3+)

Sweden (Swedish)

180

Björbo, Lisa

Allt jag säger är sant

(Everything I am saying is true)

Stockholm: Rabén & Sjögren, 2012. – 233 p.

ISBN 978-91-29-68016-4

Search for identity – Grandmother – Granddaughter – Death

Alicia quits school. Just a waste of time. Instead, she is going to do great things. Her parents and friends are not thrilled, but Alicia looks for a job and moves to her grandmother's place for the time being. All is well until her grandma breaks her leg and unexpectedly dies shortly thereafter of an embolism. This event throws Alicia off balance, and things get even more out of hand than they already were. With this novel, Lisa Björbo joins the group of young aspiring female authors who are introducing self-confident, quick-tongued, and clever heroines into the Swedish young adult book scene. Alicia's teenage hubris can sometimes be annoying, but in moments of crisis her vulnerability shows through. (Age: 14+)

181

Landström, Lena (text)

Landström, Olof (illus.)

Pom och Pim

(Pom and Pim <proper names>)

Stockholm: Lilla Piratförlaget, 2012. – [26] p.

ISBN 978-91-87027-26-0

Good luck – Bad luck

Pom goes outside with his stuffed animal Pim. The sun is shining – »Vilken tur!« (What good luck!) – but Pom trips on a stone – »Vilken otur!« (What bad luck!). In falling down, though, the boy spots a twenty-krona bill with which he can buy himself some ice cream – »Vilken tur!« Things continue along these lines: Great fortune follows misfortune, and vice versa. »Pom och Pim« shows in a simple manner how relative good and bad luck are, how quickly things can change, and how much they depend on one's perspective. The sparse text consists of one, two, and three-word sentences that underline this alternating rhythm, as do the illustrations, avoiding any extra bells and whistles to concentrate on the essential. (Age: 2+)

182

Lindström, Eva (text/illus.)

Olli och Mo

(Olli and Mo <proper names>)

Stockholm: Alfabet, 2012. – [28] p.

ISBN 978-91-501-1449-2

Wanderlust – Homesickness – Fear – Comfort

Eva Lindström knows how to masterfully transform everyday situations into existential challenges. In this book, Olli and Mo go on an excursion. They take a café break and then must wash dishes, because Mo has forgot her money. Next, they lose their way, drive around aimlessly and end up at Maud's. There's upright fried fish sticks on the table, but just as they're about to get some grub, Olli wants to go home. The moods described here range from expectant curiosity, distressing unease, dreadful fear to passionate homesickness, and are strikingly captured in the illustrations' subdued palette. When the two protagonists get lost, for instance, the car appears tiny in the midst of giant plants. Then, all goes topsy-turvy. (Age: 4+)

183

Olsson, Ingrid

Önska bort, önska nytt

(Wishing a way, wishing anew)

Stockholm: Gilla Böcker, 2012. – 124 p.

ISBN 978-91-86634-28-5

Search for identity

Ingrid Olsson is one of the most captivating voices coming out of Sweden today. In »Önska bort, önska nytt«, a collection of short stories, she once again shows how well she has mastered the minimalistic, reduced style. The stories address existential liminal experiences: death, loneliness, uncertainty, escape. Much remains unspoken or only vaguely hinted at. One must read between the lines, for the narrative style is quiet and distanced; the crises and their profound depths show themselves only in small details and brief slivers of thought. One can view »Önska bort, önska nytt« as a »follow up« to Olsson's »Blink blink med stjärnan«, which also appeared in 2012. The latter book places children front and centre, while »Önska bort, önska nytt« features adolescents. (Age: 14+)

184

Ulmaja, Nina (text/illus.)

ABC å allt om D.

Människans viktigaste uppfinning

(ABC and all about D.

The most important inventions of humankind)

Stockholm: Bonnier Carlsen, 2012. – [96] p.

ISBN 978-91-638-6963-1

Alphabet – Typography – Writing

Recent recipient of the renowned August Prize, »ABC å allt om D« is a non-fiction book that explores the alphabet, the history of writing and of individual letters, typography and anything else on the topic that came to Nina Ulmaja's mind. The book offers up a true smorgasbord, but it follows alphabetical order so things don't become too confusing for readers and onlookers. This book is a real feast for the eyes, employing a bright advertising aesthetic alongside comic-book elements such as speech bubbles and a wide variety of typesets. The embossed book spine is a special treat. On it, one can feel typographical symbols ranging from hieroglyphs to the Latin alphabet, and of course Braille. (Age: 5+)

185

Virke, Emma (text/illus.)

Memmo och Mysen söker efter färger

(Memmo and Mysen search for the colours)

Bromma: Alvina, 2011. – [28] p.

ISBN 978-91-86391-08-9

Night – Day – Colour – Friendship

This picture book produced by the still quite young Alvina Publishing House spins a tale of nocturnal adventure. When Memmo and Mysen wake up, it is dark, very dark. So the two embark to find where all the colours have gone, »som bara har gömt sig« (since they are just hiding). Memmo has his flashlight with him and shows Mysen how aiming the beam of light on the trees brings back their green leaves. As the sun comes up, the other colours become visible again – the sky is first violet, then red and then blue, and the sea alternates between green, blue and turquoise. While the text plays with rhyme and alliteration, the illustrations show the various twilight and colour shades as well as the sharp contrasts between darkness and light. (Age: 3+)

Slavic and Baltic Languages

Croatia (Croatian)

186

Petrlik Huseinović, Andrea (text/illus.)

Ljubav

(Love)

Zagreb: Kašmir Promet, 2012. – [24] p.

ISBN 978-953-301-040-3

Children's rights – Human rights – Love

»Ljubav« was awarded the important Croatian literary prize »Kiklop 2012« in the category of children's book. The book conveys a simple but apparently not self-evident message: children have the right to be loved and to be happy – just because they are children! Presenting short, yet all the more incisive and trenchant sentences, alongside large-format illustrations, Andrea Petrlik Huseinović shows that it is quite obvious what children need and like, and what they don't: friends, a home, love on the one hand, and war, lies, isolation on the other. Since many children have no choice but to cope with the latter, the book's straight-forward message is at once shaming and disarming. (Age: 3+) ♦

187

Vončina, Pika (text/illus.)

Emilijina vrlo neobična pustolovina

(Emilija's very extraordinary adventure)

Zagreb: Mala Zvona, 2012. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-953-7760-26-7

Sheep – Dream – Journey – Elements – Weather

Emilija the sheep, Pika Vončina's calm and pleasantly modest children's book character, is well-loved in Croatia. The present volume, whose title promises an »Adventure«, is not concerned with a dangerous quest, though Emilija does fly with the wind and dive with the fish. Rather, the little sheep becomes acquainted with the elements, and learns about the special nature of the air, earth, water, and even the stars. This happy dream journey is narrated in a laconic style. Vončina's characteristic whimsical typography and word play further add to this gentle little picture book, whose plot ends where it began: as a good-night-story on the pillow. (Age: 4+)

Czech Republic (Czech)

188

Kratochvíl, Miloš (text)

Sýkorová-Pekárková, Eva (illus.)

Pes nám spadla. Bláznivé basničky

(We let the dog drop. Crazy poems)

Praha: Mladá fronta, 2012. – 93 p.

ISBN 978-80-204-2690-1

Animals – School – Anecdote – Poetry

»Follow us into the Kratochvíl universe!« The present anthology could begin with that line. It represents a journey through Miloš Kratochvíl's world of frequently animal-related verse-anecdotes. The anthology contains well-known as well as brand new poems. Laughing is guaranteed, since the author is a master at inventing funny occurrences and knows exactly how to parse these into crisp rhymes. In four segments one encounters: a sparrow that organises a worm grill party, a child that plays the violin so badly that all birds fall unconscious out of the trees, and a pitiable mouse who has to share an apartment with four cats. All these tales are freshly and wittily illustrated by Eva Sýkorová-Pekárková. (Age: 4+)

189

Malý, Radek (text)

Čech, Pavel (illus.)

Listonoš vítr (co přinesl a co mi šeptal)

(The Postman Wind [what he brought and what he whispered to me])

Praha: Albatros 2011. – [36] p.

ISBN 978-80-00-02697-8

Autumn – Mood – Poetry

Put the currently reigning Czech children's poet and one of the most captivating illustrators of the country together and have them make a children's book about autumn – the result is sure to be a hit. In fact, in 2012 »Listonoš vítr« won the most significant Czech literary awards in the children's book category, »Magnesia litera« and »Zlata stuha«. The book charms with poignant poems about the rustle of leaves and of paper, the festival of the fall forest, chestnuts, pumpkins, and the special mood of the season. Paired with Pavel Čech's occasionally quite mystical illustrations, Radek Malý succeeds in presenting the hazy autumnal atmosphere of colourful leaves, crisp air, and melancholic foginess in a sensuous and arresting manner. (Age: 6+)

190

Šedivá, Tereza (text/illus.)

Životní příběh mimina s velkou hlavou

(Biography of the big-headed baby)

Praha: Argo, 2012. – [31] p.

ISBN 978-80-257-0616-9

Disability – Hydrocephaly – Exclusion – Death

This slim volume is not obliging, nor does it seek to be. This is the story of a boy who came into the world with a giant head. He suffers not only from others' stares but is also frustrated by the fact that he cannot dress himself like other people do. In her children's book debut, Tereza Šedivá gently narrates a metaphorical story about life and about coping with disability including the topic of death and parting. The parents give their baby a nice knit cap, which provides the little one with some self-confidence. Since the baby's head continues to grow, however, and is pulled ever upwards to the sky like a balloon, the parents eventually must let him go to float among the other balloons. (Age: 5+)

191

Urbánková, Dagmar (illus.)

Cirkus ulice. 402750 combinations:

New York, Prague, London

(The Street Circus. 402,750 combinations:

New York, Prague, London]

Praha: Baobab, 2012. – [76] p.

ISBN 978-80-87060-63-6

Appearance – Fashion – Diversity – Transformation

Everyone's out on the street: girls, boys, women, men, hippies, greasers, trend-setters, Asian tourists, rushed businesswomen, concentrated joggers, irritated street cleaners, cool skate boarders... The title of this book could not be more fitting: the street circus. The book invites a wild mix-and-match game between the various personages – why not dress a skateboarder in a businesswoman's outfit, for example? Dagmar Urbánková succeeds in creating a highly entertaining playtime book; yet it is not just the multitude of possible combinations (402750) that makes this »street circus« charming. It is also the modernity and the cosmopolitan look of the presented figures, whom Urbánková lends a contemporary feel by using a clever collage technique. (Age: 2+)

Estonia (Estonian)

192

Hinrikus, Kadri (text)

Kalm, Anu (illus.)

Et head haldjad sind hoiaksid

(May the good fairies watch over you)

[Tallinn:] Tammerraamat 2012. – 102 p.

ISBN 978-9949-482-59-7

Siblings – One-parent family – Death – Grief – Joy of living

Kadri Hinrikus is known in Estonia not only as a sensitive children's book author who tackles profound subject matter, but also as a television journalist. After having made a name for herself with two semi-autobiographical children's books, she here takes on the challenging topic of »death in the family«. In a realistic way, she tells the story of eight-year-old twins Uku and Tuule, who are being raised by their depressed father after the death of their mother. Hinrikus balances the children's and especially the father's suffering following the loss of mother and wife, and the family's financial distress, with their everyday life, joy of living and even a sense of happiness that is possible and perhaps even necessary. (Age: 8+)

193

Raud, Piret (text/illus.)

Kolm soovi. Eesti muinasjuttu aineteel

(Three wishes. An Estonian folk tale)

Tallinn: Tänapäev 2012. – 31 p.

ISBN 978-9949-27-194-8

Greed – Presumption – Modesty – Contentment – Folk tale

Though »Kolm soovi« is an Estonian folk tale and the illustrator and author Piret Raud is herself Estonian, this highly entertaining book was simultaneously published in Japan by Fukuinkan Publishing in 2012. The plot is simple: A poor farmer couple is granted three wishes, but squanders them while fighting over what to wish for. The tale ends with the moral that things are quite alright the way they are. With her almost grotesque, garish illustrations, Raud transforms this story into a non-stop stream of laughter-inducing images, thus distancing it from the sombre folk tale of yore. A high point of the book is surely the sausage nose that the farmer wishes on his wife's face in the heat of the moment, and with which the woman must snuffle about on subsequent book pages. (Age: 3+)

Latvia (Latvian)

194

Baltvilks, Jānis (text) / Pētersons, Reinis (illus.)

Biki – Buki <proper name>

Rīga: Liels un mazs, 2012. – [32] p.

(Series: Biki Buks; 001)

ISBN 978-9984-820-48-4

Poetry

Reinis Pētersons (born 1981) is one of his country's busiest illustrators and is nominated for the 2013 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. In 2012 he joined five colleagues (Juris Petraškevičs, Kristīne Jurjāne, Līga Kičena, Edmunds Jansons, Marija Līduma), all exemplary representatives of contemporary Latvian children's book illustration, in illustrating the first volumes of the charming book project known as »Biki Buks«. Each of these six small-format books presents a popular Latvian children's poem written between the years 1940 and 1990, illustrated in a new and fresh form. In this case, the poem featured is Jānis Baltvilks's »Biki-Buki« from the year 1987. One hundred poems, all still well remembered by different generations of readers, are planned to be showcased in this series. (Age: 3+)

Lithuania (Lithuanian)

195

Kasparavičius, Kęstutis (text/illus.)

Sapnų Katytė

(The dream cat)

Vilnius: Nieko Rimto, 2012. – 59 p.

ISBN 978-609-441-036-9

Dream – Fleeing the world – Social critique

For many years, Kęstutis Kasparavičius has been by far the best-known poster child of his country in the area of illustration, and he claims this reputation anew with each new children's book he makes. »Sapnų Katytė«, the ninth volume which Kasparavičius has published with Nieko Rimto Publishing, is no different. Using his typical anthropomorphic animal illustrations, he juxtaposes the ideal world of dreams – represented by Pik, the curious cat, who wonders why she herself cannot dream – with life in the here and now, represented by the earth inhabitant Onytė. Through their conversations, Kasparavičius addresses the restlessness and hopelessness of contemporary life and sheds light on the fleeting nature of human being's characteristic ability to dream and to be allowed to dream. (Age: 8+)

196

Marčėnaitė, Nomedā (text/illus.)

Lėlė

(The doll)

Vilnius: Tyto Alba, 2011. – 122 p.

ISBN 978-9986-16-862-1

Identity – Self-discovery – Origin – Family

Nomedā Marčėnaitė's first work received multiple awards in Lithuania in 2012, among these the distinction of being named one of the most beautiful books of the year. In »Lėlė«, the reader accompanies a girl growing up with her grandmother while her mother works abroad on a journey of discovery through her everyday life and surroundings. The girl is always accompanied by a doll, whose head she found in the attic and whose body she assembles herself. This image of »becoming human« sparks big questions concerning identity, self-discovery, and one's origins, as these also relate to the girl's family and her relationship to her parents. Marčėnaitė finds a sensitive pictorial language for these themes, which combines pastel-hued coloured-pencil drawings with photo montage. (Age: 7+)

Poland (Polish)

197

Gellner, Dorota (text)

Zdęba, Beata (= Biedroń-Zdęba, Beata) (illus.)

Wścibscy

(The curious ones)

Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Bajka, 2012. – 35 p. + [2] p.

ISBN 978-83-61824-43-5

Curiosity – Suspicion – Mistrust – Eavesdropping

»Eavesdroppers will never hear any good of themselves.« Dorota Gellner's book of rhymed vignettes is guided by this old saying. The book reveals in seventeen scenes how far pathological curiosity and nosiness can be taken. It is exceedingly amusing for the reader to witness the excessive gawking and eavesdropping of all the members of the Curiosity family, as these are portrayed in peppery verse. After auntie, grandpa, grandson and even dog and cat have all spied by magnifying glass or by telescope, peered through windows on stilts and pestered the neighbours, they arrive in the doctor's office as curious specimens indeed, with enormous ears and eyes. The poems and occasionally austere illustrations both address a typically human weakness in a manner more tongue-in-cheek and mocking than moralising. (Age: 5+)

198

Kasdepke, Grzegorz (text)
Kozłowski, Tomek (illus.)

W moim brzuchu mieszka jakieś zwierzątko

(Some little creature lives in my tummy)

Warszawa: Dwie siostry 2012. – [36] p.

ISBN 978-83-608-5019-0

Imagination – Stomach – Sound

What to do when an animal lives in your stomach, but no one believes you at first? Mum, Dad, Brother, even Teacher are all sceptical. One must find out for oneself which animal is making those funny noises inside one's tummy. After lion and fish are considered and eliminated, Grzegorz Kasdepke's little heroine reflects on the habits of the animal: Is it nocturnal? What does it most love to eat? Then the little animal unexpectedly and stealthily migrates to the protagonist's brother. Nominated in 2012 as book of the year, this short story provides a wonderful glimpse into a child's world of imagination, a world that adults often lose sight of. Aside from Kasdepke's text, it is Tomek Kozłowski's friendly illustrations that ensure one has no choice but to love the red-haired, bespectacled little girl. (Age: 4+)

199

Marcel A. Marcel
(i.e. Dana Łukasińska and Olga Sawicka) (text)
Ostrowski, Krzysztof (illus.)

Oro <proper name>

Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Marginesy, 2012.

– 340 p. + [4] p.

ISBN 978-83-933758-2-0

Orphan – Foster home – Intimacy – Trust – Growing up

This Polish »Book of the Year« in the field of children's and youth literature portrays the psychologically complex story of Lena, who for the fifth time is being sent from the orphanage into a foster home. Lena sees herself as a »leased« child. Disillusioned and resigned, Lena moves in with Wanda and Roman and their five other foster children. She is sure that things won't work out this time, either. Dana Łukasińska and Olga Sawicka, who use the pseudonym Marcel A. Marcel, densely chronicle the many little steps which draw the protagonist closer to the family, which help her gain trust and give up her self-imposed isolation. Lena's alter ego Oro helps bring this about: He is a boy made up by Lena, who accompanies her and becomes her ally in conversation and reflection. (Age: 12+)

200

Rusinek, Michał (text)
Rusinek, Joanna (illus.)

Wierszyki domowe

(At home poems)

Kraków: Znak emotikon, 2012. – 176 p.

ISBN 978-83-240-1974-8

House – Home – Living room – Poetry

Reading this Polish »Children's book of the year« (awarded the Książka roku Prize in 2012) enables one to see one's home with new eyes. Michał Rusinek (born 1972) shows how much potential for inspiring witty, refreshing, and simply extraordinarily good poems individual rooms in a house have, even the basement workshop and the garden. The washing machine in the laundry room might be a substitute TV, the front door a rampart against outside calamities (storms! vampires!) and the dark staircase a chamber of horrors à la Tim Burton. Thanks also to Joanna Rusinek's (born 1978) poignant illustrations, »Wierszyki domowe« evokes a wonderfully weird feeling of being at home in one's well-familiar house, but at the same time viewing it as an unknown, alien seeming site. (Age: 5+)

201

Wóźniak, Olga (text)
Mogilnicki, Patryk (illus.)

Brud

(Dirt)

Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Hokus-Pokus, 2012. – 36 p.

ISBN 978-83-60402-47-4

Dirt – Dust – Microorganism – Hygiene – Health

»Wash your hands!« – what child doesn't know that phrase? Parents can now expect an evidence-based (!) rebuttal, perhaps along the lines of: »Frequent washing shortens life span!« Children will learn this if they read the explanation of bacteria, allergies, and the human body carefully, as it appears in this splendid »dirty book«. A manifesto for the grubby kid this book is not, however. Instead, one learns surprising things about all kinds of dirt and how to handle them safely. Where does dust come from? Why do tiny creatures live in my pillow? What are fungi doing in swimming pools? Next to its lively textual information, »Brud« offers even more enlightenment via its illustrations: even bacteria, dust particles, and ear wax can be aesthetically interesting if seen from the right angle! (Age: 8+)

Russia (Russian)

202

Kostjukov, Dmitrij (text/photos)

Surova, Zina (illus.)

Kosmos

(Cosmos)

Moskva: Izd. domik Dorofeevoj, 2012. – 74 p.

ISBN 978-5-905464-04-1

Outer space – Space travel

This lovely book, written by Dmitrij Kostjukov and wonderfully illustrated by Zina Surova, will satisfy all fans of space travel. Whether one is looking for concise information about the solar system, the history of space travel, the construction of a rocket or space station, »Kosmos« has the answer. Readers can also learn more about the education, training, and work of astronauts and cosmonauts, including the intake of nutrition during space travel and its »output«. All of the information is presented in a manner at once practical and humorous – sometimes in text boxes, sometimes in speech bubbles, and sometimes in continuous text with certain phrases emphasised. Photographic collages and drawings accompany the text. This all makes »Kosmos« an informationally rich, but also very enjoyable non-fiction book. (Age: 8+)

203

Martirosova, Marija

Fotografii na pamjat'

(Photographs for remembering)

Moskva: KompasGid 2012. – 69 p.

(Series: Graždanin mira)

ISBN 978-5-904561-91-8

Karabakh/1988-1994 – Minority – War – Refugee – Emigration

Marija Martirosova only needs seventy pages to expose her readers to penetrating questions, to unsettle and to touch them with the life story she recounts. At the end of the 1980s, a few years before the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Margo lives with her parents – adoptive parents, as it is later revealed – as part of the Armenian minority in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. With the growing conflict surrounding the autonomous region of Karabakh, the family faces increasing hostilities and ostracisation, which ultimately lead to the father's murder and the mother's and daughter's flight into Russian Murmansk. Margo travels further and ultimately becomes a photographer in the United States, using souvenir photos to trace her biography back to a series of partings and losses. (Age: 12+) ♦

204

Petrova, Asja (text)

Bolgova, Elena (illus.)

Volki na parašjutach.

Malen'kaja povest' v rasskazach

(Wolves with parachutes. Little novel in tales)

Sankt-Peterburg: Grif, 2012. – 107 p.

ISBN 978-5-85388-046-7

Child – Worldview – Everyday life

After Asja Petrova successfully participated in the festival for talented young children's book authors organised by Detgiz Publishing House, her book, »Volki na parašjutach«, won the first Russian Internet competition for children's literature, »Kniguru«, in 2011. Small wonder, given that her anecdote-like stories are brim-full of comical insights, odd ideas, and lively language. Each story unfolds across three to five pages, sweeping the reader along into the considerations of seven- to eight-year-old children, which so often seem absurd to adults. They puzzle over why one shouldn't lie to get through life easier, or why one is not permitted to run around naked. Petrova lets her protagonists find their own answers and accompanies them with a chuckle through their reflective antics. (Age: 7+)

Slovakia (Slovak)

205

Revajová, Toňa (text)

Balogh, Ľuro (i. e. Juraj Balogh) (illus.)

Johanka v Zapadáčiku

(Johanka in Zapadáčiku)

Bratislava: Slovart, 2012. – 130 p.

ISBN 978-80-556-0310-0

Relocation – Otherness – Outsider

Johanka is ten and has just moved to the country with her little brother Samko and her mother. Not much going on there it seems. Her much-loved grandmother is absent, she has no real friends, no real bathroom, only a cherry tree in the garden. Still, the bubbly girl, a Slovakian mix of Pippi Longstocking and Clarice Bean – two children's book heroines that Johanka admires – manages to stir up her new surroundings and especially her new school class and to find a way in her new life, thanks to her forthright manner. A self-contained, detail-sparse plot presents the ideal framework for Toňa Revajová's lively tale of a modern childhood filled with humour, fun, but also a first awareness of problems like separation and otherness. (Age: 9+)

206

Šebesta, Juraj (text)
Slaninková, Katarína (illus.)

Venussha. Ťažký týždeň: komiksový román pre tínedžerov a ich po'utovaniahodných rodičov

(Venussha. Tough week: a comic novel for teenagers and their unfortunate parents)

[Pusté Úľany]: Edition Ryba, 2011. – 204 p.

ISBN 978-80-89250-12-7

Daughter – Parents – Puberty – School – Clique

Thirteen-year-old Lucia has had yet another tough week. Her birthday is pending, her parents are being terrible with restrictions and warnings related to school, proper nutrition, and general anxiety issues; they just do not get what she's going through. Whom shall she invite to the party? How will she get with the in-crowd? How to survive the school week? Nonetheless, her father's unemployment and its effects on the finances and psyche of the family make her worry. Juraj Šebesta approaches this tangle of pubescent problems with humour and tongue firmly in cheek. He relies on multiple narrative perspectives, illuminating events from the point of view of the third-person narrator, the parents, the teens, and even the family dog. He also uses slang and makes references to social media. The bright yellow-and-black comic-style images of Katarína Slaninková blend perfectly with this entertaining kaleidoscope of narratives. (Age: 13+) ★

Slovenia (Slovenian)

207

Krojej, Monika / Dapit, Roberto (ed.)
Janežič, Adriano (illus.)

Živalska govorica. Slovenske basni in pripovedi o živalih

(The language of animals. Slovenian fables and stories about animals)

Radovljica: Didakta 2011. – 64 p.

(Series: Zakladnica slovenskih pripovedi)

ISBN 978-961-261-240-5

Values – Morals – Fairy tale – Fable

Fables and animal fairy tales indeed belong to the classic texts of children's literature in Slovenia. When, however, they are as nicely compiled and comically illustrated as they are in this volume, they become a completely different beast. Monika Krojej and Roberto Dapit col-

lect forty-one animal fairy tales and fables here, which Slovenian fairy tale collectors and authors have written or adapted from Grimm & Co. What's more, they also provide a marvellous introduction into the history of the genre and its prominent animal representatives (first place goes to the fox). One wants to call out to Adriano Janežič: more pictures, please! As a cartoon artist, he understands like few others how to squeeze out exuberant comicality from stories that carry a moral message and to transform them into a beastly good read. (Age: 5+)

208

Simoniti, Barbara (text)
Škerl, Peter (illus.)

Močvirniki. Zgodbe iz Zelene Dobrave

(Swamp-dwellers. Tales from Greenham)

Ljubljana: Mladinska knjiga, 2012. – 294 p.

ISBN 978-961-01-2226-5

Swamp – Marshland – Society – Bourgeoisie

Slovenia has been waiting a long time for this book. Barbara Simoniti spent many years writing this panopticon about an animal society living within the protection of a swamp. And Peter Škerl worked half a decade on his impressive illustrations, which in their intensive monochromatic green present a dense, atmospheric capture of the swampland. »Močvirniki« is quite reminiscent of the Anglo-Saxon children's book tradition of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries: Škerl clothes the protagonists – salamanders, newts, frogs, and spiders – in historical garb, which identify the animals as mayor, newspaper editors, school principals, and middle class families, while Simoniti, her vocabulary perfectly acclimated to the boggy water world, describes that society and its goings-on. (Age: 8+)

209

Šteinbauer, Zoran

Izgubljeni gozd

(Lost forest)

Dob pri Domžalah: Miš, 2012. – 243 p.

ISBN 978-961-272-074-2

Sexual abuse – Church – Morals – Ethics

In his second novel, Zoran Šteinbauer bravely tackles the controversial topic of sexual abuse in the Catholic Church.

At the centre of the three-part story stands Karel, who is abused while enrolled as a student at a seminary. The priest who molests him does so under the pretext of performing a Christian purification ritual, and Karel submits several times. The situation shifts dramatically with the suicide of his friend and classmate, who was also a victim of sexual violence. Karel leaves the seminary and finds his way back into life through falling in love with a woman, and he finally confronts the priest. Šteinbauer portrays these events unsparingly, but balances their harshness narratively with lyrical topoi about the forest. The forest is Karel's spiritual retreat, where he can sort through his emotions and find the power to cope. (Age: 16+)

210

Svetina, Peter (text)

Štepančič, Damijan (illus.)

Čudežni prstan

(The magical ring)

Ljubljana: Vodnikova založba [et al.] 2011. – 35 p.

ISBN 978-961-6067-74-4

Ring – Magic – Wish – Friendship – Helpfulness

Never change a winning team: Peter Svetina and Damijan Štepančič were awarded a prize for their book »Modrost nilskih konjev« (DZS publishing house) in 2010 and have now completed another successful co-production. In this story, a ring with supposed magical powers rolls away from an opera diva, and half the city joins in her hunt. In the end the ring falls irrecoverably into the river. It did reveal some of its power, however: the lonely singer has made some friends along the way. Svetina brings the fairy-tale-like story to life with a refreshing concreteness, by giving the singer a name and setting the story in Ljubljana. Štepančič's understated illustrations (coloured pencil on brown paper) lure one into the Jugendstil era, allowing the bohemians to elegantly stroll about. (Age: 2+)

Ukraine (Ukrainian)

211

Andrusjak, Ivan (text)

Osadko, Hanna (illus.)

Visim dniv iz žyttja Burunduka

(Eight days in the life of a chipmunk)

Kyiv: Hranit 2012. – 67 p.

(Series: Knyhoterapija)

ISBN 978-966-465-369-2

School – Outsider – Proving oneself

Things aren't easy for Ivas' Bondaruk, nicknamed »Burunduk« (Chipmunk). In the classroom he's a smart aleck, and on the field he's a zero – those facts don't endear one to others. A way out presents itself, though. According to his grandmother's tales, if one carries an egg under one's arm for eight days and remains utterly mute, then a little devil slips out of the egg and will grant all wishes. When Ivas' tries this out, he gets into hot water mainly because of the code of silence. Told from the boy's perspective, the story describes the boy's struggle with a light touch and a great deal of humour. Ivan Andrusjak's authorial talent shows particularly in the subtle narrative undertones that point to the deep inner insecurity that an outsider like Ivas' faces. (Age: 9+)

212

Franko, Ivan (text)

Romanyšyn, Romana / Lesiv, Andrij (illus.)

Ripka

(The turnip)

Ternopil': Bohdan, 2012. – [26] p.

ISBN 978-966-10-2483-9

Equality – Cooperativeness – Fairy tale

Here one of the best-known Slavic fairy tales is given a new look. A giant turnip is solidly stuck in the earth and will not be pulled out. First Grandpa tries, then Grandma joins in, then the daughter, the dog, and the cat. Ultimately, a tiny bit of mouse power is what is needed to pull the turnip out. The rhymed story is paired with the illustrations by Andrij Lesiv and Romana Romanyšyn, which feature a retro-computer aesthetic and the representation of everyday objects. The two illustrators unfold the fairy-tale plot against a backdrop reminiscent of baroque, lushly patterned wall coverings. At the centre of the book, they offer a playful highlight: the central double spread, which shows the turnip-pulling is segmented into six single pages, which – unfolded one by one – reconstruct the sequence of the harvest-helpers. (Age: 3+)

Other Languages

Belgium (Dutch)

213

De Cock, Michael (text)
Dendooven, Gerda (illus.)

Hannibal

<proper name>

Leuven: Davidsfonds/Infodok, 2012. – 235 p.

ISBN 978-90-5908-440-7

Hannibal/247-183 B.C. – Roman Empire – Carthage – War – Peace

Hannibal, the legendary leader of the Carthaginian army that travelled across the Alps with forty-two elephants, is looking back on his life. With this accurate reconstruction of Hannibal's life, readers grow along with the insecure young man who loses his father during battle, the impatient army leader fighting his sixteen-year battle in Italy, and the wise old man in Turkish exile. Gripping dialogues offer agreeable variation to the gruesome details of the battle descriptions. This book carries readers into philosophical thoughts on topics such as war and peace, which unfortunately are still very timely. The epilogue provides historical background information. Also included are a map showing Hannibal's travel route and an appendix presenting historical persons and places. (Age: 15+)

214

De Leeuw, Jan

Vijftien wilde zomers

(Fifteen wild summers)

Leuven: Davidsfonds/Infodok, 2012. – 170 p.

ISBN 978-90-5908-441-4

Death – Grief

Ever since fifteen-year-old Thomas passed away, his friends and family have been trying to continue their lives. Thomas' mother Eva has been clinging on to his possessions for a long time, which is ultimately resulting in a break with her husband. Thomas's girlfriend Orphee has been having a hard time engaging in new relationships with people. And his grandfather, normally a vivid storyteller, has been slowly losing his mind. The author uses an intriguing perspective: The feelings of the mother, girlfriend, and grandfather are described as seen through Thomas's eyes. Stories from the past and present are closely interwoven. The novel sets a rather sad tone; however, in the end Thomas's mother and girlfriend both manage to go on with their lives. The author combines a jaunty – but never too pretentious – style with great expressiveness. (Age: 15+)

215

De Pelseneer, Reine (text)
Verschraagen, Richard (illus.)

Het geheim tussen de boeken

(The secret between all those books)

Wielsbeke: De Eenhoorn, 2012. – 41 p.

ISBN 978-90-5838-807-0

Library – Reading

Bembo Bookworm lives in an old library, in a tiny hole under the lowest plank of a bookshelf. Grandpa Bookworm used to live in the library as well, but one day he disappeared and was never seen again. According to Grandpa, the library held a big secret. One day, Bembo meets a girl named Vera Wurm, and after a while he discovers that Vera is »exciting as a story«. »Het geheim tussen de boeken« is a lovely story about losing oneself and thereby forgetting about the world around. The protagonist is portrayed as being very lively, becoming a perfectly recognisable character for enthusiastic young readers. The slowly developing bond between Bembo and Vera is described empathically through their sparkling dialogue. While the story builds up tension slowly, the atmospheric sketches lead up to the discovery of the library's »secret«. (Age: 7+)

216

Vanden Heede, Sylvia (text)
Thé, Tjong-Khing (illus.)

Vos en Haas. Waar is het ijs?

(Fox and Hare. Where is the ice?)

Tielt: Lannoo, 2012. – 134 p.

ISBN 978-94-014-0434-1

Love – Animals – Theft

Ping Wing, a penguin, is visiting the forest of Fox and Hare. Wild boar falls in love with her, but does not have the courage to tell her so. He comes up with a smart plan, in which the silver egg under care of Ping Wing's brother Ping Ping is stolen. If everything goes according to plan, he will be the great hero that recovers the egg. Unfortunately, things turn out differently. There is much wordplay in this book for more advanced young readers. The same terms are interpreted in different ways, which stimulates the development of readers' linguistic capabilities. The story builds up tension nicely and features a surprising ending. The beautiful illustrations – watercolour paintings finely outlined in ink – add an extra dimension by way of their many details and their humorous interpretation of the text. (Age: 7+)

The Netherlands (Dutch)

217

Dematons, Charlotte (illus.)

Nederland

(The Netherlands)

Rotterdam: Lemniscaat, 2012. – [52] p.

ISBN 978-90-477-0498-0

The Netherlands/History/Geography/Customs

Using a fine pencil, Charlotte Dematons portrays the Netherlands twenty-eight times in bird's eye view. The illustrations show the most important historical events of the country's history and even contain characters from Dutch children's books old and new. Past and present, fact and fiction literally meet. Dematons portrays typical Dutch traditions and locations. Each of the illustrations has its own unique feel – whether you are looking at the gorgeous autumn colours of »De Hoge Veluwe« National Park, or fireworks on New Year's Eve that almost pop out of the pages. Each scene contains many details to discover. This magnificent book is suited for readers of all ages and can be picked up again and again to lose oneself in it for another couple of hours. (Age: 6+)

218

Elpers, Noëlla

Malou van de Mussen

(Malou and the sparrows)

Houten: Van Goor, 2012. – 245 p.

978-90-00-30490-5

Antwerp/17th century – Refugee

Seventeen-year-old Malou and her mother have to escape Antwerp at the beginning of the 17th century. When her mother passes away, the girls is not – as planned – placed in an orphanage, but sent back to Antwerp and given a job as a housemaid for mayor Nicolaas Rockox. There, she takes up a special place within the house and becomes a beautiful young lady who sees the city garden as her refuge. After a while, Malou thinks that Rockox may be her father, since he had known her mother. The author brings to life a piece of personal history through expressive language. The characters, especially Malou, are portrayed in a very lively manner. Furthermore, the historical circumstances, such as the social differences between people from different classes in European society of 400 years ago, are vividly described. (Age: 13+)

219

Kruijssen, Agave / Letterie, Martine /

Molen, Janny van der (text)

Egeraat, Els van (illus.)

Over vroeger en nu. Verhalen bij de canon

(About past and present. Stories around the canon of Dutch history)

Amsterdam: Ploegsma, 2012. – 501 p.

ISBN 978-90-216-7077-5

The Netherlands/History

This book is a bundle of stories about the history of the Netherlands. The stories are based on the fifty items of the historical canon used for educational purposes in the Netherlands. However, they are not presented as dull historical facts, but as fluent and structured narratives about life in different times. The authors have not taken important (historical) people as main characters, instead they vividly portray »common« people, often young ones. Although the book offers a lot of information, it never creates the impression of teaching history lessons to the readers. The detailed illustrations fit the stories seamlessly and perfectly match the atmosphere of individual stories, not least because of the great use of colours. (Age: 10+)

220

Samson, Gideon

Zwarte zwaan

(Black swan)

Amsterdam: Leopold, 2012. – 212 p.

ISBN 978-90-258-6130-8

Disappearance – Friendship – Death – Grief – Peer pressure

Duveke, age twelve, is the only friend of impulsive and wilful Rifka. Rifka always makes up the strangest things and gives her classmates a very hard time at school. Her latest idea is to attend her own funeral, so as to get to know what everyone will be saying about her. To this end, she engineers her own kidnapping. However, her plan escalates out of control. As the story unfolds, it turns out that Rifka and Duveke are not real friends. Duveke is more or less forced to be friends with Rifka. »Zwarte zwaan« is not an average story about a girl that comes up with a bizarre plan. It is a whole lot more: an intriguing story about friendship, peer pressure and family ties. The three parts of the book are told from Duveke's, her brother Olivier's, and Rifka's perspective. The story has been written in such a compelling and brilliant way that the characters really come to life and readers find themselves captivated from the first through the last sentence. (Age: 12+) ★

221

Schaapman, Karina (text/design)
Hartmann, Eddo (photos)

Sam & Julia in het theater

(Sam and Julie in the theatre)

Amsterdam: Rubinstein, 2012. – 65 p.

(Series: Het muizenhuis)

ISBN 978-90-476-1298-8

Mouse – Everyday life – Theatre

Sam and Julie, two little mice, live through all kinds of experiences: sad ones, such as the passing away of grandfather, and joyful ones, like their birthday celebrations. This original photo picture book is based on a homemade dollhouse made of cardboard boxes and papier-mâché. The house is padded with all kinds of discarded materials from the 1950s through the 1970s. The scenes contain enough material to keep readers entertained for hours. At its middle, the book contains an expandable picture which, when opened to both sides, creates the impression of a theatre. The mice clearly display human personality traits, and the world portrayed in this book is very recognisable and contemporary. Young children's imagination is stimulated by the pictures, allowing every-one to create his or her own story. (Age: 4+)

222

Simoen, Jan

De nacht van 2 april

(The night of April 2nd)

Amsterdam: Querido, 2012. – 225 p.

ISBN 978-90-451-1408-8

Belgium/1943 – World War II – Secret – Remembrance – Country life

Ten-year-old Joris and his friends often pretend to be fighting a war around the old bunkers in the dunes. Their parents hardly tell them anything about what happened in the real war, but when Joris one day finds a picture from that time, he can't control his curiosity anymore and finds out what his parents went through during World War II. Accompanying the children's moving search for information, the reader learns more about both the community in the Flemish village and all those things people did not talk about after the war. Jan Simoen builds up the tension of the story, revealing information bit by bit as if the story were a puzzle. The novel is centered around a night in April 1943, when a German soldier took down British planes, which had fatal consequences for – amongst others – someone from the village. (Age: 11+)

223

Tellegen, Toon (text)
Dendooven, Gerda (illus.)

Lotte aan het woord

(Lotte and her words)

Amsterdam: Querido, 2012. – 58 p.

ISBN 978-90-451-1321-0

Language – Word – Reading

Eight-year-old Lotte knows a lot of words. One summer Sunday, she plays with words she encounters haphazardly: new words, short words, long words, light words, heavy words, strange words, words that accumulate and words you throw away. Lotte already knows that she wants to become a »wordsmith« when she grows up. This book tells about a little girl's Sunday with great fantasy and humour. The words all come to life in the story, which will certainly be thoroughly enjoyed by young readers, not least because of Toon Tellegen's virtuosic use of language and his sometimes philosophical observations. The illustrations watercolour ink, at times containing collage-like elements, seamlessly fit the experience of playing with words and language in general. (Age: 8+)

224

Vendel, Edward van de (text)
Weel, Fleur van der (illus.)

Hallo

(Hello)

[Amsterdam]: Stichting Collectieve Propaganda van het Nederlandse Boek (CPNB), 2012. – [28] p.
ISBN 978-90-5965-169-2

Zoo – School excursion

Joni is so excited about her school trip to the zoo the next day that she can hardly sleep. There are also restless animals in the zoo that night because the next day the little cubs will be allowed to go outside for the first time, the raccoons will be given a larger pen, and a rhino will be sent on its way in a »special heavy truck«. The next morning, when Joni visits the zoo, she sees all the animals that had anxiously awaited the coming day the night before. There are so many things to see that Joni does not know where to go first. This picture book's poetic text and the expressive, carefully coloured illustrations suit each other perfectly. On one page that can be expanded to four pages, readers will find portraits of all the zoo animals described in the book. (Age: 5+)

The Netherlands (Frisian)

225

Dam, Eppie (text) / Terpstra, Gerrit (illus.)

Fjouwer dappere mûskes

(Four brave mice)

Ljouwert [Leeuwarden]: Afûk, 2012. – [24] p.

ISBN 978-90-6273-918-9

Journey – Multiculturalism

Mice live in every direction the wind blows. The north is inhabited by winter mice that dwell in little stone houses, whereas the houses of the mice of the east are made of wood. In the south the houses partly made of cloth, and the mice in the west have homes of steel. At all four cardinal points, a mouse wonders if there is more than its own wind direction and embarks on a journey. After more than forty days, the mice happen to meet each other. They talk, eat and drink, grow larger and together they manage to build a colourful multicultural city. This poetic story about cultures meeting each other and living together contains intentional repetitions of certain elements. Some recurring motifs refer to the Bible, amongst others. The paintings have an impressionistic feel, washing over detail. (Age: 5+)

Ireland (Irish)

226

Forde, Patricia (text)

Simpson, Steve (illus.)

Mise agus an dragún

(Me and the dragon)

An Spidéal, Gaillimhe: Futa Fata, 2012. – [28] p.

ISBN 978-1-906907-50-1

Dream – Dragon hunt – Courage – Fear

Sleepy little bear is tucked into bed and imagines dangerous adventures. He wants to become a dragon hunter when he grows up. After all, he is strong and brave and fears nothing – well, except darkness; and heights; and smoke; and lightning; and nightmares; and he is not too keen on scary cows either; but he is definitely not afraid of dragons! This witty tale cunningly plays with children's contrasting desires for adventure and security. The vibrant digital illustrations in bright colours aptly mirror this contrast. They follow the fierce fire-breathing black-and-red dragon and its confident hunter through changing imaginary landscapes until they safely arrive back in his own room, where readers will discover many mementos of the earlier adventure trip. (Age: 4+)

Hungary (Hungarian)

227

Erdős, Virág (text)

Filó, Vera (illus.)

Pimpáré és Vakvarjúcska

(Pimpáré and Crow)

Budapest: Móra, 2012. – 101 p.

ISBN 978-963-11-9160-8

Courtship – Enchantment – Fairy tale

A king and queen are pressuring their daughter to marry because the kingdom is broke. Only marriage to a rich prince can fill the treasure vaults again. The princess tolerates but is annoyed by her suitors and cannot decide on any of them. Suddenly the sky turns black, and the king of crows and his son kidnap the princess. The crow boy asks for the hand of the princess, and he passes all the trials subsequently foisted upon him. At the very end it turns out that he is the enchanted son of a king, and he regains human form through the love of the princess. In this wittily designed book, the fairy tale is told in verse and dialogue form, which is unusual for the genre. The black-and-white, partially coloured illustrations accompany the text, and are both elucidative and expressive. (Age: 5+)

228

Hohol, Ancsa (text)

Kárpáti, Tibor (illus.)

Juhhé szemüveges lettem

(Hurrah, I wear glasses)

Budapest: Kolibri, 2012. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-615-5234-21-7

Glasses – Myopia

Glasses are for people who can't see well. You are examined, and then asked to look at funny pictures and tell the doctor whether you see a car or a house. You must also be able to see colours properly. And when only one eye is »lazy«, it must be strengthened. Glasses come in all shapes and colours, and it is not at all terrible to wear glasses one's whole life, because you always look smart with them. The witty text of this non-fiction picture book makes it easier for children to master being glasses wearers (or to understand the circumstances of glasses wearers). The simple illustrations mimic the style of children's drawings and, with just a few lines and colours, humorously explain the necessity and helpfulness of glasses. This book is easy to understand for non-readers. (Age: 3+)

229

Máté, Angi (text)
Rofusz, Kinga (Ill.)

Kapitány és Narancshal

(The captain and his goldfish)

Budapest: Magvető, 2012. – 61 p.

ISBN 978-963-14-2896-4

Captain – Friendship – Good fortune – Philosophy of life

After many years on the high seas, a captain leaves his ship to live on dry land. He lives on a bridge with his friend, a goldfish in a preserving jar, and surveys the city to find the best site for his house. Meanwhile, the goldfish heads out to free the aquarium fish at the zoo. Gradually, the captain realises that the best place for everyone is the one where he can live well. Consequently, he helps his best friend and the fish in the zoo back to the wide open sea. He himself stays behind, to stroll under the plane trees and discover the wonders of the city. Kinga Rofusz illustrates this philosophical, slightly absurd story in a striking way. Poetic images in bright colours cleverly mirror the dreamy atmosphere of the text. (Age: 7+)

Cyprus (Greek)

230

Michaëlidu-Kadē, Marina
(= Michailidou-Kadi, Marina) (text)
Kitzing, Constanze von (illus.)

To chamogelo tēs Semelēs. Ena paramythi

(Semeli's laughter. A fairy-tale)

Leukōsia (= Nicosia): Politistiko Idryma Trapezēs Kypru, 2011. – [36] p. – ISBN 978-9963-42-919-6

Lack of time – Values

Little Semeli wonders whether the things adults rush around for and worry over will ever make them happy. She herself has been wishing for a fire-engine-red bike for a very long time. Nevertheless, a helpless puppy causes her to make a different choice, without a moment's hesitation. Her decision brings joy to her and her mother and lets them find time for each other again. Marina Michailidou-Kadi juxtaposes adults' emotional dead-ends and hectic lifestyles with children's unerring sense of intrapersonal relationships. Out of this combination, wonderful ways of drawing closer are discovered. Constanze von Kitzing's pictures enhance the text by directing one's gaze to the overlooked beauty of everyday companionship and its small yet special moments. (Age: 6+)

231

Perikleus, Elena (= Perikleous, Elena)

Ta paramythia lene panta tēn alētheia

(Fairy tales always tell the truth)

Leukōsia (= Nicosia): Parga, 2011. – 167 p.

ISBN 978-9963-679-93-5

Self-determination – Self-realisation – Fairy tale

When people aren't sure how to explain something, fairy tales can help, since »Fairy tales always tell the truth.« In this book, however, the teller of fairy tales is put on trial because his trustworthiness is questionable. Cinderella suffers from a sense of lost identity, the three little pigs are plagued by feelings of guilt, Pinocchio does not want to live with the burden of always having to tell the truth, and the frog is hesitant to become a prince. Elena Perikleous emphasises the power of fairy tales to inspire readers and listeners to discover their own special truth in the tales. In fourteen exciting chapters full of intertextual references, the need for self-determination and self-realisation is juxtaposed with notions of a pre-determined destiny. (Age: 9+)

Greece (Greek)

232

Angelidu, Maria (= Angelidou, Maria) (text)
Samartzē, Iris (= Samartzi, Iris) (illus.)

Istories pu tis eipe ē thalassa

(Stories the sea told)

Athēna: Metaichmio, 2012. – 87 p.

(Series: Logotechnia gia paidia)

ISBN 978-960-501-698-2

Greece/Antiquity – Sea

The sea, war, and a stone exhort readers of this special book series to live through the history of Greek antiquity and to reflect on its background conditions. As trustworthy witnesses of that era, they can transport the reader better than others into the thick of historical happenings. In this volume, the sea reports on what history owes her. After all, it was sailors' stories from near and far that inspired Herodotus to travel foreign horizons in order to record history. The secrets of the sea awakened young Aristotle's curiosity, and the sea's magnanimity brought Xenophon back home. Iris Samartzi's expressive illustrations portray these historical events in a reflective and emotionally sensitive way. (Age: 8+)

233

Conomos, Anna (text)
Stamatiadē, Naniela (= Stamatiadi, Daniela) (illus.)

Ē yposchesē

(The promise)

Athēna: Potamos / Anemon Productions, 2012. –

[55] p. + DVD

ISBN 978-960-545-010-6

Greece/Turkey/1922 – Population exchange – International understanding – Friendship – Tolerance – Humanity

Evgenia and Fatma are close friends. As was common between Turks and Greeks in the city of Izmir before 1922, they share their lives with open hearts, down colourful lanes, amongst the orange grove hills, on the promenade where their favourite songs ring out. The war between Greece and the Ottoman Empire separates these friends, and their oath to meet again can only be fulfilled by their granddaughters. Anna Conomos, »Storyteller of the Year 2005,« knows how to movingly convey a message of understanding among peoples. The archival photographs, edited by Daniela Stamatiadi, flesh out the story that is told. The book, accompanied by a trilingual DVD, was created as part of the project »Twice a stranger«, which investigates the population exchange that in many places proved the hallmark of the 20th century. (Age: 8+) ♦

234

Delēboria, Magia (= Delivoria, Maya) (text)
Kalomamas, Mpayron (= Kalomamas, Bayron) (illus.)

Ē alphabēta tēs ephēbeias. Mythistorēma gia ephēbus kai ochi mon

(The alphabet of puberty. A novel not just for teenagers)

Athēna: Kedros, 2012. – 211 p.

ISBN 978-960-04-4283-0

Puberty – Coming of age

This is an accompanying volume of the nationally awarded theatrical play of the same name, developed by Maya Delivoria and her high school students in 2008. The book documents what is going on »behind the scenes« while the adolescent performers and the author, their teacher, create the piece around an improvised »ABC of puberty«, putting their feelings into words and learning to handle them. In prose, verse, or song form, twenty-four topics ranging from »friendship«, »lies«, and »shaving« to »death« and »heroism« are addressed in scenes expressing dreams, wishes, and fears in a provocative, passionate, lively, surprising, and unembellished manner. This book can encourage dialogue between teens and adults. (Age: 12+)

235

Kyritsopoulos, Alexēs (= Kyritsopoulos, Alexis) (text/illus.)

Ligo akoma ... Ena paramythi empneusmeno apo ta poiemata tu Giōrgu Sefherē

(Just a little more ... A fairy tale inspired by Giorgos Seferis's poems)

Athēna: Ikaros / Museio Mpenakē (= Museum Benakis), 2012. – [61] p.

(Series: An diabaza ... poiētes tēs genias tu '30)

ISBN 978-960-9527-49-1

Optimism – Courage – Solidarity – Zest for life – Sea

In dialogue with the poets of 1930s Greece, Alexis Kyritsopoulos cooks up an allegorical fireworks display for children in his signature style, making poems sparkle through images and images glow through words. Kyritsopoulos found inspiration for this book in verses by the poet Seferis that talk of sea waves and marble that shines in the sun. Encouraged by his grandfather, a child sails fearlessly and eagerly through Scylla and Charybdis into the open sea, dives into the colours of the sun, and meets mermaids and dolphins. In the end, the child returns from the journey that »entwined mountains and bore stars« back to his grandfather's garden, where children fly kites that blossom »like vulnerable souls« high up in the sky. (Age: 5+)

236

Mastrogiannē, Iphigeneia (= Mastrogianni, Ifigenia) (text)
Stephanidē, Phōteinē (= Stefanidi, Fotini) (illus.)

To paramythi me tis ksechasmenes lexeis

(The fairy tale with the forgotten words)

[Athēna]: Kalentēs, 2012. – 76 p.

ISBN 978-960-219-269-6

Grief – Meaning of life – Grandmother – Granddaughter

Anthi's parents are about to divorce. A longing for security guides the fifteen-year-old from America to the village where her widowed grandmother lives. Their heartache overshadows the reunion, but the two find refuge and resourcefulness in telling each other fairy tales. When Anthi tells an unusual story, her grandmother overcomes her own melancholy and finds the energy to go in search of the fairy tale's »missing words«, which can alleviate her granddaughter's grief. The confidence and life-affirmation that characterise this book can also be discovered in its delicate illustrations, for example in glances and gestures, in enchanted beings of the heaven and earth, or in the night sky. (Age: 8+)

237

Papatheodōrou, Basilēs (= Papatheodorou, Vassilis)

Oi archontes tōn skupidiōn

(The kings of garbage)

Athēna: Kastaniōtēs, 2012. – 331 p.

(Series: Gephyres – Logotechnia gia neus)

ISBN 978-960-03-5457-7

Power – Violence – Corruption – Garbage – Utopia – Dystopia

This novel presents a stirring and alarming glimpse at a fictional future society that is socially and economically bankrupt. Democracies have become monarchies, military and mass media moguls rule, and the world is being electronically manipulated. All resistance is violently suppressed. Garbage is the new major commodity, which causes exploitation and wars. Most people survive as mere rag pickers. In the story, our protagonist, a well-known politician and his family, three scientists, a mercenary and a girl are being persecuted. Facing hardship, misery, and the fear of dying, they fight to build another kind of society. In the end, a hopeful new beginning comes about through the bravery of those at the »absolute bottom«. Vassilis Papatheodorou, whose books for adolescents have received multiple awards, explores socio-political and economic questions in a gripping way. (Age: 14+) ★

238

Psarakē, Basō (= Psaraki, Vasso) (text)

Mantubalu, Sophia (= Mantouvalou, Sofia) (illus.)

To archontopulo pu egine pyrgos

(The duke's son who was turned into a castle)

Athēna: Patakēs, 2012. – [36] p.

(Series: Logotechnika biblia me polychrōmē eikonographēsē)

ISBN 978-960-16-4003-7

Love – Curse – Fairy tale

Inspired by the tradition of her homeland, the peninsula Mani, renowned children's book author Sofia Mantouvalou entices readers into her own fairy tale, shaped by the enchantment of story-telling. A curse comes true when a duke's son falls in love with a bewitched girl and is transformed into a castle. Only pain and love, decay and reconstruction can break the spell. The text is enhanced and masterfully interpreted by Vasso Psaraki's lyrical mixed-technique illustrations. The pictures shift between moods of lively celebration and encroaching threat, bitter frustration and colourful hope. Psaraki's work has been recognised multiple times with national and international awards. (Age: 4+)

239

Tribizas, Eugenios (= Trivizas, Evgenios) (text)

Barbakē, Rania (= Varvaki, Rania) (illus.)

Ta Christugenna tēs Lulas Strumpululas.**Oi peripeteies mias tetrapachēs galopulas**

(Lula Stroumpouloula's Christmas. The adventures of a chubby turkey hen)

Athēna: Psychogios, 2012. – 48 p. + [30] p.

ISBN 978-960-496-739-1

Exploitation – Violence – Survival – Justice

Lula, a spoiled, well-fed turkey hen, discovers to her horror that »her« family's Christmas dish is set to feature none other but herself. With the help of the house cat and using spectacular manoeuvres, she survives a mad chase. She attacks the stuffy guests and ultimately occupies the house. Evgenios Trivizas is a multiple-award-winning author and criminologist whose children's and teen books have frequently been translated. In this book, he once more makes the case against discrimination, terror, and exploitation. In the often suspense-driven plots of his witty and subversive books, he lets his extraordinary heroes bravely and cleverly triumph in the face of fate and every form of authority. Bright and realistic comic-style pictures bring the text to life. (Age: 5+)

Turkey (Turkish)

240

Özcan, Pakize (text)

Delioglu, Mustafa (illus.)

Gücünü yitiren kral

(The lion that lost his power)

İstanbul: Güneşli Kitaplığı, 2011. – 96 p.

(Series: İlk öykü; 13)

ISBN 978-9944-717-78-6

Power – Corruption – Tyranny – Freedom – Democracy

King Lion's power and authority wane as he ages, and eventually lawlessness rules the forest. Seeking a solution, conflicts arise among the animals. Oppression and intimidation follow. Some try to install a new ruler as the lion's replacement, to re-establish the old status quo. But in the end, co-determination and equal rights are everyone's main concern. When the lion dies, the animals decide for themselves where to go next. Where their path will lead them remains uncertain, but they now have the choice to construct their own future. Pakize Özcan vividly narrates her political fable about freedom, resistance, and the

search for the right form of society. Mustafa Delioğlu's colourful illustrations humorously show the wide diversity of a heterogeneous animal society. (Age: 8+)

241

Şahinkanat, Sara (text)

İnan Alıcan, Ayşe (illus.)

Üç kedi bir dilek

(Three cats and a wish)

İstanbul: Yapı Kredi Yayınları, 2012. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-975-08-2182-0

Night – Wish – Friendship

Three feline friends – Piti, Pati, and Pus – see a shooting star on a starry night. Pus claims that any wish cast when seeing a shooting star in the sky will come true. From then on, Piti sits on the roof, waiting yearningly, and has no more time for Pati and Pus. With the help of the stork, the latter two thus concoct a clever plan. Using coal and a flashlight, they transform the blackened stork into a »shooting star« shooting over the house. Elated Piti wishes that Pati, Pus, and he remain friends forever. Sleepy, he dozes off and misses the moment when a real shooting star flies overhead. The illustrator has drawn whimsical cats that suit this picture book story, capturing their cheeriness and curiosity very nicely. (Age: 3+)

242

Yeltan, Gökem (text)

Gürel, Mehmet (illus.)

Korkusuz Meles

(Fearless Melek)

İstanbul: Doğan Egmont, 2012. – 109 p.

ISBN 978-605-09-1157-2

Friendship – Adventure – Theft – Love

Meles and Edik are friends and live in Malina, the capital of the subterranean world. One day beautiful Mrs Porsi, whom Meles has fallen head over heels for, asks the two for help: they are to recapture the golden eggs that were stolen from her. On their search they meet mysterious Mr. Pedro, the owner of the Pedrini Hotel, who is also the uncle of Mrs Porsi and her twin sister Tessara. Gradually it dawns on Meles and Edik that the thief is close at hand and that the solution lies in uncovering the secrets of this strange family. Meles, nicknamed »the fearless«, must recognise that he, too, is afraid of something: love! This thrilling story about the friends' adventures in the fantastical subterranean world unfolds at a fast pace. (Age: 9+)

Israel (Hebrew)

243

Landau, Ornah (= Landau, Orna) (text)

Hofman, Omer (= Hoffmann, Omer) (illus.)

Nameret

(Leopardpox)

Or Yehuda: Kinneret Zmora-Bitan, 2012. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-965-552-386-7

Metamorphosis – Mother – Daughter

A little girl wakes up feeling a bit »strange« and »sick«, and wants to stay home from kindergarten. She's coughing and roaring, her nails are growing, her teeth are flashing and suddenly a little leopard stands before the shocked mother. A case of »Leopardpox«! But the paediatrician feels he's not qualified to treat the girl and sends the family to the veterinarian. The vet doesn't know what to do with the little feline predator, either, and the zoo wants nothing to do with her. Fortunately, back at home and exhausted after the odyssey, the girl begins to turn back to normal. Mother feels »a little strange«, though... This amusing story about children's cares and motherly love is illustrated with much humour. With its energetic, comic-like line and original details, the picture book offers children and adults alike a lot of fun for reading and looking together. (Age: 4+)

Lebanon (Arabic)

244

Şarîf-ad-Dîn, Fâtîma (= Sharafeddine, Fatima) (text)

Mauşillî, Mâryân (= Moussalli, Marianne) (illus.)

Mar'î, Farah (= Merhi, Farah) (photos)

Li-Tāmirin 'ālam haşş

(= Li-Tamerin alam khas) (Tamer's own special world)

Bairût (= Beirut): Yuki Press, 2012. – 56 p.

ISBN 978-9953-478-16-6

Autism – Otherness – Friendship – Play

At the playground, a girl asks herself why a boy is not playing with the other children. Instead, he keeps himself busy on his own, engrossed in himself and concentrating on continually lining up toy cars, for example. At home, the girl's mother explains that the boy is autistic. When the two children encounter one another at the playground again, they approach each other cautiously. Tamer – that is the boy's name – helps the girl with her difficult math homework. Gradually she understands that he is simply »different«, not sick or disabled, and that he has special

talents. This book introduces the topic of autism is a vivid way. The sensitive text is accompanied by illustrations made using an original mixed-media technique: photographs form the backdrop upon which figures drawn in black, white, and red act. (Age: 7+)

Iran (Persian [Farsi])

245

Ḥala'tbarī, Farīda (= Khalatbaree, Farideh) (text)
Būzārī, 'Alī (= Bouzari, Ali)

Šanīdār pandār

(= Shenidar pendar) (Misunderstood)

Tihrān: Šabāwiz (= Shabaviz), [2011] (= 1390 [h.š.]).

– 30 p.

ISBN 978-964-505-288-9

Old age – Hearing loss – Misunderstanding – Dream world

This story by the famous Persian poet Dschalal ad-Din ar-Rumi (Rumi) is about an older doctor who cannot accept his own hearing loss. He relies on his experience interpreting the facial expressions of his interlocutors. This results in a big misunderstanding at the death bed of his brother, whose reproaches for his tardy arrival the doctor completely misunderstands. He escapes ever further into his own, pleasantly-cast dream world. In this picture book, Farideh Khalatbaree retells the thirteenth-century story using simple, poetic language, making it accessible to today's young readers. The coloured illustrations, which recall wood cuts in their contours and lines, are enhanced by an elegant, graphically designed typography. (Age: 7+)

246

Kalhūr, Fārtbā (= Kalhor, Fariba) (text)
Šafāḥū, Nūšīn (= Safakhou, Noushin) (illus.)

Dūst-i maḏlūm-i man

(= Doust-e mezloum-e man) (My helpless friend)

Tihrān: Kitābhā-i Šukūfa, 2011 (= h.š.). – [20] p.

(Series: Safar-hā-i Kargadan)

ISBN 978-964-300-589-4

Friendship – Silence – Sadness – Peace

This animal fable appeared in the six-volume series »Safar-hā-i kargadan« (Rhinos »Travels), whose protagonist is concerned with peace-building. The wise rhinoceros always finds a way to bring animals together and to solve other animals' problems. In this volume, a deer leaves her long-time friend, a gentle but reserved rhinoceros, for good, without saying goodbye. After a few

weeks, the concerned rhinoceros reaches out to his friend telepathically and asks the deer to come back. Startled by this contact, the deer wanders through the woods until it runs into the wise rhino. The deer tells him of her sadness regarding the fact that her rhino friend never opens up emotionally to her. The six volumes are furnished with lively, friendly illustrations, which ably transmit the positive mood of the stories. (Age: 5+)

247

Lazar-Ġulāmī, Ḥadīṭ (= Lazar Gholami, Hadith) (text)
Ḥā'if, Rūdāba (= Kha'ef, Roudabeh) (illus.)

Rūbī

(= Roubi <proper name>)

Tihrān: Kitābhāi Fandūq (= Kitabha-e Fandouq), [2011]

(= 1390 [h.š.]). – 83 p.

(Series: Ruman-i kūdak; 49)

ISBN 978-964-369-719-8

Independence – Recognition – Self-control – Otherness – Friendship

Roubi the young fox wants to work over the summer holidays to make himself independent of his rich but stingy step-father. Going against the wishes of his mother, who accuses him of always having been »different«, he finds a job through a newspaper ad. The job, though, is in a zoo run by hens and roosters and involves sitting in a cage and eating soup every day for the next three months! Despite all this, he befriends a chick and bravely fights the urge to gulp down the little one. This story, illustrated in buoyant black-and-white drawings, is told with linguistic wit and has satirical features. In an entertaining way, it portrays young people's striving for autonomy and their search for their own ideals and lifestyles. (Age: 10+)

248

Nağafī, Ḥamīd Riḏā (= Najafi, Hamid Reza)

Nana yaḥī, pasar wa tābistān

(= Nana yakhi, pasar va tabestan)

(The ice mother, the boy, and the summer)

Tihrān: Kānūn (= Kanon), 2011 (= 1390 [h.š.]). – 134 p.

(Series: Ruman naṭṭa wān-i imrūz)

ISBN 978-964-391-660-2

Disability – Synaesthesia – Colour – Voice

Fourteen-year-old Hanni was partially lamed in an accident. Ever since then he possesses the gift of seeing colours when he hears other people's voices. The colours he sees express people's characters and feelings. For instance, he encounters an old ice cream seller who speaks in the most beautiful shades of her daughter, whom she lost on a

pilgrimage many years ago. Alternately, a man who offers Hanni's architect father a building contract speaks in such dismal hues that Hanni's father declines the contract on his son's advice. The contractor is so angered that he seeks to kidnap Hanni. The events reach a dramatic climax. Against this engrossing backdrop, the author portrays the everyday problems and social disadvantages of disabled people, but also the power of the imagination. (Age: 10+)

249

Šuġāī, Alī (= Shojai, Ali) (text)

Guldūziyān, 'Alirīdā (= Goldouziyan, Alireza) (illus.)

Azīmīlū, Ḥasan (= Azimlou, Hasan) (design)

Nīm man būq Ibn-Pašm Pānzdah

(= Nim man bouq Ibn-Pasham Panzdeh <proper name>)

Tihrān: Kitāb-i Nīastān, [2012] (= 1391 [h.š.]). – 31 p.

ISBN 978-964-337-659-8

Knowledge – Ignorance – Arrogance – Deception

A scholar informs a king and his ministers that he will cease to pay taxes if the government cannot answer his questions within forty days. The baffled ministers flee the city fearing the king's wrath. They encounter a farmer whom, for inexplicable reasons, they see as smart enough to answer the scholar's questions, and they bring him back to the city. In front of the king, the scholar and the farmer communicate in incomprehensible signals and symbols, until the scholar admits his defeat, impressed by the farmer's supposed cleverness. In the end it turns out that the scholar was wrong to assume the farmer's mysterious symbolic language was meaningful. This parable-like story is wonderfully illustrated; the colourful pictures possess enigmatic, dream-like traits. Its delicate typography plays a crucial role in the overall design of the fascinating double pages. (Age: 8+)

250

Taqawī, Nayyirih (= Taqavi, Nayyereh) (text/illus.)

Gurg dar qafasa-i libās

(= Gorg dar qafaseh-e lebas) (The wolf in the wardrobe)

Tihrān: Kitāb-i Ḥurūs (= Kitab-e Khorous), 2011

(= 1390 h.š.). – [36] p.

ISBN 978-600-152-088-4

Darkness – Fear – Overcoming fear – Friendship – Imagination

A little boy does not like to sleep alone in his room because he is afraid of the mean wolf lurking in the darkness. One evening at dinner, his mother advises to offer the wolf some delectable roasted potatoes. Sure enough, a quiet, pleading voice soon comes from the wardrobe: »Will you give me some? I'm hungry, too.« Bravely, the boy opens the wardrobe and discovers a grey wolf between the clothes, the wolf's shining eyes gazing at him in a friendly way. Thus begins a special friendship, and the two have a lot of fun together. At bedtime, the wolf tells the story of a forest full of colourful clothes. In a lively manner, with a simple text and colourful illustrations, this picture book considers how children's fears can be overcome. (Age: 4+)

Name Index

A

Agliardi, Allegra 39
 Ajito, Keiko 6
 Álvarez Hernández, David Daniel 41
 Amate, Kim 43
 Andres, Kristina 25
 Andrusjak, Ivan 60
 Angelidou, Maria 65
 Angelidu, Maria 65
 Applegate, Katherine 22
 Arai, Ryōji 6
 Arroyo, Eleonora 44
 Arsenault, Isabelle 21
 Atelier Flora 25
 Aurouet, Carole 33
 Azimlou, Hasan 70
 Azımlü, Hasan 70

B

Bach, Tamara 25
 Bacon, Joséphine 49
 Bae, Hyun Jung 11
 Baek, Hee-na 12
 Balogh, Ďuro 58
 Balogh, Juraj 58
 Balpe, Anne-Gaëlle 32
 Baltvilks, Jānis 56
 Bär, Anke 26
 Barbakē, Rania 67
 Baredes, Carla 44
 Barnett, Mac 21
 Barraza, Paulina 47
 Barrenetxea, Iban 47
 Baynton, Terri Rose 13
 Bebey, Kidi 34
 Benedetti, Mario 41
 Biedroń-Zdęba, Beata 56
 Binard, Arthur 6
 Bjärbo, Lisa 52
 Bjørnes, Anniken 51
 Blanch, Teresa 42
 Bloch Serge 24
 Bobi + Bobi 43
 Bodoc, Liliana 44
 Boie, Kirsten 26

Boisjoly, Véronique 48
 Bolgova, Elena 58
 Böll, Heinrich 34
 Bombardier, Louise 48
 Bouzari, Ali 69
 Brander, Leya Mira 45
 Brassard, Mario 49
 Bravo, Émile 34
 Bray, Libba 17
 Brøgger, Lilian 49
 Bühler, Lise 26
 Būzarī, 'Alī 69

C

Cabassa Mariona 42
 Cachin, Claude 35
 Cai, Gao 8
 Carrascoza, João Anzanello 45
 Carvalho, João Vaz de 41
 Casimiro, Nuno 41
 Čech, Pavel 54
 Chang, Jiahuang 7
 Chávez Castañeda, Ricardo 47
 Chedid, Andrée 34
 Chevrillon, Camille 33
 Ch'oe, Suk-hŭi 11
 Choi, Sookhee 11
 Chōng, Ŭn-suk 11
 Christiansen, Teddy 49
 Cocain, Anthony 32
 Cole, Henry 22
 Collins, Paul 13
 Conomos, Anna 66
 Constable, Cathryn 17
 Cornille, Didier 34
 Corvaisier, Laurent 34
 Crossan, Sarah 17
 Crosthwaite, Luis Humberto 22

D

Dam, Eppie 64
 Damm, Antje 26
 Dapit, Roberto 59
 De Cock, Michael 61
 Delēboria, Magia 66

De Leeuw, Jan 61
 Delioğlu, Mustafa 67
 Delivoria, Maya 66
 Dematons, Charlotte 62
 Dendooven, Gerda 61, 63
 De Pelseneer, Reine 61
 Deveau, Jean-Michel 35
 Díaz Garrido, María Julia 41
 Dickens, Charles 38
 Dickmeiss, Otto 50
 Dowding, Philippa 20
 Dubois, Claude K. 33
 Duder, Tessa 16
 Dürr, Morten 49
 Duus, Adele Lærum 51

E

Écormier, Joëlle 32
 Edge, Christopher 17
 Egeraat, Els van 62
 Elliot, David 16
 Elpers, Noëlla 62
 Endres, Brigitte 27
 Epanya, Christian 36
 Erdős, Virág 64
 Ésope 35
 Éthier, Diane 32
 Evangelista, Mauro 39

F

Facchini, Vittoria 38
 Fejjari, Slim 39
 Feldhaus, Jürgen 27
 Filó, Vera 64
 Fitch, Sheree 20
 Foley, James 14
 Forde, Patricia 64
 Franko, Ivan 60
 Freitas, Ana 45
 Friot, Bernard 34
 Frölander-Ulf, Lena 50
 Fullerton, Alma 20
 Funazaki, Yoshihiko 6
 Futtrup, Dorte 49

Name Index

G

Gaboriau, Claire 32
 Gaisbauer, Hubert 24
 Garza, Xavier 22
 Gasol, Anna 42
 Gellner, Dorota 56
 Gentile, Andrea 38
 Gervais, Bernadette 35
 Gill, Olivia Lomenech 19
 Godon, Ingrid 27
 Goldouziyan, Alireza 70
 Gómez, Blanca 40
 González Campos, Carla 22
 Grant, Michael 22
 Green, John 22
 Guldūziyān, 'Alīriḏā 70
 Güreli, Mehmet 68
 Guthier, Richard 32

H

Habinger, Renate 24
 Ḥā'if, Rūdāba 69
 Hajjima, Nobuhiko 6
 Hajaji, Kamel 35
 Ḥala'tbarī, Farīda 69
 Hamada, Kazuo 7
 Härmälä, Anna 50
 Hartmann, Eddo 63
 Hattenhauer, Ina 24
 Haughton, Chris 18
 Heitz, Bruno 33
 Hénaff, Carole 18
 Herbauts, Anne 33
 Hergueta, María 42
 Hessel, Stéphane 32
 Higashiyama, Kaii 7
 Hinckel, Florence 36
 Hinrikus, Kadri 55
 Hoarau, Isabelle 36
 Hoffmann, Omer 68
 Hofman, Omer 68
 Hohol, Ancsa 64
 Hualiban 10
 Hula, Saskia 24

I

I, Hwan-che 12
 Imanishi, Noriko 7
 İnan Alican, Ayşe 68

J

Janežič, Adriano 59
 Janisch, Heinz 27
 Jankowski, Natalia 44
 Jenkins, Martin 18
 Johnsen, Mari Kanstad 51
 Jung, Eun Suk 11

K

K., Ulf 30
 Kako, Satoshi 7
 Kalhor, Fariba 69
 Kalhur, Fārtibā 69
 Kalm, Anu 55
 Kalomamas, Bayron 66
 Kalomamas, Mpayron 66
 Kárpáti, Tibor 64
 Kasdepke, Grzegorz 57
 Kasparavičius, Kęstutis 56
 Kästner, Erich 27
 Kaurin, Marianne 51
 Khaëf, Roudabeh 69
 Khalatbaree, Farideh 69
 Kim, Se-hyön 13
 Kim, Se-hyun 13
 Kitzing, Constanze von 65
 Klassen, Jon 21
 Klein, Horst 28
 Ko, Chankyu 12
 Ko, Ch'an-gyu 12
 Kondo, Daniel 45
 Kostjukov, Dmitrij 58
 Kozłowski, Tomek 57
 Kratochvíl, Miloš 54
 Kreitz, Isabel 27
 Kreller, Susan 28
 Kroepej, Monika 59
 Kruijssen, Agave 62
 Kuroda, Seitarō 7
 Kwaymullina, Ambelin 14

Kyritsopoulos, Alexis 66
 Kyritsopoulos, Alexēs 66

L

Lambert, Joseph 23
 Landau, Orna 68
 Landau, Ornah 68
 Landström, Lena 52
 Landström, Olof 52
 Lappert, Rolf 28
 Lasenby, Jack 16
 Lazar Gholami, Hadith 69
 Lazar-Gulāmī, Ḥadīṭ 69
 Leavitt, Martine 21
 Lee, Hwan-je 12
 Le Guen, Laurence 32
 Lehmann, Christian 36
 Lesiv, Andrij 60
 Lester, Alison 14
 Letterie, Martine 62
 Li, Qingyue 10
 Liao, Liao 10
 Lin, Fangping 11
 Lin, Huanzhang 10
 Lin, Manqiu 11
 Lin, Man-Qiu 11
 Lin, Xiaobei 11
 Lindström, Eva 52
 Lison-Leroy, Françoise 33
 Locatelli, Nicola 38
 Lotersztain, Ileana 44
 Lucas, John 18
 Łukasińska, Dana 57
 Lupton, Hugh 18

M

Machado, Luiz Raul 45
 Mack, Jeff 23
 Maclear, Kyo 21
 Maggioni, Federico 38
 Mahy, Margaret 16
 Mallorquí, César 42
 Malpica, Antonio 47
 Malpica, Toño 47
 Malý, Radek 54

Manglou, Gabrielle 16
 Mantouvalou, Sofia 67
 Mantubalu, Sophia 67
 Marčėnaitė, Nomedā 56
 Marcel A. Marcel 57
 Mar'ī, Farah 68
 Martin, Jean-François 35
 Martin, Nicolas 36
 Martirosova, Marija 58
 Mastrogiannē, Iphigeneia 66
 Mastrogianni, Ifigenia 66
 Máté, Angi 65
 Matsumoto, Takeshi 7
 Mattia, Luisa 38
 Maurey, Katty 48
 Maušilli, Māryān 68
 Maxeiner, Alexandra 28
 McDermott, Kevin 20
 McElfresh, Lynn 23
 McKimmie, Chris 14
 McPherson, Sue 15
 Melani, Daniele 40
 Meneses Claros, Gerardo 46
 Merhi, Farah 68
 Mewburn, Kyle 16
 Michaēlidu-Kadē, Marina 65
 Michailidou-Kadi, Marina 65
 Mistral, Gabriela 46
 Mogenet, Jean-Philippe 35
 Mogilnicki, Patryk 57
 Molen, Janny van der 62
 Monroy, Manuel 48
 Moraes, Odilon 45
 Morden, Daniel 18
 Moriarty, Jaclyn 15
 Morpurgo, Clare 19
 Morpurgo, Michael 19
 Moseng, Elisabeth 51
 Moundlic, Charlotte 37
 Moure, Gonzalo 42
 Mouritzen, Peter 50
 Moussalli, Marianne 68
 Mühle, Jörg 29
 Müller, Birte 28

N

Nağafī, Ḥamīd Riḏā 69
 Najafī, Hamid Reza 69
 Nam, Ho-sōp 12
 Nam, Hoseop 12
 Negishi, Takako 8
 Negrin, Fabian 38
 Nelson, Marilyn 23
 Nesquens, Daniel 48
 Nowra, Louis 15
 Nys-Mazure, Colette 33

O

Okakura, Tadashi 6
 Olguín, Sergio S. 44
 Olsson, Ingrid 53
 Onlus, Asinitas 39
 O'Reilly, John 16
 Osadko, Hanna 60
 Oskarsson, Barður 50
 Ostrowski, Krzysztof 57
 Ōtani, Miwako 8
 Özcan, Pakize 67

P

Pae, Hyŏn-jŏng 11
 Pack, Hŭi-na 12
 Panafieu, Jean-Baptiste de 37
 Panet, Sabine 37
 Papatheodorou, Vassilis 67
 Papatheodōru, Basilēs 67
 Papini, Arianna 39
 Parazzoli, Paola 39
 París, Ramón 48
 Pascual, María 43
 Patkau, Karen 20
 Pauli, Lorenz 31
 Peña Muñoz, Manuel 46
 Peng, Xuejun 10
 Penot, Pauline 37
 Perikleous, Elena 65
 Perikleus, Elena 65
 Pētersons, Reinis 56
 Petit, Aurore 32
 Petrlik Huseinović, Andrea 54, 73

Petrova, Asja 58
 Pi Andreu, Andrés 43
 Pin, Isabel 29
 Pittau, Francesco 35
 Procházková, Iva 29
 Psarakē, Basō 67
 Psaraki, Vasso 67
 Pulcinelli, Cristiana 39

Q

Qiu, Zhongjun 11
 Qiu, Zhong-Jun 11
 Quarenghi, Giusi 39

R

Raab, Ann Cathrin 29
 Raud, Piret 55
 Ravishankar, Anushka 16
 Reeve, Philip 19
 Reffert, Thilo 29
 Revajová, Toňa 58
 Richter, Jutta 30
 Ridge, Judith 13
 Riva Palacio Obón, Martha 47
 Rodari, Gianni 40
 Rodríguez, Mónica 42
 Rofusz, Kinga 65
 Rogé 49
 Roher, Michael 25
 Romanyšyn, Romana 60
 Roumiguère, Cécile 43
 Rousseau, Éloi 36
 Roy, James 15
 Rusinek, Joanna 57
 Rusinek, Michał 57
 Rutten, Mélanie 37

S

Şafāḥū, Nūšīn 69
 Safakhou, Noushin 69
 Şahinkanat, Sara 68
 Sai, Kō 8
 Samartzē, Iris 65
 Samartzi, Iris 65
 Samson, Gideon 62

Name Index

Šarif-ad-Dīn, Fāṭima 68
Sawicka, Olga 57
Scarabottolo, Guido 40
Schaapman, Karina 63
Scherz, Oliver 30
Schwartz, Simon 30
Schwarzhaupt, Dominique 46
Šebesta, Juraj 59
Šedivá, Tereza 55
Sharafeddine, Fatima 68
Shin, Ji-su 12
Shojai, Ali 70
Siegel, Randy 24
Siems, Annika 30
Simoen, Jan 63
Simoniti, Barbara 59
Simpson, Steve 64
Sin, Chi-su 12
Sironi, Marta 40
Škerl, Peter 59
Slaninková, Katarína 59
Sobral, Catarina 41
Söng, Sök-che 13
Spider 40
Stamatiadē, Ntaniela 66
Stamatiadi, Daniela 66
Stefanidi, Fotini 66
Steinbauer, Zoran 60
Stepančič, Damijan 60
Stephanidē, Phōteinē 66, 73
Stewart, Elizabeth 21
Straßer, Susanne 27
Su, Meike 31
Šuġāī, Ali 70
Sung, Suk-je 13
Surova, Zina 58
Suzuki, Kōji 8
Svetina, Peter 60
Sýkorová-Pekárková, Eva 54

T

Takahashi, Kazue 9
Takahashi, Kuninori 8
Takayama, Kenta 8
Takenaka, Yoshiko 8

Tallec, Olivier 37
Tang, Yaming 8
Taqaṽi, Nayyereh 70
Taqaṽi, Nayyirih 70
Tashima, Seizō 9
Tavano, Silvana 45
Tejada, Carlos 48
Tellegen, Toon 63
Teo, Ali 16
Terpstra, Gerrit 64
Thé, Tjong-Khing 61
Tianguoshi 10
Tō, Amei 8
Tomiyasu, Yōko 9
Topelius, Zacharias 50
Torseter, Øyvind 51
Tribizas, Eugenios 67
Trivizas, Evgenios 67
Turkowski, Einar 31

U

Ulmaja, Nina 53
Urbánková, Dagmar 55

V

Valdivia, Paloma 46
Valentinis, Pia 39
Vanden Heede, Sylvia 61
Varvaki, Rania 67
Vasconcellos, Cláudia Maria de 45
Vélez Aguilera, Carlos 47
Vendel, Edward van d 63
Verelst, Suana 49
Verschraagen, Richard 61
Vilela, Fernando 46
Virke, Emma 53
Vončina, Pika 54
Voorhoeve, Anne C. 31

W

Weel, Fleur van der 63
Wein, Elizabeth 19
White, Vicky 18
Woźniak, Olga 57

Y

Yates, Louise 19
Yayo 20
Yeltan, Görkem 68
Yokoland 52
Yoshihashi, Michio 9
Young, Jeff 32
Yu Qing 10

Z

Zabala, Javier 41
Zarraluki, Pedro 43
Zdeba, Beata 56
Zedelius, Miriam 31
Zhang, Yuqing 10
Zhu, Ziqiang 10
Zoboli, Francesca 40
Zuo, Wei 10

Subject Index

A

Abandonment 48
Achilles 18
Addiction 21
Adoption 44
Adventure 14, 19, 25, 27, 68
Africa 23
Afterlife 9
Aging 12
Alphabet 29, 53
Altruism 38
Ancestor worship 9
Angola/17th century 35
Antarctica 14
Anticipation 26
Antwerp/17th century 62
Appearance 55
Architecture/20th and 21st centuries 34
Argentina/1976-1983 44
Arrogance 70
Art 31, 36
Artificial intelligence 42
Atomic bomb 6
Atonement 49
Atria, Rita 38
Autism 68
Autumn 54

B

Bad luck 52
Beach 35
Beauty 36
Belgium/1943 63
Beneficence 7
Berber <people> 32
Betrayal 18
Big wheel 20
Biography 8, 23, 30, 31,
33, 38, 39
Black 48
Bourgeoisie 59
Bullying 17

C

Camouflage 30
Cancer 22
Carthage 61
Child care 11
Child labour 32
Child prostitution 21
Children's rights 32, 54
China/1966-1976 10
China/History 7
Chinese characters 11
Christmas 38
Church 60
City 6, 15, 18, 21, 27, 40
Civilisation 7, 15, 41
Civil War 20, 22, 46
Clique 59
Colombia/1741 43
Colour 15, 25, 33, 48,
52, 53, 69
Comfort 52
Coming of age 29, 35, 44, 66
Community 24, 50
Computer game 36
Computer simulation 22
Conformity 16
Confusion 31
Construction 8
Cooperativeness 60
Coping with life 8
Corruption 67
Cosmos 51
Country life 11, 15, 19, 20,
28, 30, 46, 63
Courage 14, 20, 27, 28,
46, 64, 66
Courtship 64
Creativity 19, 38
Crime 34
Criminal case 26
Criminal charge 38
Criminality 34
Cultural Revolution 10
Curiosity 56
Curse 29, 67

D

Darkness 46, 70
Data protection 42
Daughter/Mother 47, 68
Daughter/Parents 59
Day 53
Deafblindness 23
Deafness 23
Death 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 19, 22,
26, 27, 47, 48, 49,
51, 52, 55, 61, 62
Dementia 28
Democracy 67
Depression 21
Desertification 36
Detective 11, 34
Dictatorship 32, 44
Dirt 57
Disability 28, 48, 55, 69
Discipline 11
Disobedience 16, 18
Diversity 55
Divorce 44
Dog 11, 18, 48
Domestic violence 28
Dragon hunt 64
Drawing 19
Dream 12, 16, 30, 41, 54,
56, 64
Dream world 69
Drugs 21
Dust 57
Dystopia 67

E

Early history 37
Eating 14
Eavesdropping 56
Elements 54
Emigration 35, 58
Emigration/19th century 26
Enchantment 64
Endangered animals 18
Energy 7
Environmental catastrophe 20

Subject Index

Equality 60
Escape 21, 22, 25, 31, 33
Ethics 60
Exclusion 43, 55
Excuse 16
Expedition 32
Exploitation 67

F

Fable 35, 59
Fairy 12
Fairy tale 36, 42, 46, 50, 59,
60, 64, 65, 67
Fantasy 50
Fantasy world 40
Farewell 25
Farm 27
Fashion 55
Father/Son 43, 44, 48, 49
Fear 37, 46, 47, 52, 64, 70
Female pilot 19
Fire 7
First love 22, 44
First Nations 21, 49
Fishing 34
Fleeing the world 56
Flood 14
Folk tale 13, 55
Forced adoption 44
Forced labour 8
Forest 36, 38
Foster home 57
Freedom 14, 67
Friendship 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 19,
20, 23, 24, 25, 34,
37, 43, 44, 46, 47,
53, 60, 62, 65, 66,
68, 69, 70
Funeral 7
Funfair 20

G

Gang 18
Garbage 67
Genetic manipulation 22

Genetics 36, 39
Germany/1945 31
Ghost 38
Glasses 43, 64
Goblin 19
Gods 18
Going to bed 24
Good fortune 52, 65
Grandchildren/Grandfather 26
Grandchildren/Grandparents 37
Granddaughter/Grandfather 51
Granddaughter/Grandmother
47, 52, 66
Granddaughter/Grandparents 15
Grandfather/Grandchildren 26
Grandfather/Granddaughter 51
Grandfather/Grandson 11, 28
Grandmother/Granddaughter
47, 52, 66
Grandmothers of the Plaza
de Mayo 44
Grandparents/Grandchildren 37
Grandparents/Granddaughter 15
Grandson/Grandfather 11, 28
Great Wall of China 7, 8
Greece/Antiquity 65
Greece/Turkey/1922 66
Greed 21, 55
Grief 6, 8, 11, 22, 25, 47, 48,
49, 55, 61, 62, 66
Growth 34
Guilt 49
Guilty conscience 27

H

Hannibal/247-183 B.C. 61
Happiness 21
Health 57
Hearing loss 69
Helpfulness 10, 60
Hiroshima 6
Hole 51
Home country 26, 39
Homesickness 52
Hostility 46

House 34, 57
Human frailty 35
Humanitarian aid 20
Humanity 8, 11, 66
Humankind/History 41
Human nature 10
Human rights 44, 54
Hunger 45
Hydrocephaly 55
Hygiene 57

I

Ibn Battuta 32
Iconography 36
Identity 15, 17, 23, 41, 56
Idol 22
Ignorance 70
Illusion 41
Imaginary journey 7
Imagination 14, 19, 21, 30,
38, 47, 50, 57, 70
Immigration 17, 37
Imperialism 30
Independence 69
Individuality 16, 24, 50
Information society 42
Innu 49
Intimacy 43, 57
Invasion 9
Island 20

J

Japan/2011 7
Japan/2011-2012 8
Japan/Korea/1592-1598 9
Journey 29, 54, 64
Joy of living 6, 55
Justice 67

K

Kamiya, Mieko 8
Karabakh/1988-1994 58
Keller, Helen 23
Kidnapping 20

L

Lack of time 65
 Landscape 23
 Language 10, 29, 41, 63
 Laundrette 48
 Law of nature 42
 Legend 8
 Leisure 34, 40
 Leprosy 8
 Letter writing 15
 Library 61
 Lie 19
 Lion 14
 Listening 30
 Literature 22
 Living room 57
 London/1899 17
 Loneliness 20, 25
 Longing 39
 Loss 26, 49
 Love 9, 13, 18, 22, 28, 39,
 44, 54, 61, 67, 68
 Lucha libre <Wrestling> 22

M

Mafia 38
 Magic 19, 21, 40, 60
 Manipulation 14, 42
 Market 34
 Marshland 59
 McClintock, Barbara 39
 Meaning of life 8, 66
 Medicine 51
 Memory 9, 10, 39
 Metamorphosis 68
 Microorganism 57
 Mingan Indian Reservation 49
 Minority 58
 Missing father 15
 Missing person 44
 Mistrust 43, 56
 Misunderstanding 16, 69
 Modersohn-Becker, Paula 31
 Modesty 55
 Moon 9

Morals 59, 60
 Morning 6
 Mother/Daughter 47, 68
 Motherhood 39
 Mouse 63
 Moving 37
 Multiculturalism 64
 Murder 17, 18, 21, 38
 Music 31
 Myopia 64
 Mystery 17
 Mythology 8

N

Narumi, Fu 73
 Natural disaster 8
 Nature 6, 10, 19, 42
 New beginning 25, 49
 New York 26
 New York/1926 17
 Night 24, 53, 68
 Nobel Prize 39
 North Africa/14th century 32
 North Pole 30
 Nostalgia 10
 Nuclear energy 7
 Nzinga <Queen> 35

O

Occultism 17
 Old age 12, 30, 38, 69
 One-parent family 55
 Opposites 31
 Optimism 23, 66
 Orphan 57
 Otherness 13, 39, 58, 68, 69
 Outer space 58
 Outsider 23, 58, 60

P

Painting 7, 21, 31
 Painting/1330-1550 40
 Papercraft 40
 Parallel world 15
 Parents/Daughter 59

Paris 37
 Peace 9, 61, 69
 Peer pressure 18, 62
 Persecution of Jews 51
 Pessimism 23
 Pet 24, 32
 Philosophy 24, 31
 Philosophy of life 65
 Pig 27
 Pilot 19
 Play 68
 Poetry 6, 10, 11, 12, 16,
 19, 32, 33, 34,
 49, 54, 56, 57

Population exchange 66
 Portraiture 40
 Post-war era 31
 Poverty 20, 35
 Power 17, 67
 Prank 48
 Prehistory 37
 Prejudice 24
 Presumption 55
 Prévert, Jacques 33
 Pride 50
 Princess 13, 17
 Prisoner 19
 Promise 18
 Prosecution 14
 Prostitution 21
 Proving oneself 60
 Puberty 59, 66
 Public bathhouse 12
 Pun 25, 29
 Punishment 21

Q

Quarrel 50
 Quest 19

R

Racism 15, 30
 Reading 61, 63
 Reconciliation 9
 Reforestation 36

Subject Index

Refugee 26, 33, 46, 58, 62
Religion 18
Relocation 58
Research station 14
Resistance 32
Revenge 49
Ring 60
Rivalry 23, 43
Roman Empire 61

S

Sadness 69
Saint-Exupéry, Antoine de 47
Sardine 32
Scapegoat 21
School 10, 12, 43, 54, 59, 60
School excursion 63
School trip 17
Science 39
Sea 14, 35, 65, 66
Search for identity 44, 52, 53
Sea voyage 14
Second generation immigrant 37
Secret 22, 27, 63
Self-confidence 12, 17, 27, 30, 37
Self-control 69
Self-discovery 56
Senselessness 9
Settler 21
Sexual abuse 47, 60
Short story 13, 45
Siblings 21, 23, 26, 28, 30,
38, 42, 43, 48, 55
Silence 45, 69
Slavery 22, 35
Sleep 24
Snake 24
Social critique 56
Social difference 43
Softball 23
Solidarity 66
Son/Father 43, 44, 48, 49
Soul 9
Sound 6, 57
Space travel 58

Spanish Civil War 36
Special ability 14
Spring 40
Spy 19
Stomach 57
Storytelling 15, 16, 30, 31, 38, 50
Stress 12
Suburb 36, 37
Suicide 25
Sullivan, Annie 23
Supernatural 17
Support group 22
Survival 15, 42, 67
Swamp 59
Swimming 17
Synaesthesia 69

T

Tall tale 16
Tasmania 15
Tasmanian Tiger 15
Team spirit 27
Telepathy 26
Terrorism 20
Test of bravery 37
Thanatology 7
Theatre 44, 63
Theft 27, 61, 68
The Netherlands/History 62
The Netherlands/History/
Geography/Customs 62
Theory of evolution 37
Time 33, 40
Time machine 36
Tolerance 50, 66
Torture 19
Toy 14
Tree 39, 41
Trojan War 18
Trust 57
Truth 14, 19
Tsunami 7, 8
Typography 53
Tyranny 67

U

Uganda 20
Underground Railroad 22
Unkindness 38
USA/1861-1865 22
Utopia 67

V

Values 59, 65
Violence 18, 20, 28, 36, 43, 46, 67
Visit 26
Visual perception 6
Visual poetry 11
Vocabulary 29
Voice 69

W

Wanderlust 52
War 6, 7, 9, 20, 22, 33, 36,
43, 46, 58, 61
Washington Territory/1884 21
Wealth 20
Weather 54
Wilderness 15, 42
Wind 33
Wish 13, 22, 26, 60, 68
Wolf 45
Wombat 29
Work/life balance 34
Worldview 58
World War II 19, 31, 36,
49, 51, 63
Writer 17
Writing 47, 53

X

Xenophobia 43

Y

Youthism 36

Z

Zest for life 66
Zoo 14, 63

Reading Age Index

Recommended reading age level

(Indexed by catalogue number)

2+ years: 46, 75, 91, 181, 191, 210

4+ years: 4, 21, 22, 26, 27, 30, 33, 40,
41, 53, 56, 61, 67, 69, 70, 71, 72,
74, 81, 83, 88, 89, 94, 98, 100, 107,
115, 134, 142, 145, 158, 164, 172,
173, 176, 179, 182, 185, 186, 187,
188, 193, 194, 198, 212, 221, 226,
228, 238, 241, 243, 250

6+ years: 8, 12, 16, 20, 23, 24, 28, 32,
38, 39, 47, 50, 57, 59, 73, 80, 87,
92, 96, 101, 103, 105, 106, 110,
121, 127, 128, 130, 133, 135, 139,
141, 146, 148, 157, 165, 171, 174,
175, 184, 189, 190, 197, 200, 207,
217, 224, 225, 227, 230, 235,
239, 246

8+ years: 1, 7, 11, 13, 19, 25, 51, 62, 63,
77, 84, 93, 108, 109, 112, 114, 118,
124, 131, 136, 137, 138, 140, 155,
163, 167, 168, 192, 195, 196, 201,
202, 204, 208, 215, 216, 223, 229,
232, 233, 236, 240, 244, 245, 249

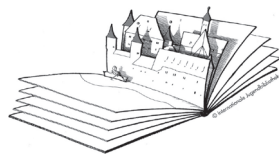
10+ years: 2, 14, 17, 18, 43, 49, 55, 78,
82, 97, 102, 111, 113, 120, 122,
125, 129, 149, 151, 154, 159, 161,
162, 178, 205, 211, 219, 231, 242,
247, 248

12+ years: 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 29, 34, 35, 36,
44, 45, 54, 66, 68, 76, 85, 90, 95,
99, 104, 119, 123, 144, 152, 156,
160, 166, 169, 170, 177, 199, 203,
220, 222, 234

14+ years: 15, 31, 37, 42, 52, 58, 60, 64,
65, 79, 86, 116, 117, 126, 132, 143,
147, 150, 180, 183, 206, 218, 237

16+ years: 48, 153, 209, 213, 214

The **Internationale Jugendbibliothek**



- is the largest library for international children's and youth literature in the world. Since its opening by Jella Lepman in 1949, it has developed into an internationally recognised centre for children's literature from around the globe. It is located in Schloss Blutenburg, a medieval castle in Munich.
- features a collection of 500,000 children's books in more than 130 languages published since 1950, more than 65,000 historical children's books (1574 – 1950), 30,000 volumes of secondary literature, 130 current professional journals, and a large number of private papers, archival material, and manuscripts of children's book authors.
- provides an academic reading room for professionals.
- runs a children's lending library with 25,000 books in 21 languages.
- houses »reading museums« featuring the life and work of the authors Michael Ende and James Krüss and the illustrator Binette Schroeder.
- attracts visitors to the »Book Castle« with a range of activities including literature festivals, in-house exhibitions, reading promotion projects, school programmes, and lectures and workshops for professionals of all fields of children's and youth literature.
- reaches out and creates international networks by publishing catalogues, compiling book lists, and curating travelling exhibitions.
- offers a scholarship programme financed by the Foreign Ministry of the Federal Republic of Germany, which each year enables international professionals of all fields of children's literature to do research at the library.
- is maintained by the foundation Stiftung Internationale Jugendbibliothek since 1996.
- is funded by Germany's Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women, and Youth, the Bavarian State Ministry for Education and Culture, and the City of Munich's Department for Culture.
- is supported by private persons, institutions, and publishing houses.