

2015 | The White Ravens

A Selection of International Children's and Youth Literature



Internationale Jugendbibliothek

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IMPRESSUM

The White Ravens 2015

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PREFACE

On the occasion of their 50th birthday last year, the »White Ravens« took on a new look. We are thrilled to have received a lot of positive feedback from publishers, authors, illustrators, and users, who appreciate the fresh graphic layout. It is with great pleasure therefore that we present to you the 2015 edition of our annual catalogue. This year, white ravens grace the cover, as imagined by Czech illustrator David Böhm, one of whose titles was featured in 2014.

The »White Ravens« catalogue is the most important annual publication of the International Youth Library. It aims to promote quality in children's book publishing and has become an increasingly useful tool for anyone interested in looking beyond national borders. This year, the »White Ravens« contain a selection of 200 notable children's and young adults books from 55 countries published in 36 languages.

Since 2014, the printed catalogue is published prior to the Frankfurt Book Fair. For decades now, all

recommended books are put on display in hard copy at the International Youth Library's booth at the Bologna Children's Book Fair. This tradition allows booth visitors to peruse the books at leisure, leafing through their pages and exploring them. In addition to being featured in the printed catalogue, the »White Ravens« reviews are also available at <http://bit.ly/whiteravens2015>.

The Library receives a vast number of donation copies and review copies over the course of every year. It falls to our language and children's book specialists to set aside new publications that catch their attention and strike them as noteworthy, which they want to recommend to an international audience. Books are chosen for the list based on the universal relevance of the themes they address, their literary and pictorial qualities, or their innovative approaches or design.

Our Library's staff have long relied on various means to acquire a well-grounded overview of the topics,

trends, and people involved in current international children's and young adult literature: They read new publications in the original languages, visit important international book fairs, scout and gather information, maintain contact with publishing houses, institutions, organisations, and other experts, and they also engage in conversation with the research fellows at the International Youth Library, foreign scholars who are very familiar with the literature of their home countries.

The Library's in-house staff members in Munich cover many literary regions, and freelance readers and advisors are charged with monitoring and tending to further languages and countries. The »White Ravens« catalogue thus presents a unique selection of 200 books that cover a highly diverse range of voices. Its international nature results from the efforts of approximately twenty children's and young adult book experts, who are tasked with sifting through the thousands of books received annually by the International Youth Library.

Sincere thanks are due first and foremost to the countless publishers who have been supporting the work of the International Youth Library for decades through their book donations. I also extend my gratitude to all those who have contributed to this catalogue both abroad and here in Munich.

I hope the »White Ravens« fall into the hands of many curious readers, and that these readers make many new discoveries. May the selected books, along with their authors and illustrators, receive the international attention they deserve. We hope that our work contributes to this goal.

Dr. Christiane Raabe
Director of the International Youth Library /
August 2015



1

Tūmā, Nadīn (Touma, Nadine) (text)
Zar-ad-Dīn, Ḥisān (Zahreddine, Hassan) (illus.)
Samā
(Sky <proper name>)
[Bairut]: Dar-Unbuz (Dar Onboz), 2015. – [44] p.
+ CD
ISBN 978-9953-465-37-1

Otherness | Outsider | Love | Humanity |
Picture book

A boy lives in a grey, forgotten, lifeless town where people do nothing but work, eat, and sleep. His skin is blueish – that's why his mother calls him Samā (Sky). But since his family doesn't know how to cope with his differentness, he feels sad. A light red cloud has settled on his heart. Farida, a young girl, is the only one who sees and accepts Samā as a person. Thus, the boy feels loved for the first time in his life. The friendship and humanity of these two children eventually brings life back into the dead town. This story, charged with symbols, is written in a solemn and fairytale-like tone. The audience can feel this tone on the accompanying CD on which the author reads the story. The extraordinary book received a special mention at the Bologna Ragazzi Award in the category »New Horizons«. It stands out for its combination of large-format melancholy etchings, aesthetic calligraphy, and exquisite design. (Age: 8+)



2

Ġum'a, Ḥālīd (Juma, Khaled) (text)
Qawāriq, 'Abdallāh (Qavariq, Abdallah) (illus.)
Mudkkrat talmīd ibtad'īa (Muzakkrat talmiz ebteda'īe)
(Diary of a pupil)
Ramallah: Tamar (Tamer), 2015. – [52] p.
ISBN 978-9950-26-050-4

School | Pressure to perform | Parents / Child |
Fictitious diary

As Husain's school exams draw closer, his parents put him under permanent pressure, almost as if he had to master a university degree in medicine. He finds some consolation and a retreat in his diary, where he can give free rein to his thoughts, anger, and dissatisfaction. He writes about things that keep bothering and worrying him, as well as occurrences from his everyday life. One day, for example, he is annoyed that his mind went completely blank in one of his exams, even though he had studied intensively with his father. Another day he ponders the question of why his mother doesn't ever cook the traditional Palestinian meal Maqluba and why she avoids explaining it to him. Since 1996, Khaled Juma (b. 1965) has published numerous children's books. In his latest work, he uses his writer's skill and sensitivity to get into the head of his writer-protagonist Husain, who struggles with the pressure to perform well at school and with the family's humble means. (Age: 8+)



3

Jakova, T. Jana (text/illus.)

Lapi

(Paws)

Plovdiv: Žanet 45, 2014. – 146 p.

ISBN 978-619-186-068-5

Cat | Society | City life

Cats form their own special independent society. This holds true in »Lapi« (Paws) by Teodora Jana Jakova (b. 1978). A feline community resides in the Bulgarian capital of Sofia, hidden from human notice. Chic cat ladies Violeta and Marijana saunter through the streets, aristocratic and self-important tom cat Monti always knows the best restaurants with the most delectable left-overs, and the »No Name« cat that everyone knows loves to take in the nocturnal view of the city from the roof of a high-rise. Young cats are taught about life on the street. They chase the »Golden Sausage« and hold their ground in petty feuds and big debates. Watercolour illustrations make these humorous and charming glimpses into the world of cats come to life and bear witness to the proximity of the feline and human worlds. »Lapi« is the first book by author Jana Jakova and was nominated for the Bulgarian children's jury award »Magic Pearls« in 2015. (Age: 10+)



4

Koleva, Asja (text/illus.)

Kniga, kak se pravi

(How a book is made)

Sofija: Bjala lodka, 2014. – 33 p.

ISBN 978-619-90286-1-2

Book | Author | Publisher | Non-fiction | Picture book

How is a book actually made and who writes all the things in it? Asja Koleva's picture book offers the right answer to these questions: It all starts with a writer thinking about a topic, followed by a writing process (on paper, on the computer, at home, outside, in the café), then on to handing in the manuscript to a publisher and editing it, and finally to the layout, printing and distribution of the book and on to possible translations. Koleva also reminds us that a book proliferates and conveys stories and ideas to many people, providing them with entertainment and also chances to reflect. »Kniga, kak se pravi« was nominated for the Bulgarian children's jury award »Magic Pearls« in 2015. It is a wonderful example of the new picture book trend in Bulgaria, which relies on very little text and is being promulgated by a young generation of Bulgarian illustrators, to which graphic designer and »visual journalist« Koleva certainly belongs. (Age: 4+)

5



Granero, Nono (text/illus.)

La vaca Victòria. (Variacions sobre un breu conte popular)

(Victòria the cow. [Variations on a short folktale])

Santander: Milrazones, 2014. – [44] p.

(Series: Milratones)

ISBN 978-84-941831-7-1

Fairy tale | Parody | Storytelling

The supposed folktale mentioned in the book's title is short, extremely short, in fact it is only two sentences long: »This is the story of Victòria the cow. The cow dies ... end of story«, the laconic report states. This is really only the beginning, though, and Nono Granero takes off from there. The book's leading question is: How did Victòria die? Brief rhymes offer lively conjecturing: Was it due to exhaustion, weight loss, pneumonia, an insect bite, an udder infection? And if this were the case – the story would not be a fairy tale, but a legend, a poem, a story. And what if Victòria had been a fish? The book makes amusing use of imaginative and narrative possibilities. All is allowed, all is conceivable, and each variation produces a new, very different story. The variations are portrayed in comic-like illustrations that parody quotes from the media and from art history. (Age: 5+)

6



Lau, Kit (Lau, Sze Kit) (text/illus.)

Tai wan dan qi

(Pop-up Taiwan)

Hong Kong: Zhuo nian chuang zuo you xian gong si

(SK Ronex Limited); Taipei: Shi bao wen hua (China

Times Publ.), 2014. – [5] p. (Series: MIT; 002)

ISBN 978-988-13476-0-2; 978-957-13-5985-4

Taiwan | Local customs | Cultural diversity |
Pop-up book | Non-fiction

Since Hong Kong-based author Kit Lau wanted to express how »he feels about Taiwan«, there is no trace of the »Chinese-esque« landmarks of the »Republic of China« in his book. Instead, it presents a fresh perspective on a multicultural Taiwanese society with a diverse colonial history: its indigenous peoples and Chinese immigrants, its 400 years of being ruled by Dutch, Manchu, Japanese, and Chinese regimes until a »Taiwanese« identity was rediscovered. Taiwan's food markets are presented and homage is paid to its most (in)famous dishes: Taiwanese beef noodles, stinky tofu, and bubble tea. Buildings of colonial origin and »Taipei 101«, the world's tallest skyscraper from 2004 to 2010, are introduced and contrasted by the ancient Jenn Lann Temple and national parks with their outstanding biodiversity. Inserted booklets contain detailed information in Chinese and English. Kit Lau won the 2008 Young Writers Debut Competition and has devoted himself to record the cultures of Hong Kong in three-dimensional books. (Age: 6+)



7

Cao, Wenxuan (text)

Huo yin

(The brand)

Beijing: Tian tian chu ban she (Daylight Publishing House), 2015. – 341 p.

ISBN 978-7-5016-0966-6

China / 1937-1945 | War | Horse | Branding

This story is set during the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression in China. Xuèr is a mare whom the boy Powa once saved from a pack of wolves and who ever since then has lived with them as a family member. When the Japanese military moves into the village, she is branded and forced to serve in the troop. Thus begins her bitter trial. The brand on her body becomes such a shame to her that she cannot even raise her head in front of the villagers, until one day, she finally gets her revenge in a somewhat heroic way. This novel is representative of Cao Wenxuan's writing for children. His personalized style builds on linguistic subtlety, merging a romantic imagination with realistic narrative. (Age: 10+)



8

Li, Shanshan (text)

Tai yang xiao shi hou shi ge nan hai

(The sun was once a little boy)

Cheng du: Si chuan shao nian er tong chu ban she (Sichuan Children's Publishing House), 2015. – 168 p.

(Series: Li wu Li Shanshan huo jiang shu xi)

ISBN 978-7-5365-6070-3

Creativity | Innocence | Poetry

The poems selected for inclusion in this poetry collection for children are mostly inspired by the author's son, according to the author's foreword. Whenever her little boy expressed a poetic idea, the mother listened and wove it into a poem. His utterances brought up the wholehearted joys of childhood as well as the tender sorrows underpinning it. The simple verses are filled with a child's naive creativity, which might rarely be found in a grown-up's mind. Though most of the poems are just descriptions of a child's everyday life, they have a particular power that touches one deeply. Born in the 1980s, Li Shanshan's talent for writing for young children is drawing the attention of critics. (Age: 3+)

9



Liao, Xiaoqin (text) / Zhu, Chengliang (illus.)

Mian po po shui bu zhao

(Granny Mian couldn't sleep)

Ji nan: Ming tian chu ban she (Tomorrow Publishing House), 2014. – 32 p.

(Series: Xin yi tu hua shu jiang xi lie = Xinyi Picture Book Award Series)

ISBN 978-7-5332-8211-0

Love | Old age | Grandparents | Picture book

It is late at night. Granny Mian lies on the bed, counting sheep to lull herself to sleep. However, there is always something that keeps her awake. So she gets up to fuss with a flower pot, fix a creaking door bolt, secure an old mug, boil the kettle on the stove, and add more straw to warm the doghouse up... Her figure stirs the silence of the night, until in the heavy darkness Grandpa Mian returns. He had been out visiting and comes home just in time for a mug of hot tea. The narrator never tries to explain why Granny Mian is sleepless, but each of her actions points to the real reason. Zhu Chengliang's illustrations vividly convey the warmth of this seasoned love. The picture book won the 5th Hsin-Yi Foundation Picture Book Award for Best Writing. (Age: 4+)

10



Yao, Jia (text/illus.)

Chi dao de li you

(The excuse for being late)

Ji nan: Ming tian chu ban she (Tomorrow Publishing House), 2014. – 32 p.

(Series: Xin yi tu hua shu jiang xi lie = Xinyi Picture Book Award Series)

ISBN 978-7-5332-8202-0

School | Honesty | Education | Picture book

This picture book tells the story of a Monday morning when Little Piggy wakes up to the insistent ringing of his alarm clock, and finds himself late for school. Fearing the teacher's reproach, he tries to make up excuses for his lateness before walking into the class, but none of them seem credible. Standing at the entrance to the classroom, he has no choice but to speak the truth. Contrary to his expectation, he is kindly allowed into the class without any punishment. The jittery text is juxtaposed with light-humoured illustrations, which help ease a childrens anxiety about their own misconduct and show them why honesty is the best policy. This book won the Golden Prize of the 5th Hsin-Yi Foundation Picture Book Award. (Age: 3+)

11



Zhang, Wei (text)

Shao nian yu hai*(The boys and the sea)*

He fei: An hui shao nian er tong chu ban she
(Anhui Children's Publishing House), 2014. – 272 p.
ISBN 978-7-5397-7113-7

Sea | Nature

Three boys live at the seaside. Every day they hear about and witness marvelous stories unfolding in the woods by the sea. There is, for instance, the romance of an orchard farmer and a fairy-like bird, the love and revenge legend involving a hunter and a bear, and the mystery of a man's transformation into a roe deer. Being one of the most outstanding novelists in contemporary China, Zhang Wei has now started writing books for children and the child that he has long cherished in his own heart. His seemingly simple language possesses unusual poetic power, which perfectly reflects a child's innocent voice and perspective. Writing of the original kinship between the human and the natural world, it reads like a paean of the pastoral life we've long lost and missed. (Age: 10+)

12



Petrlik Huseinović, Andrea (text/illus.)

Jan Vjetroviti*(Jan Windy)*

Zagreb: Kašmir promet, 2014. – [32] p.
ISBN 978-953-301-065-6

Lack of concentration | Symbol |
Sense of self-worth | Picture book

This picture book explores how a child with concentration problems risks collapsing under academic and parental pressures. The work contains more open space and typographic diversity than previous works by Andrea Petrlik Huseinović. In the story, Jan is a »good boy« but cannot meet the expectations placed on him. He is often lost in his thoughts and escapes to fantasy worlds. His numbers and letters become increasingly illegible, betraying his growing suffering under external pressures. A turning point is reached when Jan begins to express his feelings in drawings, which seem somewhat crude to his teacher and parents. For Jan, however, they provide the means to find his way back to a content everyday life. His performance in school gradually improves, he receives praise and enjoys new-found self-awareness. (Age: 3+)

CHINESE
CROATIANPeople's Republic of China
Croatia

13



Fischerová, Daniela (text)
Petrová, Jitka (illus.)

Pohoršovna

(Deformatory school)

Praha: Mladá fronta, 2014. – 117 p.
ISBN 978-80-204-3270-4

Ghost | Topsy-turvy world | Value

Hyperactive dwarfs, a witch baby, the twins of King Worrywart, the strange will-o'-the-wisp girl, and so on – because they are too nice, all these characters fail at being good monsters and spirits. Their parents send them to a correction house for getting better at being bad. It is run by Malevola Ravage and her soft-willed husband Hard. There the little ones must learn to be nasty and mean and to create the greatest amount of trouble for others. But this all goes terribly wrong when the devil suddenly enters the picture... Daniela Fischerová (b. 1942) succeeds in creating a very funny children's book with »Pohoršovna«, which leads one to believe in a completely upside down world, until everything is unveiled as false in the end. Through rich word play and wit, the author lets her quirky characters whirl through the book. Jitka Petrova (b. 1975) has captured them brilliantly in pictures. Such a »deformatory school« seems prize-worthy and in fact received the coveted Czech award »Zlata Stuha« in 2014. (Age: 9+)

14



Horák, Ondřej (text)
Franta, Jiří (illus.)

Proč obrazy nepotřebují názvy

(Why artworks don't need labels)

Praha: Labyrint, 2014. – [103] p.
(Series: Raketa)
ISBN 978-80-86803-28-9

Art | Art history / 19th-21st centuries | Theft |
Picture book

Visiting the art museum with children and keeping them interested is not the easiest of tasks. In this multiple award-winning book, artists Ondřej Horák (b. 1976) and Jiří Franta (b. 1978) show why art is a devilishly exciting affair. They answer difficult questions, such as how to recognise a good artwork. They also explain the many »isms« and artistic traditions in straight-forward, witty and catchy ways, for instance by cubistically carving up a protagonist in the book, colouring him expressionistically or re-shaping him surrealistically. This expert survey of art is presented in comic-form and organised around a grandparent and child visiting a gallery together, an event that culminates in the theft of Malevič's »Black Square«. Packed with countless references to art icons – Monet's »Sunrise«, Duchamp's »Fountain«, Banksy's »Girl with a Balloon« – and many other details about artists, artworks or famous art thefts, »Proč obrazy« is a fabulous book about art history. (Age: 9+)

15



Soukupová, Petra (text)
Korunka, Petr (illus.)
Bertík a čmuchadlo
(*Bertík and the Snuffalo*)
Brno: Host, 2014. – 133 p.
ISBN 978-80-87596-42-5

Divorce | Family conflict | Escapism

Nine-year-old Bertík must go to the country with his mother and her new boyfriend – »stupid« Richard. Two more families Bertík can't stand meet them there, and so he frequently retreats into the nearby forest. There he meets an unusual creature, something between a beaver and warthog. The Snuffalo is mildly annoyed by Bertík, but as a trouble-eater it just happens to be its job to help this child. Together, the two figure out whether or not Richard is really stupid; the Snuffalo also helps Bertík reflect on his own situation. Eventually, the Snuffalo can finally slip away and recover from its exhaustive care work. Petra Soukupová (b. 1982) has received several awards in the Czech Republic for her fiction works. »Bertík« is her first children's book, and it was nominated for the award of the Czech IBBY »Zlata stuha« in 2015. It prototypically deals with the conflict-laden, complex parent-child relationship in the aftermath of a divorce. (Age: 8+)

16



Täubelová, Kristýna (text/illus.)
Nesmrtelný méd'á
(*The everlasting teddy bear*)
Praha: Meander, 2014. – [68] p.
ISBN 978-80-87596-42-5

Toy | Transience | Picture book

The relationship to one's favourite stuffed animal is intense, intimate, but then over one day. Set designer, graphic artist and theatrical artist Kristýna Täubelová (b. 1977) explores this relationship from the perspective of a plush teddybear. The bear recalls his first meeting with his new owner through the shop window of the toy store and the ensuing happy times at the little girl's home. The reminiscing reaches into the present time of the book when the bear has been cast out and relegated to basement storage, where he leads a sad life. But there is a happy ending: the son of the now grown-up girl finds the bear and adopts it as his own. A laconic narrative style and muted coloured pencil drawings paired with retro-style photographs create a sense of melancholic memory and transience. Together with the airily formatted text – a sentence runs across several pages, and it leaves out certain semantic elements that the illustrations fill in – the book obtains a pleasant slowness and lightness. (Age: 4+)

17



Hegnhøj, Mette (text/illus.)

Ella er mit navn vil du købe det?*(Ella is my name do you want to buy it?)*

[København]: Jensen & Dalgaard, 2014. –

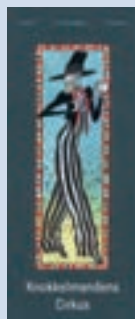
139 loose folios in a box + alphabet paper confetti

ISBN 978-87-7151-078-2

Cat | Typewriter | Antiquarian book shop |
Loss | Loneliness

A rubber band wraps around a cardboard box that reads: »Handle with care – contains poet snow«. Once opened, punched confetti falls out of the box, in which one finds a stack of loose paper, on which Ella's story is printed in typewriter's font. This format gives the text something tentative; it also seems one holds something very private in ones hands. The reader experiences the same thrill as Ella, for her story is about the good fortune of receiving an unexpected gift. But she also describes the sadness of losing it again. For nine days, Ella had a cat, then it disappeared – she does not know what happened to it. Only the cat photos that she »draws« with the typewriter typeface remain. Her sadness, her speculations, and her helplessness clothe Ella in empty words and bleak phrases which seem to hide the fact that the loss of the cat means much more than it seems at first. (Age: 10+)

18



K., Oscar (text)

Karrebæk, Dorte (illus.)

Knokkelmandens cirkus*(The circus of the bone man)*

København: Høst & Søn, 2014. – [28] p.

ISBN 978-87-638-3224-3

Death | Transience | Procession | Leporello |
Picture book

An unusual procession reveals itself upon unfolding »Knokkelmandens cirkus«. The accordion book opens to a two-meter long book frieze whose front side is painted, offering the observer a curio cabinet. The parade starts with an elephant whose head and front legs are machine constructions attached to his rear end. This is followed by, among others, »The Little Ones«, and the lady without abdomen, and the end is brought up by the director: the bone man, laughing Death. The backside offers the text, which can and should be illustrated by the reader using the self-adhesive images included at the very back of the book. The interactive moment is key for Oscar K. and Dorte Karrebæk – this creative power stands up to the sense of impermanence evoked by the subject of the book. With its bizarre and grotesque pictorial language, this unconventional and fascinating book recalls a medieval dance macabre as much as it plays on the »theatrum mundi« (world theatre). (Age: 8+)



19

Ringtved, Glenn (text)

Kings of Jutland. En krimikomedie

(*Kings of Jutland. A comic crime novel*)

[København]: Gyldendal, 2014. – 204 p.

ISBN 978-87-021-5673-7

Rural life | City | Football | Bank theft | Escape |
Crime fiction

In Denmark, the Jutes are thought of as country bumpkins and village idiots, and the »Kings of Jutland« – Skipper, Ronny and Bo – do more than live up to this reputation. Not the sharpest tools in the shed, they go from bad to worse luck. These three fervent football fans are upset by the miserable achievements of their favoured Aalborg Club, and their plan to get money goes quite awry (bank theft!). They still end up with a suitcase full of money, and now have tough East Europeans on their tail. An escape abroad seems the only option, but the three dopes only make it to Copenhagen – which for an Aalborger might be very exotic. Glenn Ringtved, who is from Aalborg (and has a taste for self-deprecation), has written a very oddball gangster comedy that milks every gag and throws political correctness out the window – how very, very refreshing! (Age: 14+)



20

Strid, Jakob Martin (text/illus.)

Mimbo Jimbo og den lange vinter

(*Mimbo Jimbo and the long winter*)

[København]: Gyldendals Bogklubber,

2014. – [114] p.

ISBN 978-87-030-6807-7

Elephant | Magic | Winter

In his homeland of Denmark, illustrator and author Jakob Martin Strid is well-known, as is Mimbo Jimbo, the little blue elephant. He is the main character in six published books. In this volume, Mimbo Kimbo experiences a mini-ice age: The winter should have ended by now, yet the spring is not coming. Instead, it is snowing, and it is not stopping. Enormous snowflakes fall from the sky and there are monster-sized foot prints in the snow. Who made those?! Jakob Martin Strid sends Mimbo Jimbo on an adventurous quest that draws on yeti fairytales and legends. There is also a strange inventor thrown in the mix. Does this seem wild? It is wild! Strid is an ace not only with a pencil in hand, but also in storytelling. The result is a strong picture book, which invites repeated leafing-through, because the tenth time through will still reveal new details. (Age: 4+)

21



Thomsen, Thorstein (text)

Sommer, Mikkel (illus.)

Hadet. En illustreret roman i 64 krigsdigte*(Hate. An illustrated novel in 64 war poems)*

[København]: Carlsen, 2015. – [122] p.

ISBN 978-87-113-2065-5

Denmark / 1944-1945 | World War II |
Occupation | Betrayal | Murder | Poetry |
Fictitious diary

The title »Hadet« is provocative, but it suggests only some of what this book deals with. Aside from hate, oppression, revenge, and the question of evil, it is also about love and loss. The story takes place in 1944/45 Copenhagen, when many Danes were active in the resistance against German occupiers, including the first-person narrator, her brother Frank and Henning, whom she has fallen in love with. After an acquaintance betrays them, Frank is hung by the Nazis. As a result, the narrator's family experiences the day of liberation, May 8, 1945, with joy and relief, but also with sadness and traumatic memories. »Hadet« shows how cold-bloodedly one can act when one feels forced to, and what injuries one carries away as a result, even though they might be invisible. The topic is not light fare, but the book handles it via a suspenseful hybrid-form: it is a novel presented as an illustrated diary, whose individual entries are poems. (Age: 14+)

22



Korneliussen, Niviaq (text/transl.)

Homo sapienne. Roman*(Homo sapienne. A novel)*

Nuussuaq: Milik, 2014. – 184 p.

ISBN 978-87-92790-45-3

(Greenlandic original title: Homo sapienne.

Oqaluttualiaq. [Nuuk]: Milik, 2014)

Adolescence | Search for identity | Sexuality

»Homo sapienne« appeared in Greenland and Denmark simultaneously and received much attention in both places. The protagonists in this novel are homosexual or bisexual. They feel they are in the wrong bodies and experience their sexuality as problematic and painful due to externally imposed cultural norms. Some succeed in accepting themselves and having fulfilling relationships, others not. The poly-perspectival structure of the novel goes beyond these individual levels, however, by making five young Greenlanders' search for sexual identity into a symbol for a society in transition. Traditional norms appear obsolete and questionable, but the pluralism of a modern society is for many just as demanding. Young author Niviaq Korneliussen portrays the characters' conflicts and psychological suffering as well as their lived sexuality openly and sometimes drastically, while preserving a sensitivity and loyalty to them. An impressive debut! (Age: 16+)

23



Castagnoli, Anna (text)

Cneut, Carl (illus.)

De Coster, Saskia (transl.)

De gouden kooi of het waargebeurde verhaal van de bloedprinses

(The golden cage, or the true story of the blood-princess)

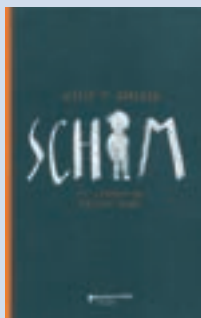
Wielsbeke: De Eenhoorn, 2014. – 47 p.

ISBN 978-90-5838-963-3

Greed | Egocentrism | Loneliness | Picture book

This story is about a spoiled and avaricious princess, Valentina, the daughter of an emperor, who wants the most exotic birds, even including a special bird who can talk. All servants try to find this bird, but they all come back empty-handed or with the wrong bird (and are therefore sentenced to beheading). One day there is a very good-looking servant who promises to fulfill the princess's wish. Every picture in this beautifully designed picture book for all ages is an artwork in itself. Hundreds of birds can be found in the mixed-media illustrations. Carl Cneut's use of colour and texture, as well as his composition technique, are amazing. The text is sometimes printed with a quasi-childish handwriting, as if written by the princess. The moral of this fairytale-like story seems to be that craving the unattainable will only bring loneliness in the end, but the story itself is never moralistic. The book was awarded the Cutting Edge Award 2015 and the Boekenpauw Audience Award 2015. (Age: 7+)

24



De Doncker, Wally (text)

Devos, Kristof (illus.)

Schim

(Shade)

Leuven: Davidsfonds Infodok, 2015. – 96 p.

ISBN 978-90-5908-624-1

Shadow | Identity | Metamorphosis | Philosophy

Lars, a very imaginative boy, becomes friends with his own shadow. They have philosophical conversations together, although nobody else can hear them. This sometimes causes uncomfortable situations. At full moon they change, and the shadow becomes Lars and Lars turns into his own shadow. The mother of Lars realises there must be something wrong, because Lars is no longer the Lars she knows. As soon as possible, Lars and his shadow take their own places again. Using expressive language, Wally De Doncker tells a simple story in which the conversations between the protagonist and his shadow play the leading role. During the conversations, fundamental issues about life are discussed. The sensitive illustrations fit very well with the dream-like atmosphere of the text. The story encourages young readers to think about central themes in our world without offering them concrete, final answers. In this sense, the author understands his book to be a stimulating starting point for ongoing conversation. (Age: 9+)

25



Gaudesaboos, Pieter (text/illus.)

Wat zit er in die kist?*(What's in the box?)*

Tielt: Lannoo, [2014]. – [28] p.

ISBN 978-94-014-1863-8

Vehicle | Animals | Secret | Imagination |
Picture book

A big box has to be transported by plane to a ship that will transport it to another place. The pilot of the plane wonders what the content of this mysterious, very heavy box could be. The captain of the ship wonders this, too. He thinks it might contain an elephant, and thus the box is carefully brought into the hold of the ship. The box is broken during a storm, but in the box there's another box. And so the box continues its trip by train, bus, car, bicycle ... and every time there is an accident with the box, and then a smaller box appears. In the end, the postman delivers a small box to a girl and the mystery is solved. In this oblong picture book the author and illustrator tells the story in plain words, repeating the question »What's in the box?«. Everybody thinks of all kinds of animals, but as the box becomes smaller and smaller, it turns out to be something different. The illustrations, in basic colours and designed in a graphic way, flow one into the other, forming one long illustration. (Age: 4+)

26



Haeringen, Annemarie van (text/illus.)

Sneeuwwitje breidt een monster*(Snow White knits a monster)*

Amsterdam: Leopold, 2014. – [28] p.

ISBN 978-90-258-6660-0

Monster | Imagination | Fairy tale | Picture book

Snow White the goat happily knits all kind of things, such as goat-wool socks. But one day cuddly little goat kids begin to slide from her knitting needles. Mrs. Sheep visits Snow White and is not very happy with her work. A little bit confused, Snow White knits a wolf, who eats Mrs. Sheep. Just in time, Snow White hides in a closet, where she quickly has to knit up an even more dangerous creature to take care of the wolf. This story contains playful allusions to fairytales. When Snow White knits goat kids, there are seven of them, just like in the story by the Brothers Grimm, and the door of the closet looks a lot like the grandfather clock in the tale and nursery rhymes. The illustrations contain a lot of humour and are drawn with plenty of movement and in well-chosen colours. Annemarie van Haeringen has created a picture book full of exciting monsters, so that young readers can safely enjoy a good scare. This story about the power of imagination offers the comforting message that whatever you make up, you can also undo. (Age: 4+)



27

Hoogstad, Alice (illus.)

Monsterboek

(*Monster book*)

Rotterdam: Lemniscaat, 2014. – [26] p.

ISBN 978-90-477-0619-9

Monster | Colour | Painting | Imagination |
Textless book | Picture Book

Everyone in this quaint little town is busy, all except for the girl with her pockets full of chalk. As she wanders through the streets made of black lines, she leaves a trail of colourful pictures, which come to life behind her back. Monsters are her speciality. But the adults in the town don't want anything to do with her imaginary creatures. They fight off the intruders with garden hoses and parking tickets, but the children think they're excellent fun. There are so many funny details hidden in the illustrations. The dynamic compositions create suspense and drama. In this exceedingly imaginative, monstrously good wordless picture book, the little protagonist refuses to be penned in by the black-and-white lines of authority. With her bright colours and her imaginative pictures, she shows how to transform a colourless world into a cheerful, exuberant and inviting place – a triumph of the imagination. (Age: 4+)



28

Kuyper, Sjoerd (text)

Hotel De Grote L

(*The Big L Hotel*)

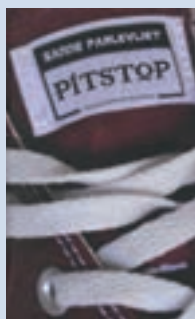
Rotterdam: Lemniscaat, [2014]. – 228 p.

ISBN 978-90-477-0542-0

Hotel | Family | Honesty | Beauty contest

Things haven't been going well at the hotel since Kos's mum died, and his father has just had a heart attack. Kos and his three sisters have to run the hotel. But how can you manage this when you have to go to school at the same time? How can you pay off a big loan when you have hardly any paying guests? Even the name of the hotel is not yet finished: they only got as far as the letter L. As the hotel's financial problems worsen, there's only one option: winning the local beauty contest. Kos, disguised as a girl, takes part in the contest and ends up in the final with his beloved Isabel. Even though these events may appear comical to readers, in the end this great novel is all about honesty, loving one another and daring to be oneself. In 2012 Sjoerd Kuyper was awarded the Theo Thijssen Prize (Dutch state prize for the oeuvre of a children's book author). Many of his books have been turned into films, including this one, which will be seen in movie theatres next year. (Age: 11+)

29



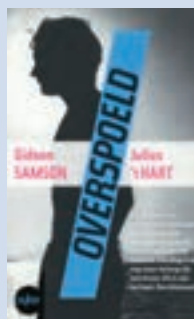
Parlevliet, Sanne (text)

Pitstop*(Pitstop)*[Hoorn]: Hoogland & Van Klaveren, 2014. – 157 p.
ISBN 978-90-8967-153-0

Family | Divorce | Friendship | Trust

Since the father of thirteen-year-old Arnold left the house after a big fight, his mother is not leaving her bed. Arnold has to take care of her. Every day he hopes to find a letter from his father, as he promised, but there is never one. The young postman Sjon stops at Arnold's house almost every day for some coffee and conversation, and he tries to build a friendship with Arnold, but Arnold is rather reserved. Much in this relationship is hinted at rather than directly explained in the text. Arnold's memories of happier times in the past are touching and form a strong contrast with the boy's present circumstances. The book presents an intriguing story about friendship, trust and family, told from the perspective of a teenager, with a hopeful ending. Sanne Parlevliet made her debut in 2008 and a year later received a grant for promising new authors. With this novel, she proves that she has met expectations. (Age: 12+)

30



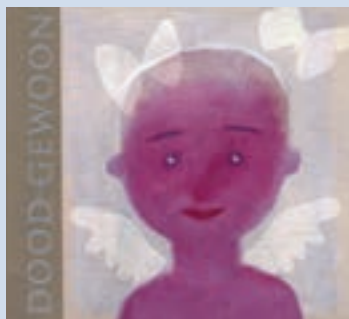
Samson, Gideon (text)

Overspoeld*(Washed away)*Amsterdam: Querido, 2014. – 173 p.
(Series: Slash; 12)
ISBN 978-90-451-1643-3

Sri Lanka / 2005 | Tsunami | Trauma

On 11 July, 2010 Pieter (twenty-three years old) is watching the Football World Cup final between the Netherlands and Spain when he receives a friendship request on Facebook from Elin, a Swedish girl. This catapults him five and half years back into the past to a period of voluntary work in Sri Lanka, when he spent the best Christmas Eve of his life with Elin, on the beach, in the waves. The next morning, that same sea devastated coastal areas across Asia. This compelling young-adult novel is based on the experiences of Julius 't Hart, a young Dutchman who survived the tsunami of over ten years ago. What makes this book so great is that it not only presents a gripping account of the disaster, but also a sensitive and believable portrait of a student who is determined to forget, but ultimately can't run away from what happened. Gideon Samson, one of the most talented young writers in the Netherlands, tells the story with clarity, honesty and an authentic narrative voice. (Age: 16+)

31



Westera, Bette (text)

Weve, Sylvia (illus.)

Doodgewoon*(Dead Simple)*

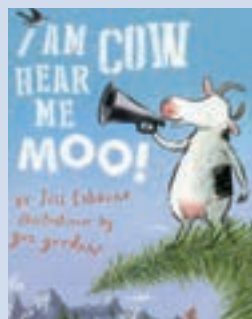
Haarlem: Gottmer, 2014. – [112] p.

ISBN 978-90-257-5668-0

Death | Poetry

In this wonderful collection of illustrated poems, the writer and the illustrator have inspired each other to approach the theme of death in a unique way. Using different forms of poetry – songs, ballads, rhymes and poems – Westera explores diverse death-related subjects: the existence of heaven, suicide, inheritance, mourning rituals in other cultures, epitaphs and funeral cards. This doesn't mean that »Doodgewoon« is a depressing book, because Westera's tone alternates between serious and light. The language is solid, the illustrations are varied, fitting, colourful and imaginative, the interplay between the texts and illustrations is superb. The idea behind this book is that the only certainty in our lives is death – and that we should get used to that idea. Magnificently designed – a cloth spine, three ribbon markers, pages that vary in width, and an elegant layout – the book won the Woutertje Pieterse Prize 2015, one of the most prestigious awards in Dutch children's and youth literature. (Age: 9+)

32



Esbaum, Jill (text)

Gordon, Gus (illus.)

I am cow, hear me moo!

Melbourne, Vict.: Penguin / Viking, 2014. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-0-670-07710-6

(Parallel edition: New York: Dial Books for Young Readers / Penguin, 2014)

 Courage | Fear | Boasting | Darkness |
 Self-confidence | Picture book

Being brave and adventurous is usually considered a good thing, but boasting to all of your friends that you fear nothing at all, may take things a bit far. Nadine, the purportedly fearless cow, gets the comeuppance for her bragging when her scaredy-cow companions Annette and Starla take her up on her word to explore the nearby forest. The three friends' wild adventures are recounted in witty, tongue-in-cheek verses that naturally lend themselves to being read aloud. The busy mixed-media illustrations playfully combine watercolours, pencils, crayons and collage to create hilarious pictures with surprising visual elements. With just a few lines, they manage to capture all the text's nuances and the bragging bovine's buoyancy. The cross-continental cooperation between American author Jill Esbaum and Australian illustrator Gus Gordon has resulted in an entertaining picture book about a heroine whose lack of modesty will endear her to readers of all ages. (Age: 4+)

DUTCH
ENGLISHThe Netherlands
Australia

33



Groth, Darren (text)

Are you seeing me?

North Sydney, NSW: Woolshed Press,
2014. – 274 p.

ISBN 978-0-85798-473-9

Twins | Autism | Road trip | Independence |
Earthquake

Australian author Darren Groth has been living in Canada since 2007 and publishes his books on both sides of the Pacific. His latest teenage novel was inspired by his own teenage twins – one of whom was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. In the book, nineteen-year-old twins Justine and Perry embark on a road trip through Canada one year after their father's death from cancer. Justine has since been the sole carer of her disabled brother and they both seek to create a memorable trip before their lives change completely. It's supposed to be an adventure, a shared experience, but also an attempt to re-establish a relationship with their estranged mother. One main theme of this quiet and touching novel is the power of sibling love versus the longing for independence. As both siblings tell part of the tale – each with their own distinctive voice that draws in readers immediately – two things become obvious: First appearances can be deceiving and »we cannot live in a world of one«. (Age: 14+)

34



Herrick, Steven (text)

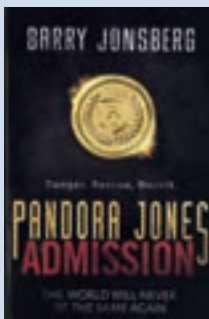
Bleakboy and Hunter stand out in the rain

St Lucia, Queensland: UQP University of Queens-
land Press, 2014. – 200 p.

ISBN 978-0-7022-5016-3

Alternative School | Bullying | Friendship |
Otherness | Charity

Eleven-year-old Jesse has a few problems to deal with: He tries hard to fit in at his new, alternative school; the school bully, Hunter, is giving him a hard time; and his atheist parents aren't particularly happy that he frequently seeks advice from his imaginary friend Trevor (who is actually a poster of Jesus Christ hanging on his bedroom wall). Absent fathers, bullying, friendship, family disagreements, and an attempt to save the whales and help a starving Ethiopian boy – to most people, this probably doesn't sound like the ideal ingredients for an entertaining read; yet this latest offering by renowned poet and verse-novel-author Steven Herrick is both hilarious and thoughtful. Written from two alternating points of view – Jesse's perspective told in first-person narrative and that of Hunter in third person – the book includes a cast of believable characters and lightens the serious issues it tackles with the perfect amount of silliness to please younger and older readers alike. (Age: 8+)



35

Jonsberg, Barry (text)

Pandora Jones. Admission

Sydney [et al.]: Allen & Unwin, 2014. – 303 p.
ISBN 978-1-74331-811-9

[Pandemic](#) | [Survival](#) | [Manipulation](#) | [Trust](#) |
[Dystopia](#)

»It took slightly under eight hours for Melbourne to die.« Volume 1 of Barry Jonsberg's new dystopian trilogy »Pandora Jones« starts with a bang that immediately arouses the readers' curiosity. The eponymous heroine is allegedly one of only a few thousand survivors of a worldwide pandemic. When she wakes up in a strange hospital, her memory of the catastrophe is riddled with holes and she has trouble to distinguish between her nightmares and the weird new real life. During the following weeks at The School, an isolated quarantined camp, Pandora and the other teenagers are drilled in survival techniques and encouraged to hone their individual talents. Soon however, Pandora's suspicion grows that something is fishy and no one can be trusted. Using a fast-paced third-person narration and a cast of believable characters, Jonsberg has created a page-turner full of suspense and gory details that surprises readers with one shocking revelation after the next and raises more questions than it answers. (Age: 14+)



36

Kobald, Irena (text)

Blackwood, Freya (illus.)

My two blankets

Richmond, Victoria: Little Hare, 2014. – [32] p.
ISBN 978-1-921714-76-4

[Refugee](#) | [Loneliness](#) | [Homesickness](#) |
[Language](#) | [Search for identity](#) | [Picture book](#)

Austrian-Australian author Irena Kobald has crafted a quiet, touching story about a young refugee girl, who feels lost and lonely in her new country among all the strange people, animals, plants, and noise. Whenever little Cartwheel gets frightened by the »cold waterfall« of foreign words and overwhelmed by homesickness, she wraps herself in a metaphorical blanket of her own memories, familiar language, and comforting sounds. Award-winning illustrator Freya Blackwood captures the two worlds by using two opposing colour palettes and different media: The happy home memories and Cartwheel herself are depicted in warm, saturated tones of red, orange, and yellow, painted with oil paints, whereas the »new place« is rendered in pale grey, blue, and green watercolours, creating a disconcerting, cool atmosphere. Cartwheel's growing confidence as she finds a friend, learns new words, and weaves herself a »new blanket« is ingeniously mirrored in the gradual intermingling of the two colour families. (Age: 4+)

37



Mansell, Deryn (text)

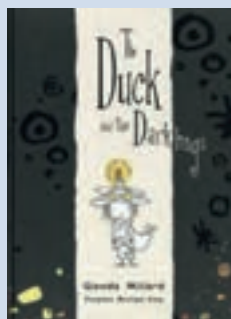
Tiger stone

Newtown, NSW: Black dog books, 2014. – 262 p.
ISBN 978-1-742032-39-9

Java / 14th century | Refugee | Identity |
Temple treasure | Political intrigue

Debut author Deryn Mansell first travelled to Java when she was seventeen and has been fascinated by its rich history ever since. One of her aims is to arouse more interest in Indonesian culture and language – and her adventure story is the perfect tool for it. Filled with a sense of mystery and the supernatural, the book plunges readers into the fourteenth century, a time when Java is torn apart due to a political intrigue between its two rivalling kingdoms. Young Kancil and her mother are forced to seek refuge in a tiny Majapahit village. To hide her Sunda origins, the fourteen-year-old girl has to remain mute while she works as a lowly kitchen maid for her important uncle. When she learns of a plot to destroy the village, she enlists the help of her only friend, the mysterious kitchen boy. Interspersed with Indonesian terms, which are explained in a glossary at the back, the third-person narration creates an authentic atmosphere that easily captures the attention of young readers. (Age: 11+)

38



Millard, Glenda (text)

King, Stephen Michael (illus.)

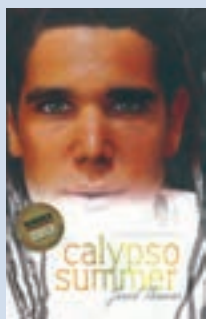
The duck and the darklings

Sydney [et al.]: Allen & Unwin, 2014. – [32] p.
ISBN 978-1-74331-261-2

Environmental destruction | Survival | Guilt |
Love | Memories | Dystopia | Picture book

Grandpapa and Peterboy live in an underground cave »built with care, lit with love« below the Earth's surface – just like all the other survivors of an unnamed environmental catastrophe. In this dark, harsh world, people barely scrape by on the findings that the children bring home from their nightly outings. Yet when the boy happens upon a wounded duck and decides to nurse her back to health, and when the old man starts telling stories about long-ago, a glimmer of hope and happiness enters their lives. Glenda Millard uses imaginative language to tell this moving tale of a post-apocalyptic world. Her evocative word-creations and expressions add a wondrous touch to the tale. Stephen Michael King's illustrations transform the poetic text into a visual feast that perfectly expresses the mood of the story. The main protagonists, depicted in his trademark line drawings, are set against a background of oppressing black and blue, combined with planes of beige and splashes of bright, hopeful colours. (Age: 5+)

39



Thomas, Jared (text)

Calypso summer

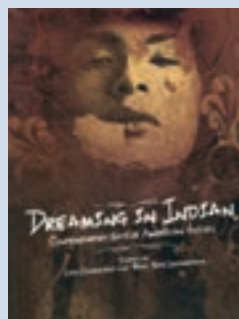
Broome, Western Australia: Magabala Books, 2014. – 224 p.

ISBN 978-1-92214212-2

Aboriginal community | Cultural heritage |
Search for identity | Racism | Drug dealing |
First love

With his long dreadlocks, his love of reggae music, a cannabis-smoking habit, and his fake Caribbean accent, Kyle – better known as Calypso – plays the role of relaxed Rastafarian quite convincingly. Yet now that high school is over, the young Aborigine struggles to find out who he is and where he belongs. When his boss at the local health food shop starts pestering him about traditional medicinal plants, Calypso decides to get back in touch with his extended Nukunu family, their land, and their culture. This engaging book was the 2013 winner of the black&write! Indigenous Writing and Editing Project – and rightly so. It features an authentic first-person narration interspersed with plenty of dialogue and paints a convincing portrait of an Aboriginal Australian city boy. Jared Thomas has created a universally appealing yet at the same time distinctly Australian coming-of-age novel that tackles a lot of problems that the indigenous community is facing. (Age: 14+)

40



Charleyboy, Lisa / Leatherdale, Mary Beth (eds.)

Dreaming in Indian. Contemporary Native American voices

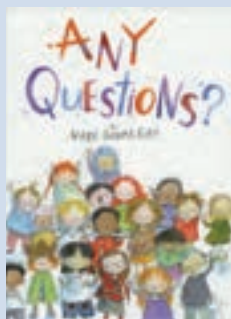
Toronto [et al.]: Annick Press, [2014]. – 128 p.

ISBN 978-1-55451-687-2

Native Americans | Everyday life

What does it mean to be Native American in today's society? What are the dreams and struggles of modern indigenous people – youth and elders alike? For this rich anthology, Lisa Charleyboy, indigenous storyteller and fashion blogger, and Mary Beth Leatherdale, editor, writer, and consultant, selected contributions from more than sixty illustrators, writers, photographers, athletes, actors, scientists, poets, activists, and others. In vibrant texts and stunning artwork, these members of different indigenous communities from around Canada and the US share their childhood memories, their hopes and fears, their everyday lives, and their experiences. Divided into four large chapters called »Home«, »Battles«, »Medicines«, and »Dreamcatchers«, all of these contributions challenge readers to dispel common stereotypes and misconceptions. They strive to answer the question of how Native Americans can »go forward, into modernity, onto the global stage, without leaving [their] ancient selves behind.« (Age: 12+)

41



Gay, Marie-Louise (text/illus.)

Any questions?

Toronto [et al.]: Groundwood Books / House of Anansi Press, 2014. – [56] p.
ISBN 978-1-55498-382-7

Storytelling | Creative writing | Illustration |
Imagination | Picture book

Children are curious by nature. Therefore, writers and artists who do readings and workshops are regularly faced with endless questions about their lives, their works, and the world in general. Marie-Louise Gay, award-winning author and illustrator of the Stella-and-Sam series and many other books, was inspired by children's inquisitiveness to create a book about how to create a book. In her trademark style of wriggly lines and soft watercolours accented by patches of bolder colours and collage, she addresses issues as diverse as colour choice, doodling, the mood of a story, words or phrases that inspire her, writer's block, and many more. However this is not a dry, fact-filled instruction manual – far from it. Marie-Louise Gay devises a gang of eager child characters who accompany her on her journey through the forest of imagination and can try their hands at a fictional story that is embedded in the middle. This enchanting book is sure to unlock its readers' creative powers immediately. (Age: 6+)

42



Skrypuch, Marsha Forchuk (text)

Dance of the banished

Toronto, Ontario: Pajama Press, 2014. – 231 p.
ISBN 978-1-927485-65-1

World War I | Canada | Internment camp |
Alevi Kurds | Armenian Genocide | Refugee |
Fictitious diary

Renowned Ukrainian-Canadian author Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch has written a number of books about Canadian internment camps. Her latest YA novel again returns to this little-known topic. Set in Anatolia and Canada from 1913 to 1917, the story follows a teenage couple who are forced to go their separate ways until they are finally reunited years later. At the beginning of World War I, Ali seizes the opportunity to seek work in Canada, but is soon thrown into an internment camp for Enemy Aliens. Zeynep is left behind in their Anatolian home village, where Christian Armenians and Alevi Kurds – both minority groups within the Ottoman Empire – live peacefully side by side. When the country is shaken by revolution and war, the young Alevi girl is determined to do her utmost to save her friends from the Armenian Genocide. Told in diary form and letters from two points of view, this story recounts the horrors of World War I, but also documents people's great compassion and courage in dangerous times. (Age: 14+)



43

Avery, Tom (text)
Grove, Kate (illus.)

My brother's shadow

London: Andersen Press, 2014. – 188 p.
ISBN 978-1-84939-782-7

[Suicide](#) | [Grief](#) | [Bullying](#) | [Imaginary friend](#)

Kaia is frozen, trapped in the memory of that one day, more than a year ago, when she found her beloved older brother Moses dead on his bed. Now, her former friends don't talk to her anymore, the class bully calls her a freak, her teacher is irritated with her alleged lack of attention, and her mother mostly ignores her. Her only anchor is the book »Trees of Britain« – her last birthday present from Moses. In a poetic first-person narrative interspersed with unusual metaphors, eleven-year-old Kaia shares her grief, her loneliness, and her profound reflections about life »before« and »after«. Readers are plunged deep into this heart-breaking story and follow Kaia as she slowly thaws and takes part in life again with the help of the mute »wild boy« and some old/new friends. Tom Avery's moving text is complemented by Kate Grove's evocative black-and-white illustrations that take up the underlying tree-theme and help to create a sad but also soothing atmosphere. (Age: 10+)



44

Byrne, Richard (text/illus.)

This book just ate my dog!

Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014. – [32] p.
ISBN 978-0-19-273728-1

[Disappearance](#) | [Book](#) | [Reading](#) | [Rescue](#) |
[Metafiction](#) | [Picture book](#)

Little Bella is out on a leisurely stroll with her big dog, when suddenly the pet disappears into the space between the two facing pages of the book. Baffled Bella is left standing on the right hand page holding its leash. Luckily enough, help is on its way – or so she thinks; but her friend Ben, as well as the dog rescue car, the fire brigade, and the police are also swallowed by the book's gutter. And then Bella gets stuck in there, too. In this funny interactive story, author-illustrator Richard Byrne points out the materiality of the book, as he lets the naughty book itself become a central »character«. Readers are implored to step out of their passive role and become agents in the story to rescue the stuck protagonists. The short, succinct text and the cartoon-like digital illustrations in rich matt colours strike the perfect balance and make this a truly entertaining read for children, parents, and other picture book aficionados. (Age: 3+)

45



Cotterill, Jo (text)

Looking at the stars

London: Bodley Head, 2014. – 365 p.

ISBN 978-1-782-30018-2

Civil war | Oppression | Refugee |
Discrimination | Imagination | Storytelling

This moving story is set in an unnamed country in which life is dominated by the harsh laws and restrictions of the ruling dictator and his Kwana army. When foreign soldiers arrive at their village, thirteen-year-old Amina hopes that their lives will soon change for the better. At first however, everything gets worse: Fighting breaks out, her older brother Ruman joins the rebel group, their father is brutally killed in front of their eyes, and Amina and her older sister Jenna get separated from their mother and younger sister. Walking for days without food and water, they are desperate when they finally reach the country's only refugee camp. Jo Cotterill describes the girls' hardships and the atrocities inside and outside the camp in simple but elegant prose that makes the protagonists' experiences come alive for the readers. Still, this is not only a story about war, oppression, and discrimination; it is also a tale about kindness, family bonds, and the power of imagination and storytelling. (Age: 10+)

46



Hammill, Elizabeth (ed.)

Various artists (illus.)

Over the hills and far away. A treasury of nursery rhymes from around the world

London: Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2014.

– 160 p.

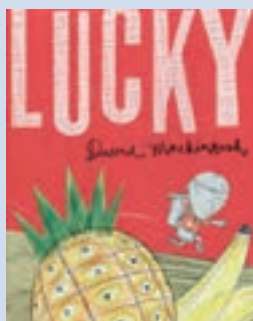
(Series: Janetta Otter-Barry books)

ISBN 978-1-84780-406-8

Nursery rhyme | Poetry

»Nursery rhymes have enlivened my life for as long as I can remember,« says Elizabeth Hammill, co-founder of Seven Stories, Britain's National Centre for Children's Books. For this comprehensive collection, she has gathered a wealth of rhymes from countries across the English-speaking world. Readers can recite cherished childhood favourites such as »Ring-ring o' roses« or »Hey! Diddle, diddle / The cat and the fiddle« and get acquainted with unfamiliar verses from many different cultures, such as the Trinidadian clapping rhyme: »Mosquito one, / Mosquito two, / Mosquito jump in de callaloo. ...« The great breadth of texts is also mirrored in the illustrations: 77 artists have each designed one double-page spread. Bestselling and award-winning illustrators – e.g. Bob Graham, Emily Gravett, Ed Young, Piet Grobler, and Satoshi Kitamura – as well as young emerging talents bring their own interpretations to the rhymes and make this book a highlight for children and adults alike. (Age: 2+)

47



Mackintosh, David (text/illus.)

Lucky

London: HarperCollins, 2014. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-0-00-746303-9

Family | Siblings | Promise | Imagination |
Picture book

It's a lucky day for the two brothers: Mother has announced that there will be a surprise at dinner! What on earth can it be? A new bike? Tickets to the Amazing Yo-Yo Super Show? A swimming pool in the backyard? ... Little Leo and his older brother get a little carried away and come up with ever more absurd ideas. Eventually, they are convinced that they have guessed the exciting news: an all-expenses-paid trip to Hawaii! This entertaining picture book shows the hilarious result of an innocently uttered promise. Little readers won't be able to resist the implicit invitation to join the brothers' crazy mind-game. The bold double-spread illustrations that mix various media and materials as well as different styles offer lots of entertaining new details with every re-reading of the book. David Mackintosh's latest masterpiece, which will delight readers of any age, is a true celebration of the child's imagination. (Age: 4+)

48



O'Byrne, Nicola (text/illus.)

Use your imagination.

(But be careful what you wish for!)

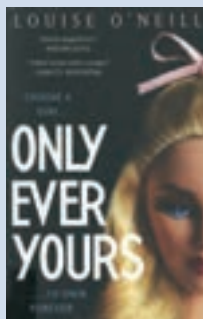
London: Nosy Crow, 2015. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-0-85763-392-7

Storytelling | Imagination | Danger | Trick |
Picture book

When you feel bored, thinking up a story is the perfect solution. Following in the footsteps of the award-winning »Open Very Carefully« (Nosy Crow, 2013), Nicola O'Byrne's latest picture book sheds light on the mechanisms of storytelling and the power of imagination. Here, a little rabbit desperately wishes for something exciting to happen and is thrilled when a large wolf »librarian« (?) turns up and suggests they write a story together. A story with a big baddie, and a small hero, taking place in a tree-y place, »Once upon a time...« Sounds familiar? Just in time, Rabbit realises that this (fairy) tale is heading towards disaster. Using his imagination, the little hero thwarts Wolf's evil plans and saves the day. The uncluttered illustrations put a clear focus on the two protagonists, perfectly portraying the rabbit's growing uneasiness and his clever escape at the end. The harmonious marriage of amusing pictures and a witty, understated text will delight readers with every turn of the page. (Age: 3+)

49



O'Neill, Louise (text)

Only ever yours

London: Quercus, 2014. – 392 p.

ISBN 978-1-84866-415-9

Perfection | Peer pressure | Drug addiction |
Suicide | Free will | Male domination | Dystopia

In this thought-provoking debut novel, Irish writer Louise O'Neill presents a dire world characterised by male domination and outward appearances. The dystopian story is set in a society where girls – collectively called »eves« – are created artificially, bred in factory-like »schools«, and seen as objects rather than individual persons. Bodily perfection and obedience are the only qualities that count. The captivating first-person narration describes the life of sixteen-year-old freida (aka eve #630) during her last year at school, when she starts to crumble under the immense pressure and is sucked into a downward spiral. The dense writing style, riddled with ingenious details, makes readers feel the oppressive atmosphere and the girls' self-destructive competitiveness. In an extreme take on popular casting shows such as America's Next Top Model, O'Neill's shocking novel offers harsh criticism on today's society and the image of women. A must read for readers of any age and gender. (Age: 16+)

50



Reeve, Philip (text)

McIntyre, Sarah (illus.)

Cakes in space

Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, 2014. – 211 p.

ISBN 978-0-19-273456-3

Spaceship | Alien | Danger | Robot

After a very successful foray into the deep sea in their first collaboration on »Oliver and the Seawigs«, popular author-illustrator-team Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre are now taking off into space. This delightful spaceship adventure has all the ingredients required for a fun-filled reading experience: A distant planet soon to be colonised, a mysterious journey that will last 199 years, a clever young heroine who wakes up from her special sleeping pod feeling hungry, an army of increasingly dangerous killer cakes, greedy, spoon-collecting aliens, and the Nameless Horror, who turns out to be the friendliest of all horrors ever seen. The amusing comic-book-style illustrations in black, orange and brown and the fast-paced, dialogue-driven text form a seamless narrative, which will have young and older readers alike erupt in giggles and squeaks. Live performances with the dynamic duo are said to be a hit with their enthusiastic audiences. (Age: 6+)



51

Various authors (text)

Kay, Jim (illus.)

The Great War. Stories inspired by objects from the First World War

London: Walker Books, 2014. – 303 p.

ISBN 978-1-4063-5377-8

World War I | Short story

2014 was the centenary of the beginning of the First World War. Therefore, it doesn't come as a surprise that authors, illustrators, and publishers seized the opportunity to tackle this topic in various formats and genres. For this weighty anthology, eleven renowned authors from the UK, Ireland, Australia, the US, and France created moving and surprising stories, each one inspired by a specific object from World War I. In Michael Morpurgo's »Our Jacko«, an old tin helmet leads to research into the fate of two brothers' great-great-grandfather during the war. A. L. Kennedy's »Another Kind of Missing« tells about the special relationship between a little boy and his badly wounded father cemented by a Verners Pattern compass. And in »Maud's Story« by Adèle Geras, a young woman is reminded by a butter dish of how she secretly helped feed the family by working in a pottery to cover for her pregnant sister. The stories are framed and bound together by stunning, fragmented black-and-white illustrations. (Age: 12+)



52

Rangachari, Devika (text)

Queen of ice

Maduravoyal, Chennai: Duckbill Books, 2014. – 179 p.

ISBN 978-93-83331-18-5

Kashmir / 10th century | Queen Didda | Ruthlessness | Power | Gender role

Set in the tenth century in a small kingdom between western Punjab and Kashmir, this enthralling historical novel chronicles the life of the Lohara Princess Didda. Despised by her father for being a girl and having a crippled foot, the beautiful, intelligent girl has only two loyal friends: the shy stable boy Naravahana and Valga, a strong servant girl who acts as the princess's carrier. When Didda is sold off into marriage to the Kashmir ruler at sixteen, she vows to make the best of her fate and become a great queen – a task she pursues with determination and ruthlessness. Told in alternating chapters from Didda's and Valga's points of view, the book deftly portrays an unusually powerful woman whose successful fifty-year reign in Kashmir was trivialized due to gender bias in history writing. Renowned author Devika Rangachari has skillfully combined facts and fiction to create a suspenseful narrative about friendship, betrayal, power schemes, and the fight against gender inequality. (Age: 14+)

53



Forde, Patricia (text)

The wordsmith

Dublin: Little Island Books, 2015. – 285 p.
ISBN 978-1-908195-99-9

Global warming | Island | Survival | Power |
Language | Communication | Dystopia

Multi-talented author Patricia Forde has worked as a teacher, playwright, art festival director, actor, etc. but above all she sees herself as a storyteller. In her debut novel, which was inspired by the slow disappearance of the Irish language, she tells the story of a futuristic society ruled by a cruel leader, where a young orphan girl is on a quest to save her fellow human beings. In the city of Ark, art and music are banned completely, while food, water, and clothing are restricted – and so is the use of language. Fourteen-year-old Letta, the wordsmith's apprentice, only starts questioning the worldview of Ark's dictator, when her master is tortured and killed by John Noa's helpers and she learns of Noa's secret plans to make people completely wordless. This gripping dystopian novel tackles many important topics such as global warming, the suppression of creativity and communication, the search for one's identity, and – most importantly – the power of words. (Age: 11+)

54



Hood, Kim (text)

Finding a voice

Dublin: The O'Brien Press, 2014. – 232 p.
ISBN 978-1-84717-543-4

Mental illness | Responsibility | Disability |
Friendship | Kidnapping | Communication

»One, two, three, four. I started counting the steps as soon as my feet left the drive.« Jo's life is a difficult balancing act. At home she constantly fears that her behavior will fail to keep her mentally ill mother stable. At school, she is bullied or ignored so that she bottles up her despair and loneliness. Chris suffers from cerebral palsy and is confined to a huge padded wheelchair without any means of communication. When the two teenagers start spending time together, Jo soon senses that there is more to Chris than meets the eye. Being used to see to others' needs, she is determined to help him find a voice. Kim Hood's debut novel discusses a couple of difficult themes in a sensitive way without being an »issue book«. Both her main protagonists are well rounded, likable characters with their own specific voices. The suspenseful and engaging narrative proves to readers that real friendship may be found in unexpected places and that it takes courage to accept help from outside. (Age: 13+)

55



Bixley, Donovan (text/illus.)

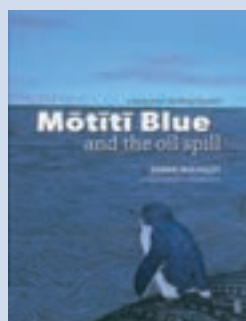
Monkey Boy. An illustrated novel

Auckland, N.Z. [et al.]: Scholastic, 2014. – 285 p.
ISBN 978-1-77543-186-2

Warship | Sailor | Bullying | Ghost | Fear |
Survival

When young Jimmy first enters his new home, the warship HMS Fury, he expects excitement and adventure. Yet in 1804, a sailor's life is not a bed of roses, especially not for the youngest crew member. Jimmy is bullied, tricked, and tormented. He witnesses horrors and cruelty, has to make do with disgusting food that would certainly kill a »land-lubber«, and lands the most dangerous job of gunpowder monkey. However, his biggest nightmare are the ghosts of dead people that seem to be following him around. This historical adventure-novel includes a gripping narrative, a crew of fearsome characters, and plenty of action. Sequences of lively comic-book illustrations in black and white add to the story's thrilling atmosphere and perfectly complement the graphic descriptions of gruesome details about life at sea. Frequent witty asides and comical dialogues serve to relieve the suspense. Renowned author-illustrator Donovan Bixley has created a hybrid novel that will captivate even reluctant readers. (Age: 10+)

56



McCauley, Debbie (text)

Waaka, Tamati (transl.)

Mōtiti Blue and the Oil Spill. A story from the Rena disaster

Tauranga, NZ: Mauāo Publ., 2014. – 32 p.
ISBN 978-0-473-26869-5

Text in English and Māori

Environmental destruction | Bilingual book

Mōtiti Island is a small island off the north-eastern coast of New Zealand's north island. In October 2011, a large container ship ran aground on a reef close to the island and spilled about 350 tons of heavy fuel oil into the ocean, causing the country's worst maritime environmental disaster to date. This well-designed bilingual book consists of two parallel parts: One is the tale of a particular blue penguin, little Mōtiti Blue, during the four months following the catastrophe, told as a continuous story in English and Te Reo Māori. Woven into it is the second part, which features photographs as well as boxes with additional interesting facts. The book provides a wealth of information about the collision, the environmental damage, and the large-scale rescue mission that, with the help of 8,000 volunteers and 800 people on the Oil Spill Response Team, managed to remove 1,000 tons of toxic waste from the beaches and saved hundreds of birds, including 365 little blue penguins. (Age: 5+)

57



Alexander, Kwame (text)

The crossover

Boston [et al.]: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt,

2014. – 237 p.

ISBN 978-0-544-10771-7

Basketball | Twins | Jealousy | Coming of age |
Death | Grief | Verse novel

African-American twins Jordan (aka JB) and Josh are basketball whizzes; and no wonder with a trainer like their father, former basketball legend Chuck »Da Man« Bell. As a team, nothing can beat them. Yet all of a sudden, JB develops a crush on the new girl at school and spends less and less time with his twin or on the basketball court. Twelve-year-old Josh feels jealous and lonely. One day, he lashes out, which causes a serious rift between the two brothers. Told from Josh's point of view, the moving novel, which was awarded the John Newbery Medal 2015, focuses on a hard year in the twins' lives, as they need to negotiate their relationship, hone their individual talents, and deal with the sudden loss of their beloved father. Kwame Alexander's language includes rhythmic, rap and hip hop verses to describe the fast action on the sports court and smoothly flowing free verse to reveal eloquent Josh's feelings. His powerful narrative will draw in basketball buffs as well as couch potatoes. (Age: 12+)

58



Barnett, Mac (text)

Klassen, Jon (illus.)

Sam & Dave dig a hole

Somerville, Mass.: Candlewick Press, 2014. – [40] p.

ISBN 978-0-7636-6229-5

Adventure | Perseverance | Surprise |
Picture book

Sam and Dave are on a mission: They dig a hole and are determined to discover »something spectacular«. Yet, no matter how deep or in which direction they shovel, there just isn't anything spectacular to be found – at least according to Mac Barnett's simple, straightforward text. Jon Klassen's colour-pencil and digital illustrations in earthen tones, however, let the readers in on a secret: Buried deep in the earth, there are plenty of treasures; if only the two unlucky boys didn't spectacularly miss all of them. In the end, the exhausted diggers fall asleep while their faithful little dog goes on digging and suddenly, Alice-in-Wonderland-like, they all tumble down, down, down and land back where they started... or maybe not. This second collaboration between the award-winning author-illustrator team has resulted in a hilarious and perfectly choreographed picture book with an open ending that leaves children ample space to puzzle over possible further adventures. (Age: 3+)

59



Hall, Michael (text/illus.)

Red. A crayon's story

New York: HarperCollins, 2015. – [40] p.

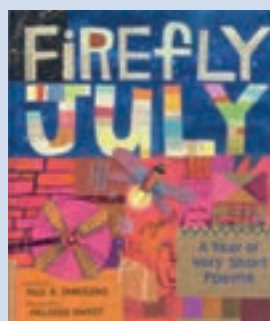
(Greenwillow books)

ISBN 978-0-06-225207-4

Expectation | Disappointment | Search for identity |
Picture book

At first glance, this endearing picture book might look like just another tale about colours. Yet it is much more than that: An unhappy young crayon, wrapped in a bright red paper label, does his utmost to fulfil other crayons' expectations of him. However, despite the well-meaning advice dealt out by his teacher, his parents, and everybody else, he fails miserably every time he tries to draw a red object. Only when a new friend ignores the label and suggests he attempt something different, does mislabeled little »red« find his true »blue« identity. Popular illustrator Michael Hall takes the age-old problem of not fitting in and being misunderstood and transports it to a metaphorical level that even very young children won't have any trouble figuring out by themselves. Without being preachy at all, the straightforward text and the clear digital collages offer children and adults alike a witty, entertaining story with lots of incentives for further discussion. (Age: 4+)

60



Janeczko, Paul B. (ed.)

Sweet, Melissa (illus.)

Firefly July. A year of very short poems

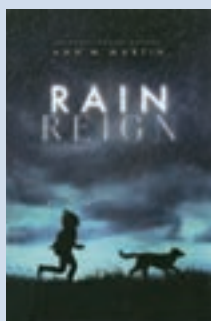
Somerville, Mass.: Candlewick Press, 2014. – 47 p.

ISBN 978-0-7636-4842-8

Seasons | Poetry

Paul B. Janeczko is a renowned poet and anthologist. For his latest collection, he has gathered thirty-six short American poems from two centuries and arranged them thematically so that each of the works captures an aspect or breathes the atmosphere of one of the four seasons. In addition to a few well-known classics such as William Carlos Williams's »The Red Wheelbarrow« and Carl Sandburg's »Fog«, readers will also discover a splendid array of lesser known gems that all, with just a few words, create powerful images. Award-winning illustrator Melissa Sweet uses watercolours, gouache, and mixed-media collages to create a visual feast. Some of her large-format double- and single-spread pictures are brimming with delicate pastel-coloured details, while others feature bright blocks of colour in a more abstract depiction of a certain mood. The harmonious pairing of texts and illustrations makes this collection a treasure for readers of any age. (Age: 4+)

61



Martin, Ann M. (text)

Rain reign

New York, NY: Feiwel & Friends, 2014. – 226 p.
ISBN 978-0-312-64300-3

Autism | Rules | Language | Relationship

Rose is fascinated by homonyms, i.e. words that sound the same but have different meanings (such as her name Rose / rows). Most of her fifth-grade classmates, as well as her teachers and aide however, don't share her obsession; nor do they understand the girl's need for rules, a fixed daily routine, and reciting prime numbers when she is stressed. Her erratic single father's inability to cope with her condition (diagnosed as high-functioning autism) makes her home life a bit of a struggle, too. Luckily enough, her uncle and her devoted dog Rain (reign / rein) give her comfort – until the night of the hurricane, when Rain suddenly goes missing. Told in an authentic first-person narrative, this gem of a novel makes readers experience the world through Rose's eyes. Naturally, it cannot represent all degrees and forms of autism. Nevertheless, the author aptly portrays this particular girl's development and strengths and evokes admiration for her courage. (Age: 10+)

62



Mora, Pat (text)

So, Meilo (illus.)

Domínguez, Adriana / Mora, Pat (transl.)

Water rolls, water rises = El agua rueda, el agua sube

New York: Children's Book Press / Lee & Low, 2014. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-0-89239-325-1

Text in English and Spanish

Water | Landscape | Picture book | Bilingual book

Award-winning author Pat Mora has always been fascinated by water and the way it influences nature and human beings alike. This bilingual picture book is a poetic celebration of water's movement, its rhythm, its power, and its soothing qualities. Renowned artist Meilo So has taken each of Mora's evocative three-line stanzas and transformed them into stunning double spread illustrations beautifully rendered in mixed media. Specific places and landscapes are cited as the inspiration behind each of the sixteen pictures. This book takes readers on a joyful journey around the globe from the picturesque Grand Canal in Venice (Italy): »Water rises / into soft fog, / weaves down the street, strokes an old cat« to rural villages in Kenya: »Filling deep wells, / water hums in the dark / sloshes in buckets, quenches our thirst« and the majestic Grand Canyon in Arizona (USA): »Skidding and slipping, / swooping round bends, / spinning on tree roots, careening down cliffs.« (Age: 8+)



63

Stead, Philip Christian (text/illus.)

Sebastian and the balloon

New York, N.Y.: Roaring Brook Press,

2014. – [40] p.

(A Neal Porter book)

ISBN 978-1-59643-930-6

Boredom | Adventure | Creativity | Friendship |
Picture book

Nothing exciting ever happens in Sebastian's street; at least not as far as he can see. So he quickly packs »all the things he would ever need«, builds a grand hot air balloon using his grandmother's blankets and quilts, and flies off into the blue sky on the look-out for something »new«. Soon he is joined by other adventure-seeking folk: a real bear, a very tall bird, and three wizened old sisters. The slightly nostalgic-looking, matt double-spread illustrations are rendered in pastels, oil paints, and pressed charcoal. Alternating between close-ups and wide-angle shots, they present a perfect balance between colour planes, open spaces, and quirky objects. In this magical and dreamy tale, Philip Stead takes his audiences and the motley crew of protagonists on an amazing adventure that culminates in a seemingly endless roller-coaster ride. However, the open ending nudges readers to imagine countless further trips for explorer Sebastian and his new friends. (Age: 4+)



64

Tamaki, Mariko (text)

Tamaki, Jillian (illus.)

This one summer

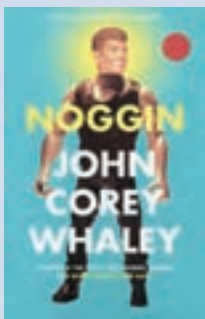
New York: First Second, 2014. – 317 p.

ISBN 978-1-59643-774-6

Summer holiday | Coming of age |
Family conflict | Pregnancy

Ever since Rose can remember, she and her parents have spent their summer holidays in the same cottage at Awago Beach. The young pre-teen used to savour the lazy rhythm in the small community. She loved the family barbecues, collecting stones, swimming in the ocean, and building sand castles with her summer friend Windy. However, this year, everything feels different: Rose's mother is distant and depressed, her parents fight nonstop, and Rose, caught between childhood and adolescence, feels cranky and jittery. The text is comprised of a concise, evocative narrative and the lively and sometimes thoughtful dialogue between Rose and the other protagonists. The words and the detailed indigo-and-white illustrations create a unity of storyline and theme and easily conjure up the atmosphere of a hot summer filled with suspense and mysteries. This graphic novel tells a strong coming-of-age story that will draw in readers from the very first page. (Age: 12+)

65



Whaley, John Corey (text)

Noggin

New York [et al.]: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2014. – 340 p.
ISBN 978-1-4424-5872-7

Death | Cranial reanimation | Fame

»Listen – I was alive once and then I wasn't. Simple as that. Now I'm alive again.« No, this is not another vampire story. In his second YA novel, John Corey Whaley veers more in the direction of a Frankenstein-like setting. Just before sixteen-year-old Travis Coates died of leukaemia, he agreed to take part in a science experiment to freeze his head for a planned cranial reanimation sometime in the far future. Five years later, and thanks to revolutionary medical developments, the teenage boy's head is attached to a donor body and miraculously brought back to life. Great – but getting used to this new existence including his sudden celebrity status, isn't all that easy for Travis, especially since the love of his first life is now engaged to be married to someone else. In turn witty, sad, hilarious, and creepy, this book tackles big questions including the meaning of life, death, and love in the guise of an irresistibly light-hearted contemporary science fiction novel. (Age: 14+)

66



Woodson, Jacqueline (text)

Brown girl dreaming

New York [et al.]: Nancy Paulsen Books / Penguin, 2014. – 336 p.
ISBN 978-0-399-25251-8

USA / 1960-1980 | Racism |
African-American family | Verse novel |
Autobiography

In this powerful verse memoir, award-winning writer Jacqueline Woodson vividly describes the story of her childhood in South Carolina and New York. Her collection of carefully composed poems makes the atmosphere of the 1960s and 1970s come alive for readers. The author offers glimpses of joyful summers spent in her maternal grandparents' house in Greenville; she portrays sibling closeness, her feeling of being torn between the home in the North and that in the South, her nascent understanding of the Civil Rights Movement and the Jim Crow laws still in existence. As short, simple verses alternate with longer, more complex ones, readers witness young Jacqueline's growing love of words and storytelling and her boundless imagination. In her inimitable style, Woodson weaves together a deeply personal story and the larger tale of what it was like to grow up as an African-American girl during this time period. (Coretta Scott King Award 2015) (Age: 12+)

67



Kangilaski, Kristi (text/illus.)

Tuvi ei taha saia

(The pigeon that does not like white bread)

[Tallinn]: Päike ja Pilv, 2014. – [28] p.

ISBN 978-9949-9530-35

Friendship | Happiness | Contentment |
Picture book

»Tuvi ei taha saia« is the second picture book by Kristi Kangilaski (b. 1982), who first made a name for herself in Estonia as an illustrator for texts by other authors. Kangilaski employs rose-grey pastel hues and a bird's eye perspective apropos to the story to help bring to life the tale of a dove who has lost interest in bird food, i.e. bread and baked goods. She complains to Tiu, a little girl whom the dove happens to meet in front of a bakery. She also tells Tiu her secret dream, which is realised with the help of the little girl who becomes her friend: The dove loves to have some ice cream. Praised as one of the five best designed children's books of Estonia in 2014, »Tuvi ei taha saia« is a delicate little story about the meaning of friendship and about how too much of a good thing – in this case too much food – can quickly turn sour. (Age: 5+)

68



Kivirähk, Andrus (text)

Arrak, Jüri (illus.)

Suur Tõll

(Big Toell)

Tallinn: Varrak, 2014. – 51 p.

ISBN 978-9985-3104-0

Giant | Legend | Heroic myth

In Estonia you cannot talk about children's literature without bringing up Andrus Kivirähk (b. 1970). »Suur Tõll« is a nice experiment of Kivirähk and his publisher: It retells the myth of a well-known Estonian mythological figure while referring to and using the famous illustrations by Jüri Arrak, which were first published in 1982. Big Toell's legend unfolds on Estonia's biggest island of Saaremaa and tells the story of a giant man, a friendly, peaceful and quiet farmer, who lives together with his wife. Partly against his will, he is forced to defend his home and Saaremaa island when enemies appear and his wife is killed. It is this classic folk tale that has been re-energized by Andrus Kivirähk: Now it can be perceived from today's perspective. The same is true for Jüri Arrak's 1982 illustrations, which are re-printed here in new, bright colours. Apart from a vivid story, the book creates a productive tension between the »old« content and its fresh presentation. (Age: 8+)

69



Király, Réka / Maijala, Marika (text/illus.)

Topin nokinenäpäivä

(*Topi's sooty day*)

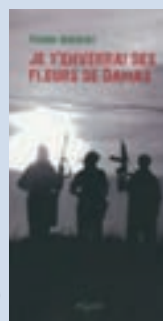
Helsinki: WSOY, 2014. – [24] p.

ISBN 978-951-0-40380-8

Cat | Visitor | Disorder | Chaos | Picture book

Topi the cat is expecting guests. Lupo the dog and Emil the worm have announced that they will visit. Everything must shine and sparkle for guests, so Topi catches the cleaning bug. She turns the whole house upside down, but for some reason nothing goes quite as planned: The oven is sooty and not getting cleaner, then Topi knocks off the marmalade jars when she tries to clean the basement. Ah! Lupo and Emil are suddenly standing at the door, and Topi must greet them with a sooty nose and blueberry marmalade in her fur. This doesn't ruffle the guests, though, and the three of them spend a lovely evening together, sitting on the roof and playing music. This cardboard picture book offers a charming mixture of slapstick, distinct colours and shapes as well as playful cut-outs that emphasize the progress of the story and open up new insights and views when one turns the pages. (Age: 3+)

70



Andriat, Frank (text)

Je t'envverrai des fleurs de Damas

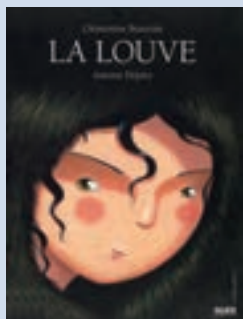
(*I'll send you flowers from Damascus*)

Namur: Mijade, 2014. – 138 p.

ISBN 978-2-87423-099-8

Islamism | Fundamentalism | War

A French high school is in shock: Two students, Wassim and Othmane, totally »normal« fifteen-year-old Franco-Arabic boys suddenly leave as new Salafist recruits to fight in the Syrian war. Their closeted conversion to Salafism and break with their everyday environment occurred without friends and family really noticing anything; they seemed quite successful at school and socially »integrated«. Who recruited them? Do they still have a way out? Wassim's Muslim girlfriend Myriam and a teacher whom she trusts correspond with each other on these complex questions. Frank Andriat's novel offers a way into the debate surrounding why adolescents of diverse backgrounds might be receptive to Salafist rabble-rousers, who beckon with promises of earning respect, pseudo-religious identification and social solidarity, and why young people might permit themselves to be mobilised for Salafist political, religious, and military goals. (Age: 13+)



71

Beauvais, Clémentine (text)

Déprez, Antoine (illus.)

La louve

(The she-wolf)

Bruxelles: Alice éd., 2014. – [44] p.

(Series: Alice jeunesse) (Histoires comme ça)

ISBN 978-2-87426-213-5

Girl | Wolf | Transformation | Curse | Fairy tale

One cold winter, a father kills a wolf pup to make a warm coat for his little daughter Lucie. The wolf's mother, a she-wolf with magic powers, places a life-threatening curse on Lucie in retribution: If she does not get her wolf pup back, Lucie dies. While the adults capitulate after drawn-out and fruitless talk, Lucie's friends hatch a plan. Their brave friend, the orphan-girl Romane, will dress up as a wolf pup and save Lucie's life. The wolf mother is not so easily fooled, however. As Romane grows more at ease in her new role, she undergoes an imperceptible transformation, which in the end gives her a new identity, a new freedom, and a new family. The sometimes grim text of Clémentine Beauvais, which retells a Russian fairytale, is accompanied by Antoine Déprez's balanced and pretty illustrations. (Age: 9+)



72

Herbauts, Anne (text/illus.)

Un jour Moineau

(A Sparrow day)

[Bruxelles et al.]: Casterman, 2014. – [32] p.

(Series: Les Albums Casterman)

ISBN 978-2-203-08042-3

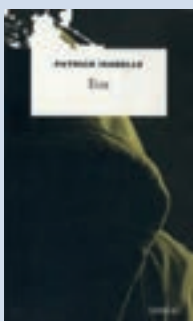
Cobbler | Giant | Redemption | Picture book

Matin jumps from bed and gets dressed. The open window lets in forest rustlings, and in the trees hang many little bird's boots, which he must repair that day. Why can he not leave his house and the cobbler's workshop, though? In front of his door lies an enormous stone, which is actually an unconscious female giant. What to do? Matin follows the magical messages whispered by the rooms and objects in his house, and in the end manages to sit the sleeping giantess upright and save her from her great sorrow. Anne Herbauts achieves a slight graphic destabilisation in this picture book by daring to represent the »Mal-dessiné«, the unpleasant, dissonant and experimental. She leaves some little riddles in the clever text open – as escape routes – and relies on the curiosity and combinatory cleverness of young readers to solve them after examining the pictures. (Age: 3+)

FRENCH

Belgium

73



Isabelle, Patrick (text)

Eux*(Them)*

Montréal (Québec): Leméac, 2014. – 107 p.

(Series: Jeunesse)

ISBN 978-2-7609-4219-6

School | Violence | Bullying | Killing spree

How does a boy become a frenzied shooter in a Canadian high school? This novel by young author and book seller Patrick Isabelle uses the first-person perspective to show how this fifteen-year-old boy goes from being a victim to becoming a perpetrator. The shooting spree has a two and a half year lead-up: violence and loneliness pave the way for the boy's crime, as well as a sensed inability to speak out, apathy and missing support from his family, school and neighbourhood. There are internal and external factors that lead to the school cafeteria shooting and to the boy's subsequent suicide. The short intense text clearly reveals key moments at which it may have been possible to break the spiral of violence that the boy and those around him were caught up in. Patrick Isabelle allows the reader to directly experience how chances were missed and how the boy's perspective on the world was whittled down to a dichotomy between himself and his surroundings, that is, to a deadly »me« or »them« (hence the book's title). (Age: 13+)

74



Marois, André (text)

Doyon, Patrick (illus.)

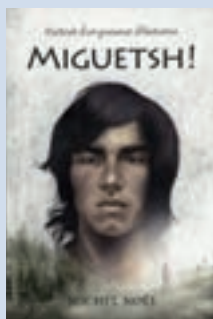
Le voleur de sandwichs*(The sandwich thief)*

Montréal: Éd. de La Pastèque, 2014. – [164] p.

ISBN 978-2-923841-26-7

School | Theft | Subterfuge

On Monday Marin and his growling stomach rush excitedly into the school day's lunch recess. But who has made off with the tasty sandwich his mother whipped up for him that morning? Its theft is not an isolated event, but rather repeats itself on subsequent days of the week. Becoming more and more irate, Marin decides he's had enough of the forced diet! He applies all of his detective knowledge to uncover the guilty party. The whole school seems filled with suspicious characters! Could the thief even be his friend Robin or a teacher who's fed up with teaching? Aided by his mother's culinary panache, Marin pursues his investigations and in the end catches the guilty person red-handed. André Marois's funny detective story from the wild world of everyday school life is especially entertaining because of illustrator Patrick Doyon's wonderful sense for situation comedy (Age: 8+)

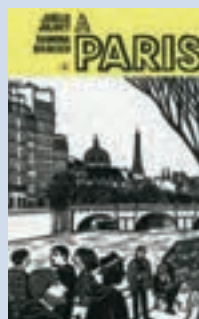


75

Noël, Michel (text) / Nêwashish, Jacques (illus.)
Miguetch! Portrait d'un passeur d'histoires
(Thank you! Portrait of a story smuggler)
 Saint-Lambert (Québec) [et al.]: Dominique et
 Compagnie, 2014. – 175 p.
 (Series: Ado et compagnie)
 ISBN 978-2-89739-083-9

Algonquin / 1940-1960 | Anishinaabe (Ojibwa) |
 Native Americans | Childhood memories |
 Autobiographical novel

In this autobiographically coloured coming-of-age novel, Michel Noël describes the childhood of a boy named Pien in the 1940s and 1950s. After his parents separate, his white mother intentionally leaves him in the care of his Anishinaabe family. Pien enjoys unburdened years growing up by the Cabonga Reservoir. He is initially sheltered from the smouldering conflicts concerning land theft via dubious white contractors and the connected threat to the Anishinaabe way of life. His traditional upbringing by his father and grandfather ends with the rite of passage from adolescence to manhood. This provides Pien with great clarity concerning where he belongs. When he decides to go to »white school«, he is well-prepared for possible enmities: he is Algonquin. Writing with sensitivity and knowledge, Michel Noël portrays how Pien is initiated into the values of his people. The philosophical thoughts of Pien's grandfather Wawaté begin each chapter. (Age: 12+)



76

Bădescu, Ramona (text)
 Jolivet, Joëlle (illus.)
À Paris
(In Paris)
 Paris: Éd. des Grandes personnes, 2014. – [36] p.
 (Series: Les Grandes personnes)
 ISBN 978-2-36193-347-0

Paris | Architecture | Point of interest | City tour |
 Picture book | Non-fiction

Paris! Illustrator Joëlle Jolivet plays on the cosmopolitan city's beautiful appearance, its wonderfully theatrical facades, its grandiose and filigreed architecture, its self-fashioning as the »City of Lights«. With a sense for the essential and a love of detail, she and author Ramona Bădescu escort their readers on a short tour through the French capital (Careful! The city map is cleverly hidden!). They show places that incorporate the magic of Paris and have often inspired art, literature, and film: the cafés (like the Café de la Mosquée), the bridges and banks of the Seine, various neighbourhoods such as the 13th and 18th arrondissement that have their own flair, the movie theatres, the Saint Martin canal and much more. Joëlle Jolivet lives and works in Paris and loves and knows her city well. Her marvellous prints in black and white not only show the facade of the metropolis, but also reveal the confident perspective of the insider who knows the life behind it all. (Age: 8+)

77



Chevron Zero, Marie-France (text)
Magnan, Mathilde (illus.)

Fadoli

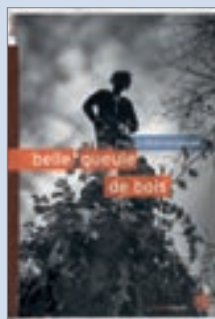
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Paris: Éd. courtes et longues, 2015. – [40] p.
ISBN 978-2-35290-143-3

Differentness | Disability | Power of imagination |
Picture book

A young boy experiences the world very differently than the people in his village, who consider him crazy and who call him Fadoli, which in Provençal means »the one touched by fairies«. They suspect nothing of the boy's imaginative power and abilities. For example, he can dive deeply into the natural world, just like an elf. There are wonders to discover everywhere: mountains resemble animal heads, large-stomached fish fly through the air, tiny rhinoceroses crawl at his feet. On dangerous cliffs he capers like a dare-devil and falls. But instead of feeling pain like others, he always experiences joy and laughs. This is the best book so far by the duo Chevron and Magnan, published by the engaged publishing house Éditions courtes et longues. It masterfully tells a story about being different without resorting to the usual stereotyping of cognitive difference as a kind of deficiency. With an artfully rhymed text and powerful, even hypnotic pictures, author and illustrator clearly stand in solidarity with Fadoli. (Age: 5+)

78



Deschavannes, Pierre (text)

Belle gueule de bois

(*Quite a hangover*)

[Rodez]: Rouergue, 2014. – 60 p.

(Series: DoAdo)

ISBN 978-2-8126-0682-3

Father / Son | Alcoholism | Addiction

After his parents' divorce, fifteen-year-old Pierre moves back in with his drug-addicted, alcoholic father, who lives a reclusive life in the mountains. Pierre feels responsible for his father, but living together with this rebel, who in the best of times is certainly fascinating, caring if also unstable, he begins to feel overwhelmed. He neglects school-work and fights against the growing chasm of his own possible failure, before his life has really begun. Pierre's supports are his writing and his classmate Omar, who respects and understands the special poignancy of this father-son relationship. The story, grim yet at once intensely positive, ends at the point when the first-person narrator's self-help really begins. This autobiographical debut novel of the young author from Lyon is an auspicious promise of more to come. (Age: 14+)

79



Fombelle, Timothée de (text)

Le livre de Perle*(The book about Pearl)*

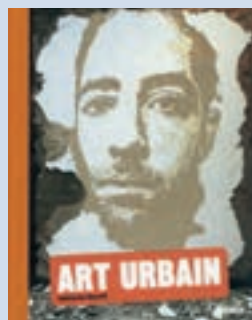
Paris: Gallimard, 2015. – 296 p.

ISBN 978-2-07-066293-7

Love | Reality | Fiction | Fairy-tale novel

In a kingdom of legend a cruel king seeks to end his younger brother Iliân's life. Both love the same woman, the fairy Oliâ, who has given her heart to Iliân. Iliân is exiled to Earth, and the fairy secretly follows him to his involuntary exile. She can never show herself to her beloved again, but she will protect him. In subsequent adventure-filled years, Iliân ends up in France in the 1930s and desperately searches for a »portal« back to his home, back to his beloved whom he believes to still be there. While on the Earth he is continually pursued by his brother's murderous henchmen. This expressive novel by Timothée de Fombelle artfully weaves together three narrative threads into one exciting love story. It is a challenging leisure-time read. Especially the parts taking place within the fairytale setting are outstanding. (Age: 13+)

80



Gentil, Mélanie (text)

Art urbain*(Street art)*

[Paris]: Éd. Palette, 2014. – 76 p.

ISBN 978-2-358-32170-9

Art | Street art | City | Graffiti | Non-fiction

The city is a big jungle of signs, always rewriting itself, a confusing storm of commercial and traffic signs and messages of all kinds. At the same time, it is like an open-air gallery used by artists to display their work, sometimes not entirely legally and often anonymously. This knowledgeable book by art historian Mélanie Gentil connects the history, functions and controversies surrounding street art as contemporary art. It features major international figures as well as francophone artists. The author also scrutinises the highly ambivalent question of the street art's success. Has »urban art« transformed itself from an uncompromising, independent art form of resistance and »vandalism« into a pleasing »art in the public realm«? Has it acquiesced to become a streamlined commodity for the art market? This volume ends with a short glossary of terms from street art insider lingo, such as »tag« and »blaze«. (Age: 12+)

81



Guasti, Gaia (text)

Les remplaçants*(The replacements)*

[Paris]: Ed. Thierry Magnier, 2014. – 259 p.

(Series: La voix de la meute; 1)

ISBN 978-2-36474-460-8

Wolf | Human | Transformation | Instinct |
Coming of age

After the (ritual) bite of three wolves, Mila, Ludo and Tristan transform themselves into shape-shifters who switch between human and wolf existences. The new experience bonds the three very different friends together, while at the same time testing their friendships. Will they understand this magical transformation? Must they choose to live as one or the other creature? Gaia Guasti (born in Italy in 1974, emigrated to France at age eighteen) utilises persuasive metaphors to capture the transgressions and ambivalences of adolescence, that oscillating transition state »between dog and wolf«. »Les remplaçants« is the strong first entry of a trilogy, far removed from bland mainstream YA werewolf tales. Challenging and suspenseful, Guasti's narrative text contains a hint of fantasy, formulates interesting questions about evolutionary bonds between human and animal, and questions our understanding of human will, responsibility and instinct. (Age: 12+)

82



Hippolyte (text/illus.)

Saint-Exupéry, Patrick de (text)

La fantaisie des Dieux. Rwanda 1994*(The whim of the gods. Rwanda 1994)*

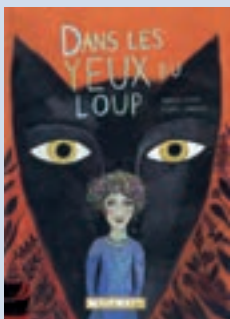
Paris: Éd. des Arènes, 2014. – 92 p.

(Series: Les Arènes)

ISBN 978-2-35204-320-1

Rwanda / 1994 | Civil war | Genocide |
Responsibility | Graphic novel

Almost twenty years after the genocide, journalist Patrick de Saint-Exupéry returns to Rwanda in 2013 with graphic novel artist Hippolyte. Their work of recollection is disturbing for them but proves enlightening for readers, since often the versions of events given by victims and perpetrators conflict in marked ways. Their research also explores the taboo question concerning the then-French government and military leadership's role in protecting, training and equipping the perpetrators. Saint-Exupéry and Hippolyte succeed in creating one of the most important political graphic novels in France of the last years. The book's diaphanous water colour illustrations of the lush Rwandan landscape and its photographic sequences intentionally collide with the forceful text. War and violence are portrayed without the taint of voyeurism and are usually not shown directly in the images, but »off stage« in the narrative. The victims have the final word. (Age: 15+)



83

Laroche, Agnès (text)
Fronty, Aurélia (illus.)

Dans les yeux du loup

(In the eyes of the wolf)

Paris: Kilowatt, 2014. – [28] p.

ISBN 978-2-917045-26-8

Princess | Wolf | Gaze | Friendship | Fairy tale |
Picture book

When the princess follows the voice of a wolf in the forest, she wants to kill the beautiful animal, to offer it to the king as a gift. But the wolf defends itself and wins the upper hand. Instead of killing the princess, he looks her in the eye, recognises her real character and spares her. The princess, however, is not so easily dissuaded from her plan; she next tries to bring the predatory beast to the king's court alive. Only when she meets the gaze of the wolf »Other« does she realise how special he is and how offensiveness her plan was. So in the end she befriends the proud animal and they undertake a joint journey into the unknown. This richly allusive short fairy tale from young, independent publisher Kilowatt is captivating, especially paired with Aurélia Fronty's illustrations. Her mysterious images echo dream sequences and accompany Agnès Laroche's poetic, partially rhyming text. (Age: 8+)



84

Parlange, Adrien (text/illus.)

La chambre du lion

(The lion's chamber)

Paris: Albin Michel Jeunesse, 2014. – 30 p.

ISBN 978-2-226-20732-6

Lion | Curiosity | Fear | Hiding | Picture book

The lion has gone out. In his absence, his mysterious chamber draws many curious visitors: One after the other, children and animals enter and look around, and at the smallest sound, they hide themselves from supposed approaching danger. It is not the lion who appears, though, but the next visitor. Gradually, the room fills with new shapes. Objects change their location. When the lion returns home, even he finds this irritating and worrisome. He hears a sudden noise and hides himself under a blanket. The big scaredy cat will never find out that it was only a mouse looking for a place to sleep. The retro-minimalist pictorial compositions of Adrien Parlange draw on the playful potential of repetition. The punch line of the story – that it's just the smallest animals (spider and mouse) who move about the seemingly sacrosanct lion's den the most confidently – will amuse children and adults alike. (Age: 5+)

85



Perrault, Charles (text)
Sourdais, Clémentine (illus.)
La Barbe bleue. Un livre-accordéon avec des décors et des découpes
(*Bluebeard. A leporello with props and silhouettes*)
Paris: Hélium, 2014. – [32] p.
ISBN 978-2-33003-448-1

Curiosity | Punishment | Violence | Fairy tale |
Pop-up book | Picture book

How does one re-energise a Perrault fairytale such as »Bluebeard«? Paper engineer Clémentine Sourdais shows us how, using a combination of cut-outs and shadow play. Her blue, black and white book object is carefully put together and can be set up like a folding-screen. One side shows key scenes from the story as coloured cut-outs, and on the verso, they appear as black silhouettes. Set up one behind the other, the pages create a special three-dimensional staging thanks to the transparency of the cut-outs. Central motifs – the key, the forbidden room – and the main characters can thus be staged in special ways. The fairy-tale text, including the rather antiquated moral at the end, runs along the bottom of each page as its border trim. The translation of the story into visual theatre also lessens the chances of the text frightening young readers. This technique offers a fitting way to reflect on the fairy tale's highly ambivalent messages concerning violence. (Age: 5+)

86

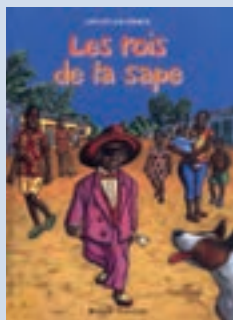


Dzotap, Alain Serge (text)
Masioni, Pat (illus.)
Le roi Njoya. Un génial inventeur
(*King Njoya. A wondrous inventor*)
Bamako, Mali: Cauris Livres, 2015. – 32 p.
(Series: Collection Lucy)
ISBN 978-99952-60-13-2

Njoya <King, 1876-1933> | Bamun
<Kingdom> | Biography | Non-fiction

In this biography, Cameroon-born author Alain Serge Dzotap and Pat Masioni, an illustrator born in the former Zaire, introduce the inventive ruler who reigned in the northwest of Cameroon for almost four decades. Njoya is presented as having brought about a cultural renaissance in handcrafts, art and architecture, and as showing respect for all religions that were practiced in his country. Njoya's greatest dream was realised when he developed a script for his native language of Bamun. His shrewd tactics in relation to the German colonial powers whose military superiority he recognised made him very suspicious to the ensuing French colonial government. He was deposed, his writings forbidden, his schools were closed. In 1931 he was taken prisoner, and he died two years later while in exile in Yaoundé. However, there are dark chapters even in the story of this role model, and it is unfortunate that this otherwise commendable book omits mention of Njoya's disloyalty to King Rudolph Manga Bell's colonial resistance movement. (Age: 9+)

87



Epanya, Christian (text/illus.)

Les rois de la sape

(*The kings of style*)

Saint-André (La Réunion): Océan, 2014. – [36] p.

(Series: Océan jeunesse)

ISBN 978-2-36247-083-7

Kinshasa | Fashion | Contest | Lifestyle

In Matonge, a hip neighbourhood of Kinshasa, the capital city of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, young Elumbu is being harassed by bullish members of the so-called Style movement »La Sape«. The Stylers are part of an African lifestyle movement that attempts to transcend mundane miseries and celebrate everyone's right to beauty through public appearances in brand-name clothes. Broke Elumbu, with his friends's help, decides to beat these dandies at their own game in the next fashion show, by dressing in second-hand clothes. The colourful pictures of Lyon-based Cameroonian artist Christian Epanya show realistic scenes of a modern African metropolis. The lovingly portrayed fashion contest provides a perfect occasion to think about appearance and reality in consumer society. Epanya tells this story from a distance, with humorous covert references to contemporary artists such as the well-known Congolese painter Chéri Samba. (Age: 10+)

88



Härr, Silvia (text)

Pieropan, Cristina (illus.)

Tu grimpes drôlement bien aux arbres!

(*You climb trees pretty good!*)

Genève: Éditions Notari, 2015. – [28] p.

(Series: L'oiseau sur le rhino)

ISBN 978-2-940408-93-1

Moving | City | Foreignness | Picture book

When Benjamin's father accepts a new job, the boy finds the family's move from country to city a difficult imposition, connected as it is with parting and giving up his familiar surroundings. The family moves into an apartment on the top floor of a high-rise. Benjamin takes no pleasure from the unfamiliar bird's eye view of the world, i.e. »from above«. His first days in the new school also seem bleak and nasty. Why bother even stepping out the door? After long hesitation, he does head out of the house again and discovers to his amazement that the concrete desert, which was so confusing before now offers up new encounters, contrasting worlds and surprises. He makes new friends and discovers a circus. This is young Genevan author's Silvia Härr's first children's book. The carefully told story of the protagonist's gradual adjustment to an unfamiliar place is illustrated by Christina Pieropan with peaceful, large-format, coloured etchings. (Age: 6+)

89



Kitzing, Constanze von (illus.)

Mélimélanimmo

(Mix-and-match bestiary)

Genève: La Joie de lire, 2015. – [36] p.

ISBN 978-2-88908-252-0

Animals | Clothing | Dress-up | Textless book |
Picture book

This marvellous mix-and-match book is wriggling with such original animals: An elephant princess drifts by in a pink tutu, while a cool dog lounges lazily all clad in leather. A love-struck good luck pig holding a romantic love letter is followed by an industriously knitting (self-recycling) sheep. Then comes a tiger pirate throwing himself and his treasure chest into battle... followed by many other curious creatures. This Noah's Ark can be continually re-made and new, even more unusual animals created! Hamburg illustrator Constanze von Kitzing creates pictures more odd than cute in this textless book, sparking young readers' imaginations and their anarchic drive to dress themselves up in nutty ways and to slip into other roles. The carefully crafted acrylic pictures tuck away much fun, including the little contradictions that come to light between a creature's front and backside. (Age: 3+)

90



Wadman, Thys (text)

Jong, Gerrit de (illus.)

In nije heit

(A new dad)

Ljouwert: Afûk, 2014. – 95 p.

ISBN 978-90-6273-454-2

Father / Son | Car

Gerke knows – in detail – everything there is to know about cars. His mum always tests him, but he never fails. One night, however, as mum puts him to bed, he feels it is his turn to ask a question. He wants to know whether he can ask for a new dad for his birthday. Gerke believes that he hasn't been very lucky with the dad who is sitting downstairs in the living room. His father doesn't like playing soccer, is not interested in cars and all he ever seems to do is go fishing. His mother promises she will give this strange question some serious consideration. On Gerke's birthday, a strange man called Harm is waiting for him at breakfast and his own father has disappeared. At first Gerke is rather happy with Harm, but after a while he realises that he misses his »former« dad and starts looking for him. This is Thys Wadman's second children's novel, after writing some reading materials for elementary schools. His first children's novel was awarded the Simke Kloosterman prize in 2013. (Age: 10+)



91

Habinger, Renate / Ballhaus, Verena (text/illus.)
Kritzl & Klecks. Eine Entdeckungsreise ins Land des Zeichnens & Malens. 46 Ausklappseiten zu künstlerischen Techniken [...]

(Doodle & Smudge. A voyage of discovery into the land of drawing & painting. [...])

St. Pölten [et al.]: Residenz, 2014. – [46] p.

(Series: Nilpferd in Residenz)

ISBN 978-3-7017-2128-3

[Drawing](#) | [Painting](#) | [Line](#) | [Area](#)

Dot, dot, comma, dash – smiley face in a flash. The idea for this book did take a little longer, but when Mr. Doodle and Ms. Smudge made their appearance, everything came together. They are the protagonists of this playfully associative and highly informative compendium of the world of drawing and painting. They represent the basic elements of drawing and painting – Doodle stands for the line, Smudge for the area. Verena Ballhaus sketched and drew everything related to Mr. Doodle, while Renate Habinger rendered the world of Ms. Smudge in watercolour and ink – but both admit to occasional cheating and mixing the media. This story of their artistic production is part of the overall story, because that's what the book is all about: To show how pictures take shape and how the choice of media – which pens? which paper? – and of technique – drawing or painting? – determine the character and effect of the picture. This is truly exciting, and readers will undoubtedly be inspired to experiment themselves! (Age: 4+)



92

Roher, Michael (text/illus.)

Sorriso

<proper name>

Wien: Luftschacht, 2015. – [28] p.

ISBN 978-3-902844-55-2

[Circus](#) | [Imagination](#) | [Picture book](#)

The circus is here! This news causes the narrator of this picture book to exclaim in excitement: »I want, no, I have to, oh please, may I go, / oh how I wish I was already there / in the tent, in the first row, lights out, applause, cheers, / Curtains rise, the show begins, / you will see, it will be fabulous!« He is an endless fountain of ideas, his imagination knows no bounds. The little narrator comes up with ever more fantastic things that could be seen in the circus: a cat choir, jumping cows, and a juggling act with toilet brushes all make their appearance on his imaginary circus stage. Michael Roher has accompanied the high-spirited rhyming word cascades with illustrations in temperate colours and full of detail. Rather than opting for the bright and gleeful end of the spectrum, Roher highlights his black-white-grey drawings, which are in turn naturalistic, in turn surreal, with the occasional red detail. While the subdued colours and the filigree stroke create a contrast to the text, the intricate composition picks up on its exuberance. (Age: 4+)

93



Freund, Wieland (text)

Kiss, Gergely (illus.)

Ich, Tofft und der Geisterhund von Sandkas*(Me, Tofft, and the ghost hound from Sankas)*

Weinheim [et al.]: Beltz & Gelberg, 2014. – 181 p.

ISBN 978-3-407-82055-6

Island | Spook | Dog | Cat

The Storeborg on the island Sanka is haunted. A huge ghost hound is making trouble there. No one has actually seen the beast, but a few people have felt its sharp teeth sink into their flesh. So the police puts up a no-trespassing sign. But for Johan, who makes his living by renting out the parking lots, this means only one thing: empty coffers! And even the dog Tofft and the cat Disse know what that signifies: No food. So to avoid miserable death by famine, they decide to find out the ghost hound. The suspenseful chase is narrated by Disse, which results – as would be expected for a cat – in a highly narcissistic, but rather funny account: When Disse's self-image once more contrasts with her actions, readers will laugh themselves to tears. A fabulous read! (Age: 6+)

94



Fuchs, Kirsten (text)

Mädchenmeute*(Girl pack)*

Berlin: Rowohlt, 2015. – 462 p.

ISBN 978-3-87134-764-1

Survival camp | Peer group | Group pressure | Coming of age

Reluctantly, shy fifteen-year-old Charlotte joins seven other girls on a summer-survival camp in the country. But because things turn out to be a bit fishy, they decamp. In a dead gallery of a mine, they start their own survival-camp, with stray dogs instead of adult supervision. The girls are as different as night and day, they bitch and fight, but always end up making matter up. Each girl takes over a function within the group, as this is the only way they can live together on the outskirts of civilization. The whole experience is challenging, extraordinary, and transformative for the girls. The author lends her voice to Charlotte, who remains laconic and shrewd and has a good eye for group dynamics. The setting and intertexts amplify the narrative to create a dense, symbolically charged coming-of-age novel full of extreme situations and liminal experiences. (Age: 14+)



95

Humann, Klaus (ed.)
 Platthaus, Andreas (introd.)
 Various artists (illus.)
Zeichner verteidigen die Meinungsfreiheit
(Artists for freedom of expression)
 Hamburg: Aladin, 2015. – 47 p.
 ISBN 978-3-8489-2070-9

Freedom of expression |
 Freedom of artistic expression | Democracy

The reason why Klaus Humann was able to rally the crème de la crème of international artists and illustrators, was a serious incident: The book was created in reaction to the terrorist attack on the editorial staff of the satirical weekly magazine »Charlie Hebdo« in January 2015. It honours the victims and calls for tolerance. This is evident in the programmatic title: »Artists defend the freedom of expression«, in the idea to let all fees and proceeds go to the Writers in Prison committee of PEN International, in the astute introduction by journalist Andreas Platthaus, and in the individual contributions. Each of the almost thirty artists came up with their individual way of condemning the attack and advocating the freedom of expression for art. Some opt for veiled remarks or an unexpected punch line; some take the more didactic route, while others remain serious or reflective. (Age: 12+)



96

Kleist, Reinhard (text/illus.)
Der Traum von Olympia. Die Geschichte von Samia Yusuf Omar
(The dream of Olympia. The story of Samia Yusuf Omar)
 Hamburg: Carlsen, 2015. – 145 p.
 ISBN 978-3-551-73639-0

Omar, Samia Yusuf | Escape | Refugee |
 Death | Sport | Biography | Graphic novel

Samia is sad and afraid, but most of all full of hope, when she leaves her home in 2012: She escapes from behind Somalia, her home, which has been devastated by wars and by the Al-Shabaab-militia. The young gifted athlete, who is dreaming of participating in the London Olympic Games, sees no future for herself there. But it is a long way to Europe. During her escape, Samia is the victim of harassment, theft, and imprisonment, she suffers hunger and thirst. But the whole struggle is in vain. The boat, which was to bring her to Italy, is a miserable inflatable. At age twenty-one, Samia drowns in the Mediterranean. In »The dream of Olympia«, Reinhard Kleist traces the young woman's odyssey with concise lines. Even though his approach is not strictly documentary, he is telling a story based on a true destiny which is representative of many. Kleist often lets the images speak for themselves, rightly trusting in the power of his black-and-white drawings. (Age: 12+)

97



Kränzler, Lisa (text)

Lichtfang*(Captured light)*

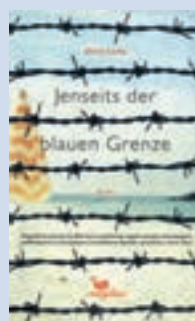
Berlin: Suhrkamp 2014. – 175 p.

ISBN 978-3-518-42445-2

Coming of age | Mental disorder | Outsider | Love | Death

Rufus is a loner. His little town causes him claustrophobia, so he wants to leave right after completing high school. Nor does Lilith fit into this dump, because she thinks differently from the average petty bourgeois, whose world ends at their garden fence. The two outsiders become a pair, but Rufus does not succeed in providing Lilith with the support she needs. Lilith, a vulnerable and injured soul, slips out of his grasp. She loses herself in excessive and self-destructive alcohol and drug abuse, and finally dies after a car accident. Rufus can never fully overcome his grief. Lisa Kränzler bluntly scrutinizes the thoughts and feelings of her protagonists, portraying their grief in all its radicalness. While the dynamics of the relationship dominate the first part – narrated from alternating perspectives – the novel progressively seems to be sucked into the abyss of Lilith's existential anxieties. Following her debut-novel »Nachhinein« (Retrospect), the author has written another challenging novel, which begins where it hurts. (Age: 16+)

98



Linke, Dorit (text)

Jenseits der blauen Grenze*(On the other side of the blue border)*

Bamberg: Magellan, 2014. – 303 p.

ISBN 978-3-7348-5602-0

German Democratic Republic / 1970-1990 | Escape | Sea

Hanna and Andreas want to leave, just like their friend Jens, who already left the disintegrating GDR in the late 1980s; the state no longer offers a future – but instead despotism, repression, and censorship. They want to swim across the border to West-Germany in the Baltic Sea. The idea is crazy, but they have to make an attempt. Attached to each other by a cord, and equipped with an emergency ration of chocolate, they try their luck. During the endless hours in the sea, first-person narrator Hanna remembers episodes from her childhood, her friendship with Andreas and Jens, her rebellious grandpa, who never took the GDR regime seriously, and her growing awareness of their lack of freedom. This ingenious interweaving of past and present lends the novel narrative complexity, which is further heightened by Dorit Linke's calculated use of literary devices to let readers sense Hanna's and Andreas's growing exhaustion and desperation. (Age: 14+)



99

Ludwig, Sabine (text)
Ludwig, Emma (illus.)

Schwarze Häuser

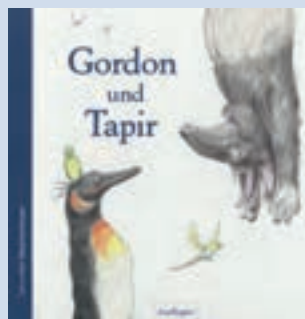
(Black houses)

Hamburg: Dressler, 2014. – 349 p.

ISBN 978-3-7915-1204-4

Germany / 1969-1970 | North Sea |
Children's rehabilitation centre | Child abuse

»Children's rehabilitation centre«, that does not sound like fun and evokes rather sad memories of aluminum pots with bland rose-hip tea and bed rest at 8 PM. If only that would have been all! But there was a lot worse: In her new novel, Sabine Ludwig tells of sadistic female educators, who run a children's rehab home on the North Sea and maintain a despotic regime. Absurd punishments are part of the daily routine, the food is inedible, and the children are subjected to questionable methods to harden their bodies. »Schwarze Häuser« is based on Sabine Ludwig's own experiences in a rehab home when she was ten years old. She wisely resists the temptation to stereotype adults as all bad and children as purely good. She creates complex, and ambivalent child characters, little opportunists, who also support each other and draw strength from unity to survive the six long weeks in the »black houses«. (Age: 10+)



100

Meschenmoser, Sebastian (text/illus.)

Gordon und Tapir

(Gordon and Tapir)

Esslingen am Neckar: Esslinger, 2014. – 64 p.

ISBN 978-3-480-23189-8

Disorder | Communal residence | Friendship |
Differentness

Sometimes it is better to part company to save a friendship. Especially if conflicting ideas of interior design and cleanliness make everyday life hazardous. This is what Gordon and Tapir end up realizing. The penguin and the tapir live together, but while Gordon appreciates spick-and-span minimalism, Tapir indulges in Dionysian, hedonistic excess, always using, for example, all of the toilet paper! No question that this is confrontation of two different worlds is doomed to fail. And because the two cannot find common ground, Gordon leaves and takes himself his own apartment – and soon after joins Tapir in the old one for a party that lasts long into the night... Sebastian Meschenmoser's »Gordon und Tapir« is a book for all and without expiration date, because it can be read in the kid's room with just as much profit as in student residences. (Age: 4+)

101



Mohl, Nils (text)

Mogel

(*Cheat*)

Reinbek bei Hamburg: Rowohlt-Taschenbuch-Verl., 2014. – 199 p.

(Series: rororo; 21537: rororo Rotfuchs)

ISBN 978-3-499-21537-7

[Suburb](#) | [Gender role](#) | [Role reversal](#) | [Sexuality](#)

Because he served his buddies alcohol-free beer instead of the real stuff in his makeshift party basement, Flo, Silvester, and Dimi make short shrift of him: They decide that Miguel has to join them out on the town passing as a girl until midnight. In the Club Chackabum a Miguel – aka perfectly styled Miguela – meets Candy, the woman of his secret dreams. Candy is together with Hengst («Stallion»), but as a girl, Miguel suddenly can make unexpected advances. The evening takes many a surprising turn until the whole story ends in a spectacular showdown – true Quentin-Tarantino style. With his sex change, Miguel calls gender boundaries into question and for this one evening invents the story of Miguela. This uncovers the underlying theme of this book: storytelling itself. A mix of thriller, picaresque novel, comedy, and socio-critical novel, »Mogel« exhibits its literariness and the worth of storytelling. (Age: 14+)

102



Mühle, Jörg (text/illus.)

Nur noch kurz die Ohren kraulen?

(*Just one more little tickle?*)

Frankfurt am Main: Moritz, 2015. – [22] p.

ISBN 978-3-89565-300-1

[Bedtime](#) | [Bedtime story](#) | [Picture book](#)

Upon opening this book, readers see a bunny child with its back turned. »Tap him on the shoulder, maybe he will turn around then!«, the reader is advised. And indeed: On the next page, the little bunny happily looks the reader into the eyes – holding a tooth brush and a security pillow. Little bunny is supposed to go to bed, so he has to put on his pajamas, plump up his pillow, and be tickled between the ears. Not to forget the good-night-kiss. And who has to take care of all of that? Exactly: the reader! Jörg Mühle includes him or her in the story and cleverly simulates »real« interaction: Turning the page, for example, changes the bunny into pajamas – real cool! Thanks to this simple but ingenious trick, this book offers a surprising take on the genre of the bedtime story – not just for young bunnies and children, but also for adults reading the book to their sleepy offspring. (Age: 2+)

103



Reinhardt, Dirk (text)

Train Kids

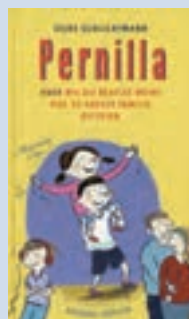
Hildesheim: Gerstenberg, 2015. – 318 p.

ISBN 978-3-8369-5800-4

Mexico | Escape | USA | Illegal immigration |
Violence

It is shaking, it is rattling, it is loud, it is hot, it is cold: Fernando, Emilio, Ángel, Jaz, and the narrator Miguel are »train kids«. They jump on freight trains to travel from the southern border of Mexico to the US-border. There they hope to make a fortune and meet their parents or brothers and sisters who travelled north and never came back. The trip is dangerous, and many never make it: Corrupt police agents make raids on the train, highwaymen attack the travelers; Mara youth gangs and brutal drug gangs threaten the train kids, beat them up, rob the little belongings they have, kidnap and kill them. Law and order do not exist for the people on the trains, rarely are their people who offer help. Dirk Reinhardt spent a long time researching his novel in Mexico, interviewing many train kids. His book is no documentary, however, but a novel, in which the author draws on the devices of literary fiction to give a vivid account of what he witnessed. (Age: 12+)

104



Schlichtmann, Silke (text)

Göhlich, Susanne (illus.)

Pernilla oder Wie die Beatles meine viel zu große Familie retteten

(Pernilla or How the Beatles saved my way-too-big family)

München: Hanser, 2015. – 227 p.

ISBN 978-3-446-24747-5

Family | Siblings | Everyday life | Chaos | Music

The fourth sibling is about to arrive, and due to a teacher's thoughtless comment, seven-year-old Pernilla thinks that her family will never be invited again once number four is there: No one would ever volunteer to host a family with four children. Child number four thus means social stigma, which is to be avoided at all costs. Because Pernilla cannot stand the thought of spending the rest of her family life cooped up at home, she devises a plan with her two brothers – a plan in which the music of the »mushroom heads« plays a decisive role. Ingenious Pernilla tells of clever ideas, strategically sound plans, and unanticipated incidents, which call for a great deal of improvisation. Silke Schlichtmann certainly stirs up a riot in her entertaining debut novel! (Age: 6+)

GERMAN

Germany

105



Steinhöfel, Andreas (text)

Schössow, Peter (illus.)

Anders

(Other <proper name>)

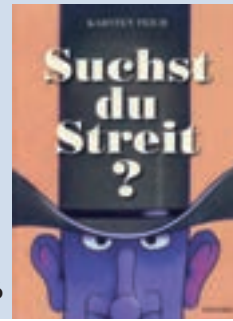
Hamburg: Königskinder, 2014. – 234 p.

ISBN 978-3-551-56006-3

Accident | Coma | Memory disorder |
Family conflict | Secret

Literary fairytale, legend, thriller, and coming-of-age novel. »Anders« (Other) is all this and much more. Felix has an accident. When he wakes up from his coma 263 days afterwards, he has changed, has become really strange. His sensitivity is heightened: He can read other people's thoughts, can sense what moves them, whether they are sick. Some are fascinated and understand that Anders is something special; but most people are irritated by the »strange« and »knowing child«. They are afraid of Anders – also because they suspect that the boy is guarding a secret that should better not be revealed. Andreas Steinhöfel draws on a rich inventory of motifs and combines various literary models to create something entirely new. He has composed the novel from different narrative perspectives and changing tones. Nonetheless, he proves absolute loyalty toward his eponymous hero. (Age: 10+)

106



Teich, Karsten (text/illus.)

Suchst du Streit?

(Are you looking for a fight?)

Rostock: Hinstorff, 2015. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-3-356-01896-7

Fight | Cowboy | Duel | Picture book

The showdown already starts on the cover: The cowboy is glaring at the reader, his hat pulled down tight, the eyes narrowed, spitting out the question: »Are you looking for a fight?« That's not really what the reader is doing, but that is beside the point here. The no-name cowboy in Karsten Teich's new picture book seems to be the mean brother of »Cowboy Klaus« from Teich's popular eponymous series. But he isn't half as clever as Klaus and soon proves to be a true featherbrain. It does not take much to outwit him, and the flabbergasted cowboy face speaks volumes when things turn out very differently than planned. This picture book, which cites the classic ingredients of the Western both for the setting – dusty road, shimmering heat – and the dramatic composition, relies strongly on the interaction with the reader. This interaction is facilitated by the clever choice of visual and narrative perspective. (Age: 4+)

107



Warning, Barbara (text)
Kindheit in Trümmern
(Childhood in ruins)

Ravensburg: Ravensburger Buchverl., 2015. – 191 p.
 ISBN 978-3-473-55375-4

Germany / 1933-1948 | World War II |
 Childhood | Everyday life

What was it like back then? How did children and adolescents experience World War II and the years after? »Kindheit in Trümmern« lends voice to those who were children or teenagers 70 years ago and whose biographies are marked by the war and postwar period: Refugee children talk about the treks, so-called »wolf children« tell how they had to survive in the woods on their own, without parents; urban children remember the bomb attacks at night and growing up among ruins. It is a book about determined mothers and absent fathers, about hunger and cold. For some, the memories are so vivid that they use the present tense to bring them back to life. What sets this book apart is the tension between »then and now«. Many witnesses insist that they regarded the war merely as a »game« back then. Reading the accounts, one cannot help but wonder whether some have – unwittingly – whitewashed their memories. Barbara Warning has compiled interviews, reports with quotes and further information, original documents and photos to put together a book that does not conceal anything, thereby inciting readers to want to know even more (Age: 12+)

108



Pauli, Lorenz (text)
 Zedilius, Miriam (illus.)
Pass auf mich auf!

(Take care of me!)
 Zürich: Atlantis, 2015. – [28] p.
 ISBN 978-3-7152-0693-6

Adult / Child | Play | Fun | Zest for life |
 Lightheartedness | Picture book

»American Indians! How about I make you a bow and arrow?« Juri shakes his head. »Can't do that: too dangerous.« »Camp fire?«, proposes Mr. Schnippel. »Fire smokes. And smoking damages health.« Whew! When the child is more sensible than the adult supervisor and condemns each game as dangerous or harmful, things are bad. Very bad indeed, but luckily not hopeless. Because supervisor Mr. Schnippel, a childish simpleton, does not seem to be familiar with the dos and don'ts of child rearing or just doesn't care and simply cannot relate to interdictions. So let's try a wheelbarrow race – without helmet! With this picture book, brimming with verbal and visual vitality, Lorenz Pauli and Miriam Zedilius advocate play, fun, adventure without cautionary safety netting, while giving an ironic nudge at helicopter parenting. (Age: 5+)

109



Michaēlidēs, Phrixos (Michailidis, Frixos) (text/illus.)

Ē opera tēs Mantaras

(*The Helter-Skelter Opera*)

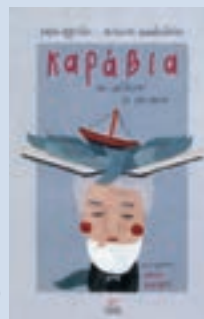
Leukōsia (Nicosia): Parga, 2014. – 131 p.

ISBN 978-9963-714-18-6

Opera | Love | Discrimination | Tolerance

An animals-only musical society is working feverishly on a bold new opera project. Octopi gamely tune their violins, fishes run choir practices, soprano ostriches and baritone bears compete for the leads. The libretto's tragic cat and dog love story resonates in real life in the hopeless love between a tenor horse and a mask-maker donkey, whose work makes the premiere into a huge success thanks to a surprise ending. Enthralled by the music and the romance, a delighted lion reporter – actually quite a philistine – writes an enthusiastic review. The burlesque turmoil is captured both in the text and in the illustrations, the latter through the playful use of geometric shapes. Frixos Michailidis cleverly and wittily introduces readers to the world of opera using language children will respond to. In his hands, opera becomes the ideal stage upon which tolerance and sense of community oust discrimination and prejudice. (Age: 7+)

110



Angelidu, Maria (Angelidou, Maria) /

Papatheodulu, Antōnēs (Papatheodoulou, Antonis) (text)

Kurtoglu, Chrēstos (Kourtoglou, Christos) (illus.)

Karabia pu taxidepsan tē phantasia

(*Ships that sailed the imagination*)

Athēna: Ikaros, 2014. – 69 p.

ISBN 978-960-572-044-5

Ship / History

People have always used ships to travel through the world. Many – some of which supposedly never existed – were made to assuage wishes and dreams, restlessness and ambition, longings and illusions. They were used as vessels for adventures on the high seas, bore passengers to dismal fates, docked at long yearned for ports and at utopian places that promised a prosperous future. This book with six »ship's biographies« tells the tales of the »Pequod« from »Moby Dick«, Jules Verne's yacht in »Saint Michel«, the »Argo«, the »Hispaniola« from Stevenson's »Treasure Island«, the Flying Dutchmen and Lukian's sail to the moon. Heralded authors Antonis Papatheodoulou and Maria Angelidou tell these stories in a gripping way and enrich them with fresh and interesting facts. Internationally recognised artist and illustrator Christos Kourtoglou once again shows his talent for translating texts into poetic pictures using his unmistakable mixed-media technique. (Age: 8+)

111



Katsama, Elenē (Katsama, Eleni) (text)
 Delēboria, Myrtō (Deliboria, Myrto) (illus.)
Gorillas sto phengari
(Gorilla on the moon)
 Athēna: Patakēs (Patakis), 2014. – 332 p.
 (Series: Synchronē logotechnia gia neus)
 ISBN 978-960-16-5612-0

Island | Village | Outsider | Values |
 Mother / Daughter

Maria lives in an utterly sealed off island village society during a time of crisis. Subject to her distant mother's care and unwelcoming environment, the extremely visually impaired girl grows up without her father. His absence is never explained to her. The novel's ingredients are many and varied: A summer of extreme drought, an omen dug up at the edge of the village, animal figurines crafted by Maria's father, relatives unknown until now, unusual friendships and animals who have escaped from a zoo. Maria fights her way through a jungle of scheming and secrets with intelligence, courage and a dash of sarcasm, to bring light to the darkness and to learn the truth. In her multi-layered, masterfully composed novel, Eleni Katsama focuses her vision as through a magnifying lens onto a dystopic microcosm and portrays the consequences of the decay of social values, the misuse of technology, of greed and corruption. (Age: 14+)

112



Phalkonakē, Alison (Falkonaki, Alison) (text)
 Geōrgellē, Klairē (Georgelli, Kleri) (illus.)
Alexē, phae kati!
(Alexi, eat something!)
 Athēna: Metaichmio, 2014. – [36] p.
 ISBN 978-960-566-534-0

Nutrition | Play | Imagination | Picture book

Hyper Alexi is steeped in play and has his whole family running after him, to make him finally take a break to eat. Every request sends him escaping into the next imaginary land. There carrots help him see more sharply than owls can, fruit whips him up into the universe, and milk is a magic drink that lets him vanquish rhinoceroses. Finally, the exhausted Alexi notices he is hungry. The illustrations of internationally recognised graphic designer Kleri Georgelli form a turbulent backdrop for this story, in which the familiarity of home colourfully and cleverly alternates with the childish, creative urge for independence. Alison Falkonaki, nutrition expert and new author, masterfully lends the plot a second interpretative level that inspires young readers to learn about healthy eating without overt pedagogical intervention. (Age: 4+)

113



Pipinē, Argyrōs (Pipini, Argyro) (text)
 Melissēnu, Marilena (Melissinou, Marilena) (illus.)
To diko tus taxidi
(Her own journey)
 Athēna: Kaleidoskopio, 2014. – [32] p.
 ISBN 978-960-471-085-0

Grandfather / Grandson | Dementia | Death |
 Picture book

Lukia and Kosmas's Grandpa isolates himself from family life more and more. He withdraws into his own world, where Grandma has a different name, where his pictures show the cloudy sky instead of the sea, and where he no longer sings for Lukia or dances with her. In the little girl's dreams, concern for her grandfather mixes with happy memories of past times together. One day her grandfather takes off on his last journey. With passion and empathy, Argyro Pipini describes how the two children come to terms with their needs and double loss: the grandfather's slow farewell to life and then eventually his death. In her first project as a book illustrator, Marilena Melissinou captures the two children's distinctive emotions. Delicate details only hinted at paired with evocative colour contrasts emphasise the basic tone of the story. (Age: 6+)

114



Tserolas, Panos (text)
 Strutsē, Lela (Stroutsi, Lela) (illus.)
O proistorikos zographos (kai ena zerazaki)
(The prehistoric painter [and a little monster])
 Athēna: Kedros, 2014. – 157 p. + [18] p.
 ISBN 978-960-04-4550-3

Stone age | Cave painting | Love of animals

Astonishing finds in an impressively painted cave suggest that humans lived with non-human carnivores, which spurs on talented paleontologist Ioanna to use her knowledge and intuition to solve this unique riddle. After a leap in time, readers now meet little Grunt. Instead of letting himself be raised into a keen hunter as the son of a cave family, he'd rather collect berries, herbs or coal for his cave drawings. One day his father demands that he kill a sabre tooth tiger kitten. Instead he takes it secretly into his care, until one day the family must leave. Years later, Grunt finds his »little monster« again, who will accompany him as loyal friend for life. Panos Tserolas enhances the story with interesting facts. The warm light and shadowed nuances in Lela Strutsi's illustrations underscore the emotionally compelling plot. (Age: 9+)



115

Smit, Shoham (adapt.)
 Hofman, 'Omer (Hoffmann, Omer) (illus.)
Mashal (haza'li) 'al shu'al (she-zalal)
(Fable about a fox)
 Or Yehuda: Kinneret, 2014. – [24] p.
 ISBN 978-965-552-800-8

Property | Meaning of life | Wisdom | Fable |
 Picture book

Shoham Smit here retells the old fable »The fox and the grapes« in verse-form, bringing the Aesopian version into dialogue with the Rabbinic »Midrash Rabbot«. A hungry fox sees a hole in the fence of a vineyard. Because he can't fit through, he fasts for three days, slips through and then gorges himself. After that, he no longer fits through the hole and must fast... When he is back outside again, he reflects: What use is it to eat these good grapes if I enter hungry and leave hungry? This picture book reflects on life's pursuits in a simple, intelligent, and witty way: We all arrive on this earth empty-handed and proceed to pile on material goods, despite the fact that in the end we must leave life empty-handed once more. »Mashal al shual« is the second collaborative book project between its author and illustrator. Omer Hoffmann's humorous, spirited illustrations bring the text to life, lending it extra pep and a contemporary feel. (Age: 5+)



116

Dániel, András (text/illus.)
Mit keresett Jakob az ágy alatt?
(és mi történt ott vele?)
(What did Jakob look for under the bed
[and what happened to him there?])
 Budapest: Pagony, 2014. – 71 p.
 ISBN 978-615-5441-86-8

Darkness | Fear | Play | Imagination

Jakob is playing in his room and crawls under his bed after his marbles roll underneath. He thinks it's pretty dark there – spooky, really scary! But to his surprise there is a wonderful, colourful, exciting world to discover down there, as he can play with all kinds of fantastical creatures, not to mention have adventures, solve riddles and overcome his fear of the dark. He does not achieve all of this on his own, but with the help of the readers who accompany him. In the end he crawls out from under the bed and begins to tell his toy car Klari about his marvellous expedition. András Dániel creates a wondrous picture world, which is populated by bizarre creatures. Detailed, playful and with many witty, caricature-like elements, the illustrations are full of surprises for young readers and adults reading to them. (Age: 5+)

HEBREW
 HUNGARIAN

Israel
 Hungary



117

Dóka, Péter (text)
Pikkov, Anne (illus.)

Lila királylány. 9 mese

(Princess Lila. Nine stories)

[Budapest]: Móra K., 2014. – 120 p.

ISBN 978-963-11-9608-5

Falling in love | Fairy tale

In this book, Peter Dóka presents nine entertaining fairy tales in which the protagonists are all looking for appropriate or even ideal partners. In the process they defeat their foes and overcome all obstacles, even if they muddle things up a bit in the process. Dóka's fairy-tale world is populated by well-known fairytale types: giants and dwarves, dragons and fairies, heroic youths and beautiful princesses. The stories' emotional depth will captivate readers and elicit both laughter as well as tears. The accompanying coloured illustrations by Anne Pikkov have a surreal, dream-like character and add surprising nuance to the texts. (Age: 7+)



118

Borando, Silvia (text)
Chierici, Lorenzo (illus.)

Apri la gabbia!

(Open the cage!)

Reggio Emilia: Minibombo, 2015. – [20] p.

ISBN 978-88-98177-16-5

Captivity | Freedom | Animal food | Picture book

This book from the young publishing house Minibombo, which produces challenging picture books for younger children, is intentionally laconic and full of surprises. Six pictures show differently coloured keys, which can open just as many cages, including those inhabited by a little mouse, a rabbit, a squirrel, a canary, a frog and a hedgehog, who – maybe – will live happy lives once freed. But outside the cages there lurk unforeseen dangers, including a snake that is ready to open its mouth and swallow some delicious prey. Readers can lift flaps to discover what is hidden from view at first glance, creating unexpected results. The book plays with the difference between the expected and the unexpected, as well as with simplicity and subtle irony. This helps awaken the curiosity of young readers and allows them to be astonished, while adults will enjoy accompanying them on this voyage of discovery. (Age: 3+)



119

Carioli, Janna (text)
Rivola, Andrea (illus.)

Il cammino dei diritti

(The path to rights)

Casalecchio di Reno (BO) [et al.]: Fatatrac [et al.],
2014. – [48] p.

(Series: Nuove foglie d'album)
ISBN 978-88-8222-358-8

Human rights / 1786-2013 | Democracy | Poetry

The pictures composed by Andrea Rivola take center stage in this unique book about human rights. At their side stand the words of Janna Carioli – words that become text through the skilful art of an author who knows how to create connections and bring out important aspects of the topic of rights as well as of civil life. The book portrays the difficult, obstacle-filled path that has led over the course of centuries to democracy in more and more countries. But today there are still rights being trampled upon, and there remain countries all over the world who have never known of such rights. The book helps readers to become aware of twenty essential stages in the history of human rights. These twenty historic events, which are introduced in short texts, bring history to life. The book also offers poems, which are written with care, insight, and courage and which underscore the meaning of democracy. (Age: 7+)



120

Carminati, Chiara (text)

Fuori fuoco

(Outside the line of fire)

Milano: Bompiani, 2014. – 204 p.
ISBN 978-88-452-7259-2

Friuli / 1914-1918 | World War I | Family |
Separation | Coming of age | Historical fiction

In this book, the First World War is described from the perspective of thirteen-year-old Yolanda. Together with her Italian family, she is forced to leave Austria when war breaks out, since they are unwelcome immigrants there. Readers follow along with Jole's thoughts and her actions as in a diary made up of words and photos »outside the line of fire«. Thirteen photographs, which are only »visible« through their description in the text, form an integral part of the story. Thanks to these »photos« and the text, readers can take in facts attentively and get a sense for historical places leading from the rural farming land of Friuli to the cities of Udine and Grado. The book tells of women far away from the trenches of war but still affected by it, of rivers that become floating graveyards, of women who do not give up, who mourn the dead but also bring children into the world. Jole dreams of becoming a midwife like her grandmother, whom she meets for the first time during the war. (Age: 13+)

121



Cinquetti, Nicola (text)
Guicciardini, Desideria (illus.)

Iliade

(*Iliad*)

Roma: Lapis Ed., 2015. – 200 p.
ISBN 978-88-7874-387-8

Homer / *Iliad* / Adaptation

This book offers an adaptation for children of the entire Homeric epic and features the elegant language of Nicola Cinquetti and numerous impressive illustrations by Desideria Guicciardini. The topic is the well-known story of the last fifty-one days of the Trojan War, a really endless war. The deeds of Achilles are portrayed, that great strong hero of the Achaeans, and those of Hector, the noblest and bravest man of the Trojan host. Readers witness nine years of siege, the war games, and finally also the emotions, passions and actions of the protagonists. This piece of world literature concerns love and death, the possibilities of taking one's fate into one's own hands, and also the gods whose interventions in human affairs decide destinies. It concerns the conquerors and the conquered, the deeds and the courage of mortals, as well as the power and moods of the gods. (Age: 8+)

122



Foa, Anna (text)
Berton, Matteo (illus.)

Portico d'Ottavia

(*Porticus of Ottavia*)

Roma [et al.]: Laterza, 2015. – 56 p.
ISBN 978-88-581-1723-1

Rome / 1943 | Ghetto | World War II | Holocaust

Renowned historian Anna Foa leads readers through the streets of the Jewish ghetto in Rome. She conjures up the haunting atmosphere that existed there on October 16, 1943 when the inhabitants were apprehended by German police forces and shortly thereafter deported to extermination camps. The book keeps the memory of the past alive and also invites readers to critically observe our present times. Foa vividly portrays places and people. She names protagonists as well as invisible helpers who showed great courage and humanity in a climate of terror. The book offers an appropriate manner to bring history to children. It connects words with pictures, and these invite readers to look into people's windows. The illustrations let readers hear the noise of the rough boots of the guards as well as feel the rush of air created by the quick steps of those trying to flee. Young illustrator Matteo Berton comes from the domain of comic art and for the first time tries his hand at a different pictorial language. (Age: 10+)

123



Garlando, Luigi (text)

L' estate che conobbi il Che

(*The summer I met Che*)

Milano: Rizzoli, 2015. – 179 p.

(Series: Rizzoli narrativa)

ISBN 978-88-17-08004-0

[Grandfather / Grandson](#) | [Role model](#) |
[Guevara, Che](#) | [Football](#)

This book is about the special relationship between a boy and his grandfather and the great sympathy the protagonist feels for the extraordinary old man. The grandfather is a master carpenter and carver, and at the same time a progress-minded industrialist. He is ill, but full of energy and a great storyteller. So, for instance, he introduces his grandson to a man who wrote history, became an icon and today can be seen on t-shirts the world over. Cesare learns of Che Guevara's adventure-filled life from his grandfather. First a doctor, then a guerrilla fighter, Guevara opposed social inequality and believed that education is the most effective weapon against tyranny. This historical biography intermingles with a reportage on the World Cup in 2014 and with the fate of a factory at risk of shutting down. Luigi Garlando understands how to captivate his readers, and draws them into the tales that great history is made up of. (Age: 12+)

124



Masini, Beatrice (text)

Facchini, Vittoria (illus.)

Siate gentili con le mucche. La storia di Temple Grandin

(*Be nice to the cows. The story of Temple Grandin*)

Firenze [et. al.]: Ed. Scienza, 2015. – 103 p.

(Series: Donne nella scienza)

ISBN 978-88-7307-722-0

[Grandin, Temple](#) | [Autism](#) | [Animal psychology](#) |
[Biography](#) | [Non-fiction](#)

In words and pictures, this book tells the story of Temple Grandin (b. 1947), a professor of animal science at the University of Colorado. Despite being autistic, she has succeeded in overcoming innumerable difficulties to reach her goals. At the time of Grandin's birth, autism was a new label for an inexplicable illness. Her mother, a great ally in Grandin's life, as well as an especially attentive teacher, helped her succeed at school, making it possible for her to complete a doctorate in psychology and a master's degree in animal science. Animals stand at the center of her life, and their manner of perceiving the world form the inspiration for her research. Temple Grandin is internationally known for her research on animals farmed for meat, and particularly for the methods she developed to help improve their living conditions. (Age: 11+)

125



Zoboli, Giovanna (text)

Giordano, Philip (illus.)

Quando il sole si sveglia

(When the sun wakes up)

Milano: Topipittori, 2015. – [24] p.

ISBN 978-88-98523-20-7

Daybreak | Night | Bedtime | Picture book

This cardboard book's pages are intentionally thin, making them easy to leaf through. It creates the chance for young readers to be told a wonderful story by attentive, informed adults – a story of the wonders which repeat themselves day after day, which stay the same and yet are different, which are awe-inspiring yet also comforting. A day begins, darkness becomes light, light stays its course, and then bids farewell, letting night take over once more. As day and night transition into one another, daily events, declarations of love and discoveries unfold. The text of the book is very brief, but only few words are needed. The pictures accompanying the poetic text come from Ligurian illustrator Philip Giordano. Their charm lies in the graphic reduction to a few simple shapes and colours, which are then carefully combined. (Age: 4+)

126



Hikatsu, Tomomi (text/illus.)

Fuwafuwasan wa keitoyasan.

Fuwafuwasan no ichinichi

(Fuwafuwa-san and the funny knit cap)

Tōkyō: Fukuinkan Shoten, 2014. – 36 p.

(Series: Nihon kessaku ehon shirīzu)

ISBN 978-4-8340-8132-9

Knitting | Wool | Friendship | Picture book

Fuwafuwa-san works at a yarn shop and knits items her customers order. During Fuwafuwa's knitting class, a lady comes to get her cap, which is supposed to cover her whole face with openings only for the eyes and mouth. When the lady tries it on, Fuwafuwa-san is shocked to see the openings are wrongly positioned. She promises to adjust the cap in three hours. Her friends Kunekune-san and Boutique Shima-san help her without saying a word. When the lady comes back and tries on her adjusted cap, it fits her perfectly. After they leave the shop, thinking back over the events of the day, Fuwafuwa-san is touched by her friends' kindness. In this picture book, the illustrations in warm colours and with delicate lines beautifully convey the characters' feelings and enliven the humorous story. This book is the sequel to the author's debut work »Today is the Day for Maracas« (2013), the winner of the Japan Picture Book Award (Nippon ehon shō). (Age: 3+)

127



Ichikawa, Sakuko (text)

ABC! Akebono daini chūgakkō hōsōbu*(ABC! Akebono Broadcasting Club)*

Tōkyō: Kōdansha, 2015. – 270 p.

ISBN 978-4-06-219322-1

School | Broadcasting | Friendship | Love

Ostracized by teammates in the basketball club, Misato suddenly decides to join the Akebono Junior High School Broadcasting Club (ABC) despite having no previous experience. The only members are Misato and a nerdy boy who likes mechanics. Soon, Hazuki, a beautiful new transfer student, joins the club. Hazuki's rich experience with broadcasting motivates the members, but she herself will not announce on the air – after having unwittingly hurt her friend's feelings. With Hazuki's expert guidance, the ABC members improve their announcing skills and enter a broadcasting competition. In the process, they work through inner group conflict and stand their ground against a strict teacher. Misato and Hazuki overcome previous traumas and open their hearts to others again. Teenage readers will easily identify with these characters and enjoy this coming-of-age novel that beautifully depicts different developing friendships. (Age: 13+)

128



Iwase, Jōko (text)

Hasegawa, Shūhei (illus.)

Kimi wa shiranai hō ga ii*(It's better you don't know)*

Tōkyō: Bunken Shuppan, 2014. – 182 p.

(Series: Bunken jubēniru)

ISBN 978-4-580-82232-0

School | Bullying | Friendship | Homelessness

Meri is afraid of being ostracized by her classmates after they have bullied her so. Even while she sympathises with an excluded classmate, she can do nothing to help her. One day, Meri sees another classmate, Hiruma, at the bus stop and asks where he is going. He replies: »It's better you don't know.« Later, she sees him with a homeless man called Kuni at the station. Kuni's stories about his hard childhood fascinate Hiruma. When Hiruma is absent from school for days due to having been bullied, Meri searches for him, and discovers that Kuni has also disappeared. When Hiruma finally comes home, he says that Kuni just took his money and left. Meri's independent grandmother and bartender uncle, who wants to be a writer, are depicted with particular depth and sensitivity. This poignant children's novel treats the theme of subtle, almost invisible bullying, by capturing the feeling and experiences of characters who feel trapped at school, trying to survive each day. (Age: 9+)



129

Mori, Eto (text)
Hisanori, Yoshida (illus.)

Kibō no bokujō

(The ranch of hope)

Tōkyō: Iwasaki Shoten, 2014. – [34] p.

(Series: Inochi no ehon; 23)

ISBN 978-4-265-00633-5

Japan / 2011 | Tsunami | Nuclear accident |
Farm | Picture book

On March 11, 2011, after a massive earthquake, a tsunami hit Northern Japan and caused a nuclear power plant accident that contaminated the land in Fukushima with radiation. This picture book straight-forwardly narrates the story of a farmer who stayed in the contaminated evacuation zone to take care of his cows after all other residents had evacuated and been forced to leave their animals at home. His irradiated cows have become commercially worthless, but he refuses to let them be destroyed by the government. As he cannot afford the appropriately nutritious feed, the weak cows die. Nevertheless, because he also took in cows from surrounding farms, the number of cows in his »Ranch of Hope« has grown to 360. The farmer-character (based on a real farmer) stays and looks after the cows because that is his job: he is a »cowman«. The powerful illustrations complement the thought-provoking theme of how an accident caused by humans can ruin the lives of so many people and animals. (Age: 7+)



130

Nakagawa, Chihiro (text)

Mahorohime to Bukkirayama no ōtengu

(The Phantom Princess and the Giant Goblin of Bukkira Mountain)

Tōkyō: Kaiseisha, 2014. – 231 p.

ISBN 978-4-03-530920-8

Mountain spirit | Goblin | Raccoon dog |
Transformation

Kinuta the raccoon dog has raised a human girl, Phantom Princess, alongside her own little boy, Chacha-Marū. One day, Phantom Princess and Chacha-Marū head to Bukkira Mountain to obtain the magical leaves they need for the shape-shifting raccoon dogs are known for. The two children meet a short-tempered and long-nosed goblin on the mountain. Phantom Princess decides to help the goblin because his nose, which has grown very long as he has become wiser, is now stuck in the ceiling! At the raccoon dogs' gathering that night, Kinuta fails in her dance, and just then the moon goes into eclipse. Blaming the moon eclipse on Kinuta, the raccoon dogs plan to execute her. But the children trick them and are able to save her life. The author's own charming illustrations match the enjoyable text. With traditional Japanese mythology woven into the imaginative world, this is an original Japanese fantasy novel, with universal appeal. (Age: 9+)



131

Sekiya, Toshitaka (text/illus.)

Hokkaidō. Matsuura Takeshirō no Ezochi tanken

(Hokkaido, the Northern Ainu Land. Takeshiro Matsuura's expeditions to Ezo)

Tōkyō: Poplar-sha, 2014. – 44 p.

(Series: Popurasha no ehon; 27)

ISBN 978-4-591-14008-6

[Ainu](#) | [Indigenous people](#) | [Map](#) | [Picture book](#)

Hokkaido, the northern prefecture of Japan, has many unique place-names that come from Ainu, the linguistically distinct language of the region's indigenous people. 160 years ago, a man named Takeshiro Matsuura visited Ezo (the former name of Hokkaido). He sketched the beautiful landscape, met Ainu people and learned about their lifestyle. During his difficult Ezo expeditions, Ainu people accompanied him and told him about the place-names as well as each name's history. He published the Ezo maps, which convey historically accurate information about the Ainu. His courageous defence of the Ainu people, who were exploited by the local government through unfair trade policies, threatened his own position as well. »Hokkaido« originally means »the northern Ainu land«. With dynamic illustrations printed on cloth and the inclusion of much detailed information, this picture book captures Matsuura's personal relationship with the Ainu people and his respect for their distinctive culture and language. (Age: 9+)



132

Tajima, Yukihiro (text/illus.)

Fushigina tomodachi

(My odd friend)

Tōkyō: Kumon Shuppan, 2014. – [42] p.

ISBN 978-4-7743-2344-2

[Autism](#) | [Friendship](#) | [School](#) | [Picture book](#)

On his first day at a new school, Yusuke is puzzled to see one of his classmates, Yakkun, behaving strangely. Yakkun always speaks nonsense phrases to himself; he is often upset and sometimes rushes out of the classroom during classtime, because he is autistic. However, his classmates support and treat him well, and Yusuke gradually understands Yakkun's feelings and frustrations. As a junior high school student, Yusuke sides with Yakkun when he is misunderstood by teachers and bullied by other students. Yusuke grows up to be a post-office clerk, and Yakkun a mail-delivery man. When Yusuke feels down about his work, Yakkun always cheers him up in a unique and touching way. This picture book was inspired by a real story, and the child protagonist's voice and point of view is believable throughout. The story is enhanced by child-like illustrations made on bamboo-paper using a limited palette, which depict the beautiful landscape of a small island town and provides a lively account of a special, long-lasting friendship. (Age: 7+)

133



Uehashi, Nahoko (text)

Shika no ō*(The deer king)*

Tōkyō: Kadokawa Shoten, 2014. – 565 p. + 554 p.

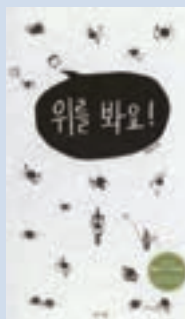
(Vol 1: Ikinokotta mono; Vol. 2: Kaette ikumono)

ISBN 978-4-04-101888-0; ISBN 978-4-04-101889-7

Multi-ethnicity | Coexistence | Plague |
Fantasy novel

In »Shika no ō«, the most recent two-volume fantasy novel of Nahoko Uehashi, the 2014 Hans Christian Andersen Award winner, different cultures make use of »fleet-footed deer« and »fire horses«. Set in the small border country of Aquafa, which has been conquered by the Zol empire, some people choose to intermingle with the new settlers, while others resist. Caught rebels are sent to a salt mine as slaves. After wolf-like dogs attack the mine, a strange plague kills everyone working there except the slave warrior Van and a little girl. Van, who is from Aquafa, takes care of the girl. A young doctor develops a cure for the plague, but finds that the oppressed Aquafa people are using the contagious dogs in order to try to retrieve their land. Taking the biology of the human body as a metaphor for the interactions between different cultures and people, the novel explores the patterns of human coexistence. In doing so, it creates a suspenseful drama about dominance and oppression in ethnic conflicts. (Age: 13+)

134



Jung Jin-ho (Jeong, Jin Ho) (text/illus.)

Wireul bwayo!*(Look up!)*

Seoul: Hyeonamsa, 2014. – [40] p.

ISBN 978-89-323-7370-6

Communication | Disability | Friendship |
Picture book

Suji is on a family trip when the car crashes. The car loses a wheel and Suji loses sensation in her legs. Every day since, Suji comes out on the veranda and looks down on the people walking on the street. Down there, children play with their dogs and umbrellas march by on rainy days. Suji quietly watches the scene below. One day, in her mind she shouts loudly: »I'm right here. Anybody... please look up!« As if he hears her voice, a kid raises his head and looks up at her. What will happen in Suji's world now? Jung Jin-ho received the Opera Prima Mention of the 2015 Bologna Ragazzi Award and a Grand Prize at the Children's Book Contest hosted by the Incheon Metropolitan City Museum. (Age: 10+)

135



Kim, Hyun-yang (Gim, Hyeon Yang) (text)
Kim, Jong-min (Gim, Jong Min) (illus.)
I Chun Pung jeon, Bae Bi Jang jeon
(*The stories of Lee Chunpung and Bae Bijang*)
Seoul: Hyeonamsa, 2014. – 115 p.
(Series: Uriga jeongmal araya hal uri gojeon)
ISBN 978-89-323-1701-4

Tradition | Culture | Love | Satire

Lee Chunpung has squandered his family fortune on alcohol, women, and gambling, and still cannot keep himself from spending his last, borrowed funds on Chuwol, a beautiful gisaeng (professional entertainer) from Pyongyang. Bae Bijang promises his wife to stay true, but nevertheless falls in love with Aerang, a gisaeng from Jeju. This book brings the two stories together in one volume. The story of Lee Chunpung harshly criticizes the patriarchy of the Joseon Dynasty (1392-1910) society through the tale of a wealthy merchant's son who goes on a thoughtless spree but is set straight by his wife. The story of Bae Bijang uses the character of a low-ranking official to mock hypocritical prudery and to expose mainstream attitudes of Joseon Dynasty men. These two classics are as candid, timeless, and relevant as any story one might encounter today. Kim Hyun-yang is a professor at a college of general education. Kim Jong-min majored in philosophy before studying illustration. (Age: 12+)

136



Noh, In-kyung (No, In Gyeong) (text/illus.)
Goseumdochi X
(*X, the hedgehog*)
Seoul: Munhak dongne, 2014. – [52] p.
ISBN 978-89-546-2577-7

Hedgehog | Individuality | Identity |
Picture book

On the first page of this book, readers find a ball placed in a vast surreal landscape. Formed of tightly wound pink threads, it is actually a city named »All«. It is the result of the long-term efforts of its resident hedgehogs and is perfectly constructed to protect against all outside harm. Since the main values in the city are safety, respect and order, all sharp and spiky objects are forbidden. Young hedgehog X loves his spines, however. Inspired by a book banned from the school library, he begins to grow his spines until they are big and sharp. He thus comes to discover his true self. After leaving All, he has to face the outside world on his own. The book's brilliantly created imaginary city, fast-paced narration and humorous plot twists contrast with the intense emotions that go along with searching for and finding one's identity. Noh In-kyung was selected as Illustrator of the Year at the 2012 Bologna Children's Book Fair and received the Golden Apple at the 2013 BIB. (Age: 4+)

137



Park, Wan-suh (Bak, Wan Seo) (text)
Kim, Se-hyun (Gim, Se Hyeon) (illus.)

Chil nyeon dongan ui jam

(The seven-year sleep)

Paju: Eorini jakga jeongsin (Kids Jakka),
2015. – [34] p.

(Series: Doran doran uri geurimchaek)
ISBN 978-89-7288-768-3

Urbanisation | Nature | Dilemma | Empathy |
Picture book

Famine has come to an ants' village because of continuous construction work, urbanisation and neglect of food procurement. One day, a young ant finds a possible source of food that could feed them all, unaware that this is a sleeping cicada nymph preparing to wake up in summer and sing for everyone. The young ant leads his fellows to this food source, but a wise old ant enlightens them on the true nature of the cicada nymph. He suggests that they set it free, because it has been preparing for its new life to begin this summer for the last seven years. The ants start an argument amongst themselves: Should they release the cicada nymph or should they eat it in order to prevent starvation and regain their strength? This picture book confronts young readers with the matter of working through a difficult moral dilemma. The ants finally find a solution that everybody is satisfied with. In today's materialistic society, this book offers a welcome defense of values like empathy, respect for other beings, and concern for our ecosystem. (Age: 6+)

138



Song, Jin-Kwon (Song, Jin Gwon) (text)
Song, Ji-Yeon (Song, Ji Yeon) (illus.)

Sae geurineun bangbeop

(How to draw a bird)

Seoul: Munhak dongne, 2014. – 119 p.

(Series: Munhak dongne dongsijip; 31)
ISBN 978-89-546-2591-3

Father | Child | Memory | Poetry

This children's poetry book expresses the heart-felt wishes of parents to communicate their life experiences to their children and for their children to inherit a better world. Song Jin-Kwon's moving poems focus on the time and space of childhood. They recall the beauty of nostalgia and suggest the possibility of understanding between parents and children. Thus, they draw a hopeful picture of a world where the past and the present move forward together. The book shows that we need stepping stones to keep memory of the past alive. The poems are well suited to being read out loud, helping to build a bridge between the generations, between past and present. In her illustrations, Song Ji-Yeon assembles little pieces of paper like a collage of childhood memories. The three-dimensional artwork makes the poetry visually salient and evokes the idea that a place for memory still exists. (Age: 7+)

139



Zvirgzdiņš, Juris (text)

Paegle, Anita (illus.)

Miega pasaka*(A tale of sleep)*

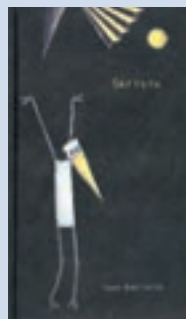
Rīgā: Zvaigzne ABC, 2014. – [48] p.

ISBN 978-9934-0-4072-6

Falling asleep | Bedtime story | Picture book

One night little Matīss is unexpectedly all alone at home. Well, of course Muris the cat and Brunis the teddy bear are there, too. They have a pancake party together, play hide and go seek and make the most of having the house all to themselves. And once it's time to fall asleep, there's the purse-toting herd of sheep that Matīss begins to count and name to practice his ABCs – starting with the sheep ladies Adelaide and Beatrice. Seasoned storyteller Juris Zvirgzdiņš uses gentle sentences to tell an old-fashioned bedtime story in the best sense of the word. Anita Paegle brings the child's world to life with her perceptive and detailed illustrations: One could count every one of Muris the cat's hairs and every picture has a dark wooly-textured background. Her illustrations earned her an award from the Art Academy of Latvia in 2014 and the »Golden Apple Tree« of the national book art competition for picture book design. (Age: 4+)

140



Babilaitė, Ieva (text/illus.)

Skrisiu*(I will fly)*

[Vilnius]: Self-published, 2014. – [40] p.

ISBN 978-609-408-674-8

Parents / Child | Love | Differentness | Disability | Picture book

Ieva Babilaitė (b. 1973) has created a monumental book: It tells its story nearly without words, using circles, squares and rectangles, gaps and holes that are punched into the book, along with translucent paper to lend material presence to the more subtle layers of meaning. The story: A bird couple is expecting a child. It is born without wings and cannot fly. With the help of the wind and feather clothing, however, the little bird is able to rise into the sky. It is a story about being different and of handicaps, about parental love, the full worth of every person and about being able to do anything. What makes this book special is that well-known Lithuanian illustrator Ieva Babilaitė is able to convey all this using geometrical shapes, playing off the antagonism of the circle and square, of the pointed and round, and achieving great narrative depth. »Skrisiu« is self-published and won a prize for the »Most Beautiful Book« in 2014. (Age: 5+)

LATVIAN
LITHUANIANLatvia
Lithuania

141



Žilinskas, Justinas (text)
Zokaitytė, Birutė / Jankūnas, Povilas (illus.)
Mano Vilnius mano. Apysaka
(*My Vilnius mine. A novel*)
Vilnius: Aukso žuvis, 2015. – 287 p.
ISBN 978-609-8120-11-0

Vilnius / History | City | Adventure

This is the second young adult book from Justinas Žilinskas (b. 1974), the writing, singing law professor of Vilnius University, and it is as great a success as his first. In »mano Vilnius mano«, friends Aistė and Simas explore the Lithuanian capital. Žilinskas has written a true »rendezvous« with the city, an encounter with its history, with both its known and hidden places, its mysteries and its adventures. Buildings, streets, cobblestones and more are read as part of a symbolic code that, when deciphered, can reveal the city's essence. The book itself is a clever combination of various elements, just as a code is. The main storyline focuses on Aistė and Simas and their exploration of the place and time of Vilnius, and is complemented by comics, illustrations, sketches and maps. »mano Vilnius mano« was published by Aukso žuvis, a press founded in 2011, which is coming out with exciting new volumes like this one and infusing a breath of fresh air into Lithuanian children's literature. (Age: 12+)

142



Kaa, Keri (text)
Page, Martin D. (illus.)
Taka ki rō wai. He kōrero pūrākau mō tētahi hoiho
(*Fell in the water. A story about a horse*)
[Rotorua]: Tania & Martin, 2013. – 59 p.
ISBN 978-0-473-18406-3

Storm | Birth | Rescue | Friendship

Well-known elder Keri Kaa, a great advocator for the preservation of the Māori language, is renowned for her various contributions to Māori film, literature, and education. Her children's book debut was inspired by a true incident on her farm, when she noticed that a mare that had given birth during a heavy rain storm was in trouble. The little foal was still trapped in its birth sack submerged in deep water. The owner and some friends managed to drag the tiny horse towards higher ground; then a friendly pig stepped in to coax it back to life, because its mother was too exhausted to take care of it. Written in the local dialect spoken by the Ngāti Porou people in the author's home community of Rangitukia, the touching and humorous story is complemented by a map as well as a compilation of photographs and illustrations, typographic elements, and traditional patterns that lend authenticity to the tale. The carefully designed book is a little gem that has already received several awards. (Age: 8+)



143

Kaldhol, Marit (text)

Zweet

(Zweet)

Oslo: Samlaget, 2015. – 190 p.

ISBN 978-82-521-8734-2

Loneliness | Bullying | Guilt | Love

Shrieking sirens. Evacuation. Everyone leaves the school except for Lill-Miriam, who goes and hides. She is convinced that the white men are not saving the other students but instead capturing them. Lill-Miriam lives in her own world, is fascinated by insects and likes bees better than people. Yet her assessment of the situation is off because there is a gas leak, and she is in lethal danger. Susan and Ruben know this. Susan is one of the students who calls Lill-Miriam »beistet« (the beast) and who once joined others to bully Lill-Miriam in a way that got completely out of hand. Since then Susan is plagued by feelings of guilt. Ruben, on the other hand, helped de-escalate the bullying incident. He is in love with Lill-Miriam; she's just »different«. »Zweet« tells not just one story, but gives glimpses into the thoughts and feelings of three characters, which enables the reader to perceive present and past events differently. (Age: 12+)



144

Ørbeck-Nielsen, Constanze (text)

Duzakin, Akin (illus.)

Hvorfor er jeg her?

(Why am I here?)

Kolbotn: Magikon, 2014. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-82-92863-54-1

Philosophy | Social policy | Imagination |
Picture book

What would it be like if I were not here, but in another place? In the desert? In a big city? Would I be poor, would I be a refugee, would I have to work? And would I still be me, if I lived someplace else? These questions race through a youngster's mind as he imagines sailing in a little boat to an unfamiliar place. Coloured-pencil drawings with delicate water-colouring show the boy in the boat – in the thick of things, but still just an observer, keeping his distance. Only rarely does he interact with other people in his imaginings. The typography of the text echoes this isolation with few words appearing on each white page. This lends a weight to the text that is taken up by the reticent, suggestive pictures. The interplay of text and image make this book into a little jewel; it connects vast philosophical questions with sociopolitical realities without becoming overloaded. (Age: 4+)

145



Pedersen, Torgeir Rebolledo (text)

Brøgger, Lilian (illus.)

Brødrene Zapata. En ørkenopera fra Mexico

(*The brothers Zapata. A desert opera from Mexico*)

[Oslo]: Cappelen Damm, 2014. – [102] p.

ISBN 978-82-02-41859-5

Mexico | Cat | Music | Crime

The book's subtitle »A desert opera from Mexico« is apropos. Numerous plot turns provide the requisite drama; there are emotionally evocative and melodramatic scenes, mean scoundrels and enchanting ladies, and naturally singing and music-making. Two tom cats named Støvlesvart and Hvitebart band together with Don Diego, and oppose social injustices in Mexico and drug cartel leader Don Laugerud Huerta in particular. Of course the ne'er-do-well is not happy with this. After wild shoot-outs, Diego and company abscond in the direction of the USA. With all of its imaginative production, this desert opera still has more than a grain of truth to it, as suggested in the use of the names Zapata and Huerta. Even if one does not know the background context, the book is still very satisfying. One can read it again and again, since the sparring cats and incredibly witty illustrations are simply phenomenal. (Age: 8+)

146



Skomsvold, Kjersti Annesdatter (text)

Meg, meg, meg

(*Me, me, me*)

Oslo: Aschehoug, 2015. – 80 p.

ISBN 978-82-03-25878-7

Egocentrism | Jealousy | Siblings | Guilt

This short novel is an unusual text, which is not easily classed as a typical »Children's book – Young adult book.« »Meg, meg, meg« does not have much of a plot, rather the focus is on the thoughts of its female narrator. The subjective narrative perspective makes the story feel highly unreliable, but allows readers to grasp the psychological profile of eleven-year-old Marte. She is, as the title suggests, egocentric, quite odd and lost in thought and awry in her feelings. On the one hand, she is very jealous of her little brother, but on the other hand she is worried something could happen to him. She feels guilty because she dropped him on the floor as a baby. Marte is less a figure for readers to identify with as she is an irritating protagonist. The parents' dry comments put Marte's egomania in an objective light, though, and reveal that the girl is somewhat unstrung, but actually has things relatively together. (Age: 10+)

147



Torp, Signe (text/illus.)

ABC. Tegn for tegn med tøysevers*(Sign for sign with nonsense verses)*

Oslo: Omnipax, 2014. – [60] p.

ISBN 978-82-8315-016-2

Poetry | Sign language | Nonsense

This book is full of surprises! It has: nonsense ABC poems that alliterate and (!) rhyme, as well as depictions of the gestural signs for the respective words, and of course there are also pictures that illustrate the verses to their full potential across two pages. All this might seem a little confusing, yet the book will inspire both deaf and non-deaf children to play with language, expand on texts, invent new rhymes and not only verbalise these in sound and gesture, but also use them as a basis for their own drawings. This ABC book embodies the ideal of inclusion, introducing everyone to the Norwegian signing alphabet as well as particular gestures, and encouraging readers to try these themselves. (Age: 6+)

148



Kutubī, Surūr (Kotobi, Sorour) (text)

Baigdilū, Ġazāla (Baigdelou, Ghazaleh) (illus.)

Yik šab-i mahtābī (Yek shab-e mahtabi)*(A full moon night)*

Tihṛān: Šabāwīz (Shabaviz), 2015 (= 1394 h. š).

– 32 p.

ISBN 978-964-505-333-6

Moon | Beauty | Identity | Picture book

»Oh how beautiful you are!«, the black crow shouts out enthusiastically one night as she spots the full moon. She flies up into the night sky and carries her back to her nest. The moon smiles, beams, and is happy to stay with the bird. Yet one morning the crow discovers that the moon has turned black, black like herself. »But I wanted a bright white moon«, the crow rants and raves and kicks her out of the nest. The same thing happens again: The moon stays with a zebra and immediately acquires stripes; with the lady bird, she gets dots, etc. Eventually, the sky can't bear it anymore and fetches the moon back. Multi-award-winning illustrator Ghazaleh Baigdelou (b. 1980) has transformed the fairytale-like story into unusual, associative pictures. The pages, which feature vivacious characters, are brimming with witty details that inspire the readers' curiosity and imagination. The main focus is undoubtedly on the buxom, friendly moon, whose proportions occasionally even extend beyond the page borders. (Age: 4+)

NORWEGIAN
PERSIAN (FARSI)Norway
Iran

149



Malikīgū, Āṭifah (Malekijoo, Atefe) (text/illus.)

Aḥmad Āqā (Ahmad Agha)

(Mr Ahmad)

Tihṛān: Intiṣārāt-i Baġa-i Ābī (Intisharat Bagheabi), 2014 (= 1393 h. š.). – [28] p.

(Series: Naqāṣ-i qīṣṣagū)

ISBN 978-964-7346-24-5

Village | Wedding | Electrician | Light |
Picture book

With just a few sentences on the first and last pages of this picture book, a child reports what happens in its home village. One day, Mr. Ahmad and his moped, loaded with a big blue box, roar into the village. People there obviously had to make do without any electricity before, and so the talented, hard-working electrician immediately starts fitting out every single corner with light. Eventually, countless light bulbs glow in and at every house, even in the sheep pen, the trees, and on the farmers' tools. When his work is done, Mr. Ahmad and the narrator's aunt get married and dash off on the moped towards their new life. Atefe Malekijoo (b. 1977), who studied fine arts in Teheran, has created pictures that differ considerably from the illustrations commonly found in today's children's books in Iran. Subdued acrylics, painted in large planes, dominate the double spreads of this almost wordless book. Even the protagonists act quietly, almost statically, in semi-profile, resembling actors of a paper theatre. (Age: 3+)

150



Raġabī, Mahdī (Rajabi, Mahdi) (text)

Kunsirwa ġūl (Konserv-e ghoul)

(The giant from the tin can)

Tihṛān: Naṣr-i Ufuq (Ofoq), 2014 (= 1393 h. š.).

– 212 p.

(Series: Rumān-i Nauġawān)

ISBN 978-964-369-968-0

Bullying | Mother | Son | Depression |
Self-esteem

Mahdi Rajabi's sixth children's book tells the story of Touka, a boy who faces big challenges both at home and at school. The shy, weedy boy cannot defend himself against his classmates' bullying. Thus he regularly escapes into a dream world, the only place where he can stand up to the bullies. His mother has been suffering from a severe depression ever since her husband died in an accident. Therefore she is unable to look after her son, and Touka has to survive mainly on convenience food. One day, the boy finds a handsome if untypically lenient and quiet giant in a tin can. Although the giant does not provide the desired support for the boy, he turns out to be a genius with numbers and discovers Touka's talent for maths. The boy thrives, and this eventually makes his mother find a way out of her black hole. This novel offers an authentic description of the protagonist's worries and wishes. At the same time it cleverly combines the harsh reality of the contemporary story with a fantasy narrative. (Age: 9+)

151



Ša'bān-nižād, Afsāna (Shabannejad, Afsaneh) (text)
Ḥaqqū, Saḥar (Haghgoo, Sahar) (illus.)

Mast-i šīrīn (Mast-e shirin)

(The sweet yoghurt)

Tihrān: Paidāyiš (Peydayesh), 2014 (= 1393 h. š.).

– 24 p.

(Series: Qiṣṣai ki dūstaš daram)

ISBN 978-600-296-069-6

Vanity | Pride | Loneliness | Picture book

»Once upon a time, there was a bowl full of sweet yoghurt.« Thus begins this picture book. It focuses on a capricious and arrogant bowl of yoghurt that obviously isn't aware of its purpose. No matter who approaches it to graze its delicious content – be it cat, duck, or sparrow – the bowl brusquely spurns them all, pointing out its exquisite origin and its premium quality. Yet pride comes before a fall! As the bowl continues to grumpily brew and bubble, soon no one remembers that it used to be the world's sweetest yoghurt ever. Afsaneh Shabannejad has written more than 160 publications for children. In this parable-like tale, she talks about vanity and loneliness in a way that even the youngest readers will easily grasp her message. The simple illustrations in shades of green, red, and brown, created by the nationally and internationally renowned Sahar Haghgoo, perfectly match the clarity and simplicity of the text. (Age: 4+)

152



Taimūriyān, Ānāhitā (Teymourian, Anahita) (text/illus.)

Sārā-i mīhrabān (Sara-e mehraban)

(Friendly Sara)

Tihrān: Kānūn-i Parwariš-i Fikrī Kūdakān wa

Nūḡawānān (Kanoon), 2014 (= 1393 h. š.). – [32] p.

ISBN 978-600-01-0063-6

Obstinacy | Stubbornness | Understanding |
Picture book

One midday in summer, Sara sees her doll sitting in the yard staring straight at the sun. She calls out to her to close her eyes, but no matter how much she implores, the doll simply doesn't obey. Furious, Sara runs outside and presses the doll's eyes closed. The same evening, Sara looks completely enamoured at the moon that glows brightly in the sky. She is sad that her doll still keeps her eyes closed and pays no attention to the moon. »Could it be«, the girl suddenly muses, »that my doll enjoys watching the sun as much as I love watching the moon?« The next day, the doll eventually opens her eyes again. From then on, they both gaze at the sky together, every morning and evening. With this fantasy tale that at the same time represents children's everyday experiences, Anahita Teymourian provides a small example about obstinacy, stubbornness, and understanding. The delicate colour illustrations skilfully capture the atmosphere of the various moods and times of the day. (Age: 4+)

153



Kassjanowicz, Dorota (text)

Dudek, Agata (illus.)

Cześć wilki!*(Hello, wolves!)*

Warszawa: Dwie Siostry, 2014. – 225 p.

ISBN 978-83-60850-81-7

[Parents / Son](#) | [Search for identity](#) | [Literature](#) | [Writing](#) | [Imagination](#)

Stressed and overworked parents on the one hand, a lonely aunt who writes screenplays for telenovelas on the other. In the middle there's eleven-year-old Filip. The sensitive boy suffers from parental neglect and dwindling self-confidence. But Filip has a lively imagination and a talent for inventing stories! He sees concealed wolves on his bicycle ride to his aunt's house in the woods and has two little monsters in his room, for instance. His aunt helps him realise the power of language and the gift of being able to create worlds with words. She encourages him to write down his cares, musings and ideas and to make a story out of them. In her first children's book, which became IBBY Poland's »Children's book of 2014«, Dorota Kassjanowicz narrates a psychologically nuanced plot that celebrates the power of the imagination. She tells of the discovery of one's own self through writing, as well as how to share it with others. (Age: 10+)

154



Mildner, Paweł (text/illus.)

Ptakty*(Birdy-news)*

Łódź: Ładne Halo, 2014. – [28] p.

ISBN 978-83-62856-99-2

[News](#) | [Parody](#) | [ABC book](#) | [Picture book](#)

One is tempted to call this ABC book by Paweł Mildner (b. 1986) a child's fun analogue to Twitter. Different birds from all across Poland chirp out news-of-the-day snippets, and readers leaf through, well, »notable« (strange, odd, absurd) reports that caricature typical human news reporting styles. Starting with current events from a place that begins with A, and ending with news from a place that begins with Z, children learn of the young chicks of Nowy Sącz and their love of reading and of the cursing bravado of Matylda in Słupsk, for instance, while also rehearsing their ABCs. To this are added wonderful, brightly incisive illustrations composed of three basic hues and filled with round faces and shapes, which Paweł Mildner weaves together into slap-stick scenes. »Ptakty« was published by the small, new, independent publishing house and graphic design studio Ładne Halo, which is run by a two-person team. (Age: 4+)

155



Tuwim, Julian (text)
Ruszczyk, Joanna (ed.)
Gurowska, Małgorzata (illus.)

Lokomotywa / IDEOLO

(*The locomotive / IDEOLO*)

Warszawa: Wytwórnia [et al.], 2013. – 178 p.
ISBN 978-83-64011-04-7

[Society](#) | [Globalisation](#) | [Discrimination](#) | [Poetry](#) |
[Picture book](#) | [Leporello](#)

It seems obvious to construct a children's verse classic about a locomotive – as in Julian Tuwim's story – as an accordion book. If this decision is coupled with an entirely new interpretation of the text in both imagery and commentary, as illustrator Małgorzata Gurowska and journalist Joanna Ruszczyk have done here, the whole project becomes extraordinary. This locomotive bears special freight: rigid, uniform computer graphics and strong black-and-white contrasts reveal that it is transporting stacked animals, weapons, military personnel, tanks, furniture, men, women and children. On the reverse side of the wagon illustrations, one finds quotations from Tuwim's poem as well as from his other works, and also snippets of contemporary reports, dispatches and statistics on globalisation, anti-semitism, homophobia, animal abuse, malnutrition, and many other topics. These quotations represent the kind of social critique and rejection of ideological thinking that Tuwim alluded to with the »IDEOLO« word-fragment in his 1936 poem »Opera ball«. (Age: 14+)

156



Wawrzeniuk, Piotr (text)
Wojciechowska, Dorota (illus.)

Kosmonautka

(*Spacewoman*)

Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Poławiacze Perel,
2014. – 27 p.

(Series: Pilotka; 1)

ISBN 978-83-937988-1-0

[Gender role](#) | [Behavioral role](#) | [Profession](#) |
[Language use](#) | [Picture book](#)

The very young publishing house Poławiacze Perel (Pearl diver) has been garnering notice with books about interculturality (the »½ + ½ = ∞« series) and gender (the »Pilotka« series). The book »Kosmonautka« presents twelve mothers from a child's perspective, in terms of both their professional and home life. One narrator says, for instance: »My mama is a bank manager. She works in the highest building in the city and papa calls her »Shark«. My favorite thing is to go with mama to the dolphinarium«. Author Piotr Wawrzeniuk (b. 1971) focuses on women in leadership positions (president, general) or technical-scientific professions (astronaut, chemist), to shuffle male and female role clichés and to promote awareness that these careers, supposedly unusual for women to pursue, are also held by plenty of women and mothers. »Kosmonautka« also leaves its mark in terms of linguistic ingenuity: many of the job descriptions talked about in the book had no feminine form in Polish – until now! (Age: 3+)

157



Carelli, Rita (adapt/illus.)

A história de Akykysia, o dono da caça / Akykysia

(The story of Akykysia, the wild animals' master)
São Paulo: Cosac Naify, 2014. – [48] p. + DVD
(Series: Um dia na aldeia; 1)
ISBN 978-85-405-0683-1

Text in Portuguese and Wayampi

Wayampi <people> | Hunting | Monster |
Ogre | Myth | Picture book | Bilingual book

The six-volume series »Um dia na aldeia« (A day in the village) is based on the remarkable film project »Vídeos nas aldeias« (Videos in the villages). Teachers of this Brazilian film school take cameras to remote areas of the country, so that members of various indigenous groups are able to tell myths from their culture in short videos. For this picture book series, six of these filmed tales were retold and illustrated with glowing colours by Rita Carelli. The first volume, »A história de Akykysia«, is a myth from the Wayampi people, who live in the country's north and consist of just over a thousand members. It features the man-eating Akykysia, who takes revenge on humans for killing wild animals. The series stands out not only for the innovative idea, but also for the felicitous design of the six bilingual books. The attractive layout and the meticulous printing in bright colours on high-quality paper make these books special. Each title is accompanied by a DVD that shows the respective short film. (Age: 6+)

158



Hiratsuka, Lúcia (text/illus.)

Orie

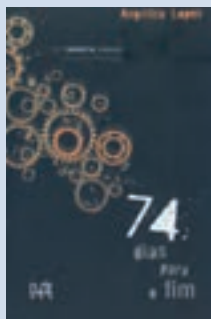
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Rio de Janeiro: Pequena Zahar, 2014. – [48] p.
ISBN 978-85-66642-17-9

Japan / 1900 | Rural life | Childhood |
Parents / Child | Picture book

Brazil is home to a large Japanese community. Many immigrants came to the country during the first decades of the 20th century. With this picture book, Lúcia Hiratsuka (b. 1960), third-generation Brazilian citizen of Japanese descent, pays homage to her grandmother Orie, who immigrated to Brazil as a young woman. Orie's memories of the old home-country resonate with the grand-daughter like quiet echoes of distant times and places. With cheerful, airy drawings on brown paper, Hiratsuka recalls events from her grandmother's childhood in the country. Orie's relationship to her parents, who work as river boatmen, is dominated by feelings of security and trust. The family's simple life alongside and on the water follows nature's rhythm, as does the text. Gently swaying like a boat and serenely flowing like time, it conveys sensory impressions, such as the strong arms of the father, the smells borne by the wind, or the bustling noise of the nearby town. (Age: 4+)

159



Lopes, Angélica (text)
Manzo, Maurizio (illus.)

74 dias para o fim

(74 days until the end)

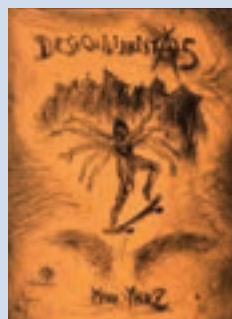
Belo Horizonte, MG: Lê, 2014. – 178 p.

ISBN 978-85-329-0788-2

Bullying | School | Peer pressure

The reasons behind bullying and other kinds of psychological and physical violence often remain in the dark. Besides, many victims are so shocked that they even blame themselves - as does the protagonist of this novel. Completely out of the blue, sixteen-year-old Valdir is suddenly faced with the hostility of a classmate whom most of the other pupils follow blindly. At first, Valdir believes that he will somehow survive the 74 days until the end of his school career – hence the book's title. Yet, the problem really escalates, and he starts questioning and doubting himself more and more. Luckily enough, thanks to a courageous friend, he eventually manages to take matters back into his own hands and break through the humiliating paralysis. Angélica Lopes has Valdir tell the story himself in retrospect, from his point of view as an adult. In a fluent language and with a clear eye for the experiences and everyday life of adolescents, she aptly captures the feelings and psychology of the characters. (Age: 14+)

160



Maltez, Manu (text/illus.)

Desequilibristas

(Desequilibrists)

São Paulo: Peirópolis, 2014. – [108] p.

ISBN 978-85-7596-343-2

Skateboarding | Urban life | Youth culture | Poetry | Picture book

This book jumps up at readers in two respects: On the one hand, it sends a young skateboarder flying across the front cover, on the other the fluorescent orange of the cover signals movement, action, drama, perhaps even danger. »Desequilibristas« is an entire book devoted to skateboarding, which is less a sport than a way of life, an attitude, an exquisite expression of global urban youth culture. The book consists mainly of wild, nervous, hasty black-and-white drawings, which seem raw, untamed, tough, brimming with energy. They are linked by short rhymed text stanzas and fragments. The texts, when recited in rap rhythms, sound like a crude, unpolished ode to skateboarding. Manu Maltez, who so far has published a handful of books, proves to be an extremely versatile artist and virtuoso exploring the interfaces of fine arts, graphic design, literature, and music. This innovative book stands out from the Brazilian young adult book market. (Age: 13+)

161



Riter, Caio (text)
Franz, Pedro (illus.)

Apenas Tiago

(*Simply Tiago*)

Curitiba: Positivo, 2014. – 109 p.

(Series: Coleção Metamorfose)

ISBN 978-85-385-8073-7

Orphan | Teenage criminal | Coming of age

Abandoned by his parents as a child, Tiago grows up with his loving aunt. One day, he leaves her house, falls in with the wrong crowd and ends up in a young offender institution, before he eventually returns to his aunt's place. The story seems fairly conventional, yet the form turns this simple plot into a rewarding read. Tiago himself tells his story while he is at the juvenile prison. However, it is not a linear or chronological narrative, but a tricky, composite puzzle consisting of various time levels and text forms: notebook entries, dialogues, letters to the prison director's daughter, fictitious letters from his father, written by Tiago himself because he never met him, as well as reading notes. Laconic and unsentimental in its language, the novel provides a self-portrait of a young man on the dark side of society who searches for his place in life and also tries to reconstruct his family history, because it constantly weighs on his mind. (Age: 13+)

162



Chernysheva, Natalia (illus.)

O regresso

(*Homecoming*)

Figueira da Foz: Bruaá, 2014. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-989-8166-25-8

Childhood | Memories | Grandmother /
Granddaughter | Textless book | Picture book

When you return to the places of your childhood, they often seem surprisingly small. The past shrinks to the size of a doll's house. That's what the protagonist of this picture book experiences, when she visits her beloved grandmother in the countryside. She must feel like Jonathan Swift's hero Gulliver in Lilliput. The grandmother, her house – everything is tiny and cute. Yet when the smells of a familiar dish tickle her nostrils, the young woman is immediately turned back into the small girl who cuddles with her granny on the wooden bench. Natalia Chernysheva depicts the power of memory without words, sensitively, tenderly, and without kitsch, cleverly picking up the theme of changing perception by playing with perspectives and proportions. The way in which she handles the visual storytelling, zooming in and zooming out of the pictures, betrays the Russian artist's training as animation film maker. »O regresso« is in fact based on her animated short film »Le retour«, which was produced in 2013 at the animation film school La Poudrière in France. (Age: 5+)

163



Gonçalves, António Jorge (text/illus.)

Barriga da baleia

(*The stomach of the whale*)

Lisboa: Pato Lógico, 2014. – [40] p.

ISBN 978-989-98470-4-0

Sea | Shipwreck | Whale | Thirst for adventure |
Picture book

A Sunday morning can be awfully dull when one's parents show no sign of getting up. So rambunctious Sari runs down to the beach, where she meets equally adventurous Azur. The two head to sea in Azur's self-made boat, but before they long capsize in a storm, and Sari ends up in a whale's stomach. But clever Azur saves his friend from this labyrinthine shadow realm filled with eery, threatening creatures by grabbing a shovel, digging a hole and letting the sea water drain out. When Sari climbs hale and hearty out of the mouth of the stranded giant, she cries so bitterly over the banked sea animals that her tears fill the sea back to the brim. António Jorge Gonçalves, winner of the Prémio Nacional de Ilustração 2013 for his illustrations for Ondjaki's young adult book »Uma escuridão bonita«, here makes his debut as children's book author. The evocative and atmospheric pictures recall a shadow theatre in which the characters act like scissor cuts cast in front of backdrops in a reduced number of colours. (Age: 4+)

164



Pessoa, Ana (text)

Carvalho, Bernardo P. (illus.)

Supergigante

(*Supergiant*)

Carcavelos: Planeta Tangerina, 2014. – 156 p.

(Series: Dois passos e um salto)

ISBN 978-989-8145-59-8

Coming of age | First love | Death |
Grandfather / Grandson

In »Supergigante«, the latest volume in the noteworthy series »Dois passos e um salto« (three titles have appeared so far), Edgar experiences both the saddest and at the same time happiest day of his life: His grandfather passes away, and Joana kisses him. Overwhelmed by emotion both despairing and euphoric, feeling at once downtrodden and on cloud nine, he just starts to run. When Edgar runs, he can express his feelings and organize his thoughts. He himself tells the story: Memories, images, conversations, and encounters race through his mind on this day, a day with both light and dark facets, which will mark a decisive step on his path to adulthood. Quick-paced with repetitions, ruptures, and temporal leaps in the plot, the structure of the text aptly conveys the protagonist's inner life. As young adult novels are very rarely illustrated, Bernardo P. Carvalho's silkscreen-style pictures are indeed worth mentioning: colourful and dynamic, they accompany the story beautifully. (Age: 13+)

165



Rosetti, Adina (text)
Radu, Cristiana (illus.)

Domnișoara Poimăine și joaca de-a Timpul

(Miss Day-after-tomorrow and playing with time)

București: Curtea Veche, 2014. – [60] p.

ISBN 978-963-11-8259-0

Time

What time is, what it means and which philosophical ideas are connected with it are topics to be pondered for a long time. For children such reflections are not always easy to follow, so it is all the more appealing to consider temporal phenomena and time riddles imaginatively and playfully. Adina Rosetti succeeds in making terms like »yesterday«, »today«, »tomorrow«, »never« and »sometime« or »back then« more concrete so that they may find their way into children's understandings. She does so by embedding questions and answers about time in a fairytale story. The protagonist, the Great Time Magician, together with his family and his helpers, conjures the abstract time-terms and directs their actions in a universe of its own. After various schemes and adventures unfold and time gets thrown completely out of sequence, everything ends up back in its right place. Cristiana Radu enhances this entertaining story with many imaginative colour illustrations. (Age: 5+)

166



Gromova, Ol'ga (text) / Pasternak, Marija (illus.)

Sacharnyj rebēnok. Istorija devočki iz prošlogo veka, rasskazannaja Stelloj Nudol'skoj

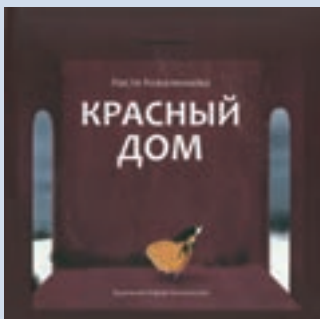
(Sugar Child. A story of a girl from the last century, as told by Stella Nudolskaya)

Moskva: KompasGid, 2014. – 159 p.

ISBN 978-5-905876-91-2

Soviet Union / 1937 | Stalinism | Political purge | Memory | Historical fiction

What is it like to become an »enemy of the people« from one day to the next, to be at the mercy of Stalin's repressive regime – the Great Purge? Stella Nudol'skaya experienced this with her parents in the Soviet Union of the 1930s; she later told her story to author Ol'ga Gromova. From that story Gromova has made a powerful, emotionally sensitive young adult book, in which readers accompany the girl named Elya through her entire rough life. Separated from her father, who is then killed in the Soviet regime, Elya and her mother are deported from Moscow to a work camp in Kyrgyzstan in 1937. There they face debasement by being ostracized, hungering, and suffering. Their life is an odyssey from one work camp to the next, from one unfamiliar surrounding to the next; insecurity and fear their only constant companions. Still, mother and daughter preserve an independent and dignified bearing built on inner strength: They recall their home through storytelling and singing. (Age: 11+)



167

Kovalenkova, Nastja (text)
Michal'skaja, Marija (illus.)

Krasnyj dom. Ballada

(The red house. A ballad)

Sankt-Peterburg [et al.]: Reč, 2015. – [40] p.

(Series: Obraz reči)

ISBN 978-5-9268-1647-8

Dream | Friendship | Courage | Surrealism |
Labyrinth | Picture book

In her dream, Liza follows her cat over endless snowdrifts into the labyrinthian world of a red house, yet can never catch up to the animal. The treacherous Sinilla – feline by day, dragon by night – has entranced Liza's cat and only a brave magic spell can save the girl and the animal. Nastja Kovalenkova's ballad is »ancient« in the best sense: the text's rhyming couplets and flowing rhythm fit beautifully with its parable on friendship and responsibility. Marija Michal'skaja's (b. 1983) illustrations won an award at the third CJ Picture Book Festival in Seoul in 2010 as well as the fourth Tallinn Illustrations Triennial in 2013. The spaciousness of the pictures gives the story a surreal twist: While the text gathers pace, the pictures emanate calm. At the same time, they turn the world upside down by avoiding nearly all even planes, making buildings and landscapes criss-cross, pile on top of each other and stand upside down. (Age: 5+)



168

Vostokov, Stanislav (text)

Voroncova, Marija (illus.)

Frosja Korovina

<proper name>

Moskva: Klever-Media-Grupp, 2014. – 110 p.

(Series: Sovremennye rossijskie pisateli – detjam)

ISBN 978-5-91982-403-9

Village | Community | Rural life | Idyll |
Zest for life

This book's manuscript received 2nd place for the 2013 »Kniguru« prize, which is awarded by a jury of children and adolescents. Since then, the book's anecdotal stories about the clever girl Frosja and her life in a village in the Russian North have been printed by Klever publishing and will appear in Finland in 2015. Since Frosja's parents are constantly on tour, the girl lives with her grandma in a traditional wooden farmhouse. All the stories in the book ultimately unfold in and around this house, especially those involving the director of an outdoor museum moving the house away to build it back up in the museum. With his usual tongue-in-cheek style and highly prized verbal wit, Stanislav Vostokov, one of the best Russian children's storytellers around today, here weaves a tale of idyllic rural life, spiced with eccentric personalities, such as the happy town drunk Nikanor, the helpful caffeine-addicted bear Gerasim and Frosja Korovina, the clever little heroine. (Age: 9+)

169



Aleksić, Dejan (text)
Veselinović, Maja (illus.)
Koga se tiče kako žive priče

(*The secret life of stories*)

Beograd: Kreativni Centar, 2013. – 81 p.
ISBN 978-86-7781-987-3

Literature | Writing | Storytelling | Metafiction

One story is envious of another because the latter is so much more interesting and exciting. Another story pines for a different ending, while still another talks back to its author and stubbornly opposes him at every turn. Dejan Aleksić's children's book is aimed at young readers and proves that one need not study literary theory to have fun with the playful narrative possibilities of metalepsis, the interweaving and entangling of different narrative planes. By cleverly anthropomorphising the stories, which can speak – especially with their author – and the author himself turning to his readers, Aleksić (b. 1972) is able to wittily introduce readers to the system of literature with its patterns and particularities. The book received the 2013 Belgrade Book Fair award in the category of children's book and was honoured as »funniest« children's book at the Lazarevac Komik Festival. (Age: 6+)

170



Hlušíková, Marta (text)
Švrčková, Eva (illus.)

Môj dedko rýchly šíp

(*My Grandpa Fast Arrow*)

Bratislava: Slovart [et al.], 2013. – 80 p.
ISBN 978-80-556-0877-8

Children | Idyll | Summer | Native Americans | Adventure

Anyone who likes retro-illustrations will love »Môj dedko rýchly šíp«, as Eva Švrčková (b. 1985) uses matte, sweeping, angled illustrations to represent an idyllic children's summer outdoors. Her illustrations have received multiple awards in Slovakia (including »Most Beautiful Book of the Year« in 2014) and somewhat recall the aesthetic of the 1960s. In short entertaining chapters, Marta Hlušíková tells us the story of little Rinka, who stays with her grandparents over summer vacation. While there, she enters a world of totem poles, battle axes, peace pipes and wise sayings, tests of bravery and pledges of honour. Grandpa becomes »Fast Arrow«, Grandma the shaman who knows secret recipes, Rinka earns the name »Brave Deer« and even the yard chickens become dignified members of this off-beat tribe. Sometimes all it takes to make an exciting adventure of a summer in the country are a few chicken and goose feathers and grandpa's old pipe. (Age: 5+)

171



Kastelic, Maja (illus.)

Deček in hiša*(The boy and the house)*

Ljubljana: Mladinska knjiga, 2015. – [29] p.

(Series: Zbirka Velike slikanice)

ISBN 978-961-01-3527-2

[House](#) | [Secret](#) | [Intertextuality](#) | [Textless book](#) | [Picture book](#)

Maja Kastelic (b. 1981) was one of three illustrators from Slavic countries whose work was on display at the illustrator exhibition at the Bologna Children's Book Fair in 2015. Her textless picture book »Deček in hiša« is actually a simple story: A boy enters a house and follows the notes he finds on the floor, all the way up to the attic. There he discovers a girl writing the notes and throwing them out the window. Maja Kastelic studs the story with countless intertextual details, though, making »Deček in hiša« a magical discovery for children as well as for adults. For instance, the house is located on Andersen Street, its mysterious portraits, mirrors, playing cards, hearts recall Lewis Carroll's »Alice in Wonderland«, and a wonderful who's who of illustrators awaits with allusions to well-known Slovenian picture books by M. Stupica, A. Sottler and D. Stepančič, as well as internationally known books by Shaun Tan, Peter Sís and Quentin Blake. (Age: 3+)

172



Komadina, Tanja (text/illus.)

Fino kolo. Po zgodbi Manke Kremenšek Križman*(The beautiful bike. After a story by Manka Kremenšek Križman)*

Ljubljana: Forum, 2014. – 63 p.

(Series: Stripburger – Ed. Minimundus)

ISBN 978-961-6553-66-7

[Yugoslav Wars / 1991-2001](#) | [Trauma](#) | [Xenophobia](#) | [Nationalism](#) | [Graphic novel](#)

The city of Mostar in 1991: Mile dreams of owning a bicycle. But when the Balkan Wars break out, Mile's mother cannot make good on her promise to give her son a bike in reward for his report card. The only thing that matters now is securing a good, stable future for Mile and his family. All that occurs in the following two years of conflict is left unreported. The book's plot picks up again in 1993: Mile, living on his own with distant relatives in independent Slovenia, befriends Lana, who owns the bike he always wanted. When the bike is stolen and Mile is accused of being the culprit, he is branded a worthless »Balkan gypsy«. After a few days everything seems to be back to normal, but the slur remains in use. Tanja Komadina's wonderful story is her first comic. With touching pictures, she probes the xenophobic attitudes of the former Yugoslavian nations and considers what war does to people's minds. (Age: 9+)

173



Rozman Roza, Andrej (text)

Stepančič, Damijan (illus.)

Živalska kmetija. Strip po predlogi Georgea Orwella*(Animal Farm. A comic based on George Orwell's novel)*

Dob pri Domžalah: Miš 2014. – 80 p.

ISBN 978-961-272-172-5

Communism | Social critique | Orwell, George /
Animal Farm / Adaptation | Graphic novel

Slovenia's best-known illustrator Damijan Stepančič opts for harsh and bloody imagery in this new comic-book interpretation of George Orwell's »Animal Farm« of 1945, directly conveying the cruelty and perversion of the well-known parable on political rulership and the communist social system. The particular transformation of the pigs from »normal« animals to a power-hungry, ruling class with gluttonous, scheming apparatchiks is foregrounded especially well. One of the best-known and highly prized children's book authors, as well as (children's) poets of Slovenia, Andrej Rozman Roza, has masterfully transcribed Orwell's text into dialogue and put it in the mouths of the animal protagonists. He thereby gives the story a new incisiveness and contouring in redux. This »Animal Farm« also occasionally warns that these events could have happened in Slovenia. (Age: 12+)

174



Ferrari, Andrea (text)

Santana, Sebastián (illus.)

Los chimpancés miran a los ojos*(Chimpanzees look into the eyes)*

Buenos Aires: Alfaguara, 2014. – 174 p.

(Series: Alfaguara juvenil)

ISBN 978-978-950-46-3733-2

Post-traumatic stress disorder | Therapy |
Human being / Animal

Three years down the road, Ema describes a time when she carried oppressive memories of a traumatic experience on her shoulders and in her heart. Taciturn, listless, withdrawn and incapable of attending school, the fifteen-year-old takes part in a long-term therapy program at the Buenos Aires zoo. Resistant at first, the girl opens up gradually and tentatively like an oyster that slams shut at the slightest touch. She manages to get back to a somewhat »normal« life thanks to Nina the chimpanzee baby, in whom she recognizes herself and with whom she builds a close relationship. Despite the earnest topic, this book's dry humour and delicate irony make it stand out. Skilfully capturing the essence of fears, feelings and moods, Andrea Ferrari draws a convincing psychological portrait of her protagonist. She wisely refrains from explaining and commenting too much, leaving empty spaces to be filled by the book's readers themselves. (Age: 12+)



175

Grau, Didi (text)
Montenegro, Christian (illus.)

Cocorococó

(Cockadoodledoo)

Buenos Aires: Pequeño Ed., 2014. – [28] p.

(Series: Panzada de letras)

ISBN 978-987-1374-49-6

Animal voice | Children's rhyme |
Chain fairytale | Picture book

High-quality books for very young children require a great art. Didi Grau and Christian Montenegro have a real success on their hands with »Cocorococó«. In the repetitive and formulaic style of a chain fairytale, the rhymed story notes a hen knocking over an inkwell and causing a wild ruckus in the hen house (and on the pages). Gradually, the double pages fill up with characters and present a rising chorus of diverse voices: Co Co, Pi Pi, Guau, Guau, Ay Ay and so on from the peeping, barking, crowing and shouting chicks, dog, rooster, farmer and his wife, cow and cat. On every page, the text becomes a bit longer until the pig – Oink Oink – brings an end to the uproar and it all begins from the start. The excited bustle of the farm inhabitants has its clever graphic equivalent: Just as the stable becomes increasingly crowded, the book's white pages also fill up with animal characters in simple forms, – stamped in blue and pink left and right and on top of each other – blending colours and planes to form a fluidly flowing whole. (Age: 1+)



176

Siemens, Sandra (text)
Degliuomini, Claudia (text)

La tortilla de papas

(The potato tortilla)

Buenos Aires: Del Naranjo, 2014. – [32] p.

(Series: Luna de azafrán)

ISBN 978-987-1343-94-2

Absentmindedness | Shopping | Picture book

Use your head to save your heels, so the old saying goes. This picture book presents a fitting story. Sebastiana wants to make a tortilla from scratch, but she is missing an egg and must go grocery shopping. On the way, she's so taken by the tomatoes at the greengrocer (»so red and so round!«) and the bread at the bakery smells so irresistible, that she comes home with these delectables but no egg... Once more she sets out, but returns with shiny olives, juicy oranges, and blue lilies. So the book ends as it began: Sebastiana goes shopping. Her absentmindedness makes her highly likeable and human. This tale of everyday life is illustrated with delicately hued pictures combining coloured-pencil drawing and collage. The open ending makes it especially well-suited for reading out loud, inviting reader and listeners to muse together about what Sebastiana will bring home next time. (Age: 3+)

177



Frankel, Yael (text/illus.)

A simple vista*(To the naked eye)*

Santiago: Amanuta, 2014. – [32] p.

(Series: Colección Sin límites)

ISBN 978-956-9330-12-4

Friendship | Love | Trust | Picture book

A girl and a polar bear: Only these two are featured in this book. To the naked eye, the huge animal and the small human child couldn't be any more different, and yet they are soulmates whose hearts beat in unison and who understand each other without words. Sometimes they're inseparable; sometimes each one is on his or her own. Still, an invisible connection always remains palpable. Text and pictures focus exclusively on the two protagonists: the peaceful, impressive, picture-frame-bursting bear and the dainty, cheerful, life-affirming girl. With a few simple sentences, the child describes this jovial, unique relationship that is built upon security and trust, dependability and affection, faithfulness and individuality. Soft pastel colours dominate the illustrations, with only the girl's bright red shock of hair standing out. In a poetic and associative way, the pictures present this little universe of friendship and love. (Age: 6+)

178



Escobar de Nogales, Melba (text)

Builes, Elizabeth (illus.)

Johnny y el mar*(Johnny and the sea)*

Medellín: Tragaluz, 2014. – 115 p.

ISBN 978-958-8845-07-4

Mother / Son | Divorce | Runaway | Outsider

»Johnny y el mar« is set on a Caribbean island. Eight-year-old Pedro and his mother travel there for a holiday – without the father, who has left the family, as Pedro is told right after their arrival. Angry and sad, the boy runs away and, in the dark, ends up with old Johnny, who lives in a hut on the beach. In order to find yourself, you need to get lost first. The gruff yet caring loner Johnny manages to ignite a special quality in Pedro that will give him strength to follow his path. Melba Escobar portrays her well-rounded, multi-layered characters in a language that is simple, yet also full of nuances. In addition, she imbues this holiday and family tale with a hint of pirate romance. Finally, the book's design will also catch the readers' attention: the cover, the typography, the chapter headings, and the delicate colour illustrations by Elizabeth Builes that won a competition held by the publishers. (Age: 8+)



179

Quezadas, Juan Carlos (text)
Oki. Tripulante de terremotos
(Oki. Earthquake crew member)
 Bogotá: Norma, 2014. – 221 p.
 (Series: Zona libre)
 ISBN 978-958-45-4854-2

Hypochondria | Literature | Fiction | Reality |
 Storytelling

This book resembles a maze structure with many different levels and doors – including trap doors –, which keep opening up unto ever new, unknown rooms. They are stories within stories within stories... – a Russian doll between book covers, which opens up like a Kinder surprise, layer after layer. It is impossible to sum up the plot in a few lines; but this much can be said: Oki Tomo, the protagonist and first-person-narrator, is a hypochondriac young Japanese man who spends his time obsessively imagining all possible fatal diseases and catastrophes – which means he has a strong affinity for storytelling and thus for books. The quest for a book vanished from a library leads him to Lisbon, where he does not find what he is looking for, but finds what he had not been looking for. Juan Carlos Quezadas masterfully explores the spectrum of literary possibilities and intertextual references. »Oki« was awarded the Norma Award for Children's and Young Adult Literature, and will undoubtedly captivate the imagination of experienced adolescent and adult readers. (Age: 15+)



180

Gusti (text/illus.)
Mallko y papá
(Mallko and Papa)
 México, D.F. [et al.]: Océano, 2014. – [148] p.
 (Series: Océano Travesía)
 ISBN 978-607-735-395-9

Down syndrome | Father / Son | Differentness |
 Acceptance

»Sometimes a child does not turn out as you expected.« In this very personal book, Gusti openly and sincerely works through his coming to terms with his son Mallko's unexpected difference. Unlike Mallko's mother and older brother, who embrace the new family member with unconditional love, the father proves initially overwhelmed. A child with Down syndrome cannot simply be altered or exchanged like an artwork, however. Using an arresting mix of diary entries, family photo albums, strip cartoons, and sketch book, Gusti describes and illustrates his learning curve and the process he went through as he grew closer to his son, from birth to the moment that he felt wonderfully fortunate and came to love and accept his special son just as he is. The book's dialogues, emails, word fragments, colourful drawings, quick sketches, photos, collages and cartoon-like sequences mirror his intellectual and emotional desperation and confusion. This is a wonderful, moving book for children and adults. (Age: 6+)

181



Morábito, Fabio (ed./adapt.)

Various artists (illus.)

Cuentos populares mexicanos

(Mexican folktales)

México: Fondo de Cultura Económica [et al.],
2014. – 595 p.

ISBN 978-607-16-2389-8

Folk tale

This volume, heavy as a brick, is an astounding treasure trove. With meticulous attention to detail and great stamina, author Fabio Morábito, who is Italian by birth but has been living in Mexico for the last fifteen years, has collected 125 folktales from all regions of the very culturally diverse country and tells them anew for readers and listeners of all ages. For this remarkable project he had to leaf through many written sources, including the pioneer works of notable ethnologists of the early twentieth century. This research has resulted in an exemplary collection whose vast riches are breath-taking. Morábito, who takes himself to be in the first instance a translator and collector of folktales originally transmitted orally, adapts the found material with great respect and a fine sense for the tradition giving it a new literary form. Colourful pictures by eight Mexican illustrators round out this folktale treasure trove. (Age: 8+)

182



Campos, Llanos (text)

Sardà, Júlia (illus.)

El tesoro de Barracuda

(The treasure of Barracuda)

Boadilla del Monte (Madrid): Ed. SM,
2014. – 149 p.

(Series: El barco de vapor)

ISBN 978-84-675-5299-7

Pirate | Treasure hunt | Reading

It regularly happens in Spanish-speaking countries that unknown children's book authors rise to the top in book award competitions. This is the case for Spaniard Llanos Campos, whose debut received the coveted Premio El Barco de Vapor. The author helps herself to the rich treasure chest of adventure and pirate literature and movies – from »Treasure Island« to »Pirates of the Caribbean« – using various materials and motives and many original ideas to assemble an imaginative page-turner. Like in Stevenson's tale, the narrator is a cabin boy. Chispas (Sparky), whose name underscores a lively temperament and a clever head, works on board the Cruz del Sur with the (in)famous pirate leader Barracuda – what's in a name? – as they search to find a legendary treasure, which unexpectedly turns out to be a book. Of course: someone must be able to read it... In the end, there remain enough open questions for a sequel. This is a quick-paced novel with a good dose of humour. (Age: 10+)

183



Delicado, Federico (text/illus.)

Ícaro

<proper name>

Pontevedra: Kalandraka, 2014. – [36] p.

ISBN 978-84-8464-886-4

Freedom | Flying | Metamorphosis | Picture book

This mysterious, complex picture book tells a story in which everything remains open and quite literally in the air. In a hospital – it could also be a children's home – no one wants to believe a boy that his parents have taken the shape of birds and flown away, after having promised him that they would come back for him. In the end, the boy also wears wings; but it remains unclear whether they will allow him to escape from his prison or whether he will fall from the sky like Icarus, who inspired the book's title. The still, almost static illustrations, some of which recall the lonesome emptiness of Edward Hopper paintings, are spell-binding. The frigid grey of the home changes with the warm colours of memories of his parents and their happiness, when their wings made them sense the promise of freedom. The alternation between the bleakness of the home on the one hand and the melancholic serenity of memory as well as the anticipation of freedom on the other determine the rhythm of this book, which deeply touches its readers while keeping them at a distance. (Age: 7+)

184



El Hematocrítico (text)

Vázquez, Alberto (illus.)

Feliz Feroz

(Lucky Ferocious)

Madrid: Anaya, 2014. – 70 p.

(Series: Sopa de Libros; 165)

ISBN 978-84-678-6133-4

Wolf | Role expectations | Fairy tale | Parody

When Wolf Terrible comes home from his day's work (spreading fear and fright), unpleasant news await him: »Your nephew is terribly gentle«, his sister is complaining into the phone. No problem, it is best if he himself fixes the little ill-bred fellow! As soon as young Feliz appears on his doorstep a few days later, the pedagogically ambitious uncle begins his treatment: Horrible howling, scaring the living daylight out of people, wiping out cute little critters, outwitting innocent girls in the woods, donning disguises and deceptively dissimulating his voice. The all-round curriculum proves hopeless, however, because the nephew truly is simply friendly, well-mannered, communicative, and peace-loving. Confronted with so much incorrigible »bad behavior«, the poor uncle finally capitulates. This book for beginning readers engages in clever and tongue-in-cheek play with fairytale patterns and stereotypes. The hilarious text and the humorous water-colour illustrations join forces in staging a wonderfully quick-witted story. (Age: 6+)

185



Granero, Nono (text)
Alibeu, Géraldine (illus.)

Polvo de roca

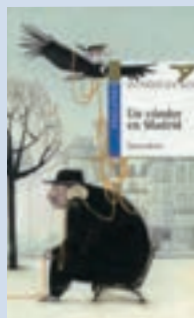
(Rock dust)

[Barcelona]: A Buen Paso, 2014. – [36] p.
ISBN 978-84-941579-8-1

Wanderlust | Perseverance | Self-fulfillment |
Picture book

A round rock is majestically sitting on top of a mountain – a headstrong, self-confident specimen of its kind, which does not like being considered inanimate and inert. To tell the truth, it would certainly be great if she could see something of the world. So the rock unrelentingly beleaguers a passing geologist with words until the infuriated scientist smashes the rock into pieces and she has turned into dust, happily taking off with the wind in all directions: across the sea, the desert, everywhere. Eventually, one of the sand particles, all salty from the sea, ends up in the eye of the geologist – a little greeting from afar, awakening the longing for far-away places in him as well. This picture book perfectly succeeds in blending text and image to tell a story of wanderlust, perseverance, and the realization of one's dreams, which is just as funny and witty as it is subtle and poetic. The simple colour illustrations evoke the vastness of the story and provide readers with plenty of space to start dreaming. (Age: 6+)

186



Muiña, Paloma (text)
López, Mercè (illus.)

Un cóndor en Madrid

(A condor in Madrid)

[Zaragoza]: Edelvives, 2014. – 127 p.
(Series: Ala Delta. Serie Azul; 92)
ISBN 978-84-263-9257-2

Migration | Cultural identity | Homesickness |
Grandfather / Grandson

Children's books that deal with topics like migration and the encounter or coming together of different cultures not seldom fall prey to stereotyping, all the while having ostensible educational intentions. Paloma Muiña masterfully scales these treacherous cliffs of writing in this book, which received the Ala Delta Children's Literature Award. »Un cóndor en Madrid« portrays the friendship between a girl named Adriana and a boy named Manu, and their everyday life. Multiple narrative strains converge on the story of how the children succeed, with the help of Manu's mother, to help Adriana's Ecuadorian grandfather feel more at home in his newly adopted city, the foreign metropolis of Madrid. The old man, whose memory is failing him, can only put down roots with much care and effort, like a tree. Relying on beautiful, nuanced language and deep empathy, the author has created an inspiring book worth reading. (Age: 8+)



187

Solar, María (text) / Lires, María (illus.)
Pacheco Vázquez, Mercedes (transl.)

Mi pesadilla favorita

(*My favourite nightmare*)

Madrid: Siruela, 2015. – 149 p.

(Series: Las tres edades; 256)

ISBN 978-84-16396-16-0

(Galician original title: **O meu pesadelo favorito**. Vigo: Galaxia, 2015)

[Dream](#) | [Reality](#) | [Nonsense](#)

A boy with a high fever being treated with medications for dogs and cats. His father, »the mole«, who had been drilling on the little island they call home for years, until there was nothing left to drill – and then started producing cheese with holes. Then there is also the kisser Alicia »from Wonderland« who should not be mistaken for the »real« Alice, and of course an apple-green alien who creeps out of the toilet bowl and unfortunately smells that way, too. The author wastes no time, starting things with a bang on page one of this book for lovers of nonsense and absurd humour. The episodic story has no strict plot structure but instead offers a new twist in every chapter, while also leaving room for serious themes and reflective moments. Reality and (feverish) dream are melted into one another in a marvellous manner; the transitions are fluid. María Solar was awarded the renowned Premio Lazarillo in 2014 for the Galician-language manuscript. (Age: 9+)



188

Ibarbourou, Juana de (text)
Acosta, Matías (illus.)

La mancha de humedad

(*The mould stain*)

Montevideo: Banda Oriental, 2014. – [32] p.

(Series: ¡A volar! Los libros de la mochila)

ISBN 978-9974-1-0865-3

[Childhood memories](#) | [Imagination](#) | [Picture book](#)

Recent picture book publishing has seen a trend toward printing texts that were originally addressed to adult audiences. »La mancha de humedad« by Juana de Ibarbourou (1892-1979), first published in 1944 in the childhood memoirs »Chico Carlo« of the renowned Uruguayan writer, is a case in point. The story takes its title from the mould stain on the wall over the girl's bed, which symbolizes the carefree first years of childhood. While the stain inspires the girl to dream up fantastic trips into imaginary landscapes, adults only see it as a blemish and eventually have it painted over. This moment marks a rupture in Juana's childhood, her banishment from the paradise of the radiant early childhood years. The calm, melancholic text from seventy years ago is illustrated by strikingly twenty-first-century pictures by Matías Acosta, which make a surprisingly good fit. Subdued grey pencil drawings and strong abstract colour compositions lend shape to the two facets of this childhood. (Age: 6+)

189



Ganges, Montse (text)
Imapla (illus.)

Lo que cuentan las estatuas del mundo

(The stories that the world's statues tell)

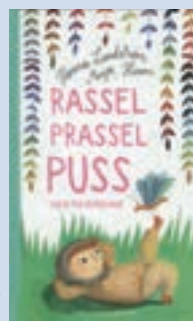
Caracas [et al.]: Ekaré, 2014. – 89 p.

ISBN 978-84-943038-0-7

Statue | Sculpture | Short story

Statues and sculptures as protagonists for short stories? Even if this idea may seem strange at first, it can turn into something really intriguing, as Montse Ganges proves with this book. She has chosen seven works of art that represent well-known places, cultures, and eras from different regions of the world. She includes the Statue of Liberty, one of the mysterious colossal Moai-sculptures from the Easter Island, a chacmool-statue from the Temple of Warriors at the ancient Maya city Chichén Itzá, as well as a bizarre gargoyle from the gothic church of Santa María del Mar in Barcelona. This book is an anthology of stories, but it also has an informative purpose. Each statue describes an event that they have »seen« or »witnessed« themselves, such as the arrival of an immigrant ship in New York or a human sacrifice following a Mesoamerican ballgame at Chichén Itzá. Each of these well-written fictitious snapshots – which could have taken place – is followed by a double-page spread of further information about the respective statue and its historical and cultural context. (Age: 10+)

190



Lundström, Hanna (text)
Hurme, Maija (illus.)

Rassel Prassel Puss. Poesi för nybörjare

(Rassel Prassel Puss. Poetry for beginners)

Helsingfors: Schildts & Söderströms, 2015. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-951-52-3688-3

Animals | Poetry | Wordplay

»Its trunk like a paper / worn thin with time. / Like a letter that someone touches / until it is a paper blackened with marks: / dots, lines, notches / old words concealing themselves / In the birch tree's dark grooves / Only the fingertips know / How to decipher the trail / Of the secret language / the birch has scribed across these many years.« This is one of the sixteen poems collected in »Rassel Prassel Puss. Poetry for beginners«. Despite the modest number of poems, they are charming in their variation. There are poems about mundane topics, onomatopoeic poems and some that play with language, as well as some that are more reflective. This also means: Even though the book is described as »for beginners«, the texts are neither simplistic nor boring. The volume is completed by delicate illustrations that capture moods as well as evoke them. (Age: 4+)

191



Axelsson, Malin (text)

Persson, Klara (illus.)

Jag blir en bubbla som blir ett monster som blir ett barn

(I will be a bubble that becomes a monster that becomes a child)

Stockholm: Urax, 2014. – [36] p.

ISBN 978-91-87208-19-5

Future | Question | Philosophy | Picture book

What will life be like? What will I be like? Will I be a gorilla? Why will I be sad? When will there be cake? Some pictures in this book depict a girl with a hat on her head, who has many questions. The words of the text run together associatively; run-on sentences create an erratic incoherence that captures the jumbling of ideas. The pictures are very detailed and fill in the gaps in the text, but also create further space. Characters and objects often stand next to each other; relationships are usually only hinted at, but sometimes also demonstrated in the text. »Jag blir en bubbla« is a special picture book as it does not tell a single story from beginning to end, but rather lays out many threads that are only loosely connected, but might be further elaborated. (Age: 6+)

192



Backström, Siri Ahmed (text/illus.)

Cyrén, Karin (text/illus.)

Vem hämtar vem?

(Who is picking up whom?)

Stockholm: Lilla Piratförlaget, 2014. – [28] p.

ISBN 978-91-87027-58-1

Preschool | Role reversal | Misunderstanding | Picture book

Every day, either mama or papa picks up the kids from school – now it's time to turn the tables! Heaven, Alva and Max march to the factory, to the school and to the library. But mama and papa are nowhere to be seen. Have they perhaps already left to pick up their offspring? Yes, they have, and the parents find no trace of their children in the kindergarten. They look everywhere, until it finally dawns on them: the children are gone. Before panic breaks out, the gate opens and Heaven, Max and Alva stroll in. Karin Cyrén and Siri Ahmed Backström tell a somewhat familiar story in a refreshing way. The bright colour palette, ironic details and lightly flippant narrative tone are enthralling, as is a special highlight: the story is first told from the children's perspective and then the adult's. But there's a twist: while the children behave quite maturely, the parents act quite childishly and child-like. (Age: 4+)

193



Bečević, Zulmir (text)

Avblattefieringsprocessen. Roman

(Foreigner attenuation process. A novel)

Stockholm: Afbeta, 2014. – 207 p.

ISBN 978-91-501-1698-4

Racism | Nationalism | Cultural identity |
Dystopia | Satire

In reading this novel, one's laughter often catches in the throat. This book is a dystopian satire, to be sure, but its contemporary socio-political relevance is obvious: »The Party«, victorious in Sweden, wants to liberate the country from all that is »Un-Swedish«. At first it acts subtly, then in ever more reactionary and racist ways. Segregation belongs to the party platform as much as the »Avblattefieringsprocess«. Immigrants, including second and third generation immigrants such as fifteen-year-old Alen, are to be made into »real Swedes« by taking classes in Swedish and learning »mores and customs«. Alen speaks Swedish fluently and also behaves like a »real Swede«, but this is beside the point. But what »being a real Swede« means is not really clear even to the »genuine Swedes«. This reveals the absurdity of the »Swedization« project and shows the constructed nature of »national identity« – a concept that nonetheless has powerful, real-world consequences. (Age: 12+)

194



Karlsson, Ylva (text)

Östergren, Emelie (illus.)

Här är världen

(Here is the world)

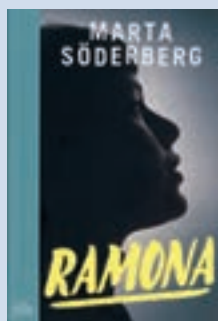
Stockholm: Hippo Bökferlag, 2015. – [28] p.

ISBN 978-91-87033-32-2

World | Everyday life | Perspective | Picture book

Zoom in and zoom out: »Här är världen« comes alive in the play of perspective. Initially it focuses on a girl who has a lady bug on her hand: »Här är min vän« (Here is my friend). The next picture shows a park from central perspective, then one sees houses and the city from a bird's eye view. Next one flies higher and higher with a white bird all the way to outer space. Once there, one turns the book around – and flies back. Emelie Östergren's pictures have the red-orange tint of old colour photographs, but her style is not photorealistic or naturalistic. In the black contours and lightly distorted shapes of her drawings, one sees Östergren's connection to comic art. Her detailed illustrations perfectly enhance the short text by Ylva Karlsson and transform the picture book into a voyage away from and back to the world, in which there is much to discover. (Age: 2+)

195



Söderberg, Marta (text)

Ramona

<proper name>

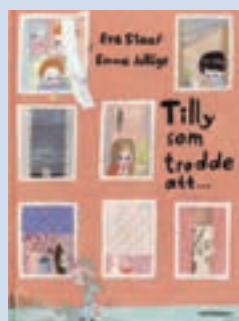
[Stockholm]: Gilla Böcker, 2014. – 279 p.

ISBN 978-91-86634-50-6

Mental disorder | Self-harm | Hospital | Family

»Do you hear that? I want back in. Back in the fold. To be a full-time little psycho again.« After six years in various psychiatric and social facilities, Ramona is let out – a trial, but also because no one knows what else to do with her and what to do to help her. Ramona does not feel ready for the world outside, because the »black bird« is still on the hunt for her and makes her keep cutting herself with razor blades, deeper and deeper. She is frustrated and ashamed, because she doesn't want all of this, but can't do any better. Her father is helpless, her mother overwhelmed. Only her friend Louisa is something of an anchor, but Ramona can barely accept help and affection. When she meets Mark, she falls in love, but does not trust her feelings. This novel imparts striking glimpses into the inner world of an insecure girl, who wants to be »normal«, like in the sometimes somewhat dubious practices of various »institutions«. (Age: 14+)

196



Staaf, Eva (text)

Adbåge, Emma (illus.)

Tilly som trodde att...

(Tilly, who believed that...)

Stockholm: Rabén & Sjögren, 2014. – [28] p.

ISBN 978-91-29-68772-9

Everyday life | Behaviour | Parenting |
Picture book

Even if the story states that »Tilly and Take don't really know what it would be like to be someone else,« Tilly meets the world with open eyes and sees that there are thousands of ways to live life. When she is with Loppan, they are allowed to eat meringue cookies, even though it is Tuesday. At Take's, meanwhile, they sit quietly at the kitchen table behind lowered blinds and hear Take's mother say that life is not all fun and games. At the public pool, Tilly sees that Boris has no swimming things with him – and she thought that all parents always make sure their children have packed properly. Tilly carefully observes these things and wonders, but she does not pass judgment. »Live and let live« is the story's motto. That said, it is precisely Tilly's »innocent« and open gaze that brings out the absurdity of others' behaviours. The illustrations underline this, too, and in some cases are especially revealing. (Age: 4+)

197



Wegelius, Jakob (text/illus.)

Mördarens apa

(The murderer's monkey)

Stockholm: Bonnier Carlsen, 2014. – 617 p.

ISBN 978-91-638-7738-4

Lisbon / 1900 | Monkey | Murder | Injustice | Journey

Lisbon around 1900: Chimpanzee Sally Jones, engineer on the »Hudson Queen«, must witness Chief, captain of the »Sally Jones« and her best friend, being falsely accused of murder and thrown in jail. Sally Jones finds shelter with fado singer Ana Molina and a new job with the instrument maker Luigi Fidaro; yet day and night she still thinks of Chief and wishes to prove his innocence. A winding path that leads all the way to India may make this possible. »Mördarens apa« feels charmingly antiquated thanks to its setting and the story's accompanying intricate black-and-white drawings. Despite or perhaps because of this, it has everything that a good book needs: a captivating plot, masterfully presented. With his great enthusiasm for storytelling, Jakob Wegelius creates a detective-adventure novel featuring original characters and a gradually building level of suspense. (Age: 8+)

198



Kozikoğlu, Tülin (text)

Girgin, Sedat (illus.)

Tembel balık Sefa

(Sefa the lazy fish)

İstanbul: Redhouse, 2015. – [28] p.

(Series: Leyla Fonten'den öyküler) (Kidz R)

ISBN 978-605-4119-94-3

Laziness | Birthday | Picture book

Leyla Fonten, the supposed great-great-granddaughter of famous French author Jean de La Fontaine, shares her home with nine different animals, each with a distinct character trait. »Tembel balık Sefa« is one of nine titles of an entertaining picture book series focusing on these animals. While Sefa the fish goofs off in his bowl as usual and is oblivious to his surroundings, Leyla and the animals get ready for a big event. When they shout out »Surprise!«, it turns out that all the preparations were for Sefa's birthday. Lazy Sefa feels embarrassed that he didn't help his friends, but they all assure him that they should have fun now and laze around together the next day. Through animals, each book of this series addresses a human character trait. Without being didactic, the books enable children to empathise with various emotions, from anxiousness to jealousy. In this volume, the rhymed text of well-known children's author Tülin Kozikoğlu is combined with playful, comic-like illustrations by up-and-coming illustrator Sedat Girgin. (Age: 4+)

199



Denysenko, Anastasija (text)
 Starančuk, Olena / Hryščenko, Oleh (illus.)
Mij malen'kyj Kyiv. Putivnyk dlja ditej
(My little Kiev. A guide book for children)
 Kyiv: Laurus, 2014. – 63 p.
 (Series: Moje malen'ke misto; 1)
 ISBN 978-966-2449-50-1

Kiev / History | Guide book | Non-fiction |
 Picture book

This extraordinary city guide for children through the Ukrainian capital is the product of the emerging illustrator group Pictoric. Archangel Michael, the patron of Kiev, acts as companion throughout the book as children make their way through the city. Readers learn city history through looking at well-known buildings and reading about these in short portions of text, and children are also invited to reflect on their own experiences, to solve architectural puzzles and to draw historic personalities in period garments. »Mij malen'kyj Kyiv« is varied: It contains factual information, anecdotes and unusual tips for discovering the city, such as visiting the Kiev hillside for a picnic. The fresh and interesting graphics are almost comic-like and pair delightfully with the historic content of the book, making it thoroughly absorbing to delve into the mosaics and architectural styles of monasteries and to decypher ancient scripts. (Age: 6+)

200



Romanyšyn, Romana / Lesiv, Andrij (text/illus.)
Vijna, ščo zminyła Rondo
(The war that changed Rondo)
 L'viv: Vydavnytstvo Staroho Leva, 2015. – [32] p.
 ISBN 978-617-679-105-8

War | Incomprehension | Victims of war |
 Peace | Picture book

»War sows black flowers in its wake – dry, prickly weeds. Silent and without fragrance.« There are other great Ukrainian illustrators besides Romana Romanyšyn and Andrij Lesiv, but with »Vijna« the two artists of the Agrafka design studio have created yet another exceptional picture book. After receiving the 2014 Opera Prima Award for »Zirky i makovi zernjata« (Stars and poppy seeds), they were honoured a second time at the international Bologna Ragazzi Award the following year with a New Horizons Mention for »Vijna«. The parable follows three child-like, intelligent and caring beings living in a place called Rondo, where a war breaks out suddenly and inexplicably. The creatures invent a light machine that creates hope and helps dissipate the war. Poetically contrasting light, gentleness, flowers and music with darkness, hardness and silence, the book makes tangible that war leaves behind not only lasting wounds in its victims, but also that it can affect anyone and in the end always remains unfathomable. (Age: 4+)

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