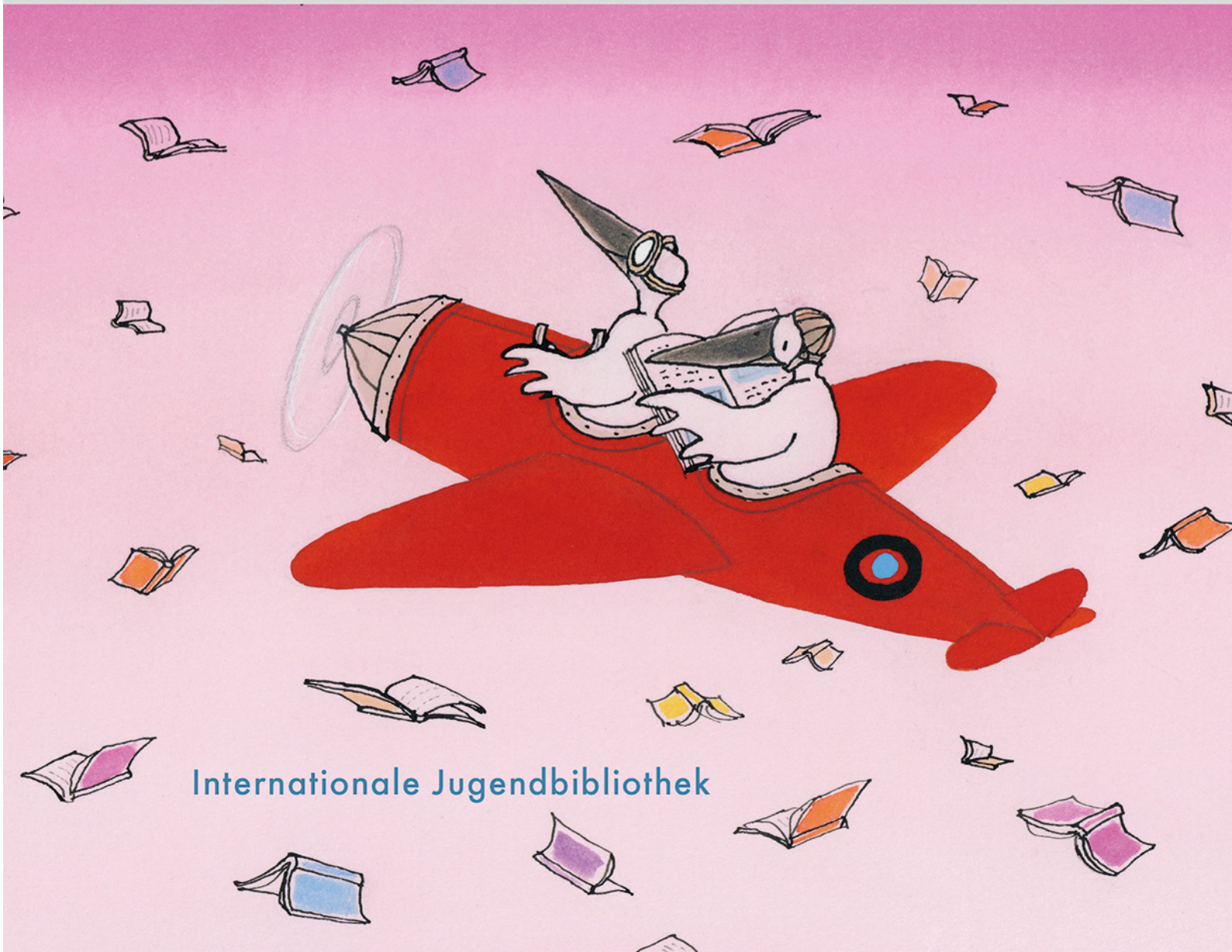


# 2016 | The White Ravens

A Selection of International Children's and Youth Literature



Internationale Jugendbibliothek

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# IMPRESSUM

## The White Ravens 2016

A Selection of International Children's and Youth Literature

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(Amsterdam: Leopold, 2014) was selected for »The White Ravens

2015«.

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# PREFACE

With great pleasure we present to you the 2016 edition of our annual catalogue »The White Ravens«. This year, white raven pilots, navigating through a sky filled with books, grace the cover. They have been imagined by Dutch illustrator Annemarie van Haeringen, one of whose books was featured in the 2015 »White Ravens« selection.

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 adult books from 60 countries published in 42 languages.

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, from this year on the reviews, bibliographical data, and book covers are also available in the new »White Ravens« database at our website [www.ijb.de](http://www.ijb.de).

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 and that 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 have a profound knowledge of the literature of their home countries.

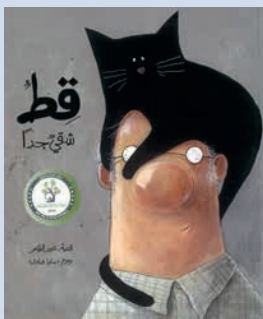
The Library's in-house staff members in Munich cover many literary regions, and freelance readers and advisors are charged with monitoring and tending to further languages and countries. The »White Ravens« catalogue thus presents a unique selection of 200 books that cover a highly diverse range of voices. 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 creators, receive the international attention they deserve. We hope that our work contributes to this goal.

Dr. Christiane Raabe  
Director of the International Youth Library /  
September 2016





1

Ṭāhir, 'Abir at- (Taher, Abeer al-) (text)  
Fadāwī, Māyā (Fadawi, Maya) (illus.)  
**Qīṭā šqui ġaddan** (Qita shqui jiddan)  
(*The naughty tomcat*)  
[ʿAmmān]: Dār al-Yāsmīn (Dar al-Yasmine),  
2014. – [38] p.  
ISBN 978-9957-86665-2-5

Friendship | Acceptance | Faithfulness |  
Picture book

This picture book shows what it is like to be torn between closeness and distance, companionship and loneliness, rejection and acceptance. After an elderly man picks up a miserable tomcat in the street and takes him home, the two of them initially have a great time together. They eat, watch television, and even sleep in the same bed – until one day, the cat becomes too impertinent. The old man tries to get rid of him, but in vain. Whether abandoned at the neighbour's or the butcher's, the cat returns each time. A long journey by bus, train, and ship to the chilly South Pole is supposed to solve the problem once and for all. Yet, when the man reaches the final destination at the end of the world, he simply doesn't have the heart to desert the tomcat. He says »Let's go home« and gathers him in his arms. Maya Fadawi has created lively colour pictures to accompany the humorous and touching story. They perfectly visualise the changeable relationship between the two protagonists. (Age: 4+)



2

Naḥḥāl, Ḥusain (Nakhkhal, Husain) (text)  
Ḥabshī, Dāfīd (Habchi, David) (illus.)  
**Ḥkāyī wa-Ādhār** (Hkayī wa-Adhar)  
(*Adhar's story*)  
Bayrūt (Beyrouth): Dār Qunbuz (Dar Onboz),  
2015. – [50]p. + CD  
ISBN 978-9953-465-38-8

Mother | Son | Death | Grief | Consolation |  
War | Renewal | Picture book

The award-winning publishing house Dar Onboz publishes a wide variety of books, each of which is unique and particularly beautiful. This picture book, too, stands out for its illustrations, the elaborate design, and the poetic text. It tells the story of young Adhar, who lives in a town that has been swallowed by the sea seven times and rebuilt seven times. However, unlike the town, which weathers all catastrophes and has multiple lives, human beings only have one. When Adhar's mother dies, he is forced to bury her. His grief, his tears, and his anger are presented in a poetic and melancholy way both in the pictures and the text. The enigmatic colour illustrations and the text are rife with symbolism and metaphors. They recount the boy's individual fate but also talk about the bigger picture, such as war, destruction, and new life that grows out of the ruins. Enclosed with the book is a CD on which the text is read accompanied by background music. (Age: 10+)

3



Minkov, Margarit (text)

Chaleva, Ljuba (illus.)

**Vesel, gädeličkašt smjach. Čast pŕva, prikazki za deca**

*(Tickled by joyful laughter. First part, stories for children)*

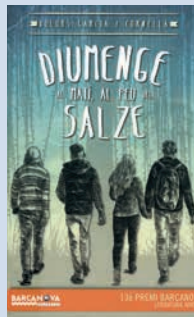
Plovdiv: Žanet 45, [2015]. – 131 p.

ISBN 978-619-186-201-6

Worldview | Nonsense | Anecdote

Margarit Minkov was known far beyond Bulgaria for his plays. Less well known is that the author, who passed away in 1997, also wrote outstanding stories and anecdotes for children. This aspect of his oeuvre is featured in the first volume of an impressive book series in his honour being published by Žanet 45 Press. Ljuba Chaleva's (b. 1974) illustrations are intriguing, as they filter Minkov's stories, each of which is only two or three pages long, through a suitably absurd lens. In Minkov's stories anything can happen. Not only do all things and creatures have their own personality and attitude, the stories also make Minkov's fantastical ideas plausible concerning the what, how and why of Earth's events. For instance, we learn that birds invented flying only because their legs were tired from all the walking, and that a dachshund's long body is best played as an accordion. (Age: 8+)

4



Garcia i Cornellà, Dolors (text)

**Diumenge al matí, al peu del salze**

*(Sunday morning, at the willow tree)*

Barcelona: Barcanova, 2015. – 147 p.

ISBN 978-84-489-3603-7

School | Group dynamic | Coming of age | Bullying

The students of a sixth-grade class gather together under a willow tree at the occasion of their completion of elementary school. There, each of them buries an object, which in that individual's eyes symbolizes his or her future, and also a note that states what the student most wants to forget from school life up until now. Five years later, they meet again to dig up their wishes and memories and to learn how their lives have gone in the meantime. The seemingly harmless game suddenly turns serious as it becomes clear that life has not treated all of them kindly, as old tensions and conflicts flare up, and painful memories are brought back to life that some would rather have left buried. In her award-winning novel, Dolors Garcia i Cornellà fleshes out the psyches of the various characters and the complex relationships within the group in a very convincing way. The level of suspense rises continually, as the short chapters gradually develop from everyday school stories into a captivating thriller. (Age: 12+)

BULGARIAN  
CATALAN

Bulgaria  
Spain



5



Prats, Lluís (text)

Celej, Zuzanna (illus.)

**Hachiko. El gos que esperava***(Hachiko. The dog who waited)*

Barcelona: La Galera, 2015. – 148 p.

ISBN 978-84-246-5539-6

Dog | Loyalty

Even today, the story of Hachiko the Akita dog touches many people around the world. The pet of the Ueno family in Tokyo, he waited every night at the nearby train station to greet his master when he came home from the university. After the death of Professor Ueno, nothing could dissuade the animal to keep waiting, day in, day out, until nine years later, when he died in 1935. Hachiko, still venerated in Japan today, has been honoured by statues, books, manga and films. The amazing story of the dog who was so very human and who stands for unerring faithfulness, loyalty and patience inspired Catalan author Lluís Prats to create this version of the tale, which certainly speaks to readers of all ages. The author expertly composes the text, accompanied by Zuzanna Celej's atmospheric water colour illustrations, and tells the story of Hachiko and of life in Tokyo more than eighty years ago in beautiful literary language. (Age: 10+)

6



Cao, Wenxuan (text)

Yu, Rong (illus.)

**Xia tian***(The summer)*

Nanchang: Er shi yi shi ji chu ban she (21st Century Publishing Group), 2015. – 38 p.

ISBN 978-7-5568-1158-8

Summer | Heat | Shadow | Sharing |  
Animal story | Picture book

A mixed group of wild animals in a barren land, eager to seek shelter from the burning sun, fall into a fierce fight after they spot a tree. It is the biggest and strongest of them that finally gets to sit under it. The tree, however, has bare branches and provides the winner with scarcely any shelter. The plot shifts as the animals see a pair of humans, a father and son, go by, the boy walking in the shadow of the man. The cat begins to beckon the rat into his shadow, the dog follows suit with the cat, then the leopard, the bear, and the rhinoceros... The page size enlarges as the shadow grows, until finally, all animals stand together under the large shade of a cloud. A thought-provoking story! Multi-award-winning author Cao Wenxuan is the first Chinese writer to win the Hans Christian Andersen Award in 2016. This is his second collaboration with Yu Rong, a British-Chinese illustrator who won the Golden Apple at the Bratislava Biennial of Illustration in 2013 for her picture book »Yun duo yi yang de ba ge« (A myna is like a cloud). (Age: 5+)



7

Peng, Yi (text/photography)

**Ba yao ren de hai zi**

(Children of the Bajau)

Jinan: Ming tian chu ban she (Tomorrow Publishing House), 2016. – 38 p.

(Series: Xin yi yuan chuang tu hua shu xi lie)

ISBN 978-7-5332-8771-9

Malaysia | Indigenous people | Badjaw (Bajau) | Photo essay | Non-fiction

This picture book offers a charming combination of prose and photographs. In assuming a Bajau child's voice, the author introduces readers to the simple, unique life of the Bajau people in Semporna, Malaysia. There are the wooden cabins built on the surface of the sea, the old canoes floating on their own reflection in the blue water, the busy parents striving for their family's livelihood, and the cheerful children who don't know their own birthdays and ages. The text is lyrical and the photography visually absorbing. Peng Yi is a renowned writer, translator and researcher of children's literature. He was a great advocate of fantasy writing and its study when the genre was introduced into China in the 1990s. His »Tu hua shu: yue du yu jing dian« (Picture Books: Reading the Classics), first published in 2006, was a pioneering, popular book for those interested in picture books in China; it has since received much critical approval. With his third picture book »Ba yao ren de hai zi«, he's thrilling his readers even more. (Age: 7+)



8

Shi, Lei (text)

Lin, Xian / Wang, Yue (illus.)

**Jiang jun hu tong**

(The General Hutong)

Beijing: Tian tian chu ban she (Daylight Publishing House), 2015. – 212 p.

(Series: Qing tong kui hua huo jiang zuo pin)

ISBN 978-7-5016-1000-6

Sino-Japanese War | History 1937-1945 | Resistance | Historical fiction

In recent years, Chinese children's literature has dedicated many books to the history of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression (1937-45). »Jiang jun hu tong« turns out to be one of the most successful. The story unfolds in Peking, where the General Hutong was once the mansion of a mighty general in the Qing Dynasty, General Tu. Though descended from a privileged Manchurian family, after the Dynasty's end the general inherited only the title and lifestyle of the gentry. However, he was not an idle and wasteful man, working hard to make a living on his own and to resist the Japanese invaders. The story is told through the voice and perspective of Dabao, the grandchild of a merchant family that was close friends with General Tu. The story brings to life the distinct flavour of contemporary Peking dialect and the complexity of history in a chaotic era. Shi Lei's (b. 1970) writing has been attracting critics' attention over the past couple of years. This novel won the first prize of the Bronze and Sunflower Children's Fiction Award in 2015. (Age: 10+)

9



Zhao, Lihong (text)  
Feng, Xueqing (illus.)

### Yu Tong

(Saving »The Fisher Boy«)

Fuzhou: Fu jian shao nian er tong chu ban she  
(Fujian Children's Publishing House), 2015. – 183 p.  
ISBN 978-7-5395-5214-9

China | History 1960s | Antique art | Cultural  
Revolution | Violence | Friendship | Historical  
fiction

The story, set in the 1960s, is about violence and betrayal as well as loyal friendship and affection. Tong Dalu finds himself in an awkward situation when he breaks an antique marble table top in his classmate Han Pingting's house. His family cannot afford to offer compensation. Han's father, a gentle intellectual, doesn't blame the boy, but instead introduces more of his collections to him, including »The Fisher Boy«, a precious Ming Dynasty china sculpture by master He Chaozong. Not long after, when the Cultural Revolution sweeps the country and Mr. Han is denounced as an evil reactionary, it is Tong and his family who help save »The Fisher Boy« from the brutality and greed of the insurrectionists. Zhao Lihong is a distinctive essayist, poet and scholar. He is editor of the influential literary journal »Shanghai Literature«. »Yu tong« (Saving »The Fisher Boy«) is his second children's novel after »The river of childhood«, both of which are set in Shanghai where Zhao spent his childhood. (Age: 8+)

10



Zhou, Rui (text)

### Chui jing shao de hai zi

(Children blowing the whale whistle)

Dalian: Da lian chu ban she (Dalian Publishing House), 2016. – 123 p.  
ISBN 978-7-5505-1010-4

Autism | Whale | Cetacean assisted therapy |  
Disability | Exclusion | Integration |  
Non-fiction

There is a non-governmental institute for autism rehabilitation in the city of Dalian, started by the mother of an autistic child, which offers free winter camp programs for cetacean assisted therapy for autistic kids. This slight but significant book is the result of Zhou Rui's investigation and interviews with a group of teachers, parents and whale tamers from Dalian. The authentic tone of Zhou's writing makes it particularly touching. This book is expected to help draw more attention to the marginalized group of autistic people. Born in 1953, Zhou is one of the most outstanding writers of children's literature in contemporary China. He is best known for his fairy tales and novels including »Yong gan li fa dian« (Barbershop Brave), »Heng ha er jiang« (General Heng & Ha) and »Zhong guo tu zi de guo cao« (Chinese rabbit and German grass). He has won many awards including the National Award for Outstanding Children's Literature and the Song Qingling Children's Literature Award. (Age: 12+)

11



Kirin, Miroslav (text)  
Pi, Mingsheng (illus.)

### **Zimska potraga**

(Searching for winter)

Zagreb: Mala Zvona, 2015. – [31] p.

ISBN 978-953-7760-54-0

Animals | Nature | Snow | Seasons |  
Picture book

»The forest animals enjoyed a lovely summer day. Then another. Then some lovely autumn days arrived, and all was well with the ants, squirrels, birds, deer and wolves. But the animals were waiting for something still missing. They waited for the snow, and it did not come. And so they send the birds into the skies to look. When the birds return, each one carries a snowflake in its beak. Then it finally snows.« The succinct, rhythmic language of well-known Croatian poet Miroslav Kirin (b. 1965) lends this simple story great poetic force and conveys the feeling that one is catching a glimpse of a well-guarded secret about the world. The minimalist water colour paintings of illustrator Mingsheng Pi (b.1969), born in China and living in Croatia, in which text and picture somewhat melt into one another, support this sense of enlightenment and make »Zimska potraga« an unusual picture book. (Age: 3+)

12



Brodecká, Lenka (text)  
Ščerbová, Tereza (illus.)

### **Hledá se hvězda**

(Looking for a star)

Brno: Host, 2015. – 226 p.

ISBN 978-80-7491-495-9

Kingdom | Intrigue | Good | Evil | Fairy tale

In this children's book, Lenka Brodecká (b.1972) admirably demonstrates how a fairy-tale setting with princesses, king and jester can provide the ingredients for a rapidly paced and quite modern detective story. A Magic Stone that protects a kingdom from evil has disappeared, and now chaos and ruin threaten. Only the two child protagonists, the princess and the court jester, can save the land by going to find the stone. The best thing about this book are its totally unexpected plot twists. They keep even experienced readers in the dark concerning who is really playing which role, whose interests are really being pursued and who is on the side of good and who on the side of bad. The illustrations by Tereza Ščerbová (b. 1982) seem at once antiquated and modern, nicely mirroring the story's style: a clever play on a supposedly familiar plot using a novel language that gives the book a genuine freshness. (Age: 10+)

CROATIAN  
CZECH

Croatia  
Czech Republic

13



Černá, Olga (text)  
Skálová, Alžběta (illus.)  
**Klárka a 11 babiček**  
(*Little Clara and 11 grandmas*)  
Praha: Baobab, 2015. – [128] p.  
ISBN 978-80-7515-008-0

Grandfather | Hospital | Granddaughter |  
Letter | Familiarity | Epistolary novel

Clara and her grandpa live together. When Grandpa falls from the roof and has to stay in the hospital awhile, Clara must live someplace else. For almost a year she migrates through eleven different home-away-from-homes, in the process meeting eleven grandmas – usually friends of her grandpa – each with her own special traits and lifestyle. The girl writes to her grandpa in letters and postcards, describing her experiences and feelings. He answers her by letter, gives advice, comforts her and laughs with her from his hospital bed. A wonderful epistolary novel between old and young emerges, in which fun times, but also serious feelings of abandonment and loss are aired. Olga Černá (b. 1964) displays her skill at keen humour, which brings some levity to the quite dramatic story. Thanks to the buoyant but never rowdy illustrations by Alžběta Skálová (b. 1982), as well as to the book's four different covers, this small-format edition (10,5cm x 16,5cm) is a real mini-treasure in the book case. (Age: 8+)

14



Vopěnka, Martin (text)  
**Nová planeta. Prastarý příběh z daleké budoucnosti**  
(*New Planet. An old story from the distant future*)  
Praha: Mladá fronta, 2015. – 623 p.  
ISBN 978-80-204-3731-0

Digitalization | Elite | Future | Science fiction |  
Dystopia

Czech children's literature would not be the same without Martin Vopěnka (b. 1963). For years, he has been valued as a publisher of elaborate picture book projects and as an author of fantasy children's and young adult books, including »Spící město« (The sleeping city). In »Nová Planeta«, which won the important »Zlata Stuha« prize in 2016, Vopěnka presents a dark vision of the future. What happens when the digital elite of the human race distances itself from the rest? Two mutually independent civilizations develop: an archaic, antiquated one and a hypermodern, technologized one that rules supreme. Against this backdrop, we have a boy named Daniel, whose story has to do with trust, betrayal and familial bonds. As part of the digital elite, he is tricked by his less privileged step-siblings and forced to fend for himself in the unknown realm of the old world. Readers breathlessly accompany the boy through the suspenseful story! (Age: 12+)



15

Aakeson, Kim Fupz (text)

Bregnhøj, Rasmus (illus.)

**Mogens og Mahdi**

(*Mogens and Mahdi*)

[København]: Carlsen, 2016. – 101 p.

ISBN 978-87-114-5293-6

Friendship | Everyday life | Interculturalism | Comic

Boys, boys, boys – Kim Fupz Aakeson and Rasmus Bregnhøj are two old standbys of Danish children's literature. Together they have published many picture books and illustrated children's books, and Aakeson's cryptic texts and Bregnhøj's ironic strokes always enhance one another in the best way imaginable. »Mogens and Mahdi« is a premiere, namely the duo's first co-produced comic. Here Mogens and Mahdi take centre stage, »two boys that are too big for what they are supposed to do, and too little for what they want to do.« Out of this familiar dilemma and the clash of hubris and reality, Aakeson and Bregnhøj develop highly memorable stories and trenchant comedy. Mogens and Mahdi dream of building up a world-spanning sweets business, to become karate heroes and laid-back swimming pool divers. This all only works out so-so, but the two boys naturally don't let themselves be discouraged: Happy is the man with a dose of healthy self-confidence... (Age: 10+)



16

Aakeson, Kim Fupz (text)

**Pragtfuldt, pragtfuldt!**

(*Splendid, splendid!*)

[København]: Gyldendal, [2015]. – 158 p.

ISBN 978-87-02-16912-6

Family | Murder | Prison | Search for identity

Cut to a dreary auto shop in Jutland's countryside. This is the home and workplace of Morten, his parents, and of Szymon, whom they refer to as »the Pole« and who is just there as cheap labour. The family has their own take on living together and what others consider »normal«: they booze, go whoring, and beat each other up – the latter never entirely without reason. They all seem vulgar, almost bestial, but somehow they manage not to go under. When the mother dies, things get out of hand. The father beats Szymon to death in a drunken fit and winds up in prison. This is Morten's chance: he authentically restores an old American beater that had been parked in the workshop for years. His father would never have thought it possible that his son could accomplish this, and is surprised and proud. Morten tells his family story without great emotional upheaval. Readers do not learn precisely whether or how much he is suffering under the circumstances, but do experience his joy at having restored the car and to have proven he was up to the task. (Age: 14+)





17

Wung-Sung, Jesper (text)  
Mortensen, John Kenn (illus.)

### **Zam**

København: Høst & Søn, 2015. – 169 p.  
ISBN 978-87-638-4009-5

Exclusion | Xenophobia | Zombie | Horror fiction

Zam is a zombie, who like every zombie was once a »proper« person. He is loyal to his zombie family, yet he feels torn because he also really wants to be »normal«, free and human again. Thus, in contrast to the other members of his family, Zam makes an effort to look human and to speak like the others do. He is polite, goes to school and does not eat meat. But then he bites Oskar. Zam regrets this at once, but it's too late. He is thrown from the school, and the other zombies also pay a price. The people of »Blå himmel« (Blue Sky) think that there are too many zombies, so they go out hunting for them, trap them in camps, and want them to go extinct. Jesper Wung-Sung's novel is a multi-layered parable about finding one's identity, ostracism and xenophobia in the guise of a horror story, which features plenty of blood and gore scenes. These stand in obvious contrast to Zam's civilized behaviour, thus highlighting his difference. (Age: 10+)



18

Sax, Aline (text)

### **Grensangangers**

(Border crossers )

Leuven: Davidsfonds, [2015]. – 392 p.  
ISBN 978-90-5908-659-3

GDR | History 1961-1989 | Berlin Wall |  
Historical fiction

All the novels of Aline Sax are historical novels, capturing a wide range of themes and periods. They have been nominated for and have won several literary prizes. This very interesting novel about the rise and fall of the Berlin Wall interweaves three family members' stories in East Berlin. In the first story, taking place in 1961, the wall is built, and Julian attempts to escape to the Western part of the divided city. In the second part, we meet Julian's younger niece Marthe and her brother Florian in 1997 trying to change the regime, which leads to dangerous situations with the Stasi, the East-German intelligence service. In the last story, we meet Sybille in 1989 when the iron curtain is opened in Hungary. While Sybille's friends try to cross the border to Western Europe, Sybille returns to East Berlin to take care of her grandmother. Like in her other books, Aline Sax has done a lot of research and brings her characters to life. »Grensangangers« is a compelling novel about a part of modern history we should never forget. (Age: 15+)



19

Thé Tjong-Khing (illus.)

# **Kunst met taart**

(Art with cake)

Tielt: Lannoo, [2015]. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-94-01-42625-1

Art | Exhibition | Theft | Dream | Picture book |  
Textless book

Ms. Dog dreams of taking part in an exhibition of world-famous paintings, but the work of art that she painted has been stolen. What comes next is a wild chase through famous landscapes by Van Gogh, Braque, Hokusai and Dalí. In this picture book, the main storyline follows Ms. Dog in hot pursuit of the thief, but other leitmotifs and storylines can be discovered in the beautiful pictures, for instance that of Ms. Pig standing on the foot of Ms. Rabbit's child or Mr. Pig hunting Ms. Rabbit. Even without text, all these little stories are easy to follow. On the double-spread pages many renowned painters and their artworks can to be spotted. Minimalist visual information on these artists can be found on the end papers of the book. Thé Tjong-Khing's (b. 1933) books are appreciated by children and adults alike. In the Netherlands, he was awarded the Golden Pencil three times, as well as the Woutertje Pieterse Prize. In 2010 he received the Max Velthuijs Prize for his entire oeuvre. »Kunst met taart« is a work of art of its own. (Age: 4+)



20

Verhelst, Peter (text)

Cneut, Carll (illus.)

# **De jongen, de neushoornvogel, de olifant, de tijger en het meisje**

(The boy, the hornbill, the elephant, the tiger, and the girl)

Wielbeke: De Eenhoorn, 2015. – 86 p.

ISBN 978-94-6291-056-0

Africa | Initiation | Ritual | Death

A boy is taken from his village to a secret valley for his initiation as a man. He has to learn how to hunt, to speak the secret language of man, and to select two totem animals. The hornbill will be his guardian angel, and he has to kill the tiger to become a man. Just before an older man comes to guide him in the hunt, there is a great uproar and tragedy in the village. A herd of elephants has killed all the villagers and the boy ritually guide them to the other world. Halfway through the story, the narrative viewpoint switches from the boy to his sister, who lives in the world between the living and the dead. Only by killing the tiger can the boy give his sister eternal rest. Through the eyes of the boy and his sister, readers sense the wildness and beauty of nature, but also the boy's fear. Carll Cneut's illustrations are true works of art, dark and colourful, and just as mysterious as the initiation the boy must undergo. (Age: 12+)

21



Akveld, Joukje (text)

Linden, Martijn van der (illus.)

**Een aap op de wc. Een dierenpark in oorlogstijd**

(An ape in the toilet. A zoo in wartime)

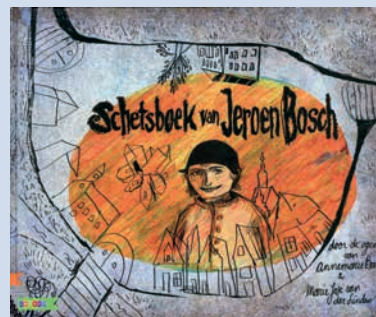
[Hoorn]: Hoogland & Van Klaveren, [2015]. – 117 p.

ISBN 978-90-8967-177-6

World War II | Rotterdam | Zoo | Air raid

In this book, we witness the air raid of the city of Rotterdam (1940) not through the eyes of humans, but through the eyes of animals. The German bombers were aiming to destroy the railway lines, but ended up killing camels and tigers, too, because the zoo was right next to Rotterdam's main station. In this book, the author does not begin with the war, but portrays the lives of the animals from the beginning to end with genuine concern. Readers thus get to know the story of Kali the rhinoceros, Hans and Grietje the bears, and a group of chimpanzees, which seem like family. A sad and poignant detail is that the zoo was about to be relocated outside the city centre, and the new location was nearly ready, but too late for a lot of the animals. Jouke Akveld delved into archives and carried out interviews to chronicle the amazing wartime history of Blijdorp Zoo and its inhabitants. Martijn van der Linden's photorealistic pictures show his love for animal illustrations. (Age: 10+)

22



Bon, Annemarie (text)

Linden, Marie José van der (illus.)

**Schetsboek van Jeroen Bosch anno 1463**

(Jeroen Bosch's sketchbook of 1463)

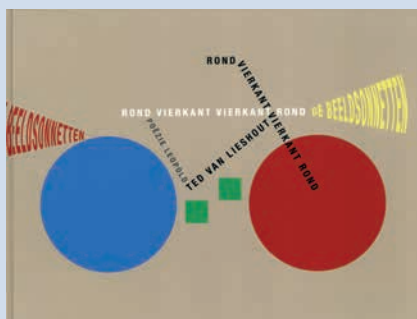
Tilburg: Zwijsen, 2015. – 110 p.

ISBN 978-90-487-2136-8

Bosch, Hieronymus | Art | Painting | Biography

Thirteen-year-old Jeroen Bosch wants to become a painter, just like his father and some other family members. But his father says that Jeroen has too much imagination and not enough talent. While doing all kinds of jobs, Jeroen only thinks about one thing: How will he be able to fulfil his dream of becoming a famous artist? Later, he becomes the artist of nightmares. 2016 marked the 500 year anniversary of his death. Since there is not much information on Bosch's youth, the author and illustrator use historical information about the city of 's-Hertogenbosch and about paintings made by members of the Bosch family in order to reconstruct a possible sketchbook of the young painter. The interesting and sometimes humorous information, in combination with the beautiful, imaginative sketches, often in brown tint with colourful accents, give a lively portrait of the early years of the famous painter (c. 1450-1516) we know so little about. At the back of the book, fragments of Bosch's fourteen best-known paintings supplement the text. (Age: 11+)

23



Lieshout, Ted van (text/illus.)

**Rond vierkant vierkant rond.  
De beeldsonnetten**

(Round square square round. The visual sonnets)  
Amsterdam: Leopold, [2015]. – 112 p.  
ISBN 978-90-258-6873-4

Concrete poetry | Poetry

In this book, we find a collection of »visual sonnets« and »block poems« that Ted van Lieshout created over the course of ten years. The poet and artist explains his technique of working with all manner of non-verbal materials to make a sonnet. But this book is much more than just a collection of those special sonnets. In a very accessible style, Ted van Lieshout also gives insight and an introduction into many different aspects of poetry. He discusses several rhetorical devices, always giving inspiring examples, which will stimulate young people to play with language. Ted van Lieshout studied at the Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam and worked as a designer before moving on to writing and illustrating children's books. His work is in a constant state of growth because he is always looking for new styles and techniques for writing and illustrating. In 2009 he received the Theo Thijssen Award (the Dutch state prize for children's literature), and in 2014 and 2016 he was shortlisted for the Hans Christian Andersen Award. (Age: 10+)

24



Marell, Merlijne (text/illus.)

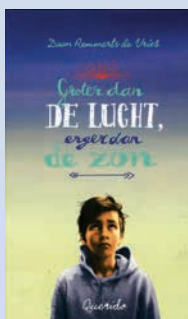
**Schobbejacques en de 7 geiten**

(Schobbejacques and the seven goats)  
Groningen: Uitg. Loopvis, 2015. – [43] p.  
ISBN 978-94-92206-03-9

Goat | Trickster | Fairy tale | Adaptation |  
Picture book

This artistic picture book tells a fable-like fairy tale about a grandmother, her seven goat kids and the villain Schobbejacques, who is planning to eat them all. The story, loosely based on the Brothers Grimm's »The Wolf and Seven Young Kids«, pays particular attention to the individual characteristics of each kid. Themes such as good and evil, guilt and innocence are very well worked out. The images and the typography are hand-printed in letterpress, silkscreen or woodcut, each showing unique qualities and interact to create a unique visual language. The book was first published in a limited edition and later in a regular print edition. This hard-cover edition, offset-printed in bright pantone colours, has a cloth spine with a manually printed screen-print ornaments. The book received the Dutch illustration commendation »Vlag & Wimpel« in 2016 and was named one of the fifty best designed Dutch and Flemish books in 2015. Merlijne Marell completed a Bachelor's degree in illustration at Willem de Kooning Academie in Rotterdam and a Master's degree at the School of Arts in Ghent (Belgium). (Age: 7+)

25



Remmerts de Vries, Daan (text)

**Groter dan de lucht, erger dan de zon***(Bigger than the sky, worse than the sun)*

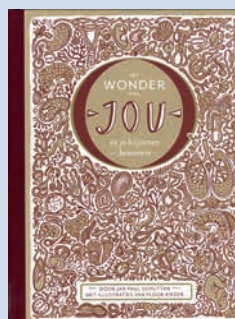
Amsterdam: Querido, 2015. – 183 p.

ISBN 978-90-451-1862-8

Summer camp | Mental disorder | Revenge

Twelve-year-old Elmer Noorland is sent to a summer camp on the Dutch island of Vlieland. There he receives blows on his forehead, after which he turns inward to thoughts always rattling around his mind. Then »the usual buzzing« turns into a distinct voice inside his head. Lomax, as the voice calls itself, offers comfort, but at the same time is very forceful, gradually taking hold of Elmer. Elmer becomes trapped in a downward spiral of dark thoughts and paranoia. This novel presents an amazingly strong psychological portrait of a troubled boy. The book consists in three parts, of which the middle one is a diary written in an awkward, boyish style. The last part answers the question whether Elmer will win his personal battle for freedom. Daan Remmerts de Vries once again demonstrates his stylistic skills and his great talent to give psychological insight into young teenage boys. (Age: 10+)

26



Schutten, Jan Paul (text)

Rieder, Floor (illus.)

**Het wonder van jou en je biljoenen bewoners***(The wonder that is you and your billions of inhabitants)*

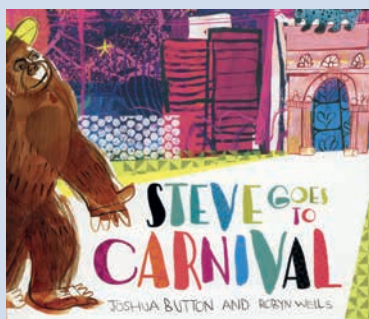
Haarlem: Gottmer, 2015. – 160 p.

ISBN 978-90-257-5202-6

Human body | Non-fiction

This book is more than just a book about the human body, explaining what cells are, their magnificent structure and what future cells can be. The body is even more spectacular than the Death Star in »Star Wars«! In his new book, Jan Paul Schutten employs a recipe similar to the his multi-awarded »Het raadsel van alles wat leeft en de stinksokken van Jos Grootjes uit Driel« (The mystery of life and the stinky socks of Jos Grootjes of Driel). The book is like a lively, everyday conversation, full of stimulating and amusing questions. Supported by Floor Rieder's fabulous illustrations, which sometimes clarify, but also add humour to the text, Schutten employs playful examples and striking metaphors to demonstrate the magic of the human body. This masterful, inspiring non-fiction book for children is a model of how to strike a perfect balance between facts, images, and imagination to make the invisible visible. (Age: 12+)

27



Button, Joshua / Wells, Robyn (text/illus.)

### **Steve goes to carnival**

Broome, W.A.: Magabala Books, 2016. – [56] p.  
ISBN 978-1-925360-21-9

[Rio de Janeiro](#) | [Carnival](#) | [Music](#) | [Friendship](#) |  
[Picture book](#)

This engaging picture book is the result of a close collaboration between Joshua Button and Robyn Wells. Joshua, a young artist descended from the Walmajarri people of the Kimberley region in Western Australia, used his fascination with Brazil and with gorillas as an inspiration for a witty story. Steve the gorilla and Antonio the zookeeper are best friends who both love music – especially jazz. One lonely night, Steve slips out of his cage, dons a yellow hat as a disguise, and sets off through the streets of Rio de Janeiro in search of his friend. Mesmerized by the vibrant street life and jubilant noises of his home city during carnival time, he starts dancing and twirling. The joyful mixed-media illustrations in expressionist style enriched with various textures and bold black outlines result in a »blend of art-work« that makes the city of Rio and its inhabitants from different cultural backgrounds come alive for the readers. (Age: 5+)

28



Gough, Erin (text)

### **The flywheel**

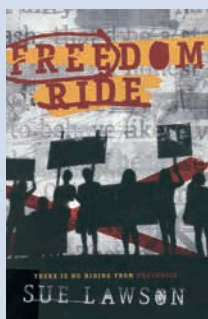
Richmond, Vic.: Hardie Grant Egmont, 2015.  
– 309 p.  
ISBN 978-1-7429-7817-8

[Search for identity](#) | [Homosexuality](#) | [Bullying](#) |  
[Friendship](#)

Erin Gough's debut novel »The Flywheel« is the winner of Hardie Grant Egmont's Ampersand Project that publishes one YA manuscript by a previously unpublished writer per year. The book features an amiable and authentically flawed heroine and a cast of believable, fully fleshed-out side characters. Set in Sydney, the story chronicles the joys and sorrows of seventeen-year-old Delilah. The teenager has a lot on her plate: After a secret romance-gone-wrong with one of the cool girls, she is mercilessly bullied at school; the family café she is supposed to manage while her Dad is on an extended holiday in Mongolia is threatened to be shut down; her best friend Charlie faces a prison sentence; and her new crush, the beautiful dancer Rosa, has a boyfriend. In a witty and fresh voice, the exasperated protagonist talks about her friends and foes, as well as her emotions and hopes. The witty dialogue-driven text provides a quick and entertaining read for teenagers. (Age: 14+)



29



Lawson, Sue (text)

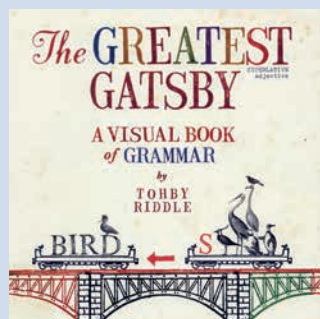
**Freedom ride**

Newtown, NSW: Black Dog Books, 2015. – 367 p.  
ISBN 978-1-925126-36-5

Australia | History 1965 | Indigenous people |  
Racism | Violence | Civil rights

Fifteen-year-old Robbie lives in a conservative rural Australian town with his distant father and cranky grandmother. It's the year 1964, and life there has always been meticulously segregated: Aboriginal people are banned from using most public places and are openly mistreated by many bullies. Racist tension is high. When he meets Barry, an open-minded young man recently returned to Walgaree, Robbie starts questioning the racist, ignorant, and hypocritical behaviour of his family and neighbours. In early 1965, a student protest movement – the Freedom Ride – reaches Walgaree, and Robbie eventually finds the courage to take a stand; a decision that changes his life in more than just one way. Sue Lawson's latest young adult novel is based on true events and tackles a difficult chapter in Australian history. This inspiring and fast-paced story shows a believable protagonist, who overcomes his own fear and shyness to fight for what he believes in and make a difference. (Age: 12+)

30



Riddle, Toby (text/illus.)

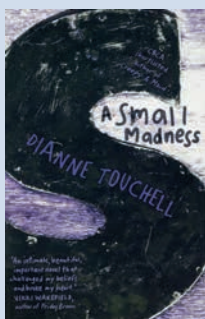
**The greatest Gatsby.****A visual book of grammar**

Melbourne, Vic. [et al.]: Viking, 2015. – 110 p.  
ISBN 978-0-670-07868-4

Grammar | Visualisation | Language

In 2009, when Toby Riddle was working on the illustrations for »The Return of the Word Spy« – Ursula Dubusarsky's second book about the English Language – he became »increasingly interested in visual information and the extent to which you can show any information visually.« This was the beginning of his own project: a visual book of grammar. Containing basic grammatical concepts, the square little volume leads young readers from simple letters, words, and word classes to more complex aspects of phrases, clauses, and sentences. Yet instead of just offering dry rules, this well-researched work is brimming with different colours, textures, typography, and pictures. These serve as wonderful mnemonic devices helping readers to playfully understand matters such as the six different types of nouns or the difference between »me« and »I«. The funny examples and nonsensical combinations make this a highly entertaining and memorable introduction to English grammar. (Age: 8+)

31



Touchell, Dianne (text)

### **A small madness**

Crows Nest, N.S.W.: Allen & Unwin, 2015. – 230 p.  
ISBN 978-1-76011-078-9

Teenage sex | Pregnancy | Mental illness |  
Loyalty

Rose and Michael are in their last year at high school and in love. When Rose realises that she is pregnant, the panicky teenager feels abandoned by her boyfriend and her best friend Liv and eventually cracks. In the following months, she shuts herself off from everyone while mistreating her body in the hope that this will cause a miscarriage. Being in complete denial, she is convinced that the problem will go away if she just ignores it: »I can hide it. It's not real«. When the baby is born premature, she enlists helpless Michael's assistance to secretly bury it. In her second novel for young adults, Dianne Touchell has crafted a challenging and thought-provoking read that raises the question of being evil versus being mentally ill. Telling the intense story in third person from various points of view, the author paints a portrait of a frail teenage girl who feels increasingly detached from reality. The powerful narrative will grip readers and provide plenty of issues to discuss for both teenagers and adults. (Age: 15+)

32



Wheatley, Nadia (text)

Greder, Armin (illus.)

### **Flight**

Kew East, Vic.: Windy Hollow Books, 2015. – [32] p.  
(Series: A Helen Chamberlin book)  
ISBN 978-1-92208148-3

Refugee | Journey | Refugee camp | Hope |  
Picture book

»Flight« is the collaboration between award-winning Australian author Nadia Wheatley and equally renowned Swiss-born illustrator Armin Greder. A first glance at the cover picture seems to suggest that this is another retelling of the Nativity story. However, author and illustrator take the biblical story of Joseph and Mary's flight to Egypt with baby Jesus as the starting point to tell a version of the tale that is both contemporary and timeless. Just like the Holy Family 2000 years ago, this modern family is forced to flee their home town and cross an inhospitable desert in search of a new home. The oppressing charcoal pictures in dark shades depict vast landscapes, the terrifying tanks, and the huge fires caused by bombs, as well as the unforgiving heat and howling winds that almost drown the parents' hope. The simple but engaging text and the powerful and dismal double-spread illustrations make the harsh reality of a refugee family's journey an almost tangible experience. (Age: 8+)

33



Bass, Karen (text)

**The hill**

Toronto, Ontario: Pajama Press, 2016. – 254 p.  
ISBN 978-1-77278-002-4

Survival | Mystery | Adventure |  
Coming of age | Myth

There are many reasons why Jared and Kyle should never ever be friends: different background (affluent white urban single child vs Indigenous youngster living at a camp) and different values (fashion and coolness vs family bonding and respect for the elders). But since a plane crash left Jared stranded in the bush, he has to rely on Kyle's survival skills. The worst part: Jade's trusty mobile phone isn't any help. So he ignores Kyle's warning and climbs a sacred hill to get reception. That infuriates Wihtiko, a terrifying monster from Cree legend. It will take more than bush wisdom to survive. Mutual respect is the only power that can save the teenagers. Award-winning author Karen Bass skillfully combines survival drama, mystery, thriller, and Cree mythology to craft a fast-paced fantasy novel well anchored in the real world. At once a gripping read and an ethnographic study, »The Hill« successfully transcends didacticism. (Age: 12+)

34



Michaels, Anne (text)

Block, Emma (illus.)

**The adventures of Miss Petitfour**

Toronto, Ontario: Tundra Books, [2015]. – 124 p.  
ISBN 978-1-77049-500-5

Fantasy | Cat | Pastry | Storytelling

»Charming« and »whimsical« best describe this slender volume one would expect to find in the gift section of an old-fashioned bookshop. It tells the adventures of Miss Petitfour and her sixteen feline friends, adventures neither too small nor too big but »just the right size – fitting into a single, magical day.« And magical they are. Using carefully selected tablecloths as her means of transportation, Miss Petitfour takes off through the air, her sixteen cats holding on to one another. The charm of this book resides in the love of language and storytelling. The omniscient narrator adopts the tone of a cat- and pastry-loving Mary Poppins, gently but firmly instructing readers in the art of narrating a story (including literary devices such as digression and plot triggers such as »then one day«) and instilling the love of long and complicated words such as »perambulator«. Emma Block, well known for her vintage-style magazine illustrations, perfectly captures the tone with her gouache-and-pencil-crayon illustrations. (Age: 8+)

35



Robertson, David Alexander (text)

Henderson, Scott (illus.)

**Betty. The Helen Betty Osborne story**

[Winnipeg, Manitoba]: Highwater Press, [2015].

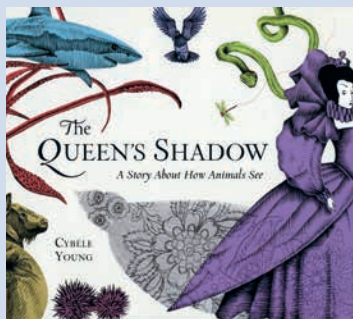
– 30 p.

ISBN 978-1-55379-544-5

Indigenous people | Violence | Sexism |  
Non-fiction | Graphic novel

David Alexander Robertson is an important advocate for educating young people on indigenous history and contemporary issues. His genre of choice is the graphic novel, which lends rawness and immediacy to his stories – many of them published by the socially committed publishing house Highwater Press. In »Betty«, he remembers Helen Betty Osborne (1952-1971), a young native woman who was abducted, assaulted, raped, and murdered. He dedicates Betty's story to the »close to 1,200 missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada, that they be honoured and not ignored.« Scott Henderson's black-and-white illustrations add the power of visual storytelling. The graphic novel rescues Betty from being just another statistic. Readers learn about the young woman's ambitions and the mechanisms of racism, sexism, and indifference. The importance and urgency of sharing stories like that of Betty is underlined in the narrative frame: A young man receives a post on his Facebook page – a notice from the Winnipeg police looking for a young missing Indigenous woman. He clicks to share. (Age: 14+)

36



Young, Cybèle (text/illus.)

**The queen's shadow. A story about how animals see**

Toronto [et al.]: Ontario: Kids Can Press, 2015.

– [40] p.

ISBN 978-1-894786-60-7

Vision | Mystery | Non-fiction | Picture book

The Queen has invited society's most important nobility to a lavish ball. A chameleon, shark, snake, goat, dragonfly, colossal squid, and pigeon are enjoying themselves until lightning strikes and all goes dark. Once the lights come back on, a horrid crime is discovered: Someone has stolen the Queen's shadow! Mantis Shrimp, the royal detective, interrogates all suspects, who report what they have seen. Each animal guest has a different perspective on the events, revealing that there is always more than one way of looking at things. Award-winning author-illustrator Cybèle Young cleverly sheds light on animal vision. Instead of relying on the standard non-fiction devices, she creates a gripping narrative, which combines historical whodunit fiction with facts about vision and the animal kingdom. The digitally worked pen-and-ink illustrations join in the storytelling and offer superb visual explanations. Sidebars, an appendix about human vision, and a glossary provide resources for further investigations. (Age: 7+)

37



Colfer, Eoin (text)  
Jeffers, Oliver (illus.)

### **Imaginary Fred**

London: HarperCollins Children's Books, 2015.

– [48] p.

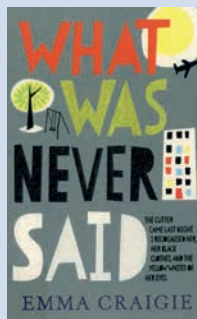
ISBN 978-0-0081-2614-8

(Parallel US ed.: New York: Harper, 2015)

[Imaginary friend](#) | [Loneliness](#) | [Happiness](#)

As his name suggests, Imaginary Fred is an imaginary friend who comes to the rescue of lonely children. Such a friend can only be summoned when the »conditions are just right« and with the help of a little bit of magic, luck, and electricity. Fred and his human friend spend a lovely time together until a »real« friend comes along and Fred fades bit by bit. That is the way of the world. Yet sometimes Fred longs to find a true friend for forever, and he hopes that Sam might be the right one – until the day when quirky girl Sammi appears, with Imaginary Fred in tow. Award-winning Irish author Eoin Colfer, whose works include the bestselling *Artemis Fowl* series, offers his readers a quietly funny and philosophical story about loneliness and true friendship. The touching text is transformed into atmospheric (almost exclusively) black-and-white illustrations in renowned illustrator Oliver Jeffers's trademark style of sketchy line drawings. A magical collaboration for all ages. (Age: 5+)

38



Craigie, Emma (text)

### **What was never said**

[London]: Short Books, Screen Works, [2015].

– 200 p.

ISBN 978-1-78072-179-8

[Genital mutilation](#) | [Tradition](#) | [Cultural conflict](#) | [Sex education](#)

Emma Craigie's latest teenage novel was inspired by her meeting a group of teenage members of the charity Integrate Bristol, whose award-winning film »Silent Scream« tackles the taboo topic of female genital mutilation (FGM) in the UK. The book follows the fictional story of fifteen-year-old Zahra and her Somalian family. When three Somalian women come to visit their flat in Bristol one day, Zahra immediately realises that one of them is the »cutter«. Trying to save herself and her little sister Samsam, Zahra takes Sam and runs away to London to seek professional help. Through Zahra's captivating first-person narrative, which deftly alternates between her present life and memories of her early childhood, readers get glimpses into the joys and dangers of everyday life in Somalia, the difficulties of growing up between two cultures, and the danger of FGM. Craigie has created a strong heroine who stands up to her family to break the circle of a traditional practice that killed her older sister. (Age: 14+)

39



Crossan, Sarah (text)

**One**

London: Bloomsbury, 2015. – 448 p.

ISBN 978-1-4088-6311-4

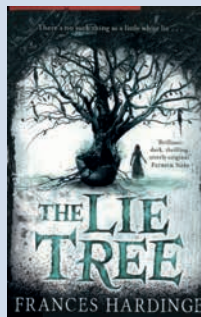
(parallel US ed.: New York: Greenwillow Books.

ISBN 978-0-06-211875-2)

Twins | School | Friendship | First love |  
Verse novel

Renowned writer Sarah Crossan's first book, »The Weight of Water« (2012), was an engaging and powerful verse novel. In her latest YA book »One«, she again returns to this form to take readers into the mind of one »half« of a pair of conjoined twin sisters. Sixteen-year-old Grace and her sister Tippi are joined at the hip with one functioning pair of legs and two upper torsos. Although they have two very different personalities, they cherish their special relationship. After years of being home-schooled, they suddenly have to brave a regular school and, despite all the challenges, the two sisters are eager to find friends and enjoy their lives. Yet then two unexpected things happen that change everything: Grace falls in love and medical problems force them to consider undergoing a dangerous operation to get separated. Grace's intense free verse poems make readers witness all the ups and downs, the joys, fears, and butterflies of a brave young girl on the brink of adulthood. (Age: 14+)

40



Hardinge, Frances (text)

**The lie tree**

London: Macmillan, 2015. – 409 p.

ISBN 978-1-4472-6410-1

Murder | Superstition | Island | Exclusion |  
Gender role | Lying

Frances Hardinge is a renowned author of several fantasy novels for teenage readers. »The Lie Tree« is a historical fantasy set on an isolated island off the British south coast during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Fourteen-year-old Faith is an intelligent girl who dreams of following in the footsteps of her adored father, a keen natural scientist. But in the patriarchal Victorian society, this is extremely unlikely. When her father dies under strange circumstances, the girl is determined to uncover what lies behind his alleged suicide and happens upon a mysterious plant that is said to feed off lies and deliver hidden truths. Hardinge creates a believable and complex world of intrigue, superstition, and prejudice in which a determined girl resorts to desperate measures to clear the family name. Told in a captivating third-person narrative, the story grabs the readers' attention while tackling challenging topics such as women's roles in society, superstition vs. natural science, and the nature of lying. (Age: 14+)



41



Jones, Pip (text)

Hughes, Laura (illus.)

**Daddy's sandwich**

London: Faber and Faber, 2015. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-0-571-31182-8

Father | Daughter | Picture book

This hilarious picture book is the first collaboration between Pip Jones, author of the funny series about invisible kitten Squishy McFluff, and illustrator Laura Hughes. In it, a father is sprawled in front of the TV watching football. Meanwhile, his little daughter is intent on making him the best sandwich ever, including every single one of his favourite things. Yummy as this may sound, matters soon get a little out of hand when the girl moves from stinky cheese and dunked biscuits to Mum's bubble bath, Daddy's deckchair, her own pop-up books, and other completely inedible items. Daddy is in for a big surprise! The colourful and dynamic mixed-media illustrations in different sizes beautifully make the short engaging text come alive. They focus on the small round-eyed heroine as she is sneaking and rushing through the house and portray her mischievous quest to gather the most unusual ingredients for Daddy's special treat. (Age: 4+)

42



McIntyre, Marina (text)

RUDE (illus.)

**All about theatre**

London: Walker Books and Subsidiaries, 2015.

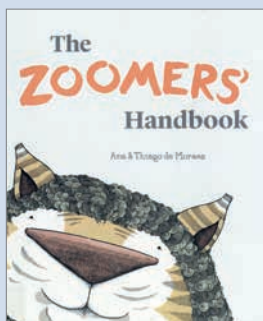
– 123 p.

ISBN 978-1-4063-5869-8

Theatre | Acting | National Theatre &lt;London&gt; | Non-fiction

Many people are interested in »the stage«. Yet it doesn't always have to mean becoming an actor; the theatre offers a plethora of different jobs, and work on a theatre play starts long before the opening night. This large-format square compendium provides a wealth of information about everything theatre, including script writing, rehearsals, set making, make-up, costumes, lighting, sound and music, and more. The colourful book uses numerous photographs and illustrations from various recent London National Theatre productions, such as »War Horse« (2007), based on the novel by Michael Morpurgo, or »Emil and the Detectives« (2013), based on Erich Kästner's German children's classic. It also features quotes from famous actors, directors, designers, and other theatre people. Although the examples are taken from the National Theatre and the book traces the company's 50-year history, it also serves as a general handbook for everyone interested in theatre productions, be it on a professional level or as amateurs. (Age: 12+)

43



Moraes, Ana de (text)  
Moraes, Thiago de (illus.)

### **The zoomers' handbook**

London: Andersen Press, 2015. – [30] p.  
ISBN 978-1-78344-214-0

Imagination | Portmanteau words | Wordplay |  
Picture book

This fun »handbook« is the perfect asset for animal aficionados of all ages. They get to meet extraordinary beasts such as the pigcock, whose beautiful feathers are usually covered in mud; the shiger, whose »stripy wool makes the nicest jumpers«; or the polar cow, who can produce delicious ice cream when dancing around before it is milked. Each of the wondrous creatures is assigned a double-page spread with a clear picture and a short description. In addition, the book's endpapers contain a wealth of »field notes« about food, equipment, poo, and characteristics of the various portmanteau animals. The witty, short texts and the cartoon-like illustrations in a matt palette make this picture book debut of husband-and-wife team Ana and Thiago de Moraes a fun read. Their bestiary with a difference is sure to trigger children's imagination and inspire them to create their own flock or herd of imaginary blended animals. (Age: 3+)

44



Nicholls, Sally (text)

### **An island of our own**

London: Scholastic Children's Books, 2015.  
– 221 p.  
ISBN 978-1-407124-33-9

Orphan | Poverty | Inheritance | Treasure hunt |  
Friendship

Twelve-year-old Holly and her two brothers, Davy and Jonathan, are orphans. Since their mother died one and a half years ago, nineteen-year-old Jonathan has been the legal guardian of his younger siblings; yet despite social services and his job in a café, money is always tight. So when their wealthy and eccentric Auntie Irene dies and leaves them all her jewellery, Holly is over the moon and starts dreaming of unimaginable riches. The only problem is to find the jewellery. Resourceful Holly enlists the help of all their friends and the Internet, and goes on a crazy treasure hunt all the way to a tiny Scottish island with an excited Davy and a very reluctant Jonathan in tow. The topic of poor orphans could have turned into a sad and depressing children's book. However, award-winning author Sally Nicholls's fifth children's novel proves to be a very humorous read. It stands out for her protagonist's optimistic outlook on life and is filled with a cast of strong and amiable characters. (Age: 10+)

45



Okorafor, Nnedi (text)  
Amini, Mehrdokht (illus.)

### **Chicken in the kitchen**

London: Lantana Publ., 2015. – [32] p.  
ISBN 978-0-9932253-0-7

Nigeria | Tradition | Trickster | Courage |  
Friendship | Picture book

Renowned Nigerian-American author Nnedi Okorafor has written several fantasy and sci-fi novels for adults and children. In her picture-book debut, which won the Children's Africana Best Book Award 2016, she tells the story of a young girl who wakes up in the middle of the night to find a giant chicken wreaking havoc in their kitchen. Is it a mischievous spirit or might it be a friend? Young Anyaugo summons all her courage to find out. The funny tale, set in a Nigerian town during the New Yam Festival, offers young readers a glimpse into »the fascinating masquerade culture of West Africa«. The engaging text is accompanied by vibrant digital illustrations that put a spotlight on the two main characters: the glowing giant fowl and the shy little girl. Founded in 2015, Lantana Publishing is a small publishing house dedicated to multicultural and diverse picture books. Their growing list features stories set in cultures around the world, such as Syria, Iran, China, India, Nigeria, and more. (Age: 5+)

46



Masilamani, Mike (text)  
Frame, Matthew (illus.)

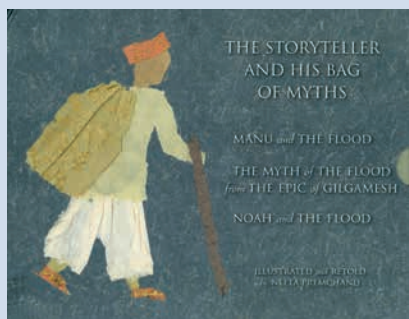
### **The 8oy who 5p3ak5 1n num83r5**

[New Delhi] [et al.]: Tara Books, 2015. – 92 p.  
ISBN 978-93-83145-27-0

Sri Lanka | History 1983-2009 | Civil war |  
Violence | Survival

Sri-Lankan writer Mike Masilamani's first book initially started off as a short story, which then was performed as a play, before Tara Books editorial director Gita Wolf picked it up and suggested to turn it into a book. The gruesome story is set in Sri Lanka during the civil war – but could take place in any war zone – and recounts the hardships of a young boy in a refugee camp. Rather than offering a straight-forward realistic story however, Masilamani has chosen a »darkly satiric« narrative of the »Civil War of Lies« and infused it with an unusual cast of idiosyncratic (partly animal-like) characters, who point out the absurdity of war. The Boy Who Speaks in Numbers – while everyone else speaks in colours – encounters friends and foes in the »Kettle Camp«, such as the Lying Lizard, the Constantly Complaining Cow, and the Important Aunty and her Peons. Matthew Frame's poster-art-like red-and-yellow illustrations capture both the cruelty and the surreal moments of the tale. (Age: 12+)

47



Premchand, Neeta (text/illus.)

### **The storyteller and his bag of myths**

Mumbai: Bombay Paperie, [2015]. –

[32] p. + [32] p. + [32] p. (3 vols.)

No ISBN

Gods | Humans | Sin | Revenge | Flood | Survival | Picture book

In the lavishly illustrated boxed set »The Storyteller and His Bag of Myths«, renowned paper expert and storyteller Neeta Premchand gathers three myths about great floods from different cultures. The simple retellings of tales from the Bible (Noah's Ark), the epic of Gilgamesh, and Hindu mythology (Manu and the Flood) all revolve around the big questions of immortality and death, human sins and God's – or the gods' – revenge, and a new beginning. The texts are accompanied by exquisite matt collage illustrations in a stylised and allusive design. The collages for each picture book volume were created by cutting and tearing shapes from handmade paper adorned with rich intricate patterns in silver and gold. Hand-carved wooden blocks were used to print the waves, swirls, zigzags, etc. The carefully produced set of books is a treasure that points out the striking similarities between creation stories from around the world and celebrates traditional forms of arts and crafts. (Age: 4+)

48



Colton, Nicola (text/illus.)

### **A Dublin fairytale**

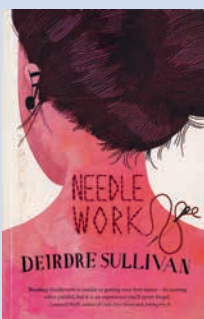
Dublin: The O'Brien Press, 2015. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-1-84717-774-2

Dublin | Little Red Riding Hood | Magic | Fairy tale | Picture book

Irish illustrator Nicola Colton's first picture book is an Irish version of Little Red Riding Hood. The witty tale is set in a parallel-world Dublin that is infused with magical characters. On her way to her (witch-) granny's house, little Fiona – clad in her favourite red raincoat – encounters a giant, a monster, and a dragon. Luckily enough, they all turn out to be far less dangerous than anticipated and gladly come to her rescue when she is attacked by the sly wolf, who had secretly followed her on his red bike. In the end, they all sit down together for a yummy slice of cake and a mug of witches' brew. Colton's simple, repetitive text draws small readers into Fiona's adventures. The double-spread stylised pictures in warm colours feature several of Dublin's famous landmarks (some slightly twisted), which turn the story into an entertaining mixture of modern and realistic vs. timeless and magical. (Age: 3+)

49



Sullivan, Deirdre (text)

**Needlework**

Dublin: Little Island, 2016. – 210 p.

ISBN 978-1-91041-150-6

Sexual abuse | Violence | Neglect | Depression |  
Tattoo

Deirdre Sullivan is the acclaimed writer of a witty trilogy about adolescent Primrose Leary and her everyday craziness. »Needlework« however is a much darker book. This complex novel is written from the point of view of teenage girl Ces, who was sexually and physically abused by her father, as was her mother Laura. When Ces and Laura eventually leave their tormentor, and her mother slowly seems to fall apart, the girl has to work part-time and take over all of the household chores in addition to her school routine. Her dream of becoming a skilled tattoo-artist is the only thing that keeps her going. The captivating first-person narrative that skips back and forth between childhood memories and the stark present is interspersed with short factual but also lyrical passages about tattooing that bind the story together. Ces is a strong protagonist who refuses to be defined by the rape and struggles hard to take control of her life again. (Age: 16+)

50



De Goldi, Kate (text)

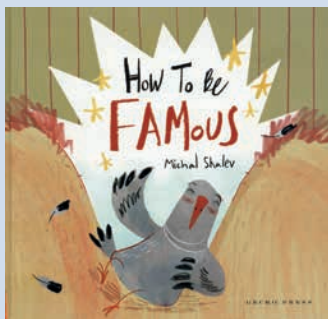
**From the cutting room of Barney Kettle**

[Auckland]: Longacre, 2015. – 331 p.

ISBN 978-1-77553-576-8

Storytelling | Filmmaking | Mystery | Siblings |  
City | Earthquake

Kate De Goldi, one of the most renowned New Zealand authors, writes powerful stories for all age groups. Her latest masterpiece is an epic saga with multiple layers: stories within stories told from various viewpoints. It's the portrait of a bustling High Street and its residents, first and foremost twelve-year-old budding filmmaker Barney Kettle and his eleven-year-old sister Ren, producer, list-maker, and excellent speller. While the determined siblings are busy with their latest film project interviewing all their neighbours, some of whom get completely carried away with telling their own life stories (creating digressions à la Tristram Shandy), a mysterious zine suddenly turns up. Who are Orange Boy and Crimson Girl? This is just one of the questions that readers will want to find out. This funny, witty, wonderful, and heart-breaking homage to Christchurch's High Street before the 2011 earthquake will keep readers from 9 to 90 spellbound until the very last page. (Age: 9+)



51

Shalev, Michal (Shalev, Mikhal) (text/illus.)

### **How to be famous**

Wellington: Gecko Press, 2016. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-1-776570-29-4

[Fame](#) | [Vanity](#) | [Self-perception](#) | [Picture book](#)

Israeli artist Michal Shalev, who studied illustration and animation in Israel and the UK, has a particular fondness for drawing birds. The undisputed star – or so the text would have you believe – of her first picture book is a vain grey pigeon that has obviously taken a leaf out of US illustrator Mo Willems's well-known pigeon books. Convinced of its great beauty and importance, the self-centred bird rambles on about its family's fame and its own perfection. Attentive readers, however, will soon grasp a completely different story from the witty mixed-media illustrations. The single- and double-page spreads in muted tones clearly show that the feathery megalomaniac manages to incur the wrath of animals and humans wherever it appears. With deliberately sketch-like lines full of brio, the illustrator easily depicts the other characters' exasperation and thus exposes the bird's self-delusion – which leads to an unexpected and hilarious (but cruel) end. (Age: 4+)



52

Ngcowa, Sonwabiso (text)

van Dijk, Lutz (afterword)

### **In search of happiness**

[Cape Town]: Cover2Cover, 2014. – 152 p.

ISBN 978-0-9922018-0-7

[Poverty](#) | [Racism](#) | [Lesbian love](#) | [Homophobia](#) | [Prejudice](#) | [Courage](#)

Cover2Cover is a small independent publishing house devoted to providing readers »with contemporary teen issues and uniquely South African problems in exciting ways.« One of their most recent titles is the debut novel by young author Sonwabiso Ngcowa. Based on a short story that was originally published by the FunDza Literacy Trust, the book deals with a number of very challenging issues including the widespread homophobia and racism that young people in African countries face. After years of growing up at her grandmother's home in the countryside, fifteen-year-old Nana is finally reunited with her parents and older sister in Cape Town. Yet city life is different from what the teenager expected: There is a lot of violence, her refugee neighbours – two siblings from Zimbabwe – are openly bullied and discriminated against, and when Nana realises that she has fallen in love with the girl next door, even her family turns against her. It takes Nana a lot of courage and determination to stand up for her love (Age: 12+)



53



Boyd, Lizi (text/illus.)

### **Big Bear, little chair**

San Francisco: Chronicle Books, [2015]. – [32] p.  
ISBN 978-1-4521-4447-4

Size | Opposites | Storytelling | Picture book

Books about opposites for little children are ten a penny. True to her form, however, award-winning illustrator Lizi Boyd has created a visually stunning book about opposites that's different – not only in respect to its tall, narrow format. Starting with »Big Bear – little chair«, this book offers a kaleidoscope of unusual word pairs such as »little umbrella – Big Bird« and »Big Forest – little tent«; in the third part of the book, the concept is extended to three pairs: »Big Mouse – little bus – tiny driver«. It isn't until the very last double-spread, that the book's secret is revealed: Every single page is the setting for a story that Big Bear and little bear, a (grand-)parent and child, share with each other. Bold graphic illustrations in black-white-and-grey with small red elements as eye-catchers provide visual springboards from which readers are invited to jump and dive into witty stories. (Age: 3+)

54



De la Peña, Matt (text)

Robinson, Christian (illus.)

### **Last stop on Market Street**

New York, NY: Putnam / Penguin, 2015. – [32] p.  
ISBN 978-0-399-25774-2

Grandmother | Grandson | City life | Poverty | Beauty | Picture book

Little CJ is disgruntled. It is raining, and he wonders why, every single Sunday after church, he and his grandmother have to hop on the bus that takes them right across the city to a run-down suburb to help in a soup-kitchen. With patience and imagination, his Nana manages to show CJ that beauty and fun can be found in the most unexpected places. Matt de la Peña has crafted a touching story about a typical Sunday in the life of a young African-American boy and his beloved grandmother. The short, poetic text celebrates both the protagonists' special relationship and the »music in everyday life«. Christian Robinson transforms the text into colourful illustrations that he created with »acrylic paint, collage, and a bit of digital manipulation«. His bright angular pictures, which are reminiscent of the style of Ezra Jack Keats, aptly reflect an urban setting and feature a lively bunch of characters from different cultural and social backgrounds. (Newbery Medal 2016, Caldecott Honor Book 2016) (Age: 4+)



55

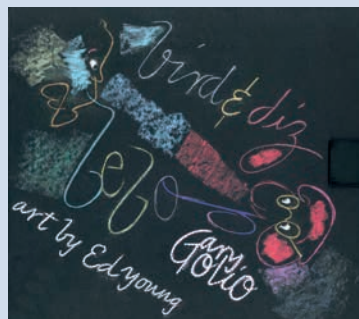
Engle, Margarita (text)  
López, Rafael (illus.)

**Drum dream girl. How one girl's courage changed music**

Boston [et al.]: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015.  
– [44] p.  
ISBN 978-0-544-10229-3

Cuba | History 1925-1935 | Music | Drummer | Gender role

On a beautiful, musical island, a young girl dreams of playing bongos, congas, and timbales. But on this island, only boys are allowed to play drums. Nevertheless, the drum dream girl feels drumbeats in everything she does and in everything she hears. She tries to join a band, but her father tells her girls should not play drums, so she plays alone and continues to dream. Finally, her father takes her to a music teacher, who is amazed by her skill, and the drum dream girl is at last able to play her music for everyone to enjoy. Margarita Engle's poetic story was inspired by the life of Millo Castro Zaldarriaga, a Chinese-African-Cuban girl, who grew up in 1930s Cuba and broke barriers for women musicians with her magnificent talent. Rafael Lopez's rich and colourful acrylic illustrations on wood board complement the island setting and add depth and dream-like movement to Engle's lyrical text. A historical note included at the end provides further information about Castro Zaldarriaga's life. (Age: 4+)



56

Golio, Gary (text)  
Young, Ed (illus.)

**Bird & Diz**

Somerville, Mass.: Candlewick Press, 2015. – [24] p.  
ISBN 978-0-7636-6660-6

Music | Bebop | Parker, Charlie | Gillespie, John | Picture book | Leporello

This ingenious small-format leporello book, named after a studio album recorded in 1950, celebrates the music and friendship of jazz legends Charlie »Bird« Parker and John »Dizzie« Gillespie. As creators of a new type of jazz – called bebop – the two African-American musicians made people see and hear music differently from before. Gary Golio's evocative free verse text is as playful, quick, and associative as the two friends' bebop he describes; while Ed Young's sketchy and vibrant illustrations perfectly visualise the rhythm and atmosphere of the music. Award-winning Young's swirly lines in blue-greens (for Bird's saxophone) and red-pink-orange (for Diz's trumpet) fly across the brown-paper pages, merge and separate again, and culminate in an explosion of colours. An afterword gives readers some background information and invites them to experience the joy of bebop themselves through various Internet sites and recordings. (Age: 6+)

57



Oppel, Kenneth (text)  
Klassen, Jon (illus.)

### **The nest**

New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, [2015]. – 244 p.  
ISBN 978-1-4814-3232-0

[Illness](#) | [Perfection](#) | [Euthanasia](#) | [Siblings](#) | [Thriller](#)

Kenneth Oppel is an award-winning Canadian author specialising in fantasy books. »The Nest« is set in a borderland between reality and fantasy. Steve, an older brother, is suffering from numerous anxieties. The person he currently worries about most is his newborn brother, who has some unspecified congenital condition and is constantly in and out of the hospital. One night, an angel-like queen wasp starts talking to him in his dreams and offers to »make things better« by creating a healthy baby – reminiscent of the changelings in fairy tales – and get rid of the sick infant. Oppel's powerful first-person narration, which constantly switches between dream and reality, creates an oppressive atmosphere with the wasps becoming increasingly threatening as Steve tries to revoke his original decision. This frightening atmosphere is heightened by Jon Klassen's dark illustrations. The psychological thriller raises questions of perfection, disability, and what is »normal« and worth living. (Age: 12+)

58



Ruby, Laura (text)

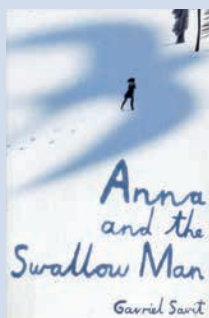
### **Bone Gap**

New York, NY: Balzer + Bray, [2015]. – 345 p.  
ISBN 978-0-06-231760-5

[Kidnapping](#) | [Bullying](#) | [Love](#) | [Siblings](#) | [Magic](#)

Strong, stubborn, silent Sean; his dreamy, beautiful, but easily distracted brother Finn; Petey, the beekeeper's homely, willful daughter; and popular Polish girl Roza, who mysteriously disappears one day – Bone Gap is a small town full of weird, eccentric, peculiar characters. And it's a town where nothing is as it seems. So when Finn tries to tell people that Roza was kidnapped and they need to rescue her, no one believes him. Laura Ruby's teenage novel weaves together elements of magic realism and of harsh and brutal reality to create a mesmerizing story about love and lust, power and oppression, about finding and losing oneself, and about inner and outer beauty. Told mainly from Finn's and Roza's viewpoints in alternating chapters, the narrative is rife with authentic dialogue and thought-provoking musings, which offer a satisfying read for teenagers and adults. (Michael L. Printz Award 2016) (Age: 14+)

59



Savit, Gavriel (text)

**Anna and the Swallow Man**

New York: Alfred A. Knopf, [2016]. – 232 p.

(Series: A Borzoi book)

ISBN 978-0-553-51334-9

World War II | Poland | Orphan | Survival |  
Friendship | Truth | Language

Little Anna is seven when her father, a linguistics professor in Kraków, disappears. It's 1939, just after the German army has invaded and occupied Poland, and she doesn't know that he is a victim of the Germans' round-up of intellectuals in Poland. Lonely and despairing of what she should do, Anna comes across the mysterious Swallow Man, whose true name is never revealed to her and who is as gifted with languages as her father was. The unlikely pair start travelling together; through the wilderness, the war, across borders and battlefields, and back again; without a clear destination. Their sole aim is to survive. Actor and singer Gabriel Savit's debut novel tells a moving and distressing story of friendship against all odds, languages and identities, deceit, the loss of innocence, survival, and the power of storytelling. The quiet, fairytale-like voice of the narration, which is in stark contrast to the World War II setting, gives the tale a universal, timeless quality. (Age: 12+)

60



Schantz, Sarah Elizabeth (text)

**Fig**

New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books, [2015].

– 346 p.

ISBN 978-1481423588

Mental illness | Schizophrenia | Mother |  
Daughter | Coming of age

Fig has a gift, which is both a blessing and a curse: her ability for magical thinking makes her reality supernaturally beautiful and brutal at the same time. This has to do with the fact that Fig's life is inescapably connected with the life of her schizophrenic mother. She desperately tries to save »Mama« from her illness and all its terrible characteristics. She tries to do so by creating a »Calendar of Ordeals«, a disturbing form of self-abasement, which implicates mental and physical harm. With her debut novel, Sarah Elizabeth Schantz succeeds in writing a well-composed story, which enables the reader to closely witness the painful experiences Fig makes from age six to nineteen. Fig's powerlessness in the face of increasing mental illness is not easy to bear. And yet the readers are consoled by immersing themselves in the inner world of a girl who is left behind by the outer world but still, or precisely for this reason, perceives its magic. (Age: 14+)

61



Sher, Emil (text)

Wyman, David (photogr.)

### **Young man with camera**

New York: Arthur A. Levine Books, 2015. – 218 p.

ISBN 978-0-545-54131-2

School | Bullying | Photography |  
Homelessness | Violence | Truth

T has never been particularly popular at school. Ever since a childhood accident left half of his face scarred, he has been the welcome victim of charismatic bully Ryan and his »Joined at the Hip« mates. Yet with his camera as a constant companion, T documents his unique view of the world and tries to find and highlight beauty in everyday life. When the bullies target his new friend, a homeless woman called Lucy, and beat her to death, T needs to find a way to use his pictures to brave his terrifying tormentors and reveal their crime. Interspersed with captivating black-and-white photographs, Canadian author Emil Sher's text tells a story about a courageous boy, but also about truth, different viewpoints, bullying, the power of friendship, and perseverance. In addition, the story's special focus on the works of photographer Diane Arbus makes it a celebration of the art of street photography. The moving book was shortlisted for the prestigious Canadian Governor General's Award 2015. (Age: 12+)

62



Stevenson, Noelle (text/illus.)

### **Nimona**

New York, NY: HarperTeen, [2015]. – 266 p.

ISBN 978-0-06-227823-4

Superhero | Villain | Secret | Gender role

Noelle Stevenson's debut follows the adventures of the title character, a spunky teenage shapeshifter with incredible powers and a mysterious past. Nimona is an aspiring supervillain who admires the work of Lord Ballister Blackheart and cleverly convinces him to hire her as his sidekick. Together, they work to bring down the Institution and Blackheart's nemesis, the valiant Sir Goldenloin, who may not be as heroic as he seems. They soon learn that the Institution could be developing a covert weapon with the power to poison the population's food supply. But Nimona too might be hiding some dark secrets of her own. »Nimona« started as a webcomic before being published as a graphic novel; Stevenson has expertly woven together a thrilling, laugh-out-loud story that blends both fantasy and science fiction. »Nimona« defies readers' expectations, artfully explores the grey areas between good and evil, and cuts down stereotypical comic gender representations and roles. (Age 12+)

63



Hinrikus, Kadri (text)

Kalm, Anu (illus.)

**Taaniel Teine***(Daniel the second)*

[Tallinn]: Tammerraamat, [2015]. – 108 p.

ISBN 978-9949-565-06-1

Grandparents | Grandchild |  
Separation from parents

Taaniel doesn't really mind living with Grandpa when his parents are working in Sweden and thus can't be at home in Estonia. Grandpa shows him quite a lot of things and usually has good advice to offer. School also goes fine without Mom and Dad around. Taaniel is quite cheerful and has friends he likes to clown around with. It's still hard sometimes when all you can do is see and talk to your parents over Skype and when Mom and Dad can't sit by your bedside at night. Kadri Hinrikus (b. 1970) always manages to hit just the right note in her books. In her newest work, she realistically portrays what it is like to mostly grow up away from one's parents. With nuance and calm compassion, she shows that the situation is surely sad and difficult, but that it is also not nearly as captivating as a super-duper pyjama party with Grandma and Grandpa. (Age: 8+)

64



Sillaste, Kertu (text/illus.)

**Ei ole nii!***(No! This is not so!)*

Tallinn: Päike ja Pilv, 2015. – [49] p.

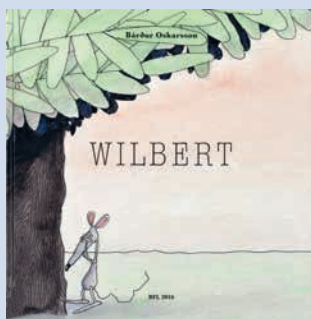
ISBN 978-9949-9720-2-9

Perception | Imagination | Truth | Picture book

The Estonian Children's Literature Centre heralded the picture book »Ei ole nii!« (No! This is not so!) as »Raisin of the Year« in 2015. And rightly so: Kertu Sillaste (b. 1973), with her comic-art style, has blossomed in recent years into one of the most successful Estonian illustrators. This playful book is about the truth of assertions, the reliability and subjectivity of perception and about how much can seem true using the power of the imagination. In the story, a little rabbit rejects the reality of anything that displeases him or that he is afraid of. He successfully navigates the dangerous forest by simply »denying away« the mean wolf and foxes. He survives the cold winter saying »No, it's not cold!« and is happy when spring arrives, because his statement is finally true. Kertu Sillaste brings things in picture and text to the point: Rabbits always make it work! (Age: 3+)



65



Oskarsson, Bárður (text/illus.)

**Wilbert**

[Tórshavn]: BFL, 2016. – [40] p.

ISBN 978-99972-0-166-9

Hide-and-seek | Rat | Crocodile |  
Hippopotamus | Picture book

In his newest caper, »Wilbert«, Bárður Oskarsson writes and illustrates a variation on the theme of »missing the forest for the trees«. Rat and Wilbert are playing hide-and-seek. After she finishes counting, rat begins to look... to look... and to look. Where is Wilbert? Question for the crocodile: »Have you seen Wilbert?« »Yeah, I saw him. I ate him up!« O goodness! But, phew, it was just a joke, because there's no Wilbert to be seen in the crocodile's open maw. But he's not anywhere else. Now rat and crocodile look together, until rat finally finds her friend: Wilbert hid himself under a tree! The crocodile remains befuddled, because he still can't see Wilbert, a giant hippopotamus! The picture book with illustrations done in Oskarsson's characteristic laconic style cleverly uses the dramatic device of page-turning to create surprise moments that imitate the hide-and-seek game. (Age: 2+)

66



Maijala, Marika (text)

Virta, Juha (illus.)

**Piano karkaa**

(The vanished piano)

Helsinki: Etana Editions, [2015]. – [36] p.

(Series: Filippa & Kumppanit)

ISBN 978-952-7105-03-0

Piano | Loss | Game | Music | Picture book

In the middle of the night, a piano slips off a truck deck – and because the driver doesn't notice the loss, it is still standing there on the street come morning. As soon as Filippa and her friends discover it, they start to jostle for it. All of them want it for different ends: André the donkey wants to use the piano as a coffee table, Norma the cat would really like to take a nap inside it, and Filippa would just like to play her favourite song on it. While the friends argue, the orchestra's pianist is missing his instrument. He begins to look for it, finds his piano and at the same time discovers something that the conductor has been missing a long time... The 2014 founded Finnish publisher Etana Editions specializes in picture books that are characterized by a bright-hued graphic style and are a little retro, but still very fresh and modern. »Piano karkaa« fits the bill perfectly – cheerful, colourful and wimmelbook-like. (Age: 4+)



67

Abirached, Zeina (text/illus.)

### **Le piano oriental**

(The oriental piano)

Bruxelles: Casterman, [2015]. – 232 p.

ISBN 978-2-203-09208-2

Beirut | Paris | Music | Cultural identity |  
Graphic novel

In »Le piano oriental«, Zeina Abirached's best novel to date, the Franco-Lebanese author tells two family histories. The first is about great-grandfather Abdallah, who seeks to connect the music of the »Orient« and that of the »Occident« by means of a piano he invents. The second story follows the young artist as she finds her way to an inner acceptance of her francophone and Arabic roots. On the one hand, Abirached demonstrates how an ancient, multi-cultural heritage, when abused for the sake of power-seizing, can lead to stereotypes and enmity, and even to a stress test for a whole country, as in the Lebanese civil war. On the other, she vividly shows what a fulfilled life with multiple, if not always consonant, identities can be. She has found her way to an unmistakable pictorial language. Her graphically challenging work is based in black and white; colours are used ingeniously to interweave the different narrative planes. (Age: 14+)



68

Coran, Pierre (text)

Paulhiac, Nathalie (illus.)

### **Ugo, tu rêves?**

(Hugo, are you dreaming?)

Bruxelles: Á pas de loups, [2015]. – [36] p.

ISBN 978-2-930787-13-8

Dream | Daydream | Imagination |  
Picture book

Hugo dreams the whole day long. He floats out of bed in his winged nightgown in the morning, and continues to daydream while in the bath, on the school bus, and in class. He sees what others do not see and transforms his everyday life in poetic ways. That said, his most beautiful thoughts are interrupted by adults calling him back to their »order«. But Hugo resists these disturbances and steadfastly returns to his dream-work. For him, dream, reality and concentration are not opposed to one another. He also knows that adults – his parents – are much more disoriented than he is.... they just have better excuses. The young Belgian publishing house Á pas de loups, started in 2013, has an ambitious program with renowned authors. The well-known Belgian poet Pierre Coran wrote the text of this large-format picture book; the lovingly fanciful illustrations are from French illustrator Nathalie Paulhiac. (Age: 6+)

69



Isabelle, Patrick (text)

**Camille**

Montréal (Québec): Leméac, [2015]. – 317 p.

(Series: Leméac jeunesse)

ISBN 978-2-7609-4221-9

Family | Father | Daughter | Domestic violence |  
Coming of age

Camille is running away – from her abusive father, from her mother, whose weakness prevents her from leaving her alcoholic husband; from all the well-meaning aunts and uncles who are witnesses to the family drama but don't intervene; from social services that wants to put her into a foster home; from herself and her contradictory feelings and from her great confusion about which path she should choose for her own life. After she flees with her mother, Camille finally finds peace in a deserted place in Acadia. But then her father's pick-up shows up at this secret hide-out. Patrick Isabelle's suspenseful novel contains enlightening details about the subtle cycle of domestic violence and forms of co-dependency between victim and perpetrator. Isabelle also does not answer the key question of whether Camille will be able to escape the looming threat of the next and perhaps final attack of her father until almost the end of the story. (Age: 14+)

70



Marois, André (text)

Pratt, Pierre (illus.)

**Aux toilettes**

(To the loo!)

Montréal: Éditions Druide, [2015]. – [32] p.

(Series: Motif(s))

ISBN 978-2-89711-168-7

School | Toilet | Transformation | Picture book

One student after another interrupts the class of Francis the teacher, always with the same plea: They have to really, really go to the loo! It's quite strange, what is this all about? Upon returning to class, every student has visibly changed: in appearance, clothing, behaviour or mood. Amazed, the somewhat clueless teacher Francis notes these odd goings-on and at the end of the school period goes to the place of the wondrous transformations himself. When he closes his eyes for a split second and wishes himself to the place of his dreams, he's suddenly sitting in a little café in the Piazza della Signoria in Florence. He returns to school for the next period with a little Italian flair. The students marvel! »Aux toilettes« is the first quietly ironic, buoyant co-production of well-known Quebec illustrator Pierre Pratt and André Marois, »shooting star« in the crime fiction scene. (Age: 7+)

71



Paré, Hélène (text/illus.)

**Sarcelle. Le chant qui enlève la peur**

(*Sarcelle. The song that conquers fear*)

Montréal (Québec): Planète rebelle, [2015]. – [40] p.

(Series: Des mots plein la bouche)

ISBN 978-2-924174-50-0

[Wyandot people](#) | [Dream](#) | [Self-confidence](#) |  
[Fairy tale](#) | [Picture book](#)

Little Sarcelle is lonely. Her ability to dream protects her, though, and she lives close to her grandmother, who always offers good advice and consolation and who can sing a beautiful traditional song from the First Nation People of the Wyandot to comforts the girl. Sarcelle grows older, and one day, her grandmother dies. Sarcelle now lives in the city with a conflict-ridden family. To be close to her grandmother once more she uses her ability to dream. In this way she learns the connection between dream and reality and returns to reality with a new understanding to break through her loneliness. Hélène Paré, who has intensively studied the cultures of the North American First Nations Peoples, here rewrites and illustrates a well-known Wyandot fairy-tale. The initiation song »Te'wayahkerondih ayiatsih« – »the song that conquers fear«, which is at the heart of the story, can be viewed online at no cost. (Age: 6+)

72



Banon, Patrick (text) / Boutin, Anne-Lise (illus.)

**Guide du mieux-vivre ensemble. Ma laïcité, ma religion, mon identité**

(*Guide for better living together. My secularism, religion and identity*)

Arles (Bouches-du-Rhône): Actes Sud junior, [2016]. – 103 p.

ISBN 978-2-330-05765-7

[Migration](#) | [Multicultural society](#) | [Culture](#) |  
[Religion](#) | [Democracy](#) | [Non-fiction](#)

Diversity expert Patrick Banon examines some of the important questions forcefully asserting themselves in the wake of the 2015 terrorist attacks in France and the rapid rise of extreme right-wing parties and populist groups (not only) in French society: How can one live peacefully in a heterogeneously composed society? How can one give new life to the aspirations of liberty, equality, solidarity, human rights and secularism in the imperfect democracies of Europe? How can one discuss complex questions concerning identity, religion, secularism and atheism in a manner that is at once respectful and critical? At the end of this young adult non-fiction book, Banon actively brings these aspirations together by offering a sketch of what an ethical charter could look like. Its realization will call on precisely the vigour, confidence and uncompromising resolve of the younger generation. (Age: 15+)

73



Baum, Gilles (text)  
Dedieu, Thierry (illus.)  
**Camille est timide**  
(*Camille is shy*)

Paris: Seuil jeunesse, [2015]. – [34] p.  
ISBN 979-10-235-0532-0

Shyness | Self-esteem | School | Animals

No one notices Camille, a shy little chameleon girl. Once again, she's standing »bottom right« on the class photo, i.e. practically outside the frame. How she'd love to finally be visible... but how can she overcome her paralyzing fear? After the unfortunate class photo, Camille sadly slinks out of the school, quarrelling with herself. But then the other children miss her and call her name, and in that instant a transformation takes place. Author Gilles Baum worked as an elementary school teacher for many years. In creative collaboration with illustrator Thierry Dedieu, he has already produced several wonderful children's books, like for instance »Le baron Bleu« (2014). In »Camille est timide«, Baum has found his way to a carefully and accurately told story that orients itself closely to the everyday life of children. Dedieu's bright pictures show how Camille gains in physical, colourful presence and wins herself a place in her class. (Age: 5+)

74



Cissoko, Aya (text)  
**N'ba. Ma mère**  
(*N'ba. My mother*)

Paris: Calmann-Lévy, [2016]. – 265 p.  
ISBN 978-2-7021-4475-6

Migration | Mother | Daughter | Identity | Cultural conflict | Morality

In this book, Franco-Malian amateur boxing world champion Aya Cissoko tells the life story of her mother Massire and of her own childhood and youth by her mother's side in Paris. Massire's life changes dramatically when her husband and one of her children are killed by an arson attack. Suddenly, she, who was not able to attend school, is the provider for a large family. With much wisdom and also when needs be with severity, she accompanies her children on their ways to maturity. She supports her rebellious daughter Aya as the latter seeks to gain a foothold she isn't finding at school, but instead in the tough discipline of boxing. Cissoko's second novel honours her close but not conflict-free relationship with her mother, who educated her daughter on the central value of dignity (»Danbé«). This term from the Bambara language enables Cissoko to begin anew after a bad sports injury abruptly ends her impressive career: she starts studying and finds her way to writing. (Age: 14+)



75

Durpaire, François (text) / Boudjellal, Farid (illus.)  
**La présidente. Maintenant vous ne pourrez plus dire que vous ne saviez pas**

*(The president. Now you can no longer say you didn't know)*

Paris: Les Arènes BD, [2015]. – 158 p.  
 ISBN 978-2-35204-462-8

France | Presidential election |  
 Right-wing extremism | Dictatorship |  
 Resistance | Dystopia | Graphic novel

The point of departure for this graphic novel is a political catastrophe | at least from the perspective of the defenders of the French Republic and its democratic traditions. The story imagines the Front National (FN) winning the Presidential Election on May 7, 2017. Historian François Durpaire and graphic novel artist Farid Boudjellal prognosticate the first hundred days of Marine Le Pen taking presidential office. They consulted with political and economic experts while working out the sombre scenario. They jointly extrapolated the consequences of the current FN platform and FN strategic papers in the year 2017. The story describes how the family of elderly Parisian Résistance fighter Antoinette lives through the at first stealthy and then abrupt changeover to a proto-fascist regime. Antoinette's grandchildren are active in the resistance against the rising dictatorship. Shocking and electrifying, the graphic novel has proven a great popular success in France. The reader hovers between horror and hope that the authors are not making a true prediction. (Age: 15+)



76

Fastier, Yann (text/illus.)  
**Guingouin. Un chef du maquis**

*(Guingouin. A commander of the French Resistance)*

Le Puy-en-Velay: L'Atelier du poisson soluble, [2015]. – 41 p.  
 ISBN 978-2-35871080-0

France | History 1940-1944 | World War II |  
 Resistance | Guingouin, Georges | Biography

Georges Guingouin (1913-2005) is one of the most unconventional personalities of the French Resistance in World War II. Already in 1940, he realized the need to offer armed and cross-partisan resistance to German and French fascism. With only a few companions, he built up the strategically important resistance in the Limousine region. Charles de Gaulle and the Allied powers later honoured his work, but still he fell prey to nasty defamations from former Vichy Regimers. His reputation was only fully rehabilitated in 2006, which was shortly after his death. This slender biography from the politically committed publishers »L'atelier du poisson soluble« reminds readers of the different political perspectives concerning the Resistance in Limousine. The second part of the volume features an excellent biographical sketch of Guingouin's life, including a bibliography and filmography, which invite readers to further explore the life of this great French patriot. (Age: 15+)



77



Godard, Alex (text/illus.)

**Agoulou Granfal et le rocher de la gourmandise**

(*Agoulou Granfal and the mountain of gluttony*)

Paris: Albin Michel jeunesse, [2015]. – [36] p.

ISBN 978-2-226-25769-7

Caribbean | Mother | Daughter | Monster | Gluttony | Fairy tale

Does an uncurbed appetite necessarily lead to ruin? This is the moralizing question of the popular Caribbean fairy tale. For little Nani Rosette, gluttony (her own as well as that of others) poses a great danger. She can't wait for the great feast to begin and stows away a giant portion of her mother's delicious cooking. Then she wanders straight through tropical landscapes to a hill where she plans to enjoy her meal unhindered. What a big mistake! She can't seem to get away from this magic mountain. Will Nani Rosette become a monster's meal that night? The picture book of well-known Caribbean illustrator Alex Godard offers readers three very different, sometimes surprising resolutions of the story. Godard grew up on the French Antillean island Marie-Galante. In his best picture books, he presents the life worlds and myths of his Caribbean homeland. (Age: 8+)

78



Kollender, Sandra (text)

Cantais, Claire (illus.)

**On n'est pas si différents!**

(*We are not so different after all!*)

Montreuil: Éd. La Ville brûle, [2015]. – [44] p.

(Series: Jamais trop tôt)

ISBN 978-2-36012054-3

Disability | Integration | Inclusion

Who or what is the trigger for »disability«? Is it the so-called disability itself or is it the observers who look at a »disabled« person in a way that »others« him or her, i.e. sees the person in a discriminating manner? This book, taking up the call for inclusive practices, explores the everyday commonalities between children with and without disabilities, not their differences. The book thus reinforces the following message: Creating inclusion that promotes participation, solidarity and community in everyday life can only happen if one knows about each other. To come up with the illustrations for »On n'est pas si différents!« Claire Cantais spent many days in a day centre for children with special needs. Author Sandra Kollender, herself a mother of a child with a disability, writes using plain language. The protagonists are children with diverse disabilities, and the book concludes by introducing various role models – people who, despite or precisely because of their disabilities, have become researchers, artists, actors and athletes. (Age: 7+)

79



Mélois, Clémentine (text/illus.)

### **Jean-Loup fait des trucs**

*(Jean-Loup is up to something)*

[Montreuil]: Les Fourmis Rouges, [2015]. – [44] p.  
ISBN 978-2-36902-038-7

[Dog](#) | [Comfort](#) | [Idleness](#) | [Excuse](#)

»It's nicest in bed« – this could be the life motto of Jean-Loup, the little black-haired terrier. The wildly tousled dog confesses his laziness, yet still teeters between high-minded intentions (concerning diet, exercise and health) and a dallying lifestyle. After grand pronouncements, Jean-Loup quickly gets tangled in avoidance strategies. His ambitious fitness program fails in its planning phase, for instance, because finding the right sport is sooooo draining. Ultimately, all of his grandiose plans and promises – despite the preceding rigmarole – lead to his comfy bed. The first book of young illustrator Clémentine Mélois shows wit and the courage to work with a minimalistic approach. It is a book for all age groups, since the colourful vignettes satirize rampant fitness and health crazes. (Age: 3+)

80



Sebbar, Leïla (ed.)

Borzeix, Jean-Marie (preface)

### **Une enfance dans la guerre. Algérie 1954-1962**

*(A childhood in war. Algeria 1954-1962)*

Saint-Pourçain-sur-Sioule: Bleu autour, [2016].  
– 291 p.

ISBN 978-2-35848-073-4

[Algerian War](#) | [History 1954-1962](#) | [War](#) | [Remembering](#) | [Short story](#)

The Algerian War (1954 -1962) remains an insufficiently examined facet of France's and Algeria's pasts and continues to have painful repercussions to the present day. In both countries, children were also affected by war, terror, hatred, racism and violence. Author Leïla Sebbar, the daughter of an Algerian father and a French mother, spent her childhood and youth in Algeria until 1961. The Algerian War is a central theme in her work that bridges the two countries. »Une enfance dans la guerre« introduces forty-four until now unpublished texts of great Algerian and French authors who lived through the war in Algeria as children. The result is a marvellous and very unusual anthology, whose texts possess the highest literary merit. They deal with traumatic and very intense key moments in the authors' childhoods, after which things (often) were no longer as they once were. (Age: 14+)

81



Serres, Alain (ed.) / Fronty, Aurélia (illus.)

**Je rêve le monde, assis sur un vieux crocodile. 50 poèmes d'aujourd'hui pour repenser demain**

(I dream of the world and sit on the back of an old crocodile. 50 poems to reinvent the world tomorrow) [Voisins-le-Bretonneux]: Rue du monde, 2015. – 48 p.

(Series: La Poésie)

ISBN 978-2-35504-356-7

Poetry | Picture book

This poetry anthology features an ongoing little vignette, which at first seems entirely fun: A child sits, stands, and dances on the back of a laughing crocodile. Is the crocodile laughing because it is not really dangerous? Or is it being especially sly, waiting for when the dancing child becomes tired and inattentive? The poems, wonderfully compiled by Alain Serres, hail from eminent poets such as Amina Said, Jaqueline Held, Abdellatif Laabi, Alain Serres and Lysiane Rakotoson, to name only a few. They deal with the everyday lives and life experiences of children from many countries. Topics include migration, fleeing oppression, access to drinking water, racism, wealth, poverty, forms of violence, child labour, girls' right to education, advertising and the temptations of consumerism and much more. The centrepiece of the collection are the pages dedicated to the Paris terrorist attacks in January 2015, which feature Abdellatif Laabi's magnificent poem »J'atteste« (I bear witness). (Age: 9+)

82



Walbecq, Hervé (text/illus.)

**Histoires du chien qui avait une ombre d'enfant**

(Stories of the dog with a child's shadow) Paris: L'École des loisirs, [2015]. – 141 p. ISBN 978-2-211-22201-3

Short story

The seventeen stories collected in this volume in the tradition of Jacques Prévert and Raymond Queneau contain many fond lunacies that test the boundaries of dream and reality. In the »Neuf« series of renowned publisher l'École des loisirs, which already featured a few equally remarkable story collections, Hervé Walbecq has found his own unmistakable style. The stories, which he illustrates himself, are full of the cryptic humour typical of children. Jean-Claude, a hero in his stories, is in fact a nose that wants to vacation in the Pyrenees. The surreal language is as light as a feather and consistently follows an immanent poetic logic. One senses that Walbecq, who worked as an actor at the well-known Théâtre du soleil in Paris, among other venues, draws upon his stage experience and knows how a good riposte and humour »work«. Walbecq invites readers big and small to explore the treasure trove of his fantastical worlds. (Age: 9+)



83

Americain, Jessi (text)

**Nègre Marron. Itinéraire d'un enfant du ghetto**

(Maroon. A child in the poor quarter comes of age)

Matoury: Ibis rouge éditions, [2016] – 132 p.

ISBN 978-2-37520-511-2

French Guiana | Childhood | Coming of age

Antoine is the descendant of a well-known »Maroon« fighter, who fought for his freedom in the 18<sup>th</sup> century plantations of Suriname and later fled to the region of French Guiana. Antoine grows up in a Maroon family in a poor neighbourhood in the middle of the Amazon. While many of his school friends fail within the rigid school system, he succeeds in achieving the seemingly impossible: a scholarship to study in Paris. The culture shock of his first year in French society, with its subtle entangling of »class« and »race«, passes slowly for him. But Antoine makes many friends, travels and increasingly occupies himself with his own cultural inheritance and the demands that grow out of a history characterized by resistance. In his autobiographically inspired novel published by the small publisher Ibis Rouge, young author Jessi Americain reveals an important fragment of the unknown history of the Maroons. (Age: 15+)



84

Bah, Hakim (text)

**Tachetures. Nouvelles**

(Spots. Stories)

Conakry: Éditions Ganndal, [2015]. – 51 p.

ISBN 978-2-35045-055-1

Youth | Everyday life | Violence

This impressive volume of stories by young author Hakim Bah offers six sombre snapshots of everyday life in his homeland of Guinea. Bah casts a panopticon on societal violence that begins in the family, develops with child and spousal abuse, and spreads its tentacles further into rape, prostitution, discrimination, insult and moral bankruptcy. The government also participates in this cycle of violence: When the population protests, it is treated as an »internal enemy«. A breathless pace to the harshly clipped sentences pushes the stories forward. The author collected rich experiences in the world of theatre; published by Ganndal Press, this first volume of his stories shows the writing on the wall. One can see it as the beacon of a coming revolt of the young generation, born out of the courage of the desperate, to whom no future has been allotted. (Age: 15+)

FRENCH

French Guiana (France)  
Guinea

85



Daoud, Zakya (text)

Bravo, Alessia (illus.)

**Tarik Ibn Ziyad = Ṭāriq Ibn-Zīyād**

Rabat: Marsam, [2015]. – [46] p.

ISBN 978-9954-21-396-4

Text French and Arabic

Iberian Peninsula | History 8<sup>th</sup> century |  
Tariq ibn Ziyad | Non-fiction | Picture book |  
Bilingual book

This non-fiction picture book covers the conquering of the Visigoth empire in the 8<sup>th</sup> century from the perspective of the Muslim field captain Tariq Ibn Ziyad. In the spring of 711, the Berber arrives on the Iberian Peninsula with a Moorish army and shortly thereafter in a legendary battle defeats the Visigoths, who were led by King Roderic. In this bilingual Arabic-French picture book, Zakya Daoud describes Tarik as a brave, loyal man of great integrity. She here takes a refreshing new perspective on the well-worn myth of the »traumatic conquering of the Iberian Peninsula by the Arabs.« Here the field captain becomes a figure to identify with, thanks also to Alessia Bravo's artistic black-and-white drawings. Tarik is here depicted as a representative of an illustrious past, in which Arabic cultures often surpassed the Western Christian countries and cultures not only militarily, but in many domains. (Age: 8+)

86



Dommen, Bridget / Dommen, Caroline (text)

Godon, Ingrid (illus.)

**Madame de Staël prend sa plume. L'histoire de Germaine de Staël**

(Madame de Staël seizes the quill. The story of Germaine de Staël)

Genève: La Joie de lire, 2015. – 54 p.

(Series: Traces d'histoire) – ISBN 978-2-88908-274-2

France | History 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century |  
Staël, Madame de | Biography

Who was Madame de Staël (1766-1817)? Monarchist or moderate supporter of the French Revolution? A traveling exiled Swiss woman, a European before her time, or just a Parisian? An admirer of Napoleon or his sharpest opponent? While this unusual emancipated bourgeois woman did consent to an arranged marriage to a bankrupt Swedish nobleman, she then led – to the great chagrin of her husband – an »open marriage« with changing lovers and a growing number of children from different fathers. Her best known essay, »De l'Allemagne« (1810/1813), continues to have an impact today. Its highly idealizing portrayals created a mystifying picture of Germany that held influence well beyond France and the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This interesting short biography by Bridget and Caroline Dommen from the series »Traces d'histoire« gets to the bottom of some facets of this fascinating whirlwind and also investigates certain contradictions. (Age: 7+)

87



Various authors (text) / Schans, Roelof van der (illus.)

**Het meisje met de rode paraplu en andere verhalen bij kunst in Leeuwarden**

*(The girl with the red umbrella and other stories about art in Leeuwarden)*

Leeuwarden: Wijdemeer & Aed Lewwerd, 2015. – 64 p.

(Series: Aed Levwerd; 5)

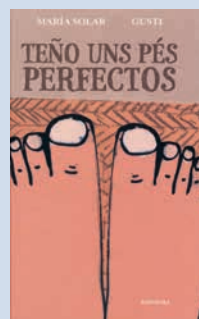
ISBN 978-94-9205-214-8

Text Frisian and Dutch

Leeuwarden | History | Short story

Five renowned Dutch and Frisian children's book writers have contributed stories concerning twenty-one works of art and buildings in the Frisian city of Leeuwarden. In the first story, we meet a girl with a red umbrella from which the stories fall. Some stories play in the past, some today, and in some past and present intertwine. In each story, a child is the main character, placed in a situation where it is also possible to give some (historical) information without interrupting the narrative flow. Some texts are written in Frisian, others in Dutch. The moving and sometimes humorous illustrations by Roelof van der Schans combine digital photo technique with drawing, which produces a surreal effect. In the artistic pictures, something new can always be found. With the aid of a map of the city and additional information about the works of art and buildings, it is possible to make a special tour through Leeuwarden and to discover all the places described in the stories. (Age: 9+)

88



Solar, María (text)

Gusti (illus.)

**Teño uns pés perfectos. Un libro para ler cos pés descalzos**

*(I have perfect feet. A book to read barefoot)*

Pontevedra: Kalandraka, 2015. – 28 p.

(Series: Colección Seteleguas)

ISBN 978-84-8464-974-8

Foot | Non-fiction

In the realm of non-fiction many topics have long since been grazed clean, but journalist and author María Solar awaits us here with something new and rather left-field: Feet! Our protagonist is caught »wrong-footed«, too, in the short frame story that presents this informative and entertaining book. When Melchor enters the »Who's the cleverest kid?« contest, he must demonstrate his podiatric knowledge, of all things. The only rescue is to read »Teño uns pés perfectos«, which answers wondrous questions: Why do feet smell like cheese? Who knew that there's a difference between Egyptian, Greek and Roman feet? How does the foot »machine« work – and why do we have five toes anyway? Even though the book sheds selective, if not comprehensive light on all things feet, it covers some very enlightening facts. To be sure, the pictures by critically acclaimed illustrator Gusti make no claim to scientific exactness, but their wittiness inspires one to take a closer look at feet. (Age: 7+)

FRISIAN  
GALICIAN

Netherlands  
Spain



89



Ek'vt'imišvili, Nana (text)

**Msxlebis mindori**

(The pear field)

T'bilisi: Bakur Sulakauris gamomc'emloba, 2015.

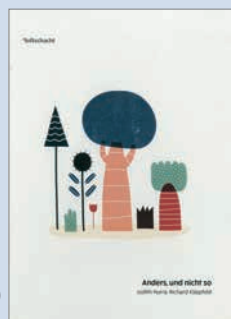
– 221 p.

ISBN 978-9941-23-345-6

Boarding school | Intellectual disability |  
Humiliation | Self-esteem | Sexual abuse

The literary debut of filmmaker Nana Ek'vt'imišvili (b. 1978) is tough stuff indeed. Awarded the Georgian Litera Prize, this book explores a place of hurt. In a Tbilisi border district, eighteen-year-old Lela lives in a »boarding school for intellectually challenged children.« She cares for the younger ones, does the drudge work, knows the hopes and life stories of the children, including those of the supposed heroes who have made it out of the »school for crazies«. Lela, who sometimes sells herself to finance her friend Irakli's English classes, knows the school's dark secrets by her own experience. Vano, the history teacher, abuses new arrivals, and Lela wants to kill him for that. »Msxlebis mindori« is a hefty young adult book about interacting with intellectually disabled people, exploited dependencies, low self-esteem and the insane idea that one can master one's own destiny. (Age: 16+)

90



Hurra, Judith (text)

Klippfeld, Richard (illus.)

**Anders, und nicht so**

(Different, and not like that)

Wien: Luftschacht, 2016. – [36] p.

ISBN 978-3-902844-96-5.

Differentness | Diversity | Chameleon |  
Rabbit | Picture book

Life would be boring if everyone marched to the beat of the same drum. A little chameleon who's supposed to be a master at camouflage is just unable to assimilate and always stands out. At first he's embarrassed that he keeps on stepping out of line, but then he realizes he enjoys not looking like everyone and everything else around him. Three cheers for crazy patterns and eye-catching colours! A rabbit baby is also »different, and not like that«: his breaking the rules saves lives. While he's sneaking out of the burrow one night to watch the stars, he spots the bad fox plotting for a delicious rabbit dinner... Good thing that someone was being improper and can now warn the family! The picture book »Different, and not like that« has a charming retro print aesthetic and an unassuming text, which makes it anything but mainstream. It is a great read for all self-possessed and headstrong readers and for those who want to become such. (Age: 3+)



91

Janisch, Heinz (text)  
Bansch, Helga (illus.)

**Kommt das Nashorn**

(*The rhinoceros is coming*)

Wien: Jungbrunnen, 2016. – [26] p.

ISBN 978-3-7026-5895-3

Self-esteem | Contrast | Picture book

The rhino is a grey mountain. Big and heavy ... and sad. He would so like to be light and delicate like the little white bird who floats through the air like a snowflake. The bird consoles the rhino, saying that things are perfect as they are – the big rhino offers a perfect place for the bird to land and rest. The two animals complement each other in their contrastive nature, as do the text and illustrations in Heinz Janisch's und Helga Bansch's new picture book. Suggestive repetitions punctuate the whole text, while the individual lines on each page look and read like poems. The elliptical texts open up a wide associative realm by drawing on synaesthetic connections, for instance: »The rhinoceros is coming. Earth is shaking. The stillness now smells different.« Bansch's rhinocerine studies are just as striking. Capturing the rhino from different perspectives – head-on, from behind, from the side, up close and at a distance – as well as detailing his rough hide make the rhino feel quite real. One can nearly feel it, as one strokes across the paper. (Age: 2+)



92

Kreslehner, Gabi (text)

**PaulaPaulTom ans Meer**

(*PaulaPaulTom at the sea*)

Innsbruck [et al.]: Tyrolia, 2016. – 117 p.

ISBN 978-3702235215

Siblings | Disability | Love

Paula falls for Tom on the way to her grandpa's birthday. Paula is with her older brother Paul, who needs chaperoning and lives in an assisted living facility. When they start to head back home the next day, Tom is standing at the train station; he seems to have been waiting for Paula. Tom wants to go to the sea – and the siblings spontaneously ride with him, even though it's never »easy« with Paul, and more challenging and unpredictable. Gabi Kreslehner's coming-of-age novel separates itself from the pack due to its unusual protagonists and their relationships to each other, due to the book's structure, and especially due to the writing. Told from various perspectives, one learns not only of Paula, her wishes and desires and her guilt at sometimes complaining about her brother, but also of Paul's perception of the world. He is a word-finder and word-inventor who loves to play with sounds, syllables and meanings – a term like »sea water« might become »seaswellwaterseashellwater.« (Age: 14+)

93



Al-Mousli, Luna (text/illus.)

Albahesch, Yamen (transl.)

**Eine Träne, ein Lächeln.**

**Meine Kindheit in Damaskus**

(A tear, a smile. My childhood in Damascus)

Frankfurt am Main: Weissbooks, 2015. – [ca. 100] p.

ISBN 978-3-940888-61-7

(Further special edition with different illustrations, 2016. ISBN 978-3-86337-107-4)

Damascus | Childhood | Family | Everyday life

Always new slogans. Soldiers. Despotism. Playing in the pool. Scented jasmine. Glittering chandeliers. The contradictions of a childhood under dictatorship are captured by this book's title, »A tear. A smile.« On the one hand, growing up unfree. On the other, experiencing warmth and security within the family circle. This book was Luna Al-Mousli's (b. 1990) final thesis project for graphic design. In it she describes her story with clippings from the family album and vignettes in Arabic and German. The short texts and blurry photos together develop a great visual and narrative intensity and create an evocative space for association, which will not only light up memories, but also enliven them and reveal their compelling power. In this way, Luna Al-Mousli's very personal book becomes a book for everyone. It has political dimensions, but also invites readers to identify and encourages them to tell their own stories. (Age: 12+)

94



Bauer, Jutta / Spitzer, Katja (eds.)

Various artists (illus.)

Jennings, Helen (transl.)

**Das Beste von Allem**

(The best of all)

Hamburg: Aladin, 2015. – [112] p.

ISBN 978-3-8489-0097-8

Text German and English

Picture dictionary | Bilingual book

The title of this book might make one wonder whether it's about megalomania or just a healthy self-confidence and a spot of humour. The bar is definitely set high. The volume, a compendium of sorts, collects drawings inspired by various terms: from »lamps« and »hair-dos« to »the dumbest thing«. One quickly notices that all 63 contributors (59 of whom are professional illustrators, the other four children) consider very different things to be dumb (Nazis, tax bills, fighting...). One also notes a variety of techniques and styles: watercolour, coloured pencil, acrylic, print; naturalistic, caricature, grotesque. This book is ripe for many look-throughs, which will encourage comparing, art-making and storytelling. Though more artists could be included, the book also provides a good view into the present state of German illustration. That is why the title »The best of all« is certainly apt. (Age: 3+)



95

Duda, Christian (text)  
Friese, Julia (illus.)

### **Bonbon**

(*Bonbon*)

Weinheim [et al.]: Beltz & Gelberg, [2016]. – [28] p.  
ISBN 978-3-407-82113-3

Child | Sweets | Conscience | Conflict |  
Picture book

What do bonbons have to do with monsters? A great deal – at least for a little girl whose mind readers of this picture book are invited to peer into. The girl finds a bonbon... it's so very tempting, but it's bedtime. Teeth have already been brushed, the sandman has already come and gone. The candy must wait. The girl tries bravely to resist... but what if the bonbon is cold? It definitely is! It wants to be warmed up. It's also starting to make noise, which will alert parents, police and even »the monster and horrible things.« It's probably better to hide the sweet in one's mouth. But even then monster danger is not averted – quite the contrary: Things get more and more dramatic in the girl's imagination, thoughts tumble over one another, trump each other, tower upwards – until a surprising finale. The duo of Duda and Friese have created a tasty treat of a book, in which text, illustration, and typography complement one another perfectly. (Age: 4+)



96

Grossmann-Hensel, Katharina (text/illus.)

### **Eltern richtig erziehen**

(*Raising parents right*)

Berlin: Annette Betz, 2016. – [28] p.  
ISBN 978-3-219-11670-0

Role reversal | Daughter | Parents | Parenting |  
Picture book

This book's cover already tells us who's the boss: A girl in a red dress with a crown on her head is standing on a little yellow chair, which is resting on the rumps of two adults. These two adults bend over backwards to attend to the girl's every need. To have such obedient parents is the result of a painstaking parent-rearing process: »I taught them to be polite. What is the magic word? It's paprika! Because I say so.« Parents doing a child's bidding is not a new idea, but this doesn't detract from the fun, nor does it make self-identification less obvious: all parents will find themselves reflected here, because they know of the potential tyrant their precious little one holds inside. All readers will have great fun in this upside-down world. Bold coloured pencil drawings in various formats and clever play with flowing text and speech bubbles give this funny story an extra boost. (Age: 4+)

97



Gutzschhahn, Uwe-Michael (ed.)  
 Wilharm, Sabine (illus.)  
**Ununterbrochen schwimmt im Meer der Hinundherhing hin und her. Das dicke Buch vom Nonsens-Reim**

*(The here-and-therring swims here, there, everywhere. The big book of nonsense verse)*  
 München: cbj, 2015. – 180 p.  
 ISBN 978-3-570-15971-2

[Animals](#) | [Nonsense](#) | [Poetry](#)

This »big book of nonsense rhymes« comes in a visually striking format. The book binding is made of grey board with a red spine, its cover is green, red, black and white and spots a fish – presumably a herring – with umbrella and tie. Aside from the »Hinundherhing« (here-and-therring), which is an invention of children's poet Frantz Wittkamp, the book contains rhymed and illustrated verses about polar bears, frogs, lions, and a variety of other beasts. There are also many non-animal-related poems and pictures. Uwe-Michael Gutzschhahn's selection is wide and encompasses a broad time frame. It reaches from Lessing and Chamisso to Janisch and Kreller. Great masters of nonsense such as Ringelnatz, Morgenstern, and Gernhard are of course also there. Some of the selected poems are genuine classics always present in poem anthologies. Others are seen less often – for instance, Otto Waalkes's »Überlegungen zum Paarungsverhalten von Hamstern« (Thoughts on the mating behaviours of hamsters). (Age: 8+)

98



Luu, Que Du (text)  
**Im Jahr des Affen**

*(In the year of the monkey)*  
 Hamburg: Königskinder, [2016]. – 286 p.  
 ISBN 978-3-551-56019-3

[Germany](#) | [History 1970s](#) | [Vietnam](#) | [Refugee](#) | [Family](#) | [Coming of age](#)

A provincial town in Germany in the 1970's. Sixteen-year-old Minh Thi, called Mini, lives there with her father. They are Chinese boat people from Vietnam. Her father has opened a Chinese Restaurant, which does moderately well, though he works around the clock to make it successful. One day he keels over from a heart attack. The second one follows shortly thereafter. Mini, newly in love with Bela, must jump in and keep the business running. This is not exactly easy, given the stubborn cook and Uncle Wu visiting from Australia. »Im Jahr des Affen« tells a coming-of-age story of a special kind. Mini, who is at first a typical egocentric teenager, takes over responsibility and must cope with the history and the secrets of her family. Que Du Luu, who like Mini is of Chinese descent and came to Germany from Vietnam as a child, stays in tune with her protagonist: Mini is a careful observer with a fine sense for discerning meaning and depth in seemingly banal details. (Age: 14+)



99

Mohl, Nils (text)

### **Zeit für Astronauten**

(Time for astronauts)

Reinbek bei Hamburg: Rowohlt Taschenbuch Verl., 2016. – 421 p.

(Series: Rowohlt Rotfuchs)

ISBN 978-3-499-21678-7

Journey | Self-discovery | Love

Never say that something is hopeless. If you believe in it and bring enough grit, you may just win your lady's heart, even if she is older than you and amazingly beautiful, and you're fifteen, have a hearing aid and wear old man clothes. Your efforts may only yield a fleeting kiss on the cheek – but, hey, that could be the beginning of great things. In Nils Mohl's »Zeit für Astronauten,« the third and final part of a trilogy, one encounters old acquaintances from the earlier novels, »Es war einmal Indien-nerland« (Once there was Indian Country) and »Stadtrandritter« (Knights of suburbia). There's someone new at the centre of this story: Kevin Körts alias Commander Körts. He is the boy with the hearing aid – a real genuine fellow with a quick tongue and dogged tenacity. Nils Mohl's new novel has everything that the author is known for: brilliant writing, complex characters, an elaborate drama-turgy, highs and lows. Love, faith, hope. Mission accomplished. (Age: 14+)



100

Orths, Markus (text)

Meyer, Kerstin (illus.)

### **Das Zebra unterm Bett**

(The zebra under the bed)

Frankfurt am Main: Moritz-Verl., 2015. – 67 p.

ISBN 978-3-89565-310-0

Friendship | Zebra | Diversity | Discrimination | Blended family

One morning Hanna discovers a zebra under her bed. His name is Bräuniger; he can talk and likes Nutella sandwiches. He has a cold, so Hanna's dad Paul and Konrad, who are a »homosensational« couple, give him a spoon of cough syrup. Then Bräuniger and Hanna head off to school together.... and everything goes topsy turvy. Her schoolmates are delighted, her teacher is confused and Principal Flausch is not having any of it. He wants to eject the zebra from class right away because it cannot speak, write or do math. This is not true, since Bräuniger can do this and much more, but the narrow-minded principal wants to get rid of him nonetheless – just because he's different. Great characters, super dialogues and marvellous illustrations: seldom has a book handled the topic of being different in as graceful a way as Markus Orth's and Kerstin Meyer's wonderful book. (Age: 6+)







103

Scherz, Oliver (text)  
Schössow, Peter (illus.)

### **Keiner hält Don Carlo auf**

*(No one can stop Don Carlo)*

Stuttgart: Thienemann-Esslinger, 2015. – 106 p.  
ISBN 978-3-522-18395-6

Father | Quest | Journey | Italy

Good old Goethe's voyage through Italy was a breeze by comparison. The motto of this story is: No one can stop Don Carlo! When Carlo gets an idea in his head, he sees it through. And this is how he winds up in a train from Germany to Sicily, without a ticket, wearing a tie and a white suit. His father lives in Palermo, ever since his wife threw him out. Carlo has missed his father so much that he just sets out to visit him. But a trip like this isn't exactly easy for an eleven-year-old (even if one looks thirteen). Carlo's ride is one big adventure, including aid-giving angels, nasty scoundrels, ladies with Berlin dialect, and even Italian mamas with big hearts. Author Olivier Scherz is writing himself slowly but surely into the highest ranks of children's book authors. Here he tells a tale that is at once a fast-paced, action-packed trip and also a touching father-son story where a person's will can move mountains. (Age: 8+)



104

Weyhe, Birgit (text/illus.)  
Ulrich, Johann (ed.)

### **Madgermanes**

*(Madgermanes)*

Berlin: avant-verlag, [2016]. – 236 p.  
ISBN 978-3-945034-42-2

GDR | History 1980s | Mozambique |  
Work migration | Future dreams | Graphic  
novel

They are young, they've got dreams, and they've got plans. José, Basilio, and Annabella arrive from Mozambique in the 1980s as contract workers in the GDR »brother state«. While Basilio the lady charmer enjoys life, quiet, ambitious José has faith in socialism. His friend Annabella, on the other hand, despises the corrupt communist war regime in Mozambique and wants to become a doctor. At first closely tied together, the fates of these three drift apart after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Birgit Weyhe modelled the fictional characters of Basilio, José and Annabella on numerous conversations held with »Madgermanes« – how people of Mozambique working in East Germany were called. The lives of Basilio, José and Annabella are illustrated using a limited colour palette of brown, white, black and grey, which reflects both the GDR and Mozambique. The three moving biographies also gesture at a forgotten aspect of German history having to do with false promises, shattered hopes, exclusion, resignation and bitterness. (Age: 16+)

105



Zaeri-Esfahani, Mehrnousch (text)  
Zaeri-Esfahani, Mehrdad (illus.)  
**33 Bogen und ein Teehaus**  
(33 bows and a tea house)  
Wuppertal: Peter Hammer, [2016]. – 145 p.  
ISBN 978-3-7795-0522-8

Iran | History 1979 | Repression | Escape |  
Migration

Isfahan, Iran at the end of the 1970s. After the »Islamic Revolution«, Mehrnousch's family quickly realizes that the country's situation is not improving. Repressive measures define everyday life. When all fifteen-year-old boys are set to be recruited as cannon fodder for the war against Iraq, the family decides to flee. Their route takes them over Turkey to Germany, East and West Berlin, Karlsruhe and Heidelberg. The escape takes over two years and wears at the nerves of the parents. The children are less anxious and more robust, but they do sense the insecurity. While Mehrnousch Zaeri-Esfahani tells her story as a fantastical parable in the book »Das Mondmädchen« (The moon girl; Kneesebeck Verlag, 2016), she slips into her childhood self in »33 Bogen und ein Teehaus«, enabling the reader to sense the experience of homeland and of voicelessness along with her, as well as the little joys and moments of good fortune. (Age: 12+)

106

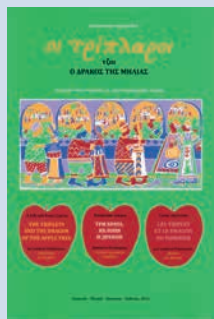


Wolfgruber, Linda (text/illus.)  
**Fisch!**  
(Fish!)  
Zürich: NordSüd, 2016. – [28] p.  
ISBN 978-3-314-10339-1

Otter | Cooking | Cinema | Picture book

»Fish!« the otter yells. »Behind the bush, behind the mountain, in front of the lake!« Quickly the other otters pack everything up: pots and spoons for stirring, sage, thyme, and rosemary. Mmm, what a feast this will be! »There, there, there! There's the fish!« The otters are very excited. There on dry land lies the fish ... almost a tasty dish already. But only almost! Because the otters don't want to eat the fish after all, but instead put him in an aquarium, call the whole thing »Cinema under the stars« and intently watch him as he swims. »Fish!« is fun to read not only because of its surprising twist. Short sentences, one-word sentences, as well as repetitions and onomatopoeia make the text rhythmical and give it pace and energy. The colourfulness of the pictures – muted brown and green hues – and their minimalism offer a calm counter-balance. (Age: 2+)

107



Polykarpu, Lampros (Polykarpou, Lampros) (text)  
Tsangarēs, Champēs (Tsangaris, Hambis) (illus.)  
Zira, Magdalena / Gorbacheva, Alexandra /  
Reeb-Tsangaris, Hélène (transl.)

### **Oi triplaroī tzai o drakos tēs mēlias**

*(The triplet brothers and the apple tree dragon)*  
Leukōsia (Nicosia): Champēs Tsangarēs (Hambis  
Tsangaris), 2015. – 87 p. – ISBN 978-9963-9586-4-1  
Text Greek, English, Russian and French

Courage | Greed | Folk tale | Multilingual book

This quadri-lingual illustrated volume presents a 300-year-old Cyprian folk tale as told by ninety-one-year-old Lampros Polykarpou. It is the story of a king who at the birth of his triplet sons plants an apple tree. On their seventeenth birthdays the tree bears three apples, which one by one are stolen by a dark figure. The clues lead to a dragon in the underworld, who has captured three girls whom he wants to seduce using the apples. After the brave youngest prince kills the dragon, frees the girls, is betrayed by his brothers and then is reconciled with them, a triple marriage ensues. The important artist and former university art lecturer Hambis Tsangaris lives and works in the Cyprian village of Plataniskia, where he directs a lithography museum. His much-praised work is strongly connected to Cyprian traditions, as are the lithographs in this book, which are characterized by bright colours and ornamental lines. (Age: 7+)

108



Angelu, Angelos (Aggelou, Aggelos) / Sinē, Emē  
(Sini, Emi) (text)  
Theocharēs, Kōstas (Theoharis, Kostas) (illus.)

### **Ena alphabēto taxidi**

*(A travelling ABC)*  
Athēna: Papadopulos (Papadopoulos), 2015.  
– [54] p.  
ISBN 978-960-569-501-9

Travelling | ABC book

In this ABC book, not only do readers travel from A to Z, they also are in for thrilling adventures and discoveries. Every letter equips the imagination with the necessary gear and spurs on children with companions such as helpful giraffes and friendly grandmas who give them sweets for the road. This winning book thus sets up encounters with the alphabet and offers fitting pictorial accents that will inspire discussion in even the youngest readers. Aside from writing for children, Emi Sini and Aggelos Aggelou have been running successful music and theatre programs for children since 2005. Kostas Theoharis's pictures, which use hand printing and recall graphic design and book illustrations of the late 1950s, received the Greek Award for Graphic Art and Illustration in 2015 in the »book« category. The artist also works in the field of handprint art. (Age: 3+)

109



Glōssiōtē, Elena (Glossioti, Elena) (text)  
Delēboria, Myrtō (Delivoria, Myrto) (illus.)

### **Ο Φύλλος**

(Leaf head)

Athēna: Thines, 2015. – 124 p.

ISBN 978-618-80209-4-8

Forest | Love of nature | Environmentalism |  
Fantasy fiction

Fyllos (Leaf head) lives in a forest full of fragrant clearings, mythic legends and tree houses, and has leaves instead of hair on his head. The tree boy grows up carefree, surrounded by the song of the wind, the wisdom of animals and the love of his people. But one day, just as his grandfather had warned, intruders destroy the forest. The boy is abducted by a hunter to a place where green is forbidden and where he is treated in a degrading manner. After he manages to escape, he finds his way back to his world, and helps to nurture it back to health, with the help of two allies. Elena Glossioti's poetic fantasy story is about the preciousness and vulnerability of life, in which nature and the experience of nature are portrayed in a sensuous, captivating way. The wonderfully designed small-format book comes from the independent publisher Thines and was awarded the prize of IBBY Greece in 2016 for the book cover, designed by renowned illustrator Myrto Delivoria. (Age: 10+)

110



Kaua, Abraam (Kawa, Abraham) (text)  
Papadatos, Alekos / Di Donna, Annie (illus.)

### **Δήμοκρατία**

(Democracy)

[Athēna]: Ikaros, 2015. – 247 p.

ISBN 978-960-572-072-8

Democracy | Greece | History 500 BC |  
Graphic novel | Non-fiction

This suspenseful, innovative graphic novel offers an historical-literary retrospective of the hard road to the birth of democracy in Greek antiquity, through the eyes of Leandros, an unknown young Athenian of that time. The characters are very human within a dense plot full of connections to the present day. The interplay between text and picture is captivating. The book is carefully researched; an informative glossary supports readers as they explore the historical facts. »Dēmokratia« has been translated into several languages and received the IBBY Greece young adult book award in 2016. Abraham Kawa has been working as a comic book author since 1994 and also has published numerous academic articles in cultural magazines in Greece and abroad. The illustrator team Alekos Papadatos and Annie di Donna received notice for »Logicomix«, which topped the New York Times Bestseller list in 2008. (Age: 12+)



111

Papagiannē, Maria (Papagianni, Maria) (text)  
Lada, Ephē (Lada, Efi) (illus.)

**Eiche ap' ola kai eiche polla**

(He had it all and had a lot)

Athēna: Patakēs (Patakis), 2015. – [30] p.

ISBN 978-960-16-6503-0

Greed | Abuse of power | Meaning of life |  
Zest for life | Literary fairy tale

A once strong and beloved king is overwhelmed by distrust and fear after having nightmares of losing his possessions and his people's love forever. Ruled by his delusion, he isolates himself from his people and the people from each other. Joy, smiling, even eye contact are no longer permitted. The king carries all that he owns and all that makes life worth living around with him in a giant sack, until one day he dies of misery. The people then open the sack to finally share their happiness with each other. In this fairytale-like story, critically acclaimed author Maria Papagianni promotes values such as freedom and fulfilled communal living that stand opposed to materialism and the fear of life. She does so by drawing on allegorical elements in a vivid and inspired way. The illustrations of Efi Lada – who also has received multiple awards and international acclaim – are delicate and at the same time expressive; they emphasize the affective dimensions of the text through shape and colour. (Age: 5+)



112

Sborōnu, Elenē (Svoronou, Eleni) (text)  
Gutianu, Evangelia (Goutianou, Evangelia) (illus.)

**Sklēro karydi**

(Hard nut)

Athēna: Kaleidoskopio, [2015]. – 51 p.

ISBN 978-960-471-087-4

Refugee | Exclusion | Acceptance | Cultural  
conflict | Interculturalism

Ayse is from Kabul and lives with her mother and her brother in Athens, where she goes to a Greek school. She describes her everyday life, where she is confronted by prejudice, not only as a refugee child but also as a girl who passionately plays football, even in ragged sandals. But Ayse is a pugnacious »hard nut« and will prevail. The other protagonists of this story are some Greek children who are Ayse's age. They arrive at their own insights and learn to live as tolerant people. Renowned author, critic, and promoter of literacy Eleni Svoronou employs Ayse's direct, disarming language as a well-suited means to realistically portray the topics of refugeedom, exclusion, and acceptance. The clear lines and strong colours of Evangelia Goutianou's illustrations bring the story's contrasts to light and express the child's will to connect her own culture with this (still) foreign one. The publication of this book was supported by the UN refugee protection organization UNHCR. (Age: 8+)



113



Therkildsen, Lene (ed.)

**Allatta! 2040. Siunissaq pillugu oqaluttuaaraliat qulit inuusuttunut = 10 noveller for og af unge om fremtiden**

*(Let's write! 2040. 10 short stories about the future of and for young people)*

[Nuuk]: Milik, 2015. – 285 p.

ISBN 978-87-92790-63-7

Text in Greenlandic and Danish

[Greenland](#) | [The future](#) | [Bilingual book](#)

If anyone is working to benefit children's and young adult literature in Greenland, and promoting up-and-coming authors there, it is Milik Press. In collaboration with others it has already run several writing contests for young Greenlanders and published the best entries. The anthology »Allatta! 2040« also came about in this manner. It brings together ten short stories that all unfold in the future – in the year 2040. Many of the texts are concerned with environmental destruction through ore mining and oil drilling, with social tensions and the negative effects of progress, such as the loss of a Greenlandic identity and traditional ways of life. All these themes have long been in the air in Greenland. The pitch of the texts varies; while many of the stories are rather dystopian, the tone is often not pessimistic or depressed, but defiant and self-aware. Just like Greenland's young generation. (Age: 14+)

114



Moltsadski, Ya'el (Molchadsky, Yael) (text)

Bergman, Orit (illus.)

**Ekh hitsilah ha-zik' et Noah** (Eyk hitsila ha'Zikit et Noah)

*(The chameleon t hat saved Noah's Ark)*

Or Yehuda: Kinneret, 2015. – [36] p.

ISBN 978-965-552-979-1

[Noah's Ark](#) | [Individuality](#) | [Usefulness](#) | [Picture Book](#)

This picture book tells the well-known story of Noah's Ark that survives the Flood from a special point of view. A pair of chameleons and Noah's wife, Na'ama, play the central roles. Na'ama makes sure that all animals on the Ark are fed and taken care of, as Noah does too. Na'ama is concerned because the chameleons are not eating and grow weak. When she discovers worms underneath the deck who are helping themselves to the enormous fruit reserves, Noah comes to look, bringing the chameleons to the stock room by chance. The two animals decimate the number of worms, thereby saving all the Ark's passengers from starving. In her first children's book, Yael Molchadsky emphasizes the role of Noah's wife in the story of the Ark and shows that every creature is important and has a specific role to play. Orit Bergman's colourful, humorous illustrations, which bear some folk art elements, give expression to the individual traits of the Ark's creatures. (Age: 4+)



115

Elekes, Dóra (text)  
Kun, Fruzsina (illus.)

### **A muter meg a dzsinnek**

(Mother and the jinns)

Budapest: Csimota, 2015. – 37 p.

ISBN 978-963-9768-80-2

Alcoholism | Personality change | Mother | Child

What is it like if your own mother drinks? She loses all feeling of time, becomes aggressive, excessively euphoric and desperately sad. Her marriage falls apart and she neglects her child – these are predictable results. In Dóra Elekes's taboo-breaking young adult book, the oppressive, suffocating atmosphere of living with an alcoholic parent breeds a mixture of emotions ranging from abandonment, shame, helplessness and guilt, along with both love and hate for one's own mother. The author allows the reader to experience the dramatic situation only from the perspective of the child protagonist. Thus it is only gradually revealed that the various jinns (spirits) who, from the child's perspective, have taken possession of the mother, are in fact the various symptoms of alcohol addiction. This scant 37-page-long foray into misery leaves us with an open ending: the child brings the drunk, shivering mother to bed and turns off the light. (Age: 12+)



116

Dewayani, Sofie (text)  
Hidayat, Cecillia (illus.)

### **Srinti**

[Ngamprah]: Yayasan Litara, 2015. – [28] p.

(Series: Bianglala anak nusantara)

ISBN 978-602-70158-0-7

(1<sup>st</sup> ed. 2014)

Earthquake | Siblings | Death | Grief | Remembrance | Picture book

Simple pencil drawings and sparse dialogue introduce the situation: We look out from a makeshift shelter onto a ruined, depopulated landscape. A little girl discovers her vanished younger sister's doll, named Sri, in the debris. The girl next door, however, claims it is Santi, the doll of her elder sister, who also has disappeared. They pull and tug and finally tear off the doll's head. Their grandparents sew the doll together again, and the girls are forced to deal with each other. After some bickering they agree on a new name for the doll: Sri and Santi merge into Srinti, who becomes a token of remembrance and a means to cope with the traumatic event of the Yogyakarta earthquake of 2006. Sofie Dewayani is a University teacher, a writer and publisher and the head of the Litara Foundation, which aspires to improve the literary standard of Indonesian children's literature. Since its establishment in 2014, Litara has won several Asian awards for its books. Cecillia Hidayat studied Visual Communication and works as a freelance illustrator. (Age: 4+)

HUNGARIAN  
INDONESIAN

Hungary  
Indonesia

117



Da Ros, Emanuela (text)  
Trainito, Stefano (illus.)

**La storia di Marinella. Una bambina del Vajont**

(*The story of Marinella, a girl from Vajont Valley*)  
Milano: Feltrinelli Kids, 2015. – 125 p.  
ISBN 978-88-07-92259-6

Vajont Valley | History 1963 | Dam |  
Catastrophe

This novel recounts the life of Marinella, a teenage girl from the village of Longarone. Thirsty for new things, as all teenagers are, she is eager to try out everything that offers new revelations and feelings to her. While Marinella focuses exclusively on the here and now, the village's adults discuss the mountains; they watch the recently erected dam high above their homes, a wall more than 260 metres tall, and observe the warning signs of nature rebelling against this insane construction project. Marinella ponders her future, a future that won't exist. During the night of October 9, 1963, Monte Toc splits in two, and a devastating chain reaction of water, stones, and mud extinguishes the lives of 1,910 people. Marinella is one of them. Her story is rescued from oblivion by Emanuela Da Ros. When the author discovered the girl's exercise book at the memorial site in Fortogna, she decided to tell the tale of Marinella and of one of the biggest disasters in Italy during peace times. (Age: 10+)

118



D'Arzo, Silvio (text)  
Possentini, Sonia Maria Luce (illus.)

**Il pinguino senza frac**

(*The penguin without tailcoat*)  
Reggio Emilia: Corsiero editore, [2015]. – [54] p.  
ISBN 978-88-98420-18-6

Antarctica | Penguin | Differentness | Diversity |  
Search for identity | Solidarity | Journey

Silvio D'Arzo wrote this novel as early as 1949 but didn't find a publisher willing to take it on. Thanks to the publishing house Einaudi, the story was first published about twenty years later; now it has come out in a completely new edition. Fairly unusual for a novel, this edition is designed as an accordion book. Unfolded, the book is a seven-metre strip with the text on the top of the pages and the illustrations, rendered in various shades of grey, at the bottom. The book tells the story of penguin Limpo, who was born without the tailcoat that is characteristic for his species. This »deficiency« makes him feel alienated from the others, and he is curious to find answers to the question of why he is different. The protagonist's adventures inspire readers to think about identity, courage, and destiny, and about the chances and enrichments that otherness may bring. (Age: 9+)

119



Ghigliano, Cinzia (text/illus.)

**Lei. Vivian Maier**

(She. Vivian Maier)

Roma: Orecchio acerbo, [2016]. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-8-89906-427-3

Maier, Vivian | New York | Chicago |  
Biography | Picture book

The photographer Vivian Maier (1926-2009) only became known to a wider audience after her death, in particular after young John Maloof, the son of a junk-shop owner, had rediscovered and rescued a large number of her black-and-white negatives at an auction. The text and pictures of this picture book by Cinzia Ghigliano present examples of Maier's life and her passion for photography. In a sensitive way, the author shows the vigilant eye of the babysitter Vivian, whose photos enable her audience to see in a new way. Looking and observing, understanding and telling stories, reading and reconstructing, marvelling and being led to marvel – that's what this book inspires readers to do. With a lot of respect, the author portrays the story of this photographer, who left priceless photographic documents of life in New York and Chicago. Ghigliano invites readers to stroll through bygone times with an open mind and attention to invisible things. (Age: 9+)

120



Riccioni, Alessandro (text)

Facchini, Vittoria (illus.)

**Mare matto**

(Crazy sea)

Roma: Lapis, 2016. – [96] p.

ISBN 978-88-7874-479-0

Sea | Marine animals | Poetry

The sea is a fascinating world; an ever-changing universe brimming with new things to discover. Featuring illustrations and words, rhymes, language games, and excursions into poetry, this picture book invites young readers as well as older ones to look at the sea with different eyes. From anchovies to hermit crabs, from spiny lobsters to sharks: This volume presents a whacky and whimsical collection of fish and other marine animals wonderfully portrayed both in the text and in the illustrations carried out in Vittoria Facchini's trademark style. A lot of these ocean creatures are busy falling in and out of love, fighting courageous battles, trying to escape, suddenly disappearing, and reappearing. The tales talk about fish that follow their dreams or play ball. Effortlessly, the creatures swim across the book's pages, accompanied by a rhythm of elaborate and simple, amusing and delicate rhymes. (Age: 4+)

121



Rizzi, Valentina (text)  
Coppo, Marianna (illus.)

### **Ora non più**

(Not anymore)

Cagli (PU): Settenove, [2016]. – [26] p.  
ISBN 978-88-9894713-3

Child | Development | Differentness | Identity |  
Picture Book

This picture book tells a story about identity, about the willingness to change, and about things present and past. The focus is on four children – Sveva, Jimmy, Soledad, and Youssef – who, as they grow up, show a great openness about everything that life has to offer. First as toddlers, then as young children, they share their view on life: the things they do, what they love and hate, where they are heading to, and what they dream about. They are young people who make their own decisions, who direct and adjust their paths through life. Everything changes: their thoughts, their deeds, and their views of the world in which they live. The children are similar but, at the same time, decidedly different from each other. With just a few words and a perfect combination of text and illustrations, Valentina Rizzi and Marianna Coppo successfully address emotions and decisions, as well as personal developments and changes in society. (Age: 5+)

122



Torre, Roberta (text)  
Valentinis, Pia (illus.)

### **Ipazia e la musica dei pianeti**

(Hypatia and the music of the planets)

Palermo: rueBallu edizioni, [2016]. – 108 p.  
(Series: Jeunesse ottopiù; 13)  
ISBN 978-88-95689-23-4

Hypatia of Alexandria | Astronaut | Dialogue |  
Philosophy

This book is part of »Jeunesse ottopiù«, a series of particularly beautifully and carefully designed volumes. It stages the encounter of two women from different backgrounds and entirely different times. Through the story of astronaut Camilla, Hypatia of Alexandria (ca. 355-415) comes alive. Hypatia, a great mathematician, Neoplatonic philosopher, scientist, and astronomer, embodies the role of a woman of scientific curiosity, who is skilled in deep analysis and independent thought. Featuring a dialogue between the two women, Camilla's diary leads to the city of Alexandria, where Hypatia worked. The book discusses the women's wish to express their own thoughts, the need for fruitful disputations, and the sharing of knowledge; it is also about wisdom, education, sunshine and night, life and death, the future, technology, and inventions. Last but not least, the strikingly different music of the ancient past and today also plays a role in this very readable gem. (Age: 10+)

123



Virardi, Liuna (text/illus.)

### **ABC dei popoli**

(*ABC of the people*)

Milano: Terre di mezzo editore, [2016]. – [60] p.  
ISBN 978-88-6189-378-8

[Ethnic group](#) | [ABC book](#) | [Picture book](#) |  
[Non-fiction](#)

Well-balanced and economical in the use of colours, shapes, and words, this alphabet book gathers 26 ethnic groups from all continents. Liuna Virardi combines basic geometrical shapes – all visually listed at the end – in changing patterns to create ethnographic portraits. The pictures are formed by combining a small number of different signs in various ways. Together with the short texts, they capture the geographic and cultural characteristics of each group. This »ABC of the people« tells stories about distinguishing features and commonalities. Differences are highlighted in order to make the diverse characteristics of ethnic groups and cultures more graspable, but also to point to relationships between them. The book includes Blackfoot and Tuareg, Māori, Surma and Lisu – a people who lives in China, India, Myanmar, and Thailand – and others. Many of the people included here, some of which are not widely known, are showcased through the remarkable, deliberately simple portraits. They point out that all belong to that one big family, the family of human beings. (Age: 5+)

124



Wu Ming 4 (text)

Mazzoleni, Federico (illus.)

### **Il piccolo regno**

(*The small realm*)

Milano: Bompiani, [2016]. – 231 p.  
ISBN 978-88-452-8112-9

[England](#) | [History 1935](#) | [Summer](#) | [Holidays](#) |  
[Coming of age](#)

This novel is a literary masterpiece brimming with suspense, fantasy, intimacy, and commonality; exuding an atmosphere both bright and enigmatic. The book tells the story of a childhood coming to an end in the 1930s from the point of view of a boy who spends his summer holidays in the English countryside with his three cousins and their parents. Two worlds are juxtaposed: the world of the adults, the big people, and that of the children, the small people. The children's world is full of adventures, secrets, arguments, hideouts, dares, and acts of defiance. It consists of unknown territories that need to be explored, of the supernatural, and of changes. In the adults' world, there are relationships, unspoken truths, and the so-called Fabianism, an intellectual movement of the time, intent on developing a new society. All of this is played out against the backdrop of the unstable political situation in Europe, which will soon after cause deep wounds for innumerable people. (Age: 12+)





125

Ichinnorov, Ganbaatar (text)  
Baasansuren, Bolormaa (illus.)  
Tsuda, Noriko (transl.)

### **Toya no hikkoshi**

(Toya's moving)

Tōkyō: Fukuinkan Shoten, 2015. | 32 p.

(Series: Sekai kessaku ehon shirīzu)

ISBN 978-4-8340-8140-4

[Mongolia](#) | [Nomad](#) | [Journey](#) | [Picture book](#)

Mongolian illustrator Bolormaa Baasansuren and her husband Ganbaatar Ichinnorov have been working together in Japan for several years. Their beautiful picture books, based on their cultural heritage, have found international appreciation. With its detailed colourful illustrations calling to mind miniature paintings, their most recent picture book, »Toya no hikkoshi«, depicts the life of Mongolian nomads. One day in late spring, a family sets off on a long journey to the grasslands. Over the course of their journey, wolves attack their sheep at night and a heavy storm comes, but still they make their way with camels, horses, sheep and goats through the steppe, the Gobi Desert and a high mountain. A straight horizontal line stretches across the book's very wide double-page spreads. The captivating illustrations of the spectacular landscapes and the nomadic life – living in a ger, cooking and sleeping outside during the journey and playing the morin khuur, the Mongolian horsehead fiddle – expand young readers' minds and worlds. (Age: 4+)



126

Kobayashi, Yutaka (text/illus.)

### **Nagasaki monogatari. Ofune ga deru hi**

(The tale of Nagasaki. The day the ship departed)

Tōkyō: Iwanami Shoten, 2015. – [44] p.

ISBN 978-4-00-111252-8

[Japan](#) | [History](#) | [Nagasaki](#) | [Ship](#) | [Picture book](#)

The city of Nagasaki is surrounded by mountains, the sea and many small islands. Foreign ships brought new life to this remote land years ago, and since then, it has developed into an important port town of Japan. With dynamic illustrations, »Nagasaki monogatari. Ofune ga deru hi« depicts its beautiful landscape and the city where many cultures have intermingled. The story follows a boy who, 400 years ago, comes to Nagasaki to become a shipwright's apprentice. There he is surprised to see strange customs brought by foreign people. The multicultural environment intensifies his longing for the sea and opens his mind to the world. Some illustrations on the left-side pages are ingeniously enhanced by the illustrations on the right-side pages – for example, the distant view of a ship on the left is connected to a deck on the right. This quasi-cinematic zoom-in is particularly interesting. (Age: 9+)



127

Kutsuki, Shō (text)  
Sasameya, Yuki (illus.)

### **Ahiru no tegami**

(The »DUCK« letter)

Tōkyō: Kōsei shuppansha, 2014. – 64 p.

(Series: Ohanashi mitsuketa! Shirīzu)

ISBN 978-4-333-02644-9

Letter | School | Disability | Friendship

A first grade class receives a mysterious letter stating the word »DUCK«. The bad handwriting seems to be that of a young child, but it turns out to have been written by the school's twenty-four-year-old neighbour Kenichi who has just learned to write characters. The pupils discuss what they should write in reply to this one-word letter, and they decide to play a game with Kenichi through an exchange of letters. Waiting for his reply, they imagine what he will write back, and they are surprised, excited and glad to read his reply. While the exchange of letters continues for more than a year, they imagine their neighbour's everyday life and his feelings. Inspired by a true story, this book beautifully depicts a special age-blind friendship between people who have never met. The charming illustrations match the touching story very well. The illustrations of the letters written and drawn by the children and Kenichi are especially captivating. (Age: 7+)



128

Miyakoshi, Akiko (text/illus.)

### **Yoru no kaerimichi**

(Walking home at night)

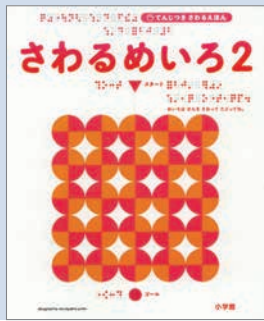
Tōkyō: Kaiseisha, 2015. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-4-03-332460-9

Night | Picture book

In this beautiful picture book, a little rabbit boy being carried by his mother gets glimpses of other people's lives on his way home at night and reflects on them in his bed at home. He spots people having a party, watching TV alone, finishing work, reading a book in a cosy room, cooking for their family soon coming home, and saying goodbye to their loved ones before going on a long journey. These common scenes of everyday life are illuminated by variegated light glowing through the windows. Soft light contrasts with richly nuanced darkness drawn with charcoal. Readers can find the same characters on different pages, including the endpapers, and imagine what their lives are like. The illustrations create cinematic vantage points: looking down from above or looking up at a building which rises to the sky. »Yoru no kaerimichi« received a special mention in the fiction category at the Bologna Ragazzi Award in 2016. (Age: 3+)

129



Murayama, Junko (illus.)

**Sawaru meiro 2**

(Braille Maze 2)

Tōkyō: Shōgakukan, 2015. – 10 p.

(Series: Tenji tsuki sawaru ehon)

ISBN 978-4-09-726575-7

Braille | Maze | Picture book | Textless book

The »Sawaru meiro« series was launched thanks to a collaboration between publishers, printers and organisations interested in promoting Braille picture books in Japan. The first »Sawaru meiro« volume (2013) was selected in 2015 for IBBY's »Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities« list. Its sequel, »Sawaru meiro 2«, includes eleven new Braille mazes which can easily be traced with the fingers. They are printed with embossing ink and are designed like traditional Japanese patterns. Even weak-sighted children will be able to perceive the beautiful, colourful geometric structures. Thanks to its accordion format, the pages of this truly unique and universally appealing cardboard book can be spread out so that several children, both visually impaired children and children without disabilities, can enjoy the book at the same time and have a lot of fun together. Since some of the mazes are challenging, readers can use the fingers of both hands to find the way through the mazes along the labyrinthine dotted lines. (Age: 4+)

130



Nakawaki, Hatsue (text)

**Sekai no hate no kodomotachi**

(Girls at the World's End)

Tōkyō: Kōdansha, 2015. – 381 p.

ISBN 978-4-06-219539-3

Japan | History 1932-2015 | War | Manchuria | Occupation | Colonization | Friendship

It is difficult to explore the theme of war guilt from a child's point of view. »Sekai no hate no kodomotachi« is special in that it deals with war guilt as experienced by three young girls of different cultural and social backgrounds. Their friendship with one another in the vast land of Manchuria, which Japan occupied in 1932 and then colonized, has greatly influenced their stormy lives – marked by family members' deaths, abuse in the orphanage, being fostered by loving Chinese foster parents after having been separated from the family during the harsh escape, discrimination and loss of the native language. This book is written for adults, but as the book shows how Japan can establish better relations with neighbouring countries to find the path to world peace, it can also be read and discussed by young adults. Based on meticulous research, this vivid and poignant narrative will touch the heart of teenage readers. (Age: 16+)



131

Satoshin (text)  
Yamamura, Koji (illus.)  
**Nagaidesho rippadesho**

(*Long is beautiful*)

Tōkyō: PHP kenkyūjo, 2014. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-4-569-78397-0

Animals | Picture book

»Nagaidesho rippadesho« is a picture book illustrated by world-renowned animated short film artist Koji Yamamura whose »Mt. Head« was nominated for an Oscar in 2003. In this picture book, animals show off their long noses or tails, explaining why these are well-suited to their lifestyles. While each animal proudly displays the long parts of their bodies, the rooster watches with envy and admiration, and finally reveals that he also has something long. The rooster's expressions and movements are vivid, comical and charming. The dynamic illustrations using a limited colour palette recall traditional Japanese painting. The book's unique front cover displays a striking array of ears and legs, a long nose and a tail. The rooster and a scale are cleverly illustrated on the endpapers. The simple plot has a universal appeal, and the rhythmic, repetitive text makes this book a truly entertaining read for very young children. (Age: 2+)



132

Yamamoto, Etsuko (text)  
Satō, Makiko (illus.)  
**Sensei, shukudai wasuremashita**

(*I forgot to do my homework because ...*)

Tōkyō: Dōshinsha, 2014. – 95 p.

ISBN 978-4-494-02041-6

School | Homework | Teacher

On the book cover we see an alien, a mouse and a turtle in a classroom. They are the reasons why the pupils could not do their homework. The whole story starts when one child lies, saying »I could not do my homework because I was sick,« and the teacher replies that he »should have made up a more plausible explanation.« Next morning the same pupil explains that he could not do his homework because he had been too busy, teaching multiplication to aliens. Since then, every day one student tells another imaginative story instead of bringing the homework. One day, it is the teacher herself who forgets to make the homework handouts. What will her explanation be? While so many school stories reflect the real world dealing with serious themes such as bullying, domestic abuse or poverty, this cheerful book depicts a teacher-pupil relationship based on mutual respect. The children's entertaining made-up stories, with their short, sparse text, will appeal even to reluctant readers. (Age: 9+)

133



Jeon, Eun-Jee (Jeon, Eun Ji) (text)  
 Lee, Gyeong-Seok (l, Gyeong Seok) (illus.)  
**Jjokji jeonjaeng**  
 (Post-it war)  
 Seoul: Chaek ingneun gom (Bear Books Publishing), 2015. – 183 p.  
 (Series: Keungomjari; 021)  
 ISBN 979-11-5836-017-7

Verbal aggression | Language | Friendship | School

We get in touch with others through words; they connect us but sometimes divide us. This book tells us about their power and impact. Ji-hyun and Soo-hye are cross with each other due to one wrong word having been said. Their conflict escalates when they hurt each other's feelings by using more offensive words. Hyun-chul's attempt to reconcile the two arguing parties only results in an even more complicated conflict and wounded hearts. At that point their teacher suggests trying a »Post-it conversation«. Since it's hard to watch one's own language, she thinks, their relationship will improve if they read each other's Post-it messages and think twice before handing their own messages over to the other party. Will the situation resolve itself this way? Words can move a person's heart, even if it is heavy as a stone. Words are really powerful! Jeon Eun-Jee studied English Literature at Kyonggi University, while Lee Gyeong-Seok studied Western Painting and Illustration. (Age: 10+)

134



Jeong, Seung Hui (text)  
 Kim, Yun-Ju (Gim, Yun Ju) (illus.)  
**Choe Tak ssineun wae samage gasseulkka?**  
 (Why did Mr. Tak Choi go into the desert?)  
 Seoul: Baram ui aideul (Windchild Publ.), 2015.  
 – 176 p.  
 (Series: Nopsaebaram; 36)  
 ISBN 978-89-94475-66-0

Journey | Desert | Parents | Meaning of life | Fantasy fiction

Even though half a year has already gone by since his parents disappeared in the Sahara, Mr. Choi continues to go to work every day, where he is bullied by his boss. One day, he realizes that this life is not what he expected it to be and that he doesn't want to live this routine anymore. So he sets off to the desert in search of his parents. Although the word »Sahara« can be translated as »nothing«, during his journey through this »nothingness«, Mr. Choi discovers what is most precious in life. It is not very common to choose an adult as the main character for a children's or young adult book. However, through Mr. Choi we can talk about the meaningful and precious things in our lives which we usually forget in this busy world. Jeong Seung Hui works as a teacher and writes fiction for children and young adults. Kim Yun-Ju studied design in Seoul and London. In addition to teaching illustration, she has illustrated both children's and adults' books. (Age: 10+)



135

Kim, Soo-bin (Gim, Subin) (text)  
Kim, Jung-eun (Gim, Jeongeun) (illus.)

### **Yeoreumi banjajak**

(Where summer goes)

Seoul: Munhak dongne, 2015. – 194 p.

(Series: Boreumdal mungo; 64)

ISBN 978-89-546-3811-1

Adventure | Treasure hunt | Death | Grief |  
Fantasy fiction

After Yoo-ha dies in an accident, three children meet secretly at Yoo-ha's house on a hill. One is Lin-ah, who recently moved to the countryside and is distressed by the unfamiliar environment, another is Sa-wol, who always starts a fight with Lin-ah, and the other is Yoo-ha's best friend Ji-ho. They climb over the wall of Yoo-ha's house at 7:07 p.m. on the seventh day of every month. When they blow soap bubbles, Yoo-ha's voice sounds from somewhere, asking for help from the girls. They promise to grant Yoo-ha's wish and go on the hunt to find Yoo-ha's lost necklace. From then on, the three children who had nothing in common to begin with, share their memories of a brilliant summer day and of finding a secret trace of Yoo-ha together. Kim Soo-bin was awarded the 16<sup>th</sup> Munhakdongne Children's Literature Award 2015 for this fantasy novel. Kim Jung-Eun studied illustration at Korea University in Seoul. (Age: 10+)



136

Lee, Hyang-an (l, Hyang An) (text)  
Bae, Hyun-Ju (Bae, Hyeon Ju) (illus.)

### **Kkoma iut, Miru**

(My little neighbour Miru)

Seoul: Hyeonamsa (Hyeonamsa Publ. Co., Ltd.)

2015. – [30] p.

ISBN 978-89-323-7405-5

Community | Communication | Disability |  
Disregard | Picture book

Miru lives next door to an old lady known as Grandma Whiney, who seems to whine all the time. One day, Miru realizes that his bicycle obstructs the passage for her wheelchair. There are also pots and piles of recyclable waste outside each door along the corridor. Miru tries to clear the corridor for Grandma Whiney so that she can pass more easily. Through Miru, the neighbours and readers come to realize that it doesn't take much effort or money to make a change and to live in harmony with our neighbours. Lee Hyang-an studied literature at Hanyang University. She is author of more than seventy screenplays and children's books and in 2001 won the Seoul Broadcasting System (SBS) TV Literature Award. Bae Hyun-Ju studied illustration at Ewha Women's University in Seoul and at Hankook Illustration School. She won the 27<sup>th</sup> Korea Children's Book Award for her first picture book, »Sulbeem«. (Age: 5+)



137



Yoo, Kang-hee (Yu, Gang Hui) (text)

Yun Ye-ji (Yun, Ye Ji) (illus.)

**Dwi-ro ganeun gaemi***(An ant moving backwards)*

Seoul: Munhak dongne, 2015. – 119 p.

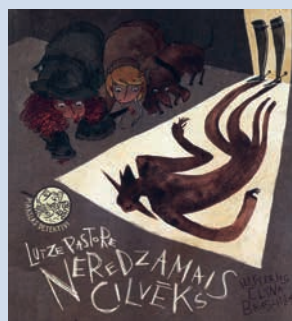
(Series: Munhak dongne dongsijip; 39)

ISBN 978-89-546-3749-7

Nature | Tolerance | Compassion | Poetry

»Dwi-ro ganeun gaemi« (An ant moving backwards) is a collection of imaginative children's poems written in a unique style, which bridge the human and non-human worlds to shake up our all-too-human conception of the world. Poet Yoo Kang-hee, who has a warm heart for all the beings that often get overlooked in our daily lives, reveals the secrets residing in objects, non-human creatures and the world in these fifty poems. His compassionate embrace of difference across various animals and objects, be it moles and crickets, earth worms and dragonflies, rivers and rocks, or ducks on their way to the slaughter house, persuades us to live together in a more tolerant way. The beautiful combination of illustrator Yun Ye-ji's bold and free drawings with Yoo's poems will delight many young readers. Yun Ye-ji studied design and illustration at Hongik University and in Great Britain. Both he and Yoo Kang-hee already have several children's books to their credit. (Age: 7+)

138



Pastore, Luīze (text)

Brasliņa, Elīna (illus.)

**Neredzamaš cilvēks***(The invisible man)*

Rīga: Neputns, [2015]. – 59 p.

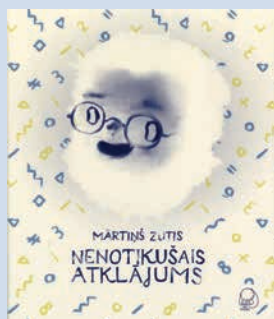
(Series: Mākslas detektīvi; 2)

ISBN 978-9934-512-51-3

Latvia | Art | Padeģs, Kārlis | Crime fiction

Luīze Pastore and Elīna Brasliņa landed a coup in Latvia with their »Mākslas detektīvi« (Art detectives) series, which was awarded the prestigious Jānis Baltvilks Prize in 2015. As in the other volumes of the series, in »Neredzamaš cilvēks« (The invisible man) child detectives Teo and Poga delve into Latvian art history in search for clues to solve the caper. When Poga's dog Comma disappears, the two children step into Kārlis Padeģs's (1911-1940) famous 1935 painting »Boot and dog« to search for the missing canine. In the process they learn why the painting depicts a pair of boots without a human owner – at least not one who's visible. Writer Pastore and illustrator Brasliņa, who develop the plots together, craft their stories to be suspenseful, funny, entertaining and informative. The style in which each story is written and illustrated varies greatly, since each is meant to fit the respective style of the painting that is the focus of each detective story. (Age: 7+)

139



Zutis, Mārtiņš (text/illus.)

### **Nenotikušais atklājums**

(The discovery that never was)

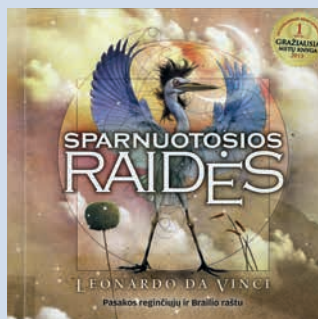
Rīga: Liels un mazs, [2015]. – [28] p.

ISBN 978-9934-533-24-2

Number | Counting | Picture book

An old scientist named Karl Darwing – a nod here to evolutionary theorist Charles D. – is tramping through the snow to retrieve his mail from the mailbox. But what it that? Tracks! There are tracks everywhere. Who's made them? Dotty old Darwing feels the itch to investigate and dreams up various hypotheses explaining each set of tracks: a bird with a broken leg, for instance, may be responsible for the one-step track, a trio of burglars left the six tracks behind, there was a cat and a limping dog... an octopus... car tires wearing boots... nothing is impossible! Ultimately, Mārtiņš Zutis's (b.1988) marvellous picture book debut is not about solving the riddles of the tracks, but about counting and playing with numbers. That this can be a thoroughly engaging activity is proven by the book's lively illustrations, which focus on funny details and offer much situational comedy. (Age: 3+)

140



Da Vinci, Leonardo (text)

Narečionis, Vilmas (illus.)

Klioštoraitytė, Rasa (transl.)

### **Sparnuotosios raidės. Pasakos reginčiųjų ir Brailio raštu**

(Winged letters. Fairy tales in letters and braille)

Klaipėda: Verslas ar menas, [2015]. – 21 p. + CD

ISBN 978-609-95642-1-0

Birds | Braille | Fable

Four bird fables by Leonardo da Vinci are presented in this unusual board book project, which was nominated one of the most beautiful Lithuanian books of 2015. »Sparnuotosios raidės« is one of the first children's books of the country designed for both sighted and blind people. Graphic designer Vilmas Narečionis (b. 1964), for whom this is the first foray into children's literature, has created strange bird collages. While the bird figures are an attraction for sighted readers due to their visual presentation, the illustrations can also be experienced tactilely through embossed silhouettes of the birds and through the use of different embossed patterns which, for instance, reveal the structures of the birds' beaks. The text is also available in Braille; in addition, the accompanying CD offers an enchanting audio version of the stories. A great project! (Age: 5+)

LATVIAN  
LITHUANIAN

Latvia  
Lithuania

141



Sara, Máret Ánne (text)

**Ilmiiid Gaskkas***(Between worlds)*

Guovdageaidnu: DAT, [2013]. – 199 p.

ISBN 978-82-90625-69-1

(Norwegian edition: Mellom verdner.

DAT, 2014)

Lapland | Sami (people) | Nature | Habitat |  
Legend

Lemme and Sanne are members of the Sami people. Their parents keep reindeer, but Lemme and Sanne live totally normal teenager lives with shopping and motocross. When news arrives of a new cross track to be built near them, a fight ensues. While Lemme is thrilled, his father warns that it will destroy the habitat of the reindeer. Enraged, the siblings run away. When darkness falls, a frightening being suddenly appears in front of them: an Eahpáraš, a dead, unbaptized child who can find no peace. It kidnaps the siblings to the underworld and turns them into reindeer. Sanne and Lemme survive many dangers and learn that the underworld is connected to the world of the living. When nature is destroyed among the living, the life of the underworld's inhabitants is endangered. In her suspensefully written novel, Máret Ánne Sara cleverly interweaves fantasy and reality to make readers aware of the plight of the Sami, for whom it is increasingly difficult to maintain their traditional lifestyles. (Age: 12+)

142



Gjestad, Guro Hoftun (text)

**Ord på S***(Words with S)*

Oslo: Aschehoug, [2015]. – 143 p.

ISBN 978-82-03-25876-3

Father | Daughter | Death | Love

Most words in Norwegian begin with the letter S – for instance »sol«, which means »sun«. That is the name of this book's protagonist, and just as her name begins with an S, so too does the name of the boy who played violin at the funeral and orders a cortado at the café – his name is Simen. He asks for a »cortado«, while everyone else in Sun's village orders plain old coffee. Sun now lives alone with her grandma, since her father died after falling off a crane at work. It was at his funeral that Simen played. Sun cannot believe that her father is not there anymore, that pillar of strength with an Elvis quiff and a big heart. But despite her grief, she has feelings for Simen. Is she allowed to feel that way? Does she want to? Yes, she wants to. Guro Hoftun Gjestad's first young adult novel is cautious in tone, but even with all the tragedy first-person narrator Sun reveals a penchant for self-deprecation and humour. (Age: 14+)

143



Larsen, Elisabeth Helland (text)  
Schneider, Marine (illus.)

### **Jeg er Døden**

*(I am Death)*

Kolbotn: Magikon, [2015]. – [44] p.  
ISBN 978-82-92863-63-3

Death | Longevity | Picture book

The pictures in this book are lush and often cheerful. Plants and animals are on view, saturated green and beaming white, but also grey and black, empty landscapes and the expansive heavens. The one who calls herself Death wears black, but she has a red-and-white flower in her hair and rides a red bicycle. Her glance is open and not threatening, and she seems gentle and friendly. She visits everyone: big and little animals, big and little people, young and old people, even those who are not yet even born. »Jeg er Døden« recalls in text and image Kitty Crowther's »La visite de petite mort.« It has a melancholic but also wise tone. The lyrical language is enhanced by its being set to verse: »Livet og jeg / bor sammen / i hver eneste kropp.« (Life and I / We live together / in every single body). Death is a part of life, it has to be so that new things can grow and live. A comforting insight. (Age: 4+)

144



Ørbeck-Nilssen, Constance (text)  
Duzakin, Akin (illus.)

### **Jeg kan følge deg hjem**

*(I can follow you home)*

Oslo: Omnipax, 2015. – [32] p.  
ISBN 978-82-8315-052-0

Dementia | Old age | Grandfather |  
Granddaughter | Picture book

Hanna and her grandma are on their way to visit Grandpa. He does not live at home anymore, because he keeps forgetting more and more things. Hanna doesn't exactly understand what is up with Grandpa and why he behaves so strangely. When they arrive, he asks her who she is, and gives her his hand instead of just taking her onto his lap and cuddling her. Hanna does not know this Grandpa. But then he begins to sing, and all of a sudden they are close again. »Jeg kan følge deg hjem« is a touching book about a child who misses Grandpa, and about a grandfather who loses himself. Not only the text but also the pictures reflect this insecurity. Akin Duzakin creates symbolically moulded spaces – forest, darkness, emptiness – that capture the vulnerable and hurt presence of a person who no longer knows who he is. But they also show the flare-up of joy, when he is close to his granddaughter again for a few moments. (Age: 6+)

145



Salinas, Veronica (text)

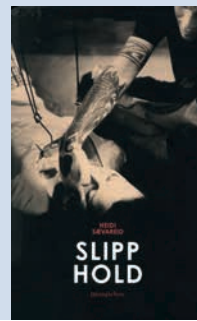
**Og**

(And)

[Oslo]: Cappelen Damm, 2016. – 171 p.  
ISBN 978-82-02-48982-3Argentina | Norway | Au pair | Loneliness |  
Speechlessness | Foreignness | Transculturalism

»Monika grabs the dictionary. She goes to the letter ›S‹ and moves her index finger down the page. She stops at the word ›sadness.‹ I open my dictionary and locate ›understand.‹» The first-person narrator in this novel experiences what Ludwig Wittgenstein observed: »The limits of my language mean the limits of my world.« In this story, an Argentinian au pair girl in Norway becomes painfully aware of the fact that, without language, there can hardly be any closeness, any »I«. If one lacks words, one cannot express what one is thinking, nor what one is feeling. One becomes invisible. Veronica Salinas, herself from Argentina, has written her novel in her adopted language of Norwegian. With precision and without pathos, she describes loneliness and sadness, but also persistence, since the first-person narrator gradually masters the language and the country, even though she remains »an other.« »Og« (And), the novel's ultra-concise title, hits the mark: the narrator develops new facets of herself, without forgetting her roots. (Age: 14+)

146



Sævareid, Heidi (text)

**Slipp hold**

(Let go)

Bergen: Mangschou, [2015]. – 230 p.  
ISBN 978-82-8238-109-3Body | Liminal experience | Suspension (Body  
modification)

Mari and Torger are a couple. Mari is interested in design, art and yoga, while Torger is more a kind of average, boring business-degree type. Mari has not been feeling great about the relationship for some time, as Torger tends to be a know-it-all and all in all is too conservative for his open-minded and inquisitive girlfriend. When a new roommate moves into Mari's apartment, who not only has a very unique hobby, but also knows interesting people, Mari distances herself more and more from Torger. She falls in love with August and soon wants to try what he does: pierce her skin with hooks and then let herself be suspended by them. Mari is always searching for new physical and psychological challenges, because they make her feel most alive. Heidi Sævareid's second book is a very worthwhile read, because it doesn't play out in a mainstream milieu and because the author succeeds in creating a multifaceted protagonist and in describing plot events in a detailed, yet not sensationalist way. (Age: 14+)



147

Skaranger, Maria Navarro (text)  
**Alle utlendinger har lukka gardiner**  
*(All foreigners have closed curtains)*  
 Oslo: Forlaget Oktober, 2015. – 104 p.  
 ISBN 978-82-495-1494-6

Migration | Coming of age | Everyday life |  
 Friendship

Romsås is a city district in Oslo with many high-rise buildings. Mariana lives there with her parents and her little brother. Her older brother is in jail, and this hangs over the family like a shadow. It burdens Mariana, who really just wants to be young and to live. Mariana's father is from Chile, her mother is Norwegian, and she goes to a school where the »potatoes« – ethnic Norwegians – are in the minority. Mariana talks about her dreams and fears, her family, of small and big conflicts, her friends and of Mu2, her love interest. In its linguistic liveliness, its crew of characters and its setting, the story somewhat recalls »Tigermilch« (2013) by German author Stefanie de Velasco. Mariana has no qualms about calling a spade a spade. She offers up no correct and proper »potato Norwegian« script, but an original, very energized text full of wrong syntax, neologisms, »Norwegianisms« and Anglicisms. This simulated chattiness builds the story's momentum. (Age: 14+)



148

Ahmadī, Aḥmad Riḍā (Ahmadi, Ahmad Reza) (text)  
 Ḥairiā, Rāšīn (Kheiriyeh, Rashin) (illus.)  
 Pārsāriḏād, Kūrus (Parsanezad, Kuroush)  
 (graphic design)  
**Asb wa Sīb wa Bahār**  
*(The horse, the apple, and spring)*  
 Tihrān: Kānūn-i Parwariš-i Fikrī Kūdakān wa Nūḡawānān (Kanoon), 2015 (= 1394 h.sh.). – 45 p.  
 ISBN 978-600-01-0089-6

Loneliness | Community | Solidarity | Picture book

Telling the story of a fairly unusual trio, this picture book tackles the topic of loneliness and community. The story opens with a white horse that becomes separated from its herd and runs away. In an orchard, the horse finds a red apple that was overlooked at harvest time and now hangs on the branch all by itself. The two of them travel on together – the apple comfortably tucked under the horse's mane, until it suddenly plops into a brook. A field worker leaves his work, fishes the apple out of the water, attaches it to the white's mane, and sets off with these two – into the happy ever after. Renowned author, poet, and scriptwriter Ahmad Reza Ahmadi's poetic text is accompanied by Rashin Kheiriyeh's cheerful double-spread colour illustrations, which perfectly mirror the story's fairytale-like atmosphere. A felicitous contrast is achieved through the unusually designed text pages by Kuroush Parsanezad. Their lines placed against a coloured background as well as the silhouette-like horse vignettes emanate a certain elegance. (Age: 8+)

NORWEGIAN  
 PERSIAN (FARSI)

Norway  
 Iran



149



Anšārīyān, Ma'sūma (Ansariyan, Ma'saume) (text)  
Rāqimī, Mahšid (Raqimi, Mahshid) (illus.)

**Kārnāmiyat rā qāyim kun** (Karnamehat ra qayam kon)

(*Hide your school report*)

Tihrān: Našr-i Paidāyiš (Nashr Peydayesh), 2015  
(= 1394 h.sh.). – 124 p.

ISBN 978-600-296-348-2

Daughter | Mother | Gender role | Siblings |  
Equality

In six stories, young Setareh talks about her daily life at school and in her family. She feels for her friend Azar, who is punished severely for a mere trifle. At home, she has to silently endure that her mother constantly favours her brother, simply because he is a boy. The unequal treatment of the siblings culminates when Setareh is asked to hide her excellent school report from her brother, so that he, as a boy, doesn't feel ashamed of his own unsatisfactory results in front of his sister. The mother also forbids her daughter to participate in the literature class at school; in her opinion, the girl should be content and grateful that she is allowed to go to high school at all. These everyday examples, told from Setareh's perspective, clearly point out what it means and how it feels, when girls are not treated equally within their families and society. (Age: 10+)

150



Ḥasan-zāda, Farhād (Hassanzadeh, Farhad) (text)

**Zibā šidāyam kun** (Ziba sedayam kon)  
(*Ziba, call me*)

Tihrān: Kānūn-i Parwariš-i Fikrī Kūdākān wa Nūḡawānān (Kanoon), 2015 (= 1394 h.sh.).

– 191 p.

(Series: Maḡmū'a-i Rumān-i Nauḡawān-i Imrūz)  
ISBN 978-600-01-0194-7

Father | Daughter | Mental illness |  
Domestic violence

On her birthday, Ziba would like to go on an afternoon jaunt with her father, who has been living in a psychiatric hospital for years. She wants to tell him how much she has to endure from her stepfather. For one thing, he ripped the earrings she inherited from her grandmother out of her ears to make money from them. Even though her drug-addicted mother witnessed the scene, she wasn't able to defend her daughter. The stepfather didn't even shy away from sexually harassing Ziba. Eventually, a new path opened up for Ziba, when she took refuge in a girls' home. At their outing, Ziba realises that her father's health is deteriorating – another thing with which she will have to come to grips. In this bitter story, which is rather unusual and open for Iranian young adult fiction, Farhad Hassanzadeh draws a direct and unmitigated picture of the teenage protagonist's life. The novel delivers a challenging topic that will give readers a lot to think about. (Age: 12+)



151

Rağabī, Mahdī (Rajabi, Mahdi) (text)  
 Arbābūn, Āmina (Arbaboun, Ameneh) (illus.)  
**Sāndwīčsāz, Mūdumasbībāf** (Sandewichsaz,  
 Mou Domasbibaf)  
 (*Sandwich machine, ponytail machine*)  
 Tih-rān: Našr-i Ufuq (Ofoq), 2015 (= 1394 h.sh.).  
 – 24 p.  
 (Series. Kitāb'hā-yi tašvīrī; 9)  
 ISBN 978-600-353-152-9

Wish | Imagination

Wishes are often very individual and surprising. Many people wish for something that they don't have or that they have been missing terribly and thus long for it. That's just what the four protagonists in this story feel: The boy is hungry and wishes he had a machine that prepares sandwiches. The girl is fed up with her wild, bushy hair and would rather have a smooth, straight ponytail. The lonely dog is longing for a person who takes care of it, and the sad lizard's dearest wish is to have its tail grow back. A magic machine is supposed to fulfil all of these wishes. So the four protagonists set off in search of this machine | and do actually find it! The simple story by the multi-award-winning author is accompanied by dynamic colour illustrations. Full of imagination and witty details, they show a world in which lots of things are possible; a world in which there are no limits to imagination, wishes, and dreams. (Age: 6+)



152

Şābirī, Bābak (Saberī, Babak) (text)  
 Zā'irī, Mihrdād (Zaeri, Mehrdad) (illus.)  
**Dūst-i buzurg**  
 (*The big friend*)  
 Tih-rān: Kitāb-i Naistān (Kitab-e Nayestan), 2015  
 (= 1394 h.sh.). – [32] p.  
 ISBN 978-964-337-824-0

Difference | Diversity | Friendship | Prejudice |  
 Picture book

Ravens are clever and sociable birds. No surprise then, that the curious and courageous little raven girl in this book »discovers« an elephant and makes him her friend. True, he is completely different, not least because he is unbelievably tall, but these are mere details. Full of joy and enthusiasm, she tells her mother how lucky she is to have found a friend. When the mother realises who her daughter is talking about, she voices concern – typical adult – and lists several reasons allegedly pointing against this pachyderm. For her daughter, however, appearances are unimportant. She won't let herself be talked out of this friendship; instead, she comes up with convincing counter arguments. This amusing story about otherness, prejudice, and friendship is captured in pictures rendered in various shades of grey – perfectly suitable for the protagonists' feathers and skin. In an imaginative way, the pictures illustrate the disagreement between mother and daughter, which, in the end, doesn't manage to stop this friendship. (Age: 4+)

153



Grajkowski, Wojciech (text)  
Socha, Piotr (illus.)

### **Pszczoły**

(Bees)

Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Dwie Siostry, 2015.

– [72] p.

ISBN 978-83-63696-55-9

[Bee](#) | [Honey](#) | [Non-fiction](#) | [Picture book](#)

A big book with a lot of space! And cartoonist Piotr Socha (b.1966) fills that space in the best way imaginable. This non-fiction picture book buzzes with many useful, intriguing, and curious facts about bees and honey. The meaning of the bee dance is explained just as cleverly and wittily as the biometric comb structure of the bee hive; we learn, for instance, how surfers copied the design for their surfboards. The sections on the »cultural history« of bees offer special comedy: knob-nosed stone-age people find out how tasty honey is, Napoleon makes the bee into his crest animal, and cross-eyed Roman lady aristocrats bathe in milk and honey. The illustrations take up the most room in this large-format book and draw readers in to the entertaining text on the lower part of the pages. No wonder »Pszczoły« won many prizes in Poland – it's been a long while since such a beautiful book about bees was made. (Age: 5+)

154



Kern, Ludwik Jerzy (text)

Various artists (illus.)

### **Kern. Wiersze dla dzieci**

(Kern. Verses for children)

Warszawa: Wytwórnia, 2015. – [204] p.

ISBN 978-83-64011-18-4

[Poetry](#) | [Anthology](#)

After »Tuwim« and »Brzechwa«, »Kern« follows as the third volume of a fantastic art project from Wytwórnia Press that gives classics of Polish children's verse a fresh take, as they are newly interpreted in illustration by well-known artists. In this volume, the texts of Ludwik Jerzy Kern (1920-2010) are newly readable and possess a welcome freshness. This project is also a wonderful demonstration of the diversity and high quality of present-day Polish illustration. The book features widely divergent visual configurations, ranging from awkward and odd collages, to clean-lined computer graphics, to gentle water-colour paintings, to eerie grey pencil drawings. The seven illustrators represented in this book have each illustrated two to six poems. At the start of each chapter one is glad to learn something of their development as artists and their role in Polish children's literature. (Age: 5+)

155



Pawlak, Paweł (text/illus.)

**Ignatek szuka przyjaciela***(Ignatek wants a friend)*

Warszawa: Nasza Księgarnia, 2015. – [27] p.

ISBN 978-83-10-12972-7

Friendship | World of the living | World of the dead | Picture book

Ignatek the skeleton is missing a tooth. This is catastrophic – skeletons are already not winning any beauty contests! Looking like this will make finding a friend totally impossible. The missing tooth ends up helping Ignatek meet a girl who also wants a friend, and is willing to bury her tooth to make her wish come true. Ignatek and the girl become fast friends and show each other their home worlds: that of the living and that of the dead. Both realize that the worlds contrast, but neither is all that bad. Best of all, each has a new friend. For this story, the marvellous Paweł Pawlak creates his trademark designs out of paper strips and organizes them into a colourful, rainbow-filled world of the living on the one hand and a dark world of lovable dead creatures on the other. The bone-dogs and librarian-skeletons wandering around in the book are not really scary, but rather amiable negative prints of this world. (Age: 3+)

156



Warda, Małgorzata (text)

**5 sekund do Io***(5 seconds to Io)*

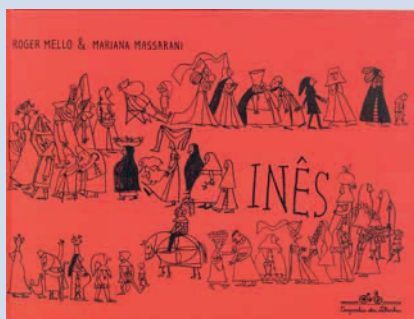
Poznań: Media Rodzina, [2015]. – 343 p.

ISBN 978-83-8008-043-0

Computer game | Virtual reality | School | Mass shooting

The computer program Work & Dream makes it possible to imbue computer game avatars with feelings – to the point that the avatars not only can smell aromas or feel empathy for other gamers in the virtual world, but they can also experience extraordinary pain that can lead to death. Sixteen-year-old orphan Mika carries heavy emotional baggage into a computer game where one must wage battle for the moon Io. She becomes increasingly dependent on the game. In truth, Mika has been given the task to spy on the other gamers and find out more about their true identities. This is because a school mass shooting took place in the real world that started – police believe – in this virtual world. In 2015, this unbelievably suspenseful book was chosen by IBBY Poland as the best young adult book of the year. It doesn't vilify computer games or claim they inevitably elicit murderous aggressions. Instead, it examines the role of the gaming industry and the development of games that intermingle realities in appealing ways. (Age: 13+)

157



Mello, Roger (text)  
Massarani, Mariana (illus.)

**Inês**

São Paulo: Companhia das Letrinhas, 2015.

– [52] p.

ISBN 978-85-7406-662-2

Love | Death | Loyalty | Revenge | Picture book

The tragic love between the Portuguese prince and later King Pedro the First and the Castilian noblewoman Inês de Castro has been deeply nested in Portugal's cultural memory since the 14<sup>th</sup> century and numerous authors have already broached it literarily. Roger Mello, Brazilian Andersen Award winner for illustration, shows once again in »Inês« that he also writes marvellously. Told from the perspective of Beatriz, the second of four children from the illegitimate liaison between Pedro and Inês, we learn how both lived out their unconditional love against all obstacles, political scheming and social norms, until Pedro's father, King Afonso, had Inês murdered. Years later, Pedro revenged himself in a macabre way, by forcing the royal household to pay respect to Inês' exhumed corpse. Mello's melancholic, rhythmic, melodic text is complimented by Mariana Massarani's atmospheric, stirring illustrations. Against the colourful, flat background, the characters, drawn with soft pencil, seem like silhouetted actors on the stage of a paper theatre. (Age: 7+)

158



Moreyra, Carolina (text)  
Moraes, Odilon (illus.)

**Lá e Aqui**

(There and here)

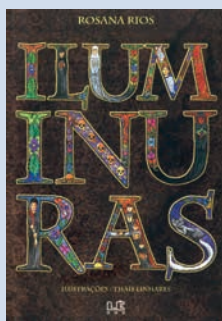
Rio de Janeiro: Pequena Zahar, [2015]. – [47] p.

ISBN 978-85-66642-31-5

Parents | Divorce | Picture book

So-called »difficult« topics are not infrequently presented in a somewhat laboured way in children's books. This little, unimposing picture book masterfully shows that this need not be so. The text could hardly be any shorter, yet every word in this story is well placed. In it, a girl tells of her parents' divorce using partly metaphorical and cryptic, though still absolutely reasonable linguistic imagery. The family house symbolizes the intact family. One day it sinks under water; fishes swim in the eyes of the mother, while toads carry the father's feet away. In the end, each half of the bifurcated house becomes a whole house: one for the mother, the other for the father – and both a home for the child. The quiet text is illustrated with light, subdued colour pictures. Harmonizing with the emotional moods of the family, they are calm and spare at the story's start and end. In the dramatic middle part, they are dark, gripping and fill up both pages. (Age: 6+)

159



Rios, Rosana (text)

Linhares, Thais (illus.)

**Illuminuras. Uma incrível viagem ao passado***(Illuminated manuscripts. An incredible journey to the past)*

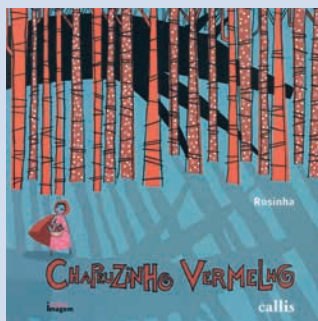
Belo Horizonte: Lê, 2015. – 269 p.

ISBN 978-85-3290811-7

Brazil | History 18<sup>th</sup> century | Slavery |  
Quilombo | Illuminated manuscript | Time travel

Told on two different temporal planes and from several narrative perspectives, this masterfully constructed novel transports the protagonist and the readers to Brazil at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In a museum for religious art, Martim admires an intriguing illustrated book of hours discovered in excavations of the monastery that formerly occupied the museum site. This triggers an exciting adventure for the teenager that leads him to the year 1795. It is his mission to find his vanished classmate Clara, a science-fiction fan and time-travel expert. In fast-paced chapters that shift between now and back then, the secret of the breviary is gradually revealed. Important roles are played by a Benedictine monk named Brás and also by Akin who lives in a quilombo, which is a settlement founded by escaped slaves. The novel brings to life this portion of Brazilian colonial history in a captivating and informative way that grips the reader from page one. (Age: 12+)

160



Rosinha (adapt./illus.)

**Chapeuzinho vermelho***(Little Red Riding Hood)*

São Paulo: Callis, 2015. – [48] p.

(Series: Conto imagem)

ISBN 978-85-8445-007-7

Wolf | Fairy tale

The illustrations and texts unfold separately in this series, which at this time contains three fairy tales. The pictures come first; the text follows at the end of the book. Rosinha uses the Brothers Grimm version of »Little Red Riding Hood« as the basis for her interpretation, adding a further twist at the end by introducing a second wolf. The text is not necessarily needed, though, since the big, mostly double-spread illustrations speak for themselves. They can be »read« alone or can serve as inspiration to tell the story from memory or even to make up a new story. The pictures use a palette of black, white, and red tones as well as opal green; their abstractness, dramatic perspective and movement are captivating. Many scenes are shown only in sections, and some details are zoomed in on. The wolf in particular is portrayed ravishingly: he slips through the woods as a threatening black shadow, ensnares Little Red Riding Hood and greedily gapes open his giant mouth full of sharply pointed teeth. (Age: 5+)



161



Ferreira, Susana Cardoso (text)  
Monteiro, Susa (illus.)

**Viagens de chapéu. As invenções e indecisões de D. Amélia Longor**

(Hat travels. Dona Amélia Longor's inventions and waverings)

Alfragide: Oficina do Livro, [2015]. – 179 p.  
ISBN 978-989-741-232-5

Invention | Magic | Fantasy fiction

During a visit to the natural science museum, Baltazar Porventura discovers an unusual doll wearing a top hat. When he puts the hat on his own head, he is transported straight to an unmarked volcanic island in the South Sea, where he meets Ema Mordente, who arrived shortly before him, after the same hat-mishap occurred to her in her grandparents' house. The smart-alecky, talkative boy and no-nonsense, sharp-tongued girl soon find the source of their involuntary stay: Dona Amélia Longor. The sole inhabitant of the island and extraordinarily creative and productive »inventor of non-existent things« is lovable, somewhat people-shy and lonely because she has not wanted to leave the island in years. Baltazar and Ema succeed in reviving Dona Amélia's curiosity about the world and its people. »Viagens de chapéu« weaves a quick-paced, rather absurd story whose many original ideas and linguistic wit amount to a very entertaining read. (Age: 11+)

162



Mestre, Margarida (text/ed.)

António-Pedro (music/ed.)

Madureira, Marta (illus.)

**Poemas para bocas pequenas**

(Poems for small mouths)

Lisboa: Boca, [2015]. – [44] p. + CD

(Series: Boca junior)

ISBN 978-989-8421-18-0

Poetry | Anthology

Margarida Mestre brings together a small high-quality selection of poems by well-known Portuguese children's book authors, including some of her own poems. The diverse range of texts, typeset beautifully, are accompanied by Marta Madureira's witty illustrations, which rely on black and a cheerful, warm and sunny yellow. Her little vignettes create a panopticon of curiously angular, round and zigzag fantasy creatures. Due to their abstraction, they neither explain the poems nor simply mirror their contents. Instead they interpret the poems in a lively way, without overshadowing them. The CD accompanying the volume is a special addition. Margarida Mestre recites the poems, speaking, singing or in sing-song, quietly, loudly, rhythmically or dance-like. Her voice is accompanied by experimental, playful and magical sound-miniatures, which António-Pedro and other musicians coax out of percussive, wind and plucked instruments as well as out of plastic bags, keys, nylon threads and other things. (Age: 6+)

163



Saramago, José (text) / Letria, André (illus.)

### **A maior flor do mundo**

*(The biggest flower in the world)*

Porto: Porto Editora, 2015. – [48] p.

ISBN 978-972-0-72821-0

(the first edition containing these illustrations [Ed. Caminho, 2013] is no longer available)

[Love of nature](#) | [Children's literature](#) | [Storytelling](#) | [Simplicity](#)

Nobel Prize-winner José Saramago (1922-2010) plays a double game in this story: he first laments his inability to write for children, because he can't write in a simple way. If only he could do so, he would write the most beautiful of all children's stories – he then proceeds to explain what would happen in that story, were he but able to write it... Finally, Saramago does go on to tell a »real« story, delicate and touching, about a boy who saves a flower from dying of thirst high on a mountain, which then becomes the biggest flower in the world. It is a great story for adults and children alike about the art of storytelling and writing, the art and beauty of simplicity and about a child who surpasses himself. The text, first published in 2001 with illustrations by João Caetano, here is newly interpreted by illustrator André Letria. Part straightforward, part mysterious and poetically powerful, his illustrations truly complement the great author's literary masterstroke. (Age: 6+)

164



Pătrașcu, Victoria (text)

Radu, Cristiana (illus.)

### **Ela cea fără de cuvinte**

*(Wordless Ela)*

București: Ed. Cartea Copiilor, 2015. – [30] p.

ISBN 978-606-8544-10-6

[Disability](#) | [Mutism](#) | [Language](#) | [Friendship](#) | [Acceptance](#) | [Picture book](#)

Ela doesn't want to speak. The girl lives in her own world, in which words carry on their own lives. Inside, she stores the words, protects and guards them and plays with them and her imaginary creations. For those on the outside, Ela is a disabled child avoided by others, until one day a boy finds his way into Ela's fantasy world. Words begin to bubble out of her. In contrast to everyone else, the boy approaches the »peculiar« girl in an unbiased way and thus expresses impartiality and acceptance. The book's courageous statement breaks new ground in dealing with disability, which remains a widely held taboo in Romania. Cristiana Radu translates the rich, hidden inner life of the girl into pretty coloured pencil drawings and poetically shows how Ela's lively letters and words find their way into the world. (Age: 5+)

165



Bogatyreva, Tat'jana (Bogatyreva, Tatyana) (text)  
Šarikova, I. V. (Sharikova, I. V.) (illus.)

**Den' materi** (Den materi)

(Mother's Day)

Moskva: Rosmën, 2015. – 142 p.

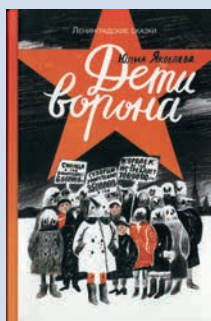
(Series: Nastojaščee vremja [Nastoyashchee vremya])

ISBN 978-5-353-07225-6

Youth | Family | Dysfunction | Search for identity

This little volume contains two stories. »Mother's Day« and »The fleers« from Petersburg author Tatyana Bogatyreva are examples of young adult realist prose in contemporary Russia. The book is part of the series »Nastoyashchee vremya« (Present), which Rosmën Press started in 2015. In »Mother's Day«, a boy named Kesha takes care of his depressed mother – a poet in despair over her broken marriage and self-obsessive, who neither has command over her own life or life with her son. Kesha, who tells the story, reveals bitter glimpses into an utterly dysfunctional environment that makes his teenage life miserable. »The fleers« is the story of three teens who become involved in crime, seek to change their ways and run away on their search for orientation in life. Episodic, direct and painful, Tatyana Bogatyreva portrays the sad circumstances of her protagonists, while readers participate as mute observers. (Age: 12+)

166



Jakovleva, Julija (Yakovleva, Yuliya) (text)

**Deti vorona. 1938 god**

(The raven's children. 1938)

Moskva: Samokat, 2016. – 258 p.

(Series: Leningradskie skazki / Jakovleva, Julija; Kniga pervaja)

ISBN 978-5-91759-444-6

Soviet Union | History 1937-1938 | Stalinism | Political persecution | Deportation

When little Shurka and his big sister Tanya return home one night in a Kommunalka (communal apartment) in Leningrad, they find their father has disappeared. Their mother is strangely quiet that night and the next evening also. It is the time of the great terror of the years 1937/1938: The children's parents have been abducted by the secret police as so-called Enemies of the People. For Shurka, however, they have ended up in the clutches of a powerful raven (Stalin) entirely by mistake. The boy decides to go to the latter's house and set things straight. Yet the more Shurka experiences, the more he begins to hesitate: Nothing is true anymore, and everyone is suspicious and a potential traitor. The first part of Yuliya Yakovleva's five-volume family saga is told from Shurka's perspective and powerfully describes the child's loss of innocence and belief in the Soviet system, as well as what it is like to have one's family stolen away and one's own life utterly disrupted. (Age: 12+)



167

Litvina, Aleksandra (text)

Desnickaja, Anja (Desnitskaya, Anya) (illus.)

### **Metro na zemle i pod zemlëj**

(Metro na zemle i pod zemlëj)

(The metro above and below ground)

Moskva: Peškom v istoriju (Peshkom v istoriyu), [2015]. – [48] p.

ISBN 978-5-905474-30-9

Train | History | Vehicle | Transportation |  
Non-fiction | Picture book

For a few years now, publishing house Peshkom v istoriyu (History on foot) has been making elaborate non-fiction books for children on diverse historical epochs, people and events, and it now has earned itself a reputation for this in Russia. »Metro«, a highly informative and entertaining book about the transportation system and especially about the underground train, is particularly outstanding. From the invention of the bicycle to the steam engine, the train and the automobile, to public transportation by tram, underground and tunnel system, the book presents everything one needs to know. Readers learn special facts about the construction of individual metro stations in Moscow, the metro lines in St. Petersburg and the underground systems worldwide. The authors have also created many interactive extras: an underground stations game, picture puzzles using tiny details on the pages, and a big fold-out panorama picture of the Moscow metro. They are a lot of fun! (Age: 6+)



168

Vil'ke, Dar'ja (Vilke, Darya) (text)

Nikolaenko, Aleksandra (illus.)

### **Musorščik** (Musrorshchik)

(The dustman)

Moskva: Vremja (Vremya), 2015. – 126 p.

(Series: Vremja – detstvo!)

ISBN 978-5-9691-1387-9

Isolation | Loneliness | Shyness | Xenophobia

Darya Vilke (b. 1976) is one of the most interesting authorial voices in present-day Russian children's and young adult literature. She brings highly sensitive topics together with carefully crafted texts and a light touch. »Musorshchik« broaches the topics of xenophobia and social anxiety disorder in a parable-like narrative. A refuse collector lives alone and has a clearly regulated daily routine. He is afraid of the dark, of his own reflection and especially of other people. He is happy to work at night, when no one is on the street. One day the militia comes to the door of this shy, sometimes misanthropic codger and makes him offer board to a transient traveller who had to flee his war-torn home. In short, sober sentences, Vilke fills in the psychological profile of a person who sees himself forced to deal with someone foreign, but ultimately also with himself. (Age: 12+)

169



Palibrk, Vuk (illus.)

**Crvenkapa**

(*Little Red Riding Hood*)

Novi Sad: Komiko, [2014]. – [78] p.

(Series: Moderni srpski strip; knjiga 9)

ISBN 978-86-87919-26-6

Little Red Riding Hood | Fairy tale |  
Textless book | Picture book

This book was the capstone academic project for illustrator and comic artist Vuk Palibrk (b. 1987) at the Faculty of Applied Arts at the University of Arts in Belgrade. It was on display at two exhibitions in 2011 and 2012. Vuk Palibrk's textless version of »Little Red Riding Hood«, rendered exclusively in red and black ink and published by Komiko Press using digital print, is a fresh, dramatic interpretation of the classic fairy tale. Readers observe a little red shape wander through shimmering black-and-white forest thickets, which subtly hide the fur and claws of the wolf. Graphic shapes and changing perspectives create a hide-and-seek game, which brings out the fairy tale's suspense and deviousness, and also, in the end, the satisfying bloodiness of the hunter shooting the wolf and slitting open its belly. In this version, we do not find out whether he pulls out Little Red Riding Hood. (Age: 8+)

170



Petrović, Jasminka (text)

Žižković, Dobroslov Bob (illus.)

**Leto kada sam naučila da letim**

(*The summer I learned to fly*)

Beograd: Kreativni Centar, [2015]. – 147 p.

ISBN 978-86-529-0220-0

Yugoslav Wars | History 1991-1995 | Family |  
Dispersal | Overcoming the past

One of Serbia's best-known authors of young adult books broaches a tricky topic in this book. Experiences of the war between Serbia and Croatia in the 1990s remain very present to many Serbian families, though they are rarely spoken of. Jasminka Petrović's (b. 1960) award-winning book follows bratty Sofija, a thirteen-year-old Belgrade girl, through a summer that she spends with her grandmother in Croatia. While there, Sofija learns she has a Croatian great aunt whom she never knew existed. At once intrigued and angered, she follows her grandma and great aunt's conversations, which focus on the family torn apart by the war. These conversations not only change the girl's perspective on her family, but also on her own identity. A difficult situation of family conflict is thus packed into a teen's summer vacation story, in which the past is almost casually revealed. (Age: 12+)



171



Hevier, Daniel (text)  
Kopták, Miloš (illus.)

### **Škola po škole**

(School for school)

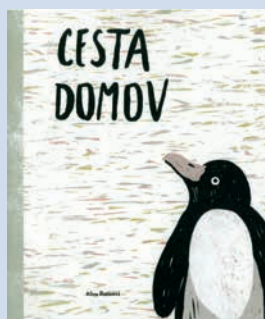
Bratislava: Literárne Informačné Centrum, 2015.  
– 100 p.

ISBN 978-80-8119-088-9

School

Secretly reading under one's desk, forgetting one's homework, arriving late, enduring awful moments at the blackboard, fighting epic battles against other schools, encountering odd janitorial staff... All children will recognize themselves and the everyday nuttiness of school life in these short vignettes, poems and funny advice in »Škola po škole.« The marvellous Daniel Hevier (b. 1955), joined by illustrator Miloš Kopták (b. 1969), clearly remembers his own school years very well, since he is able to so aptly capture and set askew the whole »school cosmos«. What emerges is – as always with Hevier – a linguistically playful, very entertaining children's book. Advice on how to fight the fear of standing at the front of the classroom, as well as all manner of excuses are given as much attention as a comparison of the school year with a bus line, whose most important stops are »Christmas holidays«, »Winter holidays« and »Summer holidays.« (Age: 8+)

172



Mitošinková, Zuzana (text)  
Raticová, Alica (illus.)

### **Cesta domov**

(The way home)

Bratislava: Egriš, 2015. – [44] p.  
ISBN 978-80-972134-0-4

Self-discovery | Journey | Homeland |  
Friendship | Picture book

When the creative forces behind the Slovakian design journal »Egriš« beheld the final term project of illustrator Alica Raticová during a visit to the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava, they just had to make a book out of it. Which is not surprising, given that the story's laconic, subdued narrative tone, so convincingly recounts the story of a penguin looking for adventure in text and image. With muted, airy pictures, readers follow the journey of the curious bird from the South Pole to Europe and experience his difficulties: getting across a busy street, riding the street car, finding a pescatarian meal. It's evident that the penguin soon comes to dislike life in human-populated Europe, and one is glad for him when he returns to his penguin friends after a weary trip back. He recognizes that sometimes one must leave home to discover and learn to value it. (Age: 3+)



173



Mlakar, Ida (text)  
Škerl, Peter (illus.)

### **O kravi, ki je lajala v luno**

(*The cow that barked at the moon*)

Dob pri Domžalah: Miš, [2015]. – [34] p.  
ISBN 978-961-272-198-5

Age | Quirk | Difference | Picture book

It would be very hard to read this book without cracking a grin or two. It tells the story of an old cow named Crumb who loves to bark at the moon. Naturally, the farmer fetches a doctor. Everything seems to be in order, at first: vocal chords ok, breathing normal. Perhaps a midlife crisis or mad cow disease is at fault? Crumb grows impatient with the chatter and takes off on her bike. She finds refuge with an old circus horse who loves to sing and dance. The two become an inseparable pair of street artists. Ida Mlakar (b. 1956) and Peter Škerl (b. 1973) employ the story's animal malapropism to spotlight human quirks and neuroses in a humorous way. This is sometimes so odd that one forgets the quite sad undertone of the story. It is about being different and the hardships ensuing from this, but also about finding happiness. (Age: 3+)

174



Mozetič, Brane (text)  
Kastelic, Maja (illus.)

### **Prva ljubezen**

(*First love*)

Ljubljana: Škuc, 2014. – [43] p.  
(Series: Zbirka Lambda; 115)  
ISBN 978-961-6751-87-2

First love | Homosexuality | Gender role |  
Kindergarten | Picture book

Love is a beautiful thing – especially one's first love! As Brane Mozetič and Maja Kastelic's moving picture book shows, not everyone shares this view. When two boys seem to be falling for each other in kindergarten, it is their teacher's opinion that things have gone far enough. She notices the boys playing at being opera divas and doing »girly« things, and separates the shy, sensitive first-person narrator from his best friend and closest companion Andrejček. When they embrace each other, she threatens them with punishment, though the boys do not know why or what they did »wrong«. Insecurity accompanies the two from this point on. The book begins with memorable scenes and sensitive illustrations that capture the boys' misery and give a sense of how destructive it is to be told one has wrong feelings. 500 copies of this book were printed by the publishing division of the Slovenian NGO Škuc. (Age: 4+)

175



Bombara, Paula (text)

**La chica pájaro***(The bird girl)*

Buenos Aires: Norma, 2015. – 171 p.

(Series: Zona libre)

ISBN 978-987-545-681-5

Family | Domestic violence | Courage

Mara's apathetic mother is gradually falling apart living with her abusive partner, whose son is making pushy advances towards Mara – the girl just can't take it anymore and flees to a tree in the middle of a city square in Buenos Aires. There she stows herself away like a scared, wounded bird in its nest. Leonor, a retired woman, wins Mara's trust, takes her in and helps her speak. And shy Darío, who falls in love with her, also helps the girl gradually remember that she is valuable. Despite big setbacks, thanks to Leonor and Darío she manages to make the first steps out of the imprisonment of her domestic misery. With »La chica pájaro«, Paula Bombara offers a gripping, resonating novel about domestic violence, whose many facets come together through the various voices of the main characters. The sometimes staccato-like rhythm of the short sentences and the breathless flow of Mara's words and thoughts suitably mirror the protagonist's psychological states. (Age: 12+)

176



Edelsztein, Valeria (text)

Reboursin, Javier (illus.)

**Ciencia para pasar el invierno***(Science for getting through the winter)*

Buenos Aires: lamiqué, 2016. – 47 p.

(Series: Ciencia todo el año)

ISBN 978-987-1217-89-2

Winter | Cold | Season | Non-fiction

For years, Ediciones lamiqué has been bringing original treasures to the field of children's non-fiction books. Never treading well-worn paths, this new series »Ciencia todo el año« (Science the whole year through) is another winner. As the title suggests this volume is about winter. That said, readers' expectations are thrown a snowy curveball; the topics covered are so diverse, yet somehow each has at least something to do with the cold season. Proceeding by way of association rather than strict order, questions and topics are strung together on double-sided chapters. What is temperature? How do we sense the cold? Trivial matters, too – goose bumps, red noses, green bogeys – find their place alongside wintery issues like hoarfrost, snowflake structure, hibernation and how one walks on snow. The texts are short, rich and entertaining, the colourful illustrations are descriptive and funny. This is an informative book for leafing-through, marvelling over and reading together. (Age: 8+)

177



Huidobro, Norma (text)

**Cleopatra lo sabía***(Cleopatra knew it)*

Buenos Aires: Sudamericana, [2015]. – 271 p.

(Series: Sudamericana joven)

ISBN 978-950-07-5216-9

Secret | Crime fiction

This novel is like a puzzle whose many parts make up a whole. Short chapters capture the perspectives of a very diverse array of characters who report on what happened in the apartment of the »crazy« married couple, as they are called by their neighbours. Screams are heard. The wife is later found dead. Was it suicide or murder? The mystery in this crime case is solved only very gradually, because there are so many different witnesses who claim to have seen or heard something. Readers are also fooled by red herrings. Norma Huidobro's quick-paced story is written in fluid, highly readable language and with a healthy dose of humour. The multi-perspectival structure also makes reading enjoyable. Also entertaining are the disclosures of Tamara, one of the characters, who presents her view of things in a blog. Her readers offer a wild range of comments and contribute a further background chorus of voices to the crime mystery. (Age: 14+)

178



Buitrago, Jairo (text)

Blanco Pantoja, Daniel (illus.)

**Un diamante en el fondo de la tierra***(A diamond in the ground)*

Santiago: Amanuta, 2015. – [36] p.

(Series: Sin límites)

ISBN 978-956-9330-17-9

Grandfather | Grandson | Recollection |  
Chile | Dictatorship | Picture book

The students are told to ask their grandparents about their life stories and to write them down, but it seems at first that the first-person narrator's grandfather has little to offer. While other children's grandfathers tell of being brave sailors or highly-decorated military men, eccentric or romantic, womanizers or zealous challenge seekers, he usually looks out the window, lost in his memories. Gradually it becomes clear that his is a special biography. The child's grandfather was persecuted and abused for his political activism, as was his wife, who was also arrested, taken away and never came back. In just a few words, almost austere, the story describes an individual fate that also calls forth memories of the military dictatorship in Chile (1973-1990). The black-and-white illustrations, which draw on a comic art and film aesthetic, visualize some facts only hinted at in the text by displaying unmistakable quotations from Chile's collective memory. (Age: 9+)



179

Lozano, Pilar (text)

**Era como mi sombra**

(*He was like my shadow*)

Bogotá: Ed. SM, 2015. – 86 p.

(Series: Gran Angular)

ISBN 978-958-773-558-1

Civil war | Guerrilla | Child soldier | Poverty

Well-known author and journalist Pilar Lozano conveys the intense childhood and youth of a boy in this less than one-hundred-page-long narrative. The nameless protagonist grows up in a secluded village somewhere in the Colombian highlands. The people there are, like in innumerable other places, pawns in the long-enduring civil war or participants in the fight between government troops, guerrilla fighters, paramilitary forces, police and drug dealers, all of whom keep the land hobbled. The first-person narrator and his friend Julián, inseparable since their childhoods, join a guerrilla group at thirteen because life offers them no other alternatives. In brief chapters using concise language, the book paints an oppressive picture of an everyday life in which children and teenagers confront violence and death; it also conveys the protagonist's feelings of love, friendship, loss, grief and his attempt to find a place to live as well as a place in life. (Age: 12+)



180

Gamboa, Jaime (text)

Ycaza, Roger (illus.)

**Alma del mar**

(*Alma of the sea*)

Mixco, Guatemala: Amanuense, 2016. – [34] p.

No ISBN

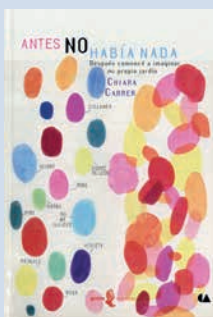
Sea | Imagination | Storytelling | Picture book

»Papa, tell me about the sea«. Alma loves her father's ever-changing stories. He tells her stories of the sea and of her grandfather who was a fisherman, but had to give up his job and move to the far-away city. Stories full of unfamiliar, exciting words. One day, father and daughter finally travel to the shining, shimmering, pungent sea, where the sand burns under one's feet. It is a moment of joy and of strong emotion, as Alma learns it is also her father's first time seeing the sea. This is a book about the gift of seeing the world with open eyes and amazement and of enjoying life. The colourful pictures on wide double pages capture the world in a truly special way. Countless dots and spots coalesce into shapes and colours. The water sparkles, the air glimmers, the sand shimmers, and observers sense how the sea becomes a fantastical, nearly unfathomable dream world in the imaginations of father and daughter. (Age: 5+)

SPANISH

Colombia  
Guatemala

181



Carrer, Chiara (text/illus.) / Lumbreras, Ernesto (transl.)

**Antes no había nada. Después comencé a imaginar mi propio jardín**

*(Before there was nothing. Then I began to imagine my own garden)*

Zapopan: Petra ed., 2015. – [126] p.

ISBN 978-607-7646-65-5

(coedition with CONACULTA.

ISBN 978-607-745-131-0)

Plants

Italian illustrator and author Chiara Carrer broaches the secrets of the fascinating, endlessly varied universe of plants in this book that resembles a notebook or diary. She draws using a diverse array of techniques or paints with a strong and colourful brushstroke. Some pages are line-based, others colour-based, some things are minutely worked out, other things cast sketch-like onto paper. Carrer follows things to their origins, studies them in detail, compares them, categorizes flower pistils, muses about seeds, roots and the silhouettes of tree crowns. Some pictures are informative, other associative. The texts follow suit: some are scientifically precise, others fleeting and allusive, including some precious poems and aphorisms. Carrer is also sensitive to the sound and texture of words, as when for example she places smooth, shiny, fissured, scaly and gnarled tree barks side by side. »Antes no había nada« is a surprising, sensuously rich and personal book that invites readers to repeatedly let themselves be absorbed by it. (Age: 10+)

182



Chimal, Alberto (text) / Laiseca, Alberto (text)

Arispe, Nicolás (illus.)

**La partida / La madre y la muerte**

*(The departure / The mother and Death)*

México, D.F.: Fondo de Cultura Económica,

2015. – [26] p. + [30] p.

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

ISBN 978-607-16-2929-6

Death | Transience | Motherly love | Picture book

This book presents two stories that are connected in the middle of the book by a common final illustration. They are macabre, brutal, unsettling stories about death, which goes about its business laconically and ironically, and also about motherly love and the futile battle to reverse fate. Argentinian author Alberto Laiseca (b. 1941) turns Hans Christian Andersen's »Story of a mother« into an even darker parable about a mother who stoically sacrifices herself to win her dead child back. In »La partida« by Mexican author Alberto Chimal (b. 1970), a woman receives the soul of her deceased child back from the gods, which turns out to be an even greater misfortune, as the corpse continues to decay. The short texts evoke the poetic, suggestive sounds and rhythms of old myths and fairy tales and are illustrated by Argentinian Nicolás Arispe (b. 1978). His electrifying double-page black-and-white drawings are dramatic, mysterious, pregnant with symbolism and literary and cultural allusions. (Age: 10+)



183

Kühne, Catalina (text)  
Serrano, Pablo (illus.)

**Alas como cuchillos**

(Wings like knives)

México, D.F.: CIDCLI, 2015. – 63 p.

ISBN 978-607-8351-42-8

(coedition with CONACULTA;

ISBN 978-607-745-108-2)

Father | Death | Grief | Work of mourning | Pain

»It's not easy living with a bird in the chest!« – the first sentence states in this riveting and excellently composed book. Ever since his father's funeral, a blackbird has been nesting in Alonso's body – a secret he tells only his closest friend Chucho. The bird represents not only the boy's grief and emotional pain. It is real, ever-present and causes the adolescent boy physical pain. This leads to some grim and disturbing scenes. Alonso suffers, is frustrated and engages in self-destructive acts to handle the pain. His condition worsens noticeably, until dramatically in the end the bird leaves his abused body. Catalina Kühne has written a stirring and unsettling narrative, where the borders between reality, imagination and fantasy are fluid and cleverly blurred. The concise text with its placid and figurative language permits multiple interpretations, thanks to the many things left unsaid. (Age: 13+)



184

Abadía, Ximo (text/illus.)

**Quando las vacas flotan**

(When the cows float)

Barcelona: Takatuka, 206. – [40] p.

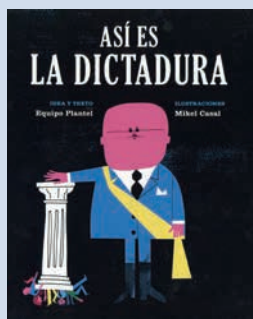
ISBN 978-84-16003-54-9

Floating | Freedom | Picture book

The story begins with a bright red fish being carried home in a bag by a girl. The next morning the world seems to have gone off the rails, because everything is floating. A neighbour named Rolando Rolán glides by with a wave; there is no milk at the store because the cows are pasturing in the sky; fishermen fish lightning bolts off the decks of ships that hang like clouds in the heavens. At home, too, quite a few things are topsy turvy, and finally the protagonist herself lifts off and floats away over unknown places. Even time seems to halt momentarily. The next morning everything is back to normal. The fish is released into the wild and allowed to float in the water again. Red and free. This wonderfully simple yet profound picture book by Ximo Abadía (b. 1983) shines in every respect. The double-sided illustrations consist almost entirely of colour swaths, soft, open and only hinting at shapes; they glow intensely. The lively, poetic text, too, drifts like a feather and carries one off as one reads. (Age: 5+)



185



Equipo Plantel (various authors) (text)  
Casal, Mikel (illus.)

### **Así es la dictadura**

(This is dictatorship)

Valencia: Media Vaca, 2015. – [42] p.

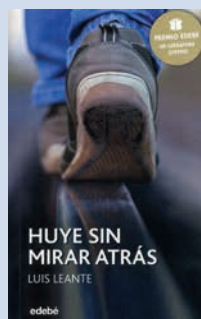
(Series: Libros para mañana; 2)

ISBN 978-84-943625-1-4

Dictatorship | Repression | Politics | Non-fiction |  
Picture book

Reading this four-volume book series, whose texts first appeared almost forty years ago at La Gaya Ciencia Press, one can't help but be astounded and sobered at how the political and social issues have lost none of their relevancy. The significance of this publishing project becomes apparent when, in the newly added epilogue to the volume »Así es la dictadura«, the editors count about the same number of dictatorial, autocratic regimes in existence as there were at the end of the 1970s. The almost square-shaped, beautifully designed volume is replete with new illustrations by Mikel Casal (b. 1965), whose aesthetic and colouration recall picture books of the 1960s. Text and illustration do not focus on any concrete example but instead prototypically describe how dictators think, how they exert their repressive reign and quash all resistance. The endpapers provide concrete examples by lining up twenty-four infamous dictators of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. (Age: 7+)

186



Leante, Luis (text)

### **Huye sin mirar atrás**

(Run away without looking back)

Barcelona: Edebé, 2016. – 220 p.

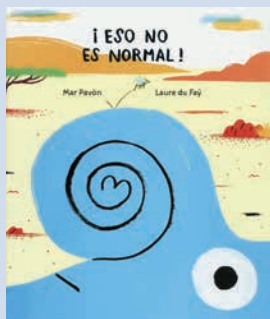
(Series: Periscopio; 94)

ISBN 978-84-683-1771-7

Father | Death | Son | Memory |  
Coming of age | Crime fiction

Enrique has still not recovered from his father's death five years ago. The loss left a real hole in him. He is an inward-turned outsider, and life with his mother is full of conflict. The situation worsens when his mother allows that low-life Héctor to live with them. Enrique's life abruptly changes into an adventure-filled, fast-paced crime story with all the essentials: villains, drugs, police, chase scenes. The listless boy has to jump-start himself – to escape. His escape is also a coming of age and coming to terms with the past, which reconnects him with his father. Luis Leante (b. 1963) employs an unusual style for his fluidly written, dialogue-rich novel. Enrique himself tells the story, addressing his remarks to his father. This soliloquy to an absent »you« helps him accept and better understand himself. (Age: 13+)

187



Pavón, Mar (text)  
Fay, Laure du (illus.)

### **¡Eso no es normal!**

(*That is not normal!*)

[Madrid]: nubeOCHO, 2015. – [36] p.

(Series: Egalité)

ISBN 978-84-944137-8-0

Normalcy | Diversity | Prejudice | Diversity |  
Picture book

What is normal?! Most people wonder about this question even if, upon closer inspection, it is irrelevant, unnecessary and only arises from the wish to be part of the »right crowd«. In this picture book, the question is put to the animal kingdom. An elephant with his unbelievably long trunk is definitely not normal – that is the unanimous opinion of the other animals, despite the fact that he does incredible and very helpful things with it. For instance, it becomes stairs for a frail monkey to climb, a rocker for a young sleeping antelope, and a clothesline for a zebra's black stripes to dry on. All wonderful things, but still not normal! The hippo mama is especially suspicious and hostile, until she experiences for herself how such an abnormal elephant can even be a life-saver. There's no question, this book has a moral and a message. But these are offered to little readers in a friendly, unimposing way through the imaginative text and the cheerful, dynamic illustrations. (Age: 3+)

188



Rodríguez, Mónica (text)  
García, Ester (illus.)

### **Alma y la isla**

(*Alma and the island*)

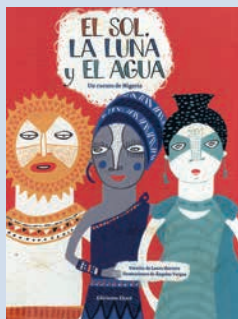
Madrid: Anaya, 2016. – 117 p.

ISBN 978-84-698-0888-7

Refugee | Island | Jealousy

The inhabitants of an island in the Mediterranean learn that even in this purportedly isolated spot, the outside world is not easily kept at bay. Otto learns this, too, when at six years old he first sees a dead refugee washed up on the beach. Over time the toll increases: dead people in the water and survivors in boats, daring to embark on life-threatening journeys across the sea in the hope of landing in Europe. One of them is Alma, whom Otto's father rescues from the water while on his fishing boat and brings her home. Otto understands the crisis, but at first feels insecure and fears his place in the family will be lost. This award-winning, sensitively told children's book, narrated from the perspective of the boy, familiarizes readers with the highly timely topic of refugeedom, without being overtaxing or overwhelming. Mónica Rodríguez really understands how to capture the boy's feelings. When it is time to say goodbye and Alma leaves the family, a hole is left behind in Otto's heart. (Age: 9+)

189



Herrera, Laura (retelling)  
Vargas, Ángeles (illus.)

**El Sol, la Luna y el Agua. Un cuento de Nigeria**

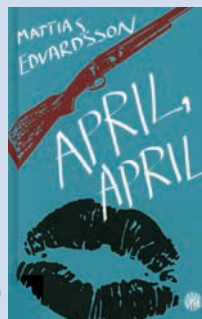
*(The Sun, the Moon and the Water. A folk tale from Nigeria)*

Caracas: Ekaré, 2015. – [30] p.  
ISBN 978-84-943038-8-3

Sun | Moon | Water | Creation myth | Folk tale |  
Picture book

All over the world, human beings have always wondered how the world began and why nature is the way it is. This picture book retells a well-known Nigerian creation myth, which exists in several different variations. Pondering the beginnings of the world, it explains why the sun and moon are in the sky. They first live together on Earth, until one day they invite Water to visit them. Anticipating trouble, Water states that the space may not be sufficient. So Sun and Moon keep enlarging the house. In the end, it is still too small, as Water brings her enormous family along. Sun and Moon must leave Earth from the rooftop of their house and have lived in the sky ever since then. Only at night, the sun remembers her friend Water and sinks down low to play with her. Laura Herrera narrates this myth in a plain, natural language. Because she builds dialogue and refrains into the text, the story is well suited to reading out loud. The double-page illustrations by Ángeles Vargas are mainly kept to a palette of red, yellow and green tones; their aesthetic is reminiscent of African folk art. (Age: 4+)

190



Edvardsson, Mattias (text)

**April, April**

Bromma: Opal, [2015]. – 264 p.  
ISBN 978-91-7299-700-4

[Suicide attempt](#) | [Adolescent psychiatry clinic](#) |  
[Friendship](#)

After he tries to kill himself with a shotgun in an attic room at school, the first-person narrator – his name is Hugo Andreasson – is taken to Solgläntan, an institution for mentally unstable teens. There he is placed in a group with three other adolescents, including April Falk. She is pretty, wild, unpredictable, passionate. Hugo falls in love right away, but has little chance to be more than a friend to April. Hugo is an overweight nerd, who drops self-deprecating remarks to hide his issues from himself and everyone else. Despite this he is lovable and freaky. This is one reason why Hugo could also appear in a John Green novel, since in many respects Mattias Edvardsson's »April, April« recalls the coming-of-age novels of the American author. Aside from the tone and character portrayal, the setting also has something »Greenian« about it. (Age: 14+)

191



Ehring, Anna (text)

Geffenblad, Lotta (illus.)

**Gammelmormor, Daisy och döden***(Great-grandmother, Daisy and death)*

Stockholm: Urax, 2016. – [28] p.

ISBN 978-91-87208-31-7

[Great-grandmother](#) | [Great-granddaughter](#) |  
[Death](#) | [Transience](#) | [Picture book](#)

Summer in Sweden. Daisy threads wild strawberries onto straw in great-grandma's garden. Mmm, that takes like childhood, great-grandma says. As Daisy picks raspberries, she finds a dead shrew. Daisy wants to keep it, but her great-grandma explains to her that this would not be right. At the mouse's funeral, Daisy intones a Christmas song for want of knowing an appropriate funerary hymn. A conversation about life and death ensues after the burial. Though there are other books that take a dead pet or other animal as the jumping off point for broaching the topic of death and mortality, »Gammelmor, Daisy och döden« offers something special: Daisy doesn't become alarmed by these topics, yet still her tone expresses how much she loves her great-grandma. The relationship between the generations is loving and intimate, yet the story avoids falling prey to kitsch. Lotta Geffenblad's illustrations have a good deal to do with this, as they radiate warm-heartedness without being saccharine, and they also capture the subtle humour that has a place next to sadness in the book. (Age: 4+)

192



Gustavsson, Hanna (text/illus.)

**Iggy 4-ever**

Stockholm: Galago, 2015 – 215 p.

ISBN 978-91-7037-828-7

[Adolescence](#) | [Everyday life](#) | [Graphic novel](#)

Iggy's facial expression leaves no doubt: being a teenager sucks. Iggy is stressed out, two idiots are bugging her at school, she is chronically broke, her cell phone is busted and her mother is embarrassing and intolerable. The only interesting thing is the »ödehus«, a ruined factory where she hangs out with a few people from school. One of them is Jasse, a laid-back skater. Actually a pretty cool guy... though unfortunately Iggy's best friend thinks so, too. In her novel, Hanna Gustavsson describes in a very plausible way how everything is just annoying at age thirteen. Her drawings are raw, offering an unadorned portrayal of the characters, since in the end Iggy finds just about everything awful. Following »Nattbarn« (Night child), published in 2013, »Iggy 4-ever« is Hanna Gustavsson's second graphic novel about Ingrid – aka Iggy. While »Nattbarn« explores Iggy's budding sexuality and offers glimpses into her fantasies and desires, »Iggy 4-ever« is less explicit. Here the focus is on a daily aggravation that can quickly produce high drama. (Age: 14+)

193



Höglund, Anna (text/illus.)

**Att vara jag**

(Being me)

[Stockholm]: Lilla Piratförlaget, [2015]. – [90] p.  
ISBN 978-91-87707-37-7

Femininity | Feminism | Coming of age |  
Self-discovery

What does it actually mean to be a girl or a woman? Can I be me or am I simply a product of the expectations placed on me? Must I follow norms and conventions in order to be liked or to be a »proper« girl? Thirteen-year-old Rosa thinks a lot about being female. She explores her body and her femininity, encounters chauvinism and sexism and asks herself why gender roles have been distributed as they are. Anna Höglund's text is reserved, and her illustrations have a careful, yet direct and expressive, line. Just like Rosa, who seems both smart and strong, as well as vulnerable and soft. In the comic that she draws, she engages with her questions and concludes, in Simone de Beauvoir's spirit, that one is not born a woman, but becomes one. »Att vara jag« shows much empathy for girls on the cusp of adulthood and also explains why women are often still treated as objects rather than subjects. (Age: 12+)

194



Nilsson, Frida (text)

Jansson, Alexander (illus.)

**Ishavspirater**

(Polar sea pirates)

Stockholm: Natur & Kultur, [2015]. – 393 p.  
ISBN 978-91-27-13685-4

Pirate | Kidnapping | Siblings | Search

»Det är lättare att göra de fega valen. Men någon gång ibland kommer en som gör de modiga valen. Och det är en väldig tur för alla andra.« (It is easier to make a cowardly choice. But sometimes someone makes a courageous choice. And everyone else benefits.) Siri is the brave one in this case. She took up with Vithuvud the pirate, who had been spreading fear and trembling in the polar sea for years, because he and his men stole not only flour and fish, but also children. He also kidnapped Miki, Siri's sister, in a moment when Siri wasn't watching. Her feelings of guilt propel self-growth: On her search for Miki she withstands loneliness, cold, hunger and thirst. With her multi-layered adventure novel and its unusual heroine, Frida Nilsson proves yet again what a fantastic storyteller she is. (Age: 8+)

195



Öberg, Helena (text)  
Lidström, Kristin (illus.)

### **Din tur, Adrian**

(Your turn, Adrian)

Stockholm: Mirando Bok, [2015]. – 59 p.

ISBN 978-91-981396-7-9

[Dyslexia](#) | [Bullying](#) | [Loneliness](#) | [Imagination](#) |  
[Dog](#)

This book practically has no text – which is fitting and just as well, since its main character, ten-year-old Adrian, has difficulty reading. When he has to read out loud in class, his head feels like it's full of cotton, the letters blur in front of his eyes, and the laughter of others rings in his ears. Adrian's world is grey. Pencil-drawn pictures appear in variously-sized panels and show a disheartened boy, whom a cloud of loneliness envelops even when amidst a great hubbub. The one thing that makes him happy is to think of the circus and circus acts. Only once he meets a giant dog named Hejdi does his life become more light-hearted and colourful. Expansive, thickly-painted colour pictures stand in clear contrast to the earlier grey on grey aesthetic. The book leaves open whether Hejdi is only a figment of Adrian's imagination. Some things seem to »really« happen, while others suggest that everything is playing out in Adrian's head. (Age: 8+)

196



Schiefauer, Jessica (text)

### **När hundarna kommer**

(When the dogs come)

Stockholm: Bonnier Carlsen, 2015. – 298 p.

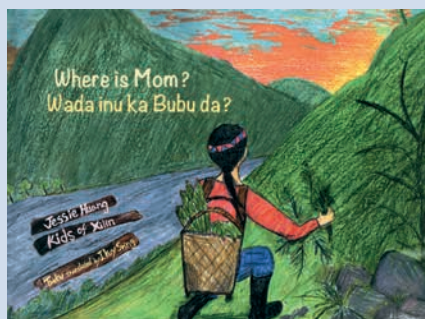
ISBN 978-91-638-8997-4

[Homicide](#) | [Fascism](#) | [Family](#)

In her novel, Jessica Schiefauer powerfully describes what happens when the world suddenly turns upside down. How did things come to a point where one's younger brother beat someone to death? Isak's family is shocked and paralyzed. Where did the family go wrong? When did little Anton become someone who would embrace fascist ideas and hurt others to a lethal degree? There are no answers. The family threatens to crumble, everyone feels guilty. Isak asks himself whether it was wrong that he spent so much time with Ester, his first great love. While the relationship between the two did break off, Ester still wants to be there for Isak and the family. She offers her help and hopes that Isak will once again turn to her and leave his tangle of rage, guilt and bewilderment behind. (Age: 14+)



197



Huang, Jessie / Kids of Xilin (text/illus.)  
Spring, Ikuy (transl.)

**Wada inu ka Bubu da? = Where is Mom?**

Taizhong: Gu shi jia wen hua gong zuo shi (The Storytellers), 2016. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-986-92978-3-7

Text Truku and English

Taiwan | Truku people | Cultural identity |  
Picture book | Bilingual book

The narrator of this story is a girl of the Truku indigenous people of Taiwan. She returns from school to her sparsely furnished home, only to discover that her mother is not home. She is too frightened to search for her that night. In the morning, Mom returns from the mountains, heaving a pannier on her back packed with wild vegetables, her hands and arms pricked by thorns, only to immediately hurry out again to the town market, selling the vegetables in order to support her family. Author Jessie Huang, together with the children of the elementary school in Xilin, developed the story and illustrations to reflect everyday life for a Truku child in 21<sup>st</sup>-century Taiwan. The text went through many village elder meetings, before a version was deemed to genuinely reflect Truku language. It was only in 2004 that the Truku were officially recognized by the Republic of China, after having long suffered the consequences of Japanese and Chinese colonization – including loss of land, language, identity, and culture. (Age: 6+)

198



Yemenici, Elif (text/illus.)

**Eyvah Kalbim Kırıldı!**

(My heart is broken!)

İstanbul: Redhouse Kidz Çocuk Kitapları, 2016.

– [36] p.

ISBN 978-605-9781-16-9

Joy | Sadness | Picture book

This picture book tells of a emotional tragedy: Little Kalben wants to play ball with the boys, but they leave her out and, as if that weren't enough, they knock her ice cream cone from her hand. The girl is filled with a deep sadness that will not go away. Animals shall help her fill her heart with joy once more. She tries to swim like the fish and drink milk like the cat in the garden, but nothing helps, and Kalben fears growing old with a broken heart. A seagull gives her a shell as a present, and it whispers that she should imagine what brings her the most joy in life. To give others joy – that is the solution Kalben hits upon to become happy again. Young author and illustrator Elif Yemenici (b. 1989) illustrates this melancholic story with unusual pictures. The scenes seem enlarged as if by a magnifying lens and distorted as if within a snow globe. (Age: 5+)

199



Luščevs'ka, Oksana (Lushchevska, Oksana) (text)  
Havryš, Jana (Havrysh, Yana) (illus.)

**Viter z-pid soncja. Povist'**

(Viter z-pid soncyca. Povist')

(Wind from under the sun. A novel)

Kyiv: Fontan Kazok, [2016]. – 125 p.

(Series: Knyžka pro mene)

ISBN 978-617-7262-14-4

Coming of age | Father | Death

Since its founding in 2014, Fontan Kazok Press has been gaining notice in Ukraine for its children's literature publications. Case in point is »Viter z-pid soncyca«, a story told from multiple perspectives during a summer at the Black Sea. Zhenka, the boy, and Rusya, the girl, at first only know each other by sight. As the book progresses, their paths intertwine more and more. Readers gradually learn about their problems and somewhat difficult lives. Since Zhenka's father passed away, his mother and he have suffered greatly. Rusya has to work and earn money for her family. A cat who is calmly watching the human goings-on, registering them and documenting them at a distance, provides the third perspective from which the events are narrated. These changes in perspective give the story depth. Oksana Lushchevska (b. 1982) is very engaged in new Ukrainian children's literature and was especially praised for the psychologically refined and on-point portraits of the book's characters. (Age: 10+)

200



Michalicyna, Kateryna (Mikhalicyna, Kateryna) (text)  
Bula, Oksana (illus.)

**Chto roste u parku** (Khto roste u parku)

(Who is growing in the park)

L'viv: Vydavnytstvo Staroho Leva, 2016. – [38] p.

ISBN 978-617-679-283-3

Identity | Belonging | Tree | Botany |  
Picture book

A ginkgo seedling observes big and small people in the park and notices that some look a lot like one another. This leads him to investigate the other trees in the park to see whether they are similar to him or not. One after the other, the seedling gets to know chestnut, maple, rowan tree, poplar, birch and so on with their leaf shapes, seed heads and other characteristics. Just when he's becoming a bit disheartened because no one looks like him, he comes upon a ginkgo tree and finally learns who he is. Kateryna Mikhalicyna (b. 1982) and Oksana Bula (b. 1989) have created a fine little story about self-discovery and the feeling of belonging, while also offering readers an excellent plant identification book for young readers. Anything but boring, the book is informative and captivating: One discovers what is special about each tree and how one can identify it. This book definitely belongs in the backpack for the next outdoor excursion. (Age: 3+)

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