

2017 | The White Ravens

A Selection of International Children's and Youth Literature



Internationale Jugendbibliothek

2017 | The White Ravens

A Selection of International Children's and Youth Literature

Internationale Jugendbibliothek

IMPRESSUM

The White Ravens 2017

A Selection of International Children's and Youth Literature

Copyright © 2017 by Stiftung Internationale Jugendbibliothek

Editor: Dr. Christiane Raabe

Editorial work: Jochen Weber

Translation: Dr. Frances Bottenberg, Claudia Söffner

Copy editing: Dr. Nikola von Merveldt

Selection and texts:

Theodora Arampatzi: Greek | Michelle Bourgeois, Claudia Söffner, Dr. William Teale, Dr. Junko Yokota, with the support of Dr. Victoria Flanagan, Dr. Jennifer Graff, Dr. Isaac Larison, Dr. Rachel Lo, Lucia Obi, Dr. Linda Pavonetti, Dr. Susan Stan, Natalie Ziarnik: English | Prof. Dr. Young Eun Chang, Prof. Sojin Park, Prof. Dr. Moonsun Choi: Korean | Dr. Valerie Coghlan, Patricia Forde: Irish | Toin Duijx: Dutch, Frisian | Prof. Fang Weiping, Zhao Xia: Chinese | Dr. Ines Galling: Danish, Finnish, German, Norwegian, Swedish | Dr. Azad Hamoto: Arabic | Dr. Leila (Roya) Maktabi: Persian | Reina Nakano: Japanese | Lucia Obi: Nepali | Tamar Schroedter-Albers: Hebrew | Silvana Sola, with the support of Gabriele Poeschke: Italian | Dr. Ilgum Veryeri Alaca: Turkish | Jochen Weber: Galician, Portuguese, Spanish | Sibylle Weingart: French | Dr. Katja Wiebe: Armenian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Estonian, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Slovenian, Ukrainian

Layout: Eva Geck, Ute Konstanzer

Typesetting: Thomas Pleiner mtp-studio

Printed by: EDER Druck, Dachau

Cover illustration: David Habchy

Copyright © 2017 by David Habchy

Catalogue cover: Copyright © 2017 by Stiftung Internationale Jugendbibliothek. David Habchy's and Hussein Nakhal's book »Hkâyî wa-Ādhār« (Adhar's story) (Beirut: Dar Onboz, 2015) was selected for »The White Ravens 2016«.

This publication is available from:

Internationale Jugendbibliothek

Schloss Blumenburg

81247 Munich, Germany

Tel.: +49 (0)89 8912110

E-mail: info@ijb.de

www.ijb.de

ISSN 1818-6319



The Stiftung Internationale Jugendbibliothek (International Youth Library Foundation) is institutionally funded by: German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth; Bavarian State Ministry for Education and Cultural Affairs, Science and the Arts; City of Munich.



**Bundesministerium
für Familie, Senioren, Frauen
und Jugend**

**Bayerisches Staatsministerium für
Bildung und Kultus, Wissenschaft und Kunst**



**Landeshauptstadt
München
Kulturreferat**

Also funded by:



Auswärtiges Amt

CONTENTS

PREFACE	4	HEBREW	62
ARABIC	6	HUNGARIAN	62
• Jordan	6	IRISH	63
• Lebanon	6	ITALIAN	63
ARMENIAN	7	JAPANESE	67
BULGARIAN	7	KOREAN	71
CHINESE	8	LATVIAN	74
• People's Republic of China	8	LITHUANIAN	75
• Republic of China (Taiwan)	11	NEPALI	76
CROATIAN	11	NORWEGIAN	76
CZECH	12	PERSIAN (FARSI)	79
DANISH	13	POLISH	82
DUTCH	15	PORTUGUESE	84
• Belgium	15	• Brazil	84
• Netherlands	16	• Portugal	86
ENGLISH	19	• Romania	88
• Australia	19	• Russia	89
• Canada	22	• Serbia	90
• Great Britain	23	• Slovakia	91
• India	27	• Slovenia	92
• Ireland	28	• Argentina	93
• New Zealand	28	• Chile	94
• Philippines	29	• Colombia	95
• Singapore	30	• Mexico	96
• USA	30	• Spain	98
ESTONIAN	37	• Venezuela	100
FINNISH	38	• Finland	101
FRENCH	39	• Sweden	102
• Belgium	39	• Turkey	104
• Canada	40	• Ukraine	105
• France	42	SWEDISH	
• Morocco	47	TURKISH	
• Switzerland	48	UKRAINIAN	
• Tunisia	48	NAME INDEX	106
• Netherlands	49	SUBJECT INDEX	109
FRISIAN	49	READING AGE INDEX	112
GALICIAN	49		
GERMAN	50		
• Austria	50		
• Germany	50		
• Switzerland	58		
GREEK	59		
• Greece	59		

PREFACE

With great pleasure we present to you the 2017 edition of our annual catalogue »The White Ravens«. On the cover this year, beautifully designed paper birds rise into a green sky. They have been imagined by Lebanese illustrator David Habchy, one of whose books was featured in the 2016 »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 56 countries published in 38 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 »White Ravens« database on our website 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 2017

1



al-Nağğār, Taġrīd (Najjar, Taghreed) (text)
 Šama, Šarlot (Shama, Charlotte) (illus.)
Muğamara aġiba ġariba
 (A fantastic, wondrous adventure)
 Amān: Al-Salwā, 2017. – 75 p.
 ISBN 978-9957-04-089-5

Family | Intergenerational relationship | Aunt |
 Niece | Tradition | Handicraft | Imagination

Whenever Hênd visits her aunt Suheyla, she finds her sitting on her favourite chair with a piece of fabric in her hand that she is embroidering with colourful threads. One day, Hênd asks her aunt whether embroidering ever becomes boring. From that moment on, a wondrous adventure with many imaginative elements begins. The book is carried by the heartfelt dialogues between aunt and niece, interwoven with short stories, keeping readers' attention to the last page. An accessible and flowing literary language characterize the book, along with soft drawings, whose colours pay homage to the traditional embroidery of Palestine and Jordan. Renowned author Taghreed Najjar, herself hailing from Palestine and living in Jordan, is known for tracing her own traditions in her works and conveying these to the young generation of readers by means of beautiful, entertaining stories. (Age: 7+)

2



Xweršīd, Jīger (Khurshid, Jikar) (text)
 Rasūli, Parīsā (Rasouli, Parisa) (illus.)
Āna āsfura, āna herā, āna sāmākā
 (I am a bird, a cat, a fish)
 Beirut: Asala, 2016. – 15 p.
 ISBN 978-614-442-221-2

Family | Everyday life | Boredom | Role swap |
 Imagination | Picture book

Jekar Khourchid has been writing stories, poems, and plays for children for ten years. The story he recounts in this book could occur anywhere, since it is not bound to a particular place or time. The unnamed protagonist is bored by her family's routine-driven everyday life. The food that her mother prepares doesn't taste good to her anymore, the advice her father gives now only give her headaches, and playing with her siblings isn't fun anymore, either. So she goes in search of an exciting new life free of tedium. She imagines being a bird, a fish, or a toy, and takes on their form. She then stumbles into funny experiences or suddenly faces insurmountable obstacles. The Kurdish author, originally from Syria but now living in exile, tells this imaginative everyday life story with gentle, poetic language. The colourful pictures are from illustrator Parisa Rasouli, of Iranian descent. (Age: 6+)



3

Saumande, Juliette (text)
Grugeaux, Julie (illus.)
Mesropyan, Art'ur (transl.)

Tsuř Davit'e

(Disaster David)

Erevan: Zangak, 2016. – 28 p.
ISBN 978-9939-68-495-6

David of Sassoun | Giant | Weakness |
Strength | Legend | Picture book

David the giant drives the citizens of the city of Sassoun crazy with his clumsiness and ineptitude, but then he saves them from external foes and becomes their hero. This appealing picture book is about the legend of this giant. Because of his strength and size he is like an elephant in a porcelain shop, yet when the decisive moment comes he knows how to use these traits. Almost as exciting as this tale is the story surrounding the book itself, written by Armenian-born, Ireland-resident, French children's book author Juliette Saumande and illustrated by French artist Julie Grugeaux. The result is a picture book adaptation of perhaps the most important legend of Armenia: »David of Sassoun«, the Armenian national epic, is at the core about the conflict between Armenian and Arab tribes in the Middle Ages. This new edition from Zangak Press in Yerevan offers the text in parallel English and Armenian translation. (Age: 3+)



4

Bukova, Jana (text/illus.)

4 prikazki bez vrășane

(Four tales of no return)

[Plovdiv]: Žanet 45, [2016]. – 43 p.
ISBN 978-619-186-291-7

Pride | Self-determination | Time | Burden |
Fairy tale | Intertextuality

In four short texts Bulgarian author and translator Jana Bukova (b. 1968) uses typical fairy-tale set ups to tell multi-faceted stories, lending great poetic power to the elementary nature of the fairy-tale plot. What is the book about? It's about a merchant whose pride lands him in hell; about a princess who teaches her suitors something about self-determination; about someone who can outrun his shadow (and death); and about a gift that at first causes more trouble than joy. At the end of each tale there's an unexpected, odd, or paradoxical twist. That it's all about the twists is wonderfully indicated by the text's layout: larger font letters aren't at the start of the story, but rather at the end, cryptically unsettling the typical format of the fairy-tale book. Concrete poetry begins every tale, framed in black like artwork. (Age: 14+)

ARMENIAN
BULGARIAN

Armenia
Bulgaria

5



Christova, Zornica (Khristova, Zornitsa) /
Dimitrova, Desislava (text)
Zacharieva, Sijana (Zaharieva, Siyana) (illus.)
Gradska geografija (Gradska geografiya)
(Urban geography)
[Sofija]: Izdatelstvo Točica, 2016. – 69 p.
ISBN 978-619-7172-14-0

Nature | Garden | City | Perception

Cousins Toni and Martin have a cool grandma, who takes photographs for »National Geographic«. Normally she's jetting around the world, but after breaking her leg, she has to find subjects to photograph in »wild nature« in her home town of Sofia. Her grandsons are of course brought in on it, and after they grudgingly do some garden work, they make exciting discoveries in the world of insects, plants & co. »Gradska geografija« is the authors' second book that looks at familiar environments from an unfamiliar perspective. The first took on the world of cooking, and this one offers a successful mix of facts about flora and fauna and typical children's literature ingredients (friendship, love, identity, parents!). Co-authors Zornitsa Khristova (b. 1974) and Desislava Dimitrova (b.1967) team up with illustrator Siyana Zaharieva (b. 1982) for some fun comparisons, for instance between underground music and the creepy-crawly life in the earth. They also offer practical advice, for example how to build seed bombs. (Age: 11+)

6



Guo, Jiangyan (text)
Chen, Shu (illus.)

Bu luo zhen de you di yuan

(The postman from Buluo Town)

Shanghai: Shao nian er tong chu ban she (Juvenile and Children's Publishing House), 2017. – 199 p.
(Series: »Shao nian wen yi« jin bang ming jia shu xi)
ISBN 978-7-5324-9896-3

Postman | Forest | Animals | Humans |
Environmental protection | Literary fairy tale

Aluo's dream is to be the postman of Buluo Town. When the orphan boy finally realizes his dream, he finds himself facing the troublesome task of having to deliver a letter to the dark forest that nobody dares to walk into. His devotion to the job takes over, and soon he becomes a secret communicator between the town and the forest. Thus begins a series of marvelous adventures and an amazing friendship between the townspeople and the forest animals. The stories are filled with wild flights of fancy, but they might also be seen as fables that reveal the link between human beings and the other forms of life on Earth, showing how humans can escape anthropocentrism through expanding what they see and feel. The book was selected as one of the »Best Chinese Books of 2016« by the Association of China Book Review and CCTV (China Central Television). Guo Jiangyan teaches Chinese language and literature at a primary school in Jiangsu. Her fairy tales have drawn attention from both readers and critics in recent years. (Age: 6+)



7

Huang, Beijia (text)

Tong mou

(Through the eyes of a child)

Nanjing: Jiangsu feng huang shao nian er tong chu ban she (Jiangsu Phoenix Juvenile and Children's Publishing Ltd.), 2016. – 279 p. ISBN 978-7-5584-0046-9

China | History 1970s | Childhood | Poverty | Coming of age | Innocence | Sophistication | Realism

This novel tells of the children growing up in a small town in northern Jiangsu province in the 1970s. Through the eyes of a child, their world is presented as a mixture of romantic innocence and authentic sophistication. One reads about the boy »White Hair«, suffering from albinism and eager to be accepted by his peers, who learns to take advantage of his disease. A bully named Ma Xiaowu devotes himself to aiding Ximei support her family. The daughter in a single-parent home feels burdened caring for her mentally impaired sister, yet protects her from abuse. Honoured with the 4th Chinese Government Award for Publishing and selected into the »Best Chinese Books of 2016« by the Association of China Book Review and CCTV, the book compels readers to rethink the experience of being a child. Recognized writer Huang Beijia is best known for her children's books. One of her award winning novels, »I Want to Be a Good Child« (1996) has seen its 100th reprinting in 2017. (Age: 12+)



8

Yang, Sifan (text/illus.)

Qi miao de shu

(The fantastic book)

Guilin: Guang xi shi fan da xue chu ban she (Guangxi Normal University Press), 2016. – [32] p. (Series: Mo fa xiang tu hua shu wang guo; ME116) ISBN 978-7-5495-8950-0

Book | Reading | Picture book | Textless book

This is a textless book all about the enchantment of books and the fantastic life that we may experience through reading. While a group of animals are drawn together by a book that a little girl is reading, each becomes engulfed in a dreamy world of its own. The light-hearted illustrations show interesting scenes, such as a giraffe and a crocodile drinking greedily from a book, a mouse seeking adventures in a house on the back of a long snake, a rabbit hero bravely fighting against a ferocious wolf, a fox abducting a group of chickens with a book, a worm flying high up in the night sky with a flock of birds ... There's a transformed book on every page that plays a vital role in each animal's respective dream and adventure, showing how books broaden our horizons and imaginations regarding the possibilities of life. Yang Sifan is an editor, illustrator and designer of children's books. His works display a penchant for the nonsensical, still a rare quality in Chinese picture books. (Age: 4+)

9



Yu, Hongcheng (text/illus.)

Pan zhong can

(Each grain in your dish)

Beijing: Zhong guo shao nian er tong chu ban she (China Children's Press & Publication Group), 2016. – 40 p.

(Series: Jiu shen lu hui ben guan)

ISBN 978-7-5148-2882-5

Hani people | Tradition | Agriculture |
Rice cultivation | Non-fiction | Picture book

This picture book offers a lyrical view of the disappearing rice-growing culture of the Hani, an ethnic minority living by the Yuanyang Terraces in south-eastern Yunnan. Agricultural knowledge, presented mainly through the text, is accompanied by illustrations of the Hani people's daily lives. Young readers will learn about the various farming tools, the Chinese solar terms, the weather conditions necessary for a successful crop, and the many different stages a seed must go through before it becomes a grain of rice in their bowl. The book title is borrowed from an ancient Chinese poem preaching the hardship of farming and the value of food when life depends directly on nature. Yu Hongcheng (b. 1989) has been enthusiastic in introducing traditional culture through her picture books. »Pan zhong can« was selected for the Illustrators Exhibition at the 2016 Bologna Children's Book Fair and won the 5th Feng Zikai Chinese Children's Picture Book Award in 2017. (Age: 5+)

10



Zhang, Zhilu (text)

Du, Lingyun (illus.)

Ji xiang shi guang

(The propitious time)

Beijing: Zuo jia chu ban she (The Writers' Publishing House), 2016. – 304 p.

ISBN 978-7-5063-9301-0

China | History 1950s | Childhood memories

The years between 1948 and 1957 witnessed a series of vital changes in Chinese society. Jixiang, a four-year-old boy living in Beijing, builds his first impression and understanding of the world. The child's life seems just as plain and trivial as a child's life can be, as readers see him attending kindergarten and primary school. The child's world however, seems less insignificant when set against the background of the major political and social events at the time: the end of civil war, the rise of a new regime, and the subsequent political movements. This semi-autobiographical novel shows how ordinary men were shaped by society and politics, but still would cherish humane concerns. This is why it is called a »propitious« time, which is also the meaning of Jixiang's name. Zhang Zhilu is a renowned writer of children's fiction, having received the National Book Award, the National Award for Outstanding Children's Literature, the Song Qingling Children's Literature Award, and having been nominated for the Hans Christian Andersen Award in 2006. (Age: 8+)

11



Qiu, Chengzong (text/illus.)

Di mian di xia. Si ji kun chong wei guan tu ji

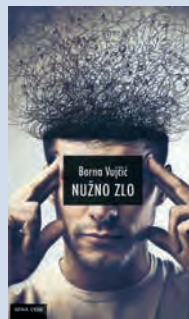
(Aboveground, underground. An illustrated account of the insect microcosm through the four seasons)

Taipei: Xiao lu wen hua shi ye gu fen you xian gong si (Hsiao Lu Publ.), 2016. – 42 p. + [4] p. (Series: Xiao lu chuang zuo hui ben; OP46) ISBN 978-986-211-627-2

Insect | Rhinoceros beetle | Ecology |
Cycle of life | Non-fiction | Picture book

The shoe hovering over an insect on the cover merely provides a measure for the microcosm under our feet: this book recounts the life story of a rhinoceros beetle in a poetic language that is quite unusual for a non-fiction book. In summer, it emerges from underground and spreads its wings to begin the final journey of its life. At the same time, another beetle crawls into the ground and lays a row of milky white eggs before it dies. These eggs form adult beetles, through autumn, when the silent earth becomes golden, through winter, when icy winds sweep away all beauty, through spring, when the whisper of insects tells the story of countless lives seeking companions. More than hundred other creatures are hidden in the double-page drawings, each representing a cross-section of the beetle habitat. Award-winning photographer, author and illustrator Qiu Chengzong dedicates most of his books to the natural environment in Taiwan. His almost photorealistic images aren't mere documentary records but philosophical renderings of the eternal cycle of life. (Age: 6+)

12



Vujčić, Borna (text)

Nužno zlo

(Necessary evil)

Zagreb: Hena Com, 2015. – 279 p.

(Series: Biblioteka Nokaut; 12)

ISBN 978-953-259-116-3

School | Power | Hierarchy | Allegory

For the past two years, Borna Vujčić (b. 1993) has received recognition in Croatia as a young dramatist. His debut in the realm of narrative literature, the suspenseful allegorical novel »Nužno zlo«, was much discussed by the media. The book is about a boy named Maks, who is a new student at a high school and must navigate its system of social judgment and hierarchy. The school's power structure gradually becomes clear as the thrilling plot unfolds: elections for class president are run like electoral campaigns. The class community is split into liberal, conservative, and left-wing ideological affiliations, with alliances struck for expediency's sake. Intrigues and power games, manipulation and propaganda through (social) media are all par for the course. Maks becomes part of this system, and his schoolmates become either his allies or foes. Vujčić employs these schoolmates as witnesses of the goings-on and thereby shows his feel for the dramaturgy of a text. (Age: 16+)

CHINESE
CROATIAN

Republic of China (Taiwan)
Croatia

13



Borkovec, Petr (text)
Tachezy, Andrea (illus.)

O čem sní

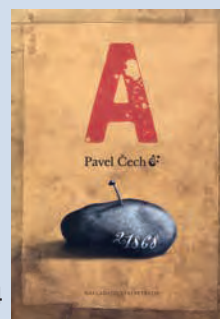
(What they dream of)

Praha: František Havlůj – Běžíliška, 2016. – [23] p.
ISBN 978-80-906112-8-3

[Dream](#) | [Imagination](#) | [Poetry](#) | [Leporello](#) |
[Picture book](#)

Petr Borkovec (b.1970) is among the most important contemporary poets of the Czech Republic. He has received many awards, and his poems have been translated into several languages. It's a stroke of luck that he collaborates with illustrator Andrea Tachezy (b. 1966) to make this fanfold book for children. Together they explore what all manner of beings, both living and inanimate, dream of. In the process, a gardener and a sailor, a bear and an elephant, and even a pencil and a crescent-shaped pastry appear in a wonderfully absurd way: the sailor dreams of cleaning up the sea and stacking all the crabs; the pastry dreams of how it is eaten; and the lethargic bear dreams of sleeping. Light and free, Borkovec employs different lyrical forms, from end rhyme and internal rhyme to free verse, while Tachezy constructs off-beat pictures out of collage, water colour and drawing. »O čem sní« is perhaps the best example of the unusual profile of young publishing house Běžíliška, which specializes in elaborate picture books and especially fanfolds. (Age: 7+)

14



Čech, Pavel (illus.)

A

[Havlíčkův Brod]: Petrkov, 2016. – [59] p.
ISBN 978-80-87595-57-2

[Dictatorship](#) | [Censorship](#) | [Freedom of thought](#) |
[Textless book](#) | [Comic](#)

A young man lives under the dictatorship of »A«: Everyone says, thinks and feels »A« – or is at least expected to. There are buildings in »A« form, and newspapers write articles exclusively using the letter »A«. One day the man finds a forbidden flyer with the message: »B«. New ideas germinate in him: other thoughts, beliefs, and ways of life are possible! In an extraordinary effort, the young man floods the dictatorship with books and texts containing all the letters of the alphabet. »A« is a fabulous comic by Czech illustrator Pavel Čech. With narrative acumen, Čech not only captures life in an oppressive system, but also shows how it is possible to resist and overthrow it. Aside from the symbolic letters »A« and »B«, which stand in for messages, information, and censorship, Čech's book is textless – making it even more extraordinary and gripping in its expressive power. (Age: 10+)

15



Končinský, Tomáš / Klárová, Barbora (text)
Špaček, Daniel / Štěpán, Petr (illus.)

Překlep a Škraloup

(*Typo and Skin*)

V Praze: Albatros, 2016. – 116 p.

ISBN 978-80-00-04502-3

Old age | Transience | Time

»Překlep a Škraloup« made a big splash in the Czech Republic this year. It won two of the most important literary awards (Magnesia Litera, Zlata Stuha) and is much loved by critics as well as by the public. Obviously, the author-illustrator quartet of Tomáš Končinský, Barbora Klárová, Daniel Špaček, and Petr Štěpán has hit upon the right way to tell a story about aging and transience – it requires humour and irony. Time's progress is inexorable: Things seem brand new, but suddenly they've yellowed, transformed themselves and sometimes taken on a peculiar smell. Little creatures who use special tools are behind these changes. One day, one of these creatures – »Typo«, who introduces typing errors into texts – begins to search for the »source of time«, asking why everything must age and fade away, since this makes people and things suffer. (Age: 7+)

16



Aamand, Kristina (text)

Frölich, Julie (lettering)

For enden af din pegfinger

(*At the tip of your index finger*)

[København]: Carlsen, 2016. – 257 p.

ISBN 978-87-11-54122-7

Migration | Family | Homosexuality | Gender role

The fact that young Sana Bakkoush was the central character of the last season of the successful Norwegian TV series »Skam« is a clear indicator that times are changing. This also holds true for literature. People are finally starting to tell the stories of those who have so far been given little attention: girls from Muslim families. »Skam's« Sana and Sheherzade, the protagonist of this multicultural novel, show how difficult it is for a girl or a woman to negotiate life between two conflicting worlds: family life ruled by traditional values and the completely different customs and norms of the outside world. Their lives are minefields. Sheherzade manages to strike a balance between both; yet when she falls in love with a girl – Thea, the daughter of a well-off, leftist intellectual family – everything starts toppling over. Kristina Aamand narrates this story with a knack for self-irony and a clear socially critical edge. (Age: 14+)

CZECH
DANISH

Czech Republic
Denmark

17



Jensen, Louis (text)
 Brøgger, Lilian / Lundén, Maria (illus.)
Der er ingen ende – altid en ny historie. 100 tegnede historier
(There is no end – only another new story. 100 stories in pictures)
 [København]: Gyldendal, 2016. – [132] p.
 (Series: Hundrede historier)
 ISBN 978-87-02-20053-9

Storytelling | Short story | Picture story

This book has three ribbon page markers, maybe because three different artists – two illustrators and one author – have created it. In 1992, Louis Jensen started his long-term storytelling project with the book »Hundrede historier« (A hundred stories). Since then, he has published another nine volumes in this series. To this volume, he has contributed one text, while the rest of the tales are told by Lilian Brøgger and Maria Lundén in pictures packed with lots of wit and bizarre ideas. The stories are brimming with dogs riding on bones; stars, moons, and dragons; a wedge of cheese on a surf board (one of the funniest characters); mouths with feet; frivolously grinning cats in nylon tights; and ... and ... and... The pictures invite readers to look at them again and again, to discover new things, to further embellish the tales, in short: to continue the storytelling forever. After all, the book's title was chosen for a reason! (Age: 4+)

18



Wung-Sung, Jesper (text)
 Dickmeiss, Otto (illus.)
Lillefingeren
(The little finger)
 København: Høst & Søn, 2017. – 90 p.
 ISBN 978-87-638-4648-6

Sacrifice | Brother | Journey

The little finger is gone. His hand wrapped in a blood-stained T-shirt, Finn is standing in the middle of his sick brother Arne's room. Although Arne can hardly get up, he sets off with Finn in search of Finn's pinkie. On their way, the two brothers meet more or less bizarre people, and Arne slowly forgets that he is sick. What they don't find, however, is the finger. It lies at home. Finn cut it off himself to save his brother. Jesper Wung-Sung tackles similar topics as in his former books »Skolen« or »Ud med Knud«: The main question is what kind of sacrifices one can, should, or must make during a lifetime. »Lillefingeren« is reminiscent of biblical texts, of Nikolai Gogol, and of Janne Teller. It is anything but a run-of-the-mill book, not least due to the drawings by Otto Dickmeiss. Their wealth of detail is reminiscent of medieval Vanitas paintings or art by Expressionist painters such as Otto Dix. They emphasise surreal and absurd things, but at the same time create and reflect on an existential dimension. (Age: 12+)

19



Klaasen, Geert (text)

De zilveren raaf*(The silver raven)*

Antwerpen: Davidsfonds/Infodok, 2016. – 239 p.
ISBN 978-90-5908-768-2

Prague | History 1950s | Murder | Crime fiction

The life of sixteen-year-old Roman Kovar from Prague changes course when the criminal Tomas Bilek escapes from prison. Roman, the son of a simple watchmaker, becomes involved in all manner of political intrigue. The book »De zilveren raaf«, which was given to Roman's father just before he died, motivates the young man's adventures. It tells about a miller who takes revenge on the murderer of his wife and child and leads Roman on his own quest to find his father's murderers. The story is set in turbulent post-WWII Prague, in a time when no one trusts anyone else. In this novel, building suspense is very important, as well as developing historical background. For the reader, it is not always easy to link all the characters because they may not be who they pretend to be. For instance, Roman's girlfriend Lenka proves not to be the girl he thought he knew. The gripping book won the 2015 »Zoute Zoen« (Salty Kiss) manuscript contest for new talent. As contest winner, the author received a grant, led a writing master class and got a contract to publish his book. (Age: 15+)

20



Vendel, Edward van de (text)

Leeuw, Mattias de (illus.)

Het telboek van prins Hayo de Gelukkige*(The counting book of Prince Hayo the Happy)*

Wielbeke: De Eenhoorn, [2016]. – [74] p.
ISBN 978-94-6291-113-0

Counting | Prince | Birthday | Picture book

Hayo the Happy, Prince of Zuizelland, gets two dogs as a present for his first birthday: one to play with and one to sleep with. On the occasion of his second birthday, the king and the queen invite two sculptors to make two statues of their son, one for the castle garden and one for a square in the city. A year later, three painters are invited to make three portraits of the prince. In this way, each birthday of the prince is celebrated in a special way. In this big colourful all-in-one picture and counting book, young readers can learn their numbers 1 through 10 in a fun way. The objects mentioned in the story can also be found in the dynamic illustrations brimming with details. The author and illustrator worked together before on »Dertien rennende hertjes« (Thirteen running deer), which was nominated for the 2015 German Children's Literature Award. In 2016, Edward van de Vendel received this award for his picture book »De hond die Nino niet had« (The dog that Nino didn't have), with illustrations by Anton van Hertbruggen. (Age: 4+)

DUTCH

Belgium

21



Verplancke, Klaas (text/illus.)

De appel van Magritte

(Magritte's apple)

Tielt: Lannoo, [2016]. – [34] p.

ISBN 978-94-0143-926-8

(Parallel English edition: Magritte's apple.

New York: The Museum of Modern Art, 2016)

Magritte, René | Art | Surrealism | Painting |
Picture book

This picture book is about the life and work of the most famous Belgian painter of the 20th century, René Magritte. Even as a child he dreamt of becoming a painter who paints apples, hats, and »apple hats«, too. In his artwork, everything is possible. Trees turn into lips and a baguette transforms itself into a nose. Magritte's surrealist paintings have become very famous and popular over the years and now can be found in museums all over the world. In Klaas Verplancke's beautiful pictures, the readers will, of course, find many allusions to the oeuvre of Magritte, but also the typical style of Verplancke himself. Next to each illustration, there is a short text, just one or two sentences about the image, and at the end of the book there is a search-and-find activity for children using six of Magritte's paintings. A short biography of Magritte completes this book. Internationally awarded illustrator Klaas Verplancke made this book for the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and it can serve as an introduction to art in general. (Age: 5+)

22



Dijkstra, Lida (text)

Linden, Martijn van der (illus.)

De ring van koning Salomo

(King Solomon's ring)

Amsterdam: Luitingh-Sijthoff, [2016]. – 187 p.

ISBN 978-90-245-6932-8

Solomon <King> | Demon | Magic | Orphan

The orphan Sem is the »oil boy« who fills the lamps at King Solomon's court, where the old inventor Bakkakkar takes him under his wing. Through Sem's eyes, readers of this book become acquainted with Solomon, the rich and powerful king who, as the head of the Jewish Court of Justice, uses his profound wisdom to settle even the most complicated disputes. But when Solomon loses his magical star ring, which was forged by the archangel Michael, he apparently transforms into a man possessed by the devil. Sem decides to take action, with the help of a flying carpet, and Iryt, a girl from Sheba. Lida Dijkstra's story is written as a free verse narrative poem. Very skilfully, in a vivid, timeless language that fits with the tradition of oral storytelling, Dijkstra interweaves Sem's story with the classic Solomon stories about greed versus charity as well as the tale of the eternal struggle between the worlds above and below – effectively depicted by Martijn van der Linden on every page in earthy shades of brown and heavenly blue. (Age: 10+)



23

Lindelauf, Benny (text)
Volbeda, Ludwig (illus.)

Hoe Tortot zijn vissenhart verloor

(How Tortot lost his fish's heart)

Amsterdam: Querido, [2016]. – 234 p.
ISBN 978-90-451-1836-9

War | Army | Absurdity | Loyalty | Dilemma |
Cook

In this densely illustrated novel, Benny Lindelauf describes a pointless war of the kind that could have taken place not all that long ago, not all that far away. Tortot is a marvellous cook who always manages to make delicious meals for the soldiers, despite having fewer and fewer ingredients. It is thanks to him that the men can keep on fighting the war. His life depends on his creativity because if he does not succeed, he runs the risk of ending up before the firing squad. There is only one way out: when the going gets too tough, he swaps sides and joins the other army. Ludwig Volbeda, known for his work aimed at adults, brings to life this timeless parable about the absurdity of war and the dilemmas one can become trapped in. His drawings are packed with cannons and swords, emperors and castles, all of which tell their own fascinating stories. Even without reading the words, this is a book that readers can spend hours leafing through. In both the text and illustrations, grimness and gravity are masterfully offset by humour. (Age: 12+)



24

Meinderts, Koos (text)
Fienieg, Annette (illus.)

Naar het noorden

(To the North)

[Hoom]: Hoogland & Van Klaveren, [2016]. – 198 p.
ISBN 978-90-8967-232-2

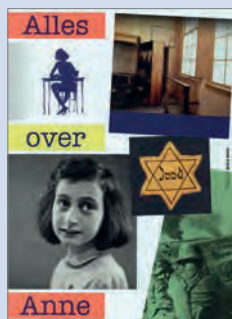
World War II | Winter | Starvation | Loneliness |
Refugee | Historical fiction

It's the winter of 1944/1945, the »Winter of Starvation« in the Netherlands. Other than watery slop from the soup kitchen, Jaap's family have barely anything to eat. His mother is a shadow of her former self, his brother Little Kees's belly is swollen with hunger. Their parents decide to send Jaap, Little Kees, and their sister Nel to the north where the food supply is better. After a distressing journey by boat, the three children have to live in separate places in the province of Friesland. Koos Meinderts perceptively describes the minor culture shock they experience: urban, Catholic Jaap finds himself in a village with a strictly Calvinist couple who, for instance, tell him not to make the sign of the cross before meals. The author tells this family tragedy, set in World War II, in his signature style that relies on precise, nuanced observations. The book's power lies in the details, often harrowing, which present a vivid picture of the time and make the suffering palpable. This gripping story can be read in light of the current debate about refugees. (Age: 9+)

DUTCH

Netherlands

25



Metselaar, Menno / Ledden, Piet van (text)
Scarry, Huck (illus.)

Alles over Anne

(All about Anne)

Amsterdam: Anne Frank Stichting, 2017. – 40 p.
ISBN 978-90-8667-074-1

Frank, Anne | World War II | Jews | Treason |
Biography | Non-fiction

Anne Frank (1929-1945) has become worldfamous because of the diary she wrote while hiding with her family from the Nazis. After more than two years living in a secret annex at Prinsengracht 263 in Amsterdam, those eight Jewish people are discovered and deported. Anne dies at age fifteen in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. Anne's father, Otto Frank, is the only one of the eight people to survive. Over several years, the Anne Frank Foundation in Amsterdam has been collecting children's most frequently asked questions about Anne Frank. In this informative, well-designed book the story of her life is told in chronological order in a clear and sober style. It's not only about Anne's story, but also the history of the war and the persecution of the Jews, supplemented by many black-and-white photos. There are no pictures from the time in hiding, but Huck Scarry offers colourful illustrations based on Anne Frank's diary and the house at Prinsengracht that today is an internationally known museum. (Age: 10+)

26



Rinck, Maranke (text)
Linden, Martijn van der (illus.)

Tangramkat

(Tangram cat)

Rotterdam: Lemniscaat, [2016]. –
[50] p. + 7 puzzle pieces
ISBN 978-90-477-0795-0

Tangram | Puzzle | Cat | Imagination |
Picture book

Maranke Rinck's light-hearted and amusing story is all about animals chasing each other. Using only the seven puzzle shapes of the Chinese Tangram puzzle, Martijn van der Linden illustrates the text by conjuring up a procession of animals in a wide range of poses. The illustrations are very lively, and readers will be amazed at the creative visual potential of Tangram's limited number of shapes. Children (and also adults) can use the real tangram pieces added to the book to copy the animals and make up their own stories. »Tangramkat« is a surprisingly ingenious and exceptionally beautiful book. In 2015, the author and illustrator duo published »Memorykonijn« (The Other Rabbit), a picture book based on the famous memory game. They were awarded the 2017 Silver Pencil and Silver Brush for »Tangramkat«. The book has already been translated into several languages. The readers of this playful book will be delighted and have a lot of fun. (Age: 4+)



27

Westera, Bette (text)

Weve, Sylvia (illus.)

Arme Rijk. Een lees- en luistersprookje

(Poor Rich. A fairy tale to read and listen to)

Haarlem: Gottmer, [2016]. – [84] p. + CD

ISBN 978-90-257-6560-6

Poverty | Fortune | Quest | Fairy tale

Rijk (Rich) is a poor boy, and his mother is at death's door. Wanting her son to find his true identity, she sends him into the world, with only an apple, an egg, and a knapsack full of stones. Magical and realistic events on his quest allude to different fairy tales and myths: crossing the river (Styx), the hedge that doesn't allow him to pass, the greedy innkeeper and the house that will not come closer. Bette Westera uses a poetic language that is easy to understand for children, but she also plays with language and with storylines. The humour in the text is echoed in the dynamic and vivid illustrations, which offer visual spectacles of colour and ingenuity. Westera and Weve, who have previously collaborated to great effect, inspiring each other to artistic heights, delight their readers once again with this magnificently designed book. Their book »Doodgewoon« (Dead simple; 2014), a beautifully constructed collection of poems that reminds us how »dead simple« death is, received the Woutertje Pieterse Award. (Age: 12+)



28

Battersby, Lee (text)

Daoud, Amy (illus.)

Magrit

Newtown, N.S.W.: Walker Books Australia,

2016. – 158 p.

ISBN 978-1-925081-34-3

Friendship | Skeleton | Cemetery | Death | Paranormal fiction | Fantasy fiction

»Magrit« is an unusual tale of love, patience, and longing. Lee Battersby's beautiful prose is woven together with playful, haunting illustrations by Amy Daoud. These elements combine to form a magical view of friendship and the desire to be with others. Magrit is nearly ten. She wanders about the abandoned cemetery where she lives, whiling away hours talking to her only friend, Master Puppet. Her quiet, lonely life changes one rainy spring night when a baby is delivered into her care. The girl knows nothing about babies but learns to provide for her new charge. She alternates between seeking and ignoring the advice of Master Puppet regarding the foundling that she decides to name Bugrat, after the first two things she sees. Magrit does her best to nurture and protect Bugrat, but she cannot protect herself from the terrible reality of her own existence. Readers will be mesmerized by this book. This is a skilfully told story that touches upon our desire to know and be known by others. (Age: 12+)

DUTCH
ENGLISH

Netherlands
Australia

29



Gordon, Gus (text/illus.)

Somewhere else

[Melbourne, Vic.]: Penguin / Viking, 2016. – [32] p.
ISBN 978-0-670-07885-1

Duck | Travel | Flight | Picture book

When master-baker George's fellow feathered friends go travelling, he does not explain why he chooses not to accompany them, stating instead how much he likes staying home better than going »anywhere somewhere else.« Eventually, he confesses that he is unable to fly and regrets having never learned. But after some ingenious scheming with Pascal the bear, the two set off on world-wide adventures. After months of travelling, George realises that he misses baking at home. Collaged illustrations effectively use materials from a variety of sources: photographs, catalogue advertisements from earlier eras, and printed papers with an array of textures. These materials are expertly intermingled with original drawings and embedded within engaging compositions. This charmingly illustrated book also sustains reader attention through story, as Gordon shows readers that through persistence and help from friends, dreams are achievable; and that after having adventures »somewhere else«, coming home can feel pretty wonderful too. (Age: 4+)

30



Hall, Leanne (text)

Iris and the tiger

Melbourne, Vic.: The Text Publishing Company, 2016. – 229 p.
ISBN 978-1-925-240795

Surrealism | Suspense | Aunt | Inheritance | Animals

Twelve-year-old Iris Chen-Taylor travels from Australia to Spain on a self-described spy mission, but nothing can prepare her for what she finds at Bosque de Nubes, her great aunt Ursula's vast estate. Iris's parents have sent her to discreetly learn about her aunt's plans for the property, in the hopes that Iris and her family will inherit it. But when Iris arrives, she immediately has an odd feeling about the place, which once belonged to her late great uncle, a famous surrealist painter. She starts to see inexplicable things, like notes on a piece of sheet music dancing around like ants and giant sunflowers playing tennis. Iris and her new friend Jordi decide to investigate these strange occurrences, and together they uncover a mystery much greater and more dangerous than a simple question of inheritance. Leanne Hall's first novel for middle-grade readers celebrates art, loyalty, and friendship, and at the same time is a fun, imaginative story with a delightfully surrealist twist. (Age: 10+)

31



Millard, Glenda (text)

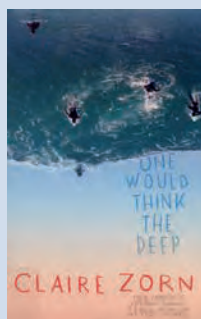
The stars at Oktober bend

Sydney [et al.]: Allen & Unwin Children,
2016. – 266 p.
ISBN 978-1-74331-589-7

Apraxia | Trauma | Outsider | Loneliness | Love

Renowned Australian author Glenda Millard's new young adult novel tells the story of two unusual teenagers who both suffered severe traumata in their respective pasts. Fifteen-year-old Alice Nightingale, who is cared for by her younger brother and critically ill grandmother, was brutally raped and almost beaten to death at the age of twelve. Ever since, she has suffered panic attacks and can't string the thoughts in her head into coherent sentences. Her desperate attempts of communicating with the wider world are her contemplative written poems, which she hides in various places. Manny James, adopted by a local couple, tries to escape the memories of his whole family being brutally killed during the war in his home country Sierra Leone. Meeting and slowly falling in love starts a healing process for both of them. Through two authentic first-person narratives, each with a distinctive, poetic voice, Glenda Millard tells a heart-breaking but ultimately hopeful story of pain, love, and survival. (Age: 14+)

32



Zorn, Claire (text)

One would think the deep

St. Lucia, Queensland: UQP University
of Queensland Press, 2016. – 305 p.
ISBN 978-0-7022-5394-2

Grief | Surfing | Family | Violence

Claire Zorn is not afraid to tackle contentious social issues in her fiction for young adults, and her latest novel is no different. »One would think the deep« is a sensitive and engaging exploration of mental illness, coupled with a provocative critique of the relationship between masculinity and violence in Australian culture. The novel focuses on a troubled young man, Sam, who recently lost his mother. Cut adrift from his former life, Sam moves in with his cousins and escapes into a world characterised by restlessness, disillusionment, and anger. Set to a soundtrack of poignant 1990s songs from artists such as Nirvana and Jeff Buckley, Zorn's sparse but emotionally rich prose gives Sam's story a depth that will linger in readers' minds long after the story is finished. Zorn offers readers an unflinching portrayal of adolescent masculinity in crisis, prompting young people to reflect critically on the ways in which society silently and implicitly endorses violence as a natural part of human experience. (CBCA Book of the Year Winner 2017) (Age: 14+)

33



Green, Shari (text)

Root beer candy and other miracles

Toronto, Ontario: Pajama Press, 2016. – 239 p.
ISBN 978-1-77278-007-9

Island | Grandmother | Family | Superstition |
Prejudice | Collaboration | Verse novel

Shari Green's first book for middle-grade readers is set on a small coastal island. The author's lyrical free verse smoothly alternating between thoughts, descriptions, and dialogue, paints an atmospheric picture of a little beach community and its idiosyncratic people from eleven-year-old Bailey's point of view. Spending her summer holidays with her little brother at their grandmother's house, Bailey discovers a driftwood mermaid, finds new friends, and builds a tree house. Yet underneath the surface of the laid-back beach holiday, emotions run high. With her parents away at Marriage Counselling Camp, Bailey believes she needs a miracle to fix their problems, and while she is at it, she would also have a go at fixing everyone else's troubles: her friend Daniel's health, the growing rift between the village people, the thievery of a treasure, etc. Both funny and heart-breaking, this verse novel with its imaginative metaphors follows a spunky heroine as she slowly comes to peace with the fact that the world follows its own course. (Age: 10+)

34



Maclear, Kyo (text)

Sardà, Júlia (illus.)

The Liszts

[Toronto, Ontario] [et al.]: Tundra Books,
2016. – [40] p.
ISBN 978-1-77049-496-1

Order | Routine | Spontaneity | Picture book

From the usual to the unusual, from pragmatic to silly, the Liszts make lists, lists, and more lists. But on Sundays, they are »listless«, and an illustration shows the list-less Liszts in full relaxation mode, with middle-child Edward the epitome of listlessness. In this elegantly designed book with illustrations that depict extended family members attired as if from an earlier century, the arrival of an unexpected visitor marks a shift in the story. Edward has left the door open without knowing why, and their unplanned visitor requires a response. The visitor has many philosophical questions about life, and Edward does too. The importance of these questions, shown in pages filled with large, bold text, demands attention. In contrast, a colorful, wordless double-spread shows the two exuberantly exploring the world after casting aside their lists. List-making remains the Liszts' defining practice, but they learn that making room for spontaneity can turn this useful but at times consuming behaviour into something even better. (Age: 4+)



35

Thornhill, Jan (text/illus.)

The tragic tale of the great auk

Toronto [et al.]: Groundwood Books / House of Anansi Press, 2016. – [44] p.
ISBN 978-1-55498-865-5

Great auk | Ecology | Extinction - Bird |
Diversity | Non-fiction | Picture book

The story of the admirable and proud great auk that once populated the Northern Atlantic Ocean shows how extinction can have multiple, intermingling causes: evolution, climate change, and human intervention. Naturalistic illustrations combine wide views of the bird's rugged habitat of swirling seas and rocky shores with closer, emotional images: a fluffy chick being fed by its parent, and, later, the last known auk egg lying on a rocky ledge, broken. The final spread features clusters of other birds, including puffins, now living on Funk Island, standing next to the haunting, ghostly white outlines of the auks that once called it home. In the end, young readers will understand there is no simple lesson to be learned from the great auk's demise. Instead, the worlds of humans and animals are complexly intertwined. This sad yet beautiful tale will encourage discussion and offer hope, as the extinction of the great auk led to the establishment of modern bird conservation efforts. (Age: 8+)



36

Harrold, A. F. (text)

Pinfold, Levi (illus.)

The song from somewhere else

London: Bloomsbury, 2016. – 215 p.
ISBN 978-1-4088-5336-8

Family | Friendship | Magic | Bullying

A. F. Harrold blends reality and fantasy in this absorbing and moving story about the importance of family and friendship in the face of adversity. One summer day, Frank runs into bullies who cruelly throw her bag into a patch of stinging nettles. Nicholas, a boy from her class, helps her; and they escape to his house. Frank is intrigued by Nicholas's home. It smells like an old forest, and peculiar music plays from somewhere deep inside the house. When Frank leaves, she cannot stop thinking about this music that fills and calms her. She isn't sure she wants to be friends with Nicholas because he is ostracized even more than she, and she doesn't want to become a bigger target. But she needs to hear the music again. When she returns and finds the music's source, Frank knows she has stumbled on an important secret. What she doesn't realize is that this secret could change the universe forever. Levi Pinfold's beautiful, realistic pencil illustrations create an eerie atmosphere of wonderment that further bring the text to life. (Age: 8+)

37



Leonard, M. G. (text)

Sardà, Júlia (illus.)

Beetle boy

Frome, Somerset: Chicken House, 2016. – 322 p.

ISBN 978-1-910002-70-4

Scientist | Secret | Adventure | Insect | Beetle |
Friendship | Magic

Beetle Boy will inspire readers to never give up despite seemingly insurmountable circumstances and adversity. Darkus is a clever, determined boy who believes his father's mysterious vanishing can and must be solved. But how? With help from Virginia and Bertolt, the trio of unlikely friends joins forces to outwit the powerful and connected. They ultimately protect the vulnerable, endangered beetles that seem to hold the key to Darkus's father's sudden and unexplained disappearance. This fanciful, imaginative tale is a wonderful page turner imbued with humour and cliffhangers. It is drawn with intriguing and entertaining characters, an evil nemesis, a damsel in distress, unexpected plot twists, and a hoard of insects with unusual abilities. The series of odd coincidences often involving numerous types of Coleopterans (beetles) will surprise and delight readers. Leonard's expert storytelling is rich with layers of description of a variety of beetles and easy to imagine scenes. (Age: 12+)

38



McLaren, Meg (text/illus.)

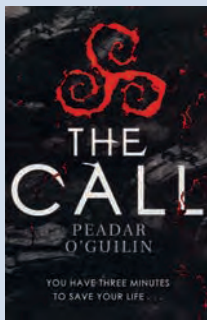
Life is magic

London: Andersen Press, 2016. – [33] p.

ISBN 978-1-78344-486-1

Magic | Rabbit | Magician | Picture book

Magician Monsieur Lapin realizes that a successful show depends on the right assistant. He ultimately selects Houdini the rabbit, who proves to be a stellar choice. Houdini »took care of...everything.« But one night Monsieur Lapin slips on a banana peel, and Houdini steps in to salvage the show. By sheer accident, Houdini turns the magician into a rabbit, thereby switching the roles of magician and helper. Houdini increasingly embraces the starring role, and soon Rabbit Lapin and even the other rabbit assistants grow increasingly unhappy with their new star. But ultimately Houdini tires of stardom and schemes with the others to perform his greatest trick – he turns Rabbit Lapin back into Monsieur Lapin. Visual sequences effectively propel the story's plotline. End papers (opening ones depict a deck of playing cards with the magician as the king; closing endpapers include the rabbit as Ace/Joker), title page (presented as a lit marquee billing the show), and double-spreads all signal a notably well-done book design. (Age: 5+)



39

Ó Guilin, Peadar (text)

The call

Oxford: David Fickling Books, 2016. – 334 p.
ISBN 978-1-910200-98-8

Fairy | Mythology | Survival | Disability

No one knows when the call will happen. Decades ago, the ancient Sidhe fairy people isolated the island of Ireland from the rest of the world. Planes fell from the sky, cruise ships were stranded, and thousands died. Since that time, every adolescent is called for one day to the Sidhe underworld, where they are hunted by grotesque creatures and beautiful but vicious fairies. The call lasts three minutes in our world, but when the Called reappear, they return dead or otherwise forever changed. Nessa isn't likely to survive her call; she contracted polio as a child and has walked with a limp ever since. She struggles with her disability but adapts to challenges creatively and works harder than anyone at the Boyle College of Survival – Nessa is determined to live. Peadar O'Guilin has crafted a deliciously imaginative story in a uniquely Irish setting, with a diverse cast, woven together with dark bits of Celtic mythology. This gripping fantasy with gruesome horror elements is distinctive and memorable for its boldness and creativity. (Age: 14+)



40

Pratt, Non (text)

Unboxed

Edinburgh: Barrington Stoke, 2016. – 139 p.
ISBN 978-1-78112-585-4

Friendship | Time capsule | Death |
Homosexuality

In this well-crafted novella, Non Pratt offers an honest, heartfelt view of lost and rekindled friendship. After drifting apart, a group of friends reunites for one night to open a box they put together five years earlier. However, one person is missing – Millie passed away from cancer three months ago. Before she died, she asked Alix to bring the group back together, but Alix is nervous to see her old friends. After they made the box, Alix changed schools, in part because she was afraid to come out to them as a lesbian. Though comfortable with who she is now, she feels guilty for never having told them. But when the friends retrieve the box and examine its contents, they begin to recreate the bond they once had. In storyline and voice, »Unboxed« feels authentic. The dialogue rings true to the characters' ages, both in the present and when they made the box at thirteen. This title is accessible to children of many reading levels and is an adeptly written story that resonates. (Age: 14+)

41



Sanna, Francesca (text/illus.)

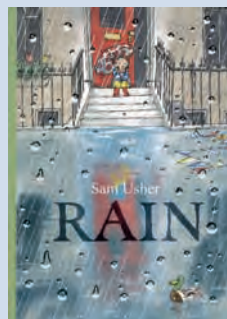
The journey

London [et al.]: Flying Eye Books, 2016. – [43] p.
ISBN 978-1-909263-99-4

Refugee | War | Picture book

Life in a city close to the sea is interrupted by a war that destroys the city and takes father. Tension-filled scenes contrast the happy family in their framed photo with the now fatherless family, clutching together to stay safe from the reaching hands of danger. They pack their belongings and go in search of a faraway place where they will no longer be frightened. The journey is marked by nighttime departure, hiding in various modes of transportation and leaving more and more of their belongings behind. Strong visuals give emotional pulse to the story – the overwhelming power of the menacing figure denying border entry, followed by the children's nuanced feelings of safety in their mother's arms, unaware of her silent tears. The passage across the water is presented as frightening but also with encouraging undertones in the sea. The book ends on a note of hope for a new beginning. This is a story about being a refugee in times of war; since the country is not specified, it is open to universal interpretation. (Age: 6+)

42



Usher, Sam (text/illus.)

Rain

London: Templar, 2016. – [34] p.
ISBN 978-1-78370-546-7

Grandfather | Grandson | Rain | Impatience |
Picture book

A little boy wakes up on a rainy morning eager to go outside. But Grandad thinks it may be better to wait until the rain stops. While reciting numerous reasons for why playing in the rain would be fun, the little boy waits. Meanwhile, the mail has arrived and includes an envelope with hearts on it for Grandad, who seems a bit perplexed at first, but then works and reworks at writing an appropriate response. Once finished, he is just as eager as the boy to go out and mail this important letter. As they give way to their imaginative minds and open themselves to possibilities, joyousness fills the double spread. The pacing of the watercolour illustrations works well with the story, alternating from smaller, sequenced vignettes to double-spread scenes that bleed beyond the pages. This picture book successfully depicts a warm intergenerational relationship; and its closing line, »the very best things are always worth waiting for«, leaves clues to the interpretation of Grandad's letter. (Age: 3+)

43



Woollvin, Bethan (text/illus.)

Little Red

London: Two Hoots, 2016. – [26] p.

ISBN 978-1-4472-9140-4

[Little Red Riding Hood | Adaptation | Picture book](#)

Beginning with the attention-commanding eyes and the red-hooded head on the cover, Bethan Woollvin's »Little Red« delivers a visually arresting rendition of what readers might assume to be a well-known story. Little Red is a strong, clever girl – she is not afraid of the wolf, and she is not easily duped by his donning of her grandmother's nightdress or glasses and hiding in her bed; instead, she is prepared with her ax to do what she knows she must do. Woollvin effectively uses visual elements to communicate the deceptive and scheming behaviour of the wolf as well as the pragmatic attitude of the girl. Sparse lines used to draw Little Red's face accentuate her expressiveness. The design of this book is also notable: the front endpapers show Little Red prominently in the woods, seemingly unaware of the wolf hiding behind a tree, whereas the back endpapers show her clothed in a sporty wolf-fur jacket. The softback cover features end flaps that serve as entry and exit from the story. (Age: 6+)

44



Geetha, V. (text)

Chitrakar, Rohima (illus.)

A village is a busy place!

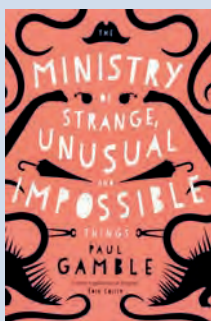
[Chennai]: Tara Books, [2016]. – [16] p.

ISBN 978-93-83145-43-0

[Santhal <people> | Village | Everyday life | Leporello | Picture book](#)

The village life of the Santhal, one of the largest indigenous groups of India, is depicted through illustrations created in a traditional scroll style, but conveniently printed on thick paper and folded into a book format. Vibrant illustrations by Rohima Chitrakar are presented in the artistic style of the neighboring Patua community in West Bengal, with whom the Santhal share art and friendship. When one holds the book horizontally, each section unfolds, focusing attention to specific segments of the detailed, complex picture. The scroll-shaped book can also be hung on a wall to present the illustrations as a unified whole within a yellow frame. Section topics include a village feast, a day in the village, common spaces, evening activities, and summer heat – the text presents readers with questions that lead the reader to seek out small stories within the larger composition. For example, wedding preparations means getting ready for a village feast, and viewers are asked to find the special knives used to chop fish, thereby focusing attention. (Age: 5+)

45



Gamble, Paul (text)

**The ministry of strange,
unusual and impossible things**

Dublin: Little Island, 2016. – 313 p.

ISBN 978-1-910411-54-4

School | Conspiracy | Pirate | World dominion |
Nonsense

As might easily be deduced from the title, Paul Gamble's hilarious debut novel contains an extraordinary amount of weird, wacky, and wondrous characters and events. The main plot follows inquisitive young Jack and his slightly violent sidekick Trudy, two new recruits at the Ministry of SUTs, as they try to solve the double puzzle of the sinister company Chapeau Noir, who donated wind turbines and new polyester uniforms to their school, and the mysterious disappearance of kids considered loners and oddballs. The novel's short chapters alternate with excerpts from the Ministry Handbook, which sprout all kinds of essential information that readers have undoubtedly been dying to learn, such as: the role of kangaroos in duvet manufacture, the clothing choices of ninjas and vampires, or the potential lethality of Battenberg Cakes. The hare-brained story, intertextual references, and the abundance of absurd footnotes make for an irresistible reading experience. (Age: 10+)

46



Elliot, David (text/illus.)

**Snark. Being a true history of the
expedition that discovered the Snark and
the Jabberwock ... and its tragic aftermath**

Dunedin, New Zealand: Otago University Press,
2016. – 219 p.

ISBN 978-1-877578-94-6

Adventure | Treasure hunt | Diary | Nonsense |
Poetry

Since their first publication, Lewis Carroll's nonsense poems »Jabberwocky« and »The Hunting of the Snark« have sparked the creativity of many artists. What David Elliot has created, however, is on a completely different level. Rather than re-illustrating the original texts, he has invented an elaborate, complex background story, complete with (pseudo-) scientific research findings, to convince readers that the poems were not nonsense at all but based on a real-life expedition carried out in the 1850s. Elliot's »diary«, assumingly written by one of the expedition party – the lowly Boots –, lays before the readers an astonishing and frightening tale of a crazy captain, dangerous monsters, and a deadly voyage to unknown parts of the world. The stunning watercolour illustrations in subdued colours, the different parts of the book seamlessly woven together, and the appendix with an abundance of »source material« make this book a true labour of love, which Carroll fans will devour. (2017 Margaret Mahy Book of the Year Award) (Age: 8+)



47

Szymanik, Melinda (text)
Bixley, Donovan (illus.)

Fuzzy doodle

Auckland: Scholastic New Zealand, 2016. – [32] p.
ISBN 978-1-77543-250-0

Caterpillar | Metamorphosis | Butterfly |
Imagination | Writing | Book | Picture book

Fuzzy starts life as a simple scribble but then becomes a quirky caterpillar with a voracious appetite for ink and words. When words cannot satisfy his hunger, he dines on paragraphs, stories, and even illustrations, before entering his chrysalis and emerging transformed. Charcoal and watercolour illustrations especially stand out in this creative picture book, flawlessly combining with the text to show the transformation from Fuzzy the scribbled idea, to the word-eating caterpillar, and finally the beautiful butterfly book. The first pages are black and white, but as Fuzzy eats more creative and colourful meals, swaths of watercolour brighten the pages and Fuzzy himself. Rhyming text parallels a caterpillar's growth and metamorphosis with the creative process of writing. At first, Fuzzy is only an idea, »a smudgy sort of 'something' at the bottom of the page.« But with words, images, time, and a little magic, this idea becomes something greater than how it first began. (Age: 4+)



48

Ang, Pam Marie (text)
Sim-Nada, Bru (illus.)

The idea jungle

Quezon City: Adarna House, 2016. – [36] p.
ISBN 978-971-508-561-8

Idea | Forgetting | Imagination | Picture book

Miko and Rico enjoy sharing ideas: funny, weird, exciting, thought provoking, marvellous ideas. But when Rico comes up with the most brilliant one ever, it just disappears! So the brothers set out in search of it, ultimately venturing deep into the place where all lost thoughts go: the idea jungle. When the boys finally recover Rico's brilliant idea, they don't share it with the reader. After earning a degree in Communications Technology Management in Manila, author Pam Marie Ang studied and worked in Beijing, Xiamen, and Hong Kong. With her debut book she encourages readers to chase down their own ideas, no matter how crazy, silly, impossible, or elusive they might seem. Bru Sim-Nada produces graphic designs, illustrations, and »strange creations« in her Manila-based studio Electrolychee. Her wonderfully wild and wacky creations for this picture book engulf large portions of the English text – or is it the text that infiltrates the illustrations? (Age: 6+)

49



Torres, Catherine (text)

Sula's voyage

Singapore: Scholastic Singapore, [2016]. – 226 p.
ISBN 978-981-09-4053-9

Outsider | Bullying | Search for identity | Myth

When fifteen-year-old Sula is expelled from her conservative high school, she is glad to finally be rid of the mean bullies she has had to put up with for so long. Secretly, however, she fears that there might be a grain of truth in her classmates' taunts: Why is her skin so much darker, why does she feel such a close connection to the sea, and what is the dark secret her parents are hiding from her? Filipino writer Catherine Torres's compelling novel, which was a finalist for the 2014 Asian Book Award, is a gripping coming-of-age story set in modern times, infused with elements of ancient Philippine mythology. The novel touches on pressing contemporary issues such as family relationships, adoption, superstition, and the exploitation of the oceans. The author combines these with an atmospheric description of the insular setting and a charming love triangle, as well as some magic to propel the story forwards and capture her readers' attention. (Age: 13+)

50



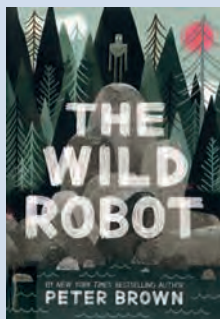
Barnhill, Kelly (text)

The girl who drank the moon

Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin Young Readers, 2016. – 388 p.
ISBN 978-1-61620-567-6

Witch | Magic | Friendship | Fantasy fiction

»No one knows what the Witch does with the children she takes. No one asks...«. A fog of despondency envelopes The Protectorate, caused by the perceived witch's demand for one infant each year. The witch lives in the forest – but no one has ever seen her and no one knows what becomes of the infants. In truth, the witch Xan is a grandmotherly (and magical) healer who rescues the »abandoned« infants and brings them to the Free Cities to be adopted by caring families. The fate of one child is different, however. When Xan rescues this baby, she accidentally feeds her moonbeams that »enmagick« the infant. Xan names her Luna and raises the child in her own cottage. There, Luna flourishes under the tutelage of Xan, Glerk – a Bog Monster – and Fyrian – a Perfectly Tiny Dragon. Kelly Barnhill intersperses poetry and storytelling as she weaves a magical tale of mystery, malevolence, and merriment, while Luna trundles towards adolescence and the release of her magical powers. (John Newbery Medal 2017) (Age: 10+)



51

Brown, Peter (text/illus.)

The wild robot

New York: Little, Brown and Company,
2016. – 279 p.
ISBN 978-0-316-38199-4

Island | Robot | Survival | Friendship | Animals

A storm shipwrecks a freight of five hundred robots, and only one, Roz, survives intact. Curious otters accidentally switch Roz on in a wilderness hostile to her presence. Robots are programmed to reason, yet surviving and thriving depends on emotions. An accident leads Roz to adopt a surviving baby goose; she intellectualizes each step of what to do as an adoptive mother by seeking information. But information is not enough – learning to intellectualize emotions means becoming caring, which leads to vulnerability. Roz ultimately learns to behave in ways that make her a feeling and thinking member of the island community. Philosophical questions on issues such as the effects of climate change on nature, technology vs. humanity, survival against violence, and more are embedded throughout the book. One thing is clear: Roz began by »computing a plan« but comes to understand the concepts of belonging and home. Sixty-five illustrations, from spot art to double-spreads, punctuate the text, setting the tone and adding emotional depth. (Age: 10+)



52

Ellis, Carson (text/illus.)

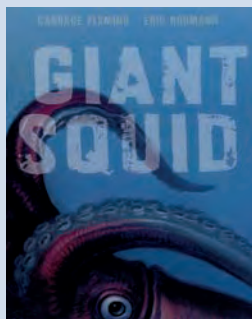
Du iz tak?

Somerville, Massachusetts: Candlewick Press,
2016. – [48] p.
ISBN 978-0-7636-6530-2

Insect | Invented language | Plants |
Cycle of life | Picture book

From the intrigue on the cover in which two insects look at a budding plant and ponder, »Du iz tak?«, viewers are invited to engage in a delightful story of life cycles. All action takes place in one garden setting, almost as if on a stage, and the story is told completely through its illustrations and dialogue, which is spoken in an invented language both syntactically and morphologically sensible. At first, most movement happens along the ground line, leaving the airspace open. Slowly, the growing plant and insects fill more of the space, until one suspenseful moment when the page is overtaken by the figure of a giant threatening bird. The story continues and seasons change until the following spring when the book comes full circle. In this original work that appeals to all ages, the emotions of the well-dressed insects are abundantly evident and indicate changing moods throughout the story. With every read, new details in the illustrations emerge, making this enchanting work one that can be enjoyed again and again. (Age: 2+)

53



Fleming, Candace (text)
Rohmann, Eric (illus.)

Giant squid

New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2016. – [36] p.
(A Neal Porter book)
ISBN 978-1-59643-599-5

Squid | Non-fiction | Picture book

Candace Fleming's lyrical, evocative text unfolds over the introductory pages of this stunning informational book, setting the scene and filling readers with curiosity about this »strange,« »fearsome,« »giant,« »ghostly« creature from the depths – the giant squid. Throughout the book, engaging words and phrases, combined with a narrative perspective that takes on a voice like a scientist's, prod the reader to notice and question details. Eric Rohmann's superb oil-paint-on-paper illustrations gradually reveal different parts of the giant squid while keeping its whole being mysterious, resulting in a picture book that works on all fronts. The visual pièce de résistance of the book follows a series of pages murky with inky water – the result of a toothsome barracuda's pursuit of a baby squid. Immediately after these pages, a four-page gatefold finally reveals the giant squid as a whole. The book closes with a bibliography and information for further study, including a diagram labeling parts of the squid. (Age: 6+)

54



Gidwitz, Adam (text)
Aly, Hatem (illus.)

The Inquisitor's tale, or, The three magical children and their holy dog

New York, NY: Dutton Children's Books, [2016]. – 363 p.
ISBN 978-0-525-42616-5

France | History 13th century | Child oblate | Prophet | Jews | Persecution | Quest | Adventure | Fantasy fiction

Part fantasy, part historical fiction, part superhero tale – with generous dashes of humour – this book unfolds much like »The Canterbury Tales«, through stories the Inquisitor teases out of individuals from diverse stations in life who are patronizing a countryside inn in Medieval France. Their stories each contribute a piece to unlocking the mystery of why the King of France has declared war on three children and a dog. Each child has a special something – prophetic visions (the peasant girl Jeanne), extraordinary strength (the biracial, learned, very large oblate William), the power to heal (the slight, thoughtful Jewish boy Jacob) – and the dog, once dead, is again alive. Central to their story are issues of class intolerance, anti-Semitism, censorship, commonsense and formal learning, Talmudic and Biblical wisdom, and the value of books to civilization. All of this is crafted by Adam Gidwitz in a way that thoroughly engages child readers in a tale that is as contemporary as it is traditional. (Age: 9+)

55



Lewis, John / Aydin, Andrew (text)
Powell, Nate (illus.)

March. Book 3

Marietta, GA: Top Shelf Productions,
[2016]. – 246 p.
ISBN 978-1-60309-402-3

USA | History 1960s | African Americans |
Civil rights movement | Graphic novel

In the final volume of the graphic novel trilogy, John Lewis – now a US Congressman – recounts his personal story as a leader of the American Civil Rights movement. Engaging and informative, his memoir provides an historical account of significant events of 1963-1965 such as the 1964 Democratic convention, Alabama voter registration, Bloody Sunday, and the Selma to Montgomery freedom march. What makes »March. Book 3« especially effective is Lewis's insight into the internal political and personal triumphs and squabbles of the various factions and personalities of the civil rights movement. He brings to life the reality of the differences between the law and the implementation of the law endured by African Americans in much of the 20th century. The book is rendered in black and white, characterized by its effective use of panel sizes and pacing. Occasional all black background pages emphasize particularly painful moments and violence endured by marchers. Also effective are interspersed scenes of Lewis with Barack Obama at his inauguration. (Age: 12+)

56



Pennypacker, Sara (text)
Klassen, Jon (illus.)

Pax

New York: Balzer + Bray, [2016]. – 276 p.
ISBN 978-0-06-237701-2

Fox | Humans | Animals | War

This variation on the classic boy and dog story is set in an indeterminate time and country, giving this sensitive novel a fable-like feeling. Two voices tell the story in alternating chapters: Pax, a fox, and Peter, the human who rescued him as a kit. Pax fills the hole in Peter's life left by his mother's death, and Pax and Peter develop a relationship in which each becomes the most important figure in the other's life. When Peter's father enlists to fight in a war not far away, he sends Peter to live with his grandfather, forcing Peter to abandon Pax on the way there. Each sets out to reach the other, meeting helpers and overcoming obstacles along the way. Their paths take them directly into the face of war, and by the time they meet, both have learned where they now belong. Though actually named after the brand of Peter's backpack, rather than the Latin word for peace, Pax's name still serves to underscore the war that pervades their lives and is the catalyst for the story. (Age: 9+)

57



Reynolds, Jason (text)

Ghost

New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, [2016]. – 181 p.

(Series: Track; 1)

ISBN 978-1-4814-5015-7

Running | Track and field | Poverty | Self-fulfillment

Castle Crenshaw runs – fast. Nicknaming himself »Ghost«, he ran for his life when his father tried to shoot him and his mother, and has continued running ever since. But could he run better if he had those fancy running shoes instead of his cheap, ill-fitting hightops? Living in poverty, Ghost feels ashamed of where he lives and how he looks and sad for his mother who is overworked and tired. Walking home one day, he comes across a track team practising and ends up on the team with a coach who provides a much-needed safety net after Ghost makes some bad choices. Through his involvement with the team, Ghost learns to redirect his anger and behaviours. At one point, Ghost asks what Coach thought running would do for him. Coach's reply: »Show you that you can't run away from who you are, but what you can do is to run toward who you want to be.« This National Book Award Finalist combines compelling storytelling told in first-person with believable and well-developed characters facing moral dilemmas not entirely of their own making. (Age: 10+)

58



Sweet, Melissa (text/illus.)

Some writer! The story of E. B. White

Boston [et al.]: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, [2016]. – 161 p.

ISBN 978-0-544-31959-2

USA | History 20th century | White, E. B. | Author | Biography

»Some Writer!« is a visually enticing book that presents the life, work, and thoughts of author E. B. White. He is perhaps best known for his book »Charlotte's Web«, but was also a prolific journalist. This narrative biography is designed in scrapbook style as a collage of text, photographs, quotes, and factual details. Melissa Sweet masterfully intersperses the narrative with quotes and excerpts from a variety of the author's writings. The layout is both aesthetically pleasing and carefully arranged to best convey information. While photographs of White's letters show his handwriting, passages from his journals are reproduced using a manual typewriter. From the opening chapter quotes to the choice of typewriter keys as font for chapter numbers, no detail is without meaning. This book celebrates the life and work of a humble man who never let his enormous success overcome his sense of self. While decidedly a very specific biography, the format and presentation offer wide appeal for general biography reading. (Age: 10+)



59

Tonatiuh, Duncan (text/illus.)

The princess and the warrior.

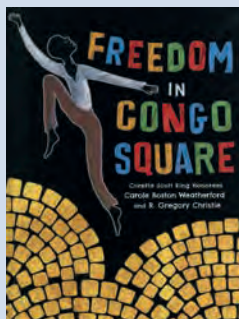
A tale of two volcanoes

New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers, [2016]. – [34] p.

ISBN 978-1-4197-2130-4

Aztecs | Myth | Volcano | Prince | Princess | Love | Picture book

Duncan Tonatiuh's retelling of the legend of Mexico's two majestic volcanoes, Iztaccíhuatl and Popocatepetl, is rich with Spanish and Nahuatl words and symbolism. The illustrations echo the stylized art of the eleventh-century codices that inspired this tale, thus grounding the story in its indigenous roots. The plot combines several major motifs – a sleeping princess, a quest to win the king's approval, and a reward of the beautiful princess. The unusual – and enchanting – plot twist is reminiscent of »Romeo and Juliet«. But Itza never stirs from her slumber; she sleeps on as a dormant volcano while her lover Popoca stands loyally by her feet as a volcano that spews ashes and smoke in the hopes of waking his sleeping princess. Tonatiuh digitally combines the flat lines of Mixtec codices with textured collages to add an engaging dimension to his art. The illustrations not only interpret the story accurately but also extend it with details and emotions that are both subtle and clear. (2017 Pura Belpré Illustrator Honor Award) (Age: 5+)



60

Weatherford, Carole Boston (text)

Christie, R. Gregory (illus.)

Freedom in Congo Square

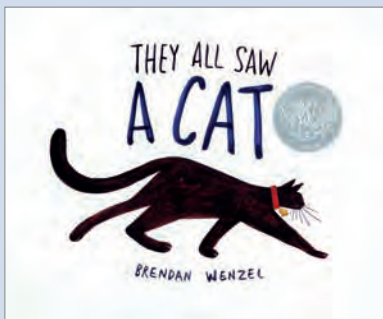
New York: Little Bee Books, [2016]. – [34] p.

ISBN 978-1-4998-0103-3

USA | New Orleans | History 19th century | Slavery | African American music | African American dance | Picture book

Richly poetic text and powerfully evocative illustrations portray the endlessly repetitive work of slaves in 1800s New Orleans and their brief weekly freedom in Congo Square, a place that was designated by law to allow the gathering of enslaved and free people of African heritage. Each week, they came together to drum rhythms on various instruments with African roots and engage in lively singing and dancing. The structure of the text rhythmically frames the day-by-day countdown to Sunday in Congo Square. Each double-spread begins with the progressing days of the week and ends with the number of days left. Pages describe the endless jobs that were performed by the slaves and the cruelty they experienced that led to despair. Profiled faces are shown looking toward Congo Square, while work in the fields shows bodies in unnatural, back-breaking angular positions. Yet, when the people gather on Sunday afternoons in Congo Square, the curved, flowing lines of their bodies and rounded lines of text lend an air of joy to their music. (Age: 6+)

61



Wenzel, Brendan (text/illus.)

They all saw a cat

San Francisco: Chronicle Books, [2016]. – [36] p.
ISBN 978-1-4521-5013-0

Cat | Art | Perspective | Picture book

Who saw a cat? A child, a dog, a fox, a fish ... and the list grows with each page turn in this delightful book that imagines how a cat looks to the different creatures it meets. Readers are offered multiple, creative perspectives on the cat's varying appearance as a clever reminder that while our points of view may differ, we have shared encounters and experiences. The straightforward prose is amplified by the illustrations, which Brendan Wenzel notes were »rendered in almost everything imaginable«, to effectively capture the imagined perspective of even a flea. The simple text, bright and colourful illustrations, and naturalistic settings are evocative. The author's goal is to stimulate readers to reconsider their view of the world. This stand-alone book succeeds in engaging readers of all ages. The book design and paratextual elements add layers to the story, reminding the reader that what we see depends on our position and perspective. (Caldecott Honor Book 2017) (Age: 3+)

62



Yoon, Nicola (text)

The sun is also a star

New York: Delacorte Press, [2016].
– 344 p. + [30] p.
ISBN 978-0-553-49668-0

Immigrant | Fate | Love

Life is often complicated, especially for adolescents. This is certainly true for Natasha and Daniel, who are facing life-changing decisions. Natasha, an undocumented immigrant from Jamaica, seeks to reverse a judge's decision to deport her entire family – tonight. Daniel, the son of Korean immigrants who is expected to attend Yale and become a doctor, grapples with defying his parents and becoming a poet instead. As the two strive to do the right thing, realising life as they know it may end in a split second, their lives become intertwined. Alternating chapters convey Natasha's and Daniel's contrasting approaches to life and their growing connection to each other. Additional chapters with an omniscient narrator offer insight into other characters' lives, from security guards to the protagonists' parents, and include scientific and historical facts about human interconnectedness. Yoon's luminous novel captivates readers in the serendipitous coincidences that bring Natasha and Daniel together and considers the complexities of love. (Age: 14+)

63



Kaldmaa, Kätlin (text)

Rõõmus, Jaan (illus.)

Halb tüdruk on jumala hea olla*(It's damn good to be a bad girl)*

Tallinn: Varrak, [2016]. – 139 p.

ISBN 978-9985-3-3639-7

Self-assertion | Autonomy | Rural life | Estonia | USSR | History 1980s

For eleven-year-olds everything seems an adventure, especially for a tough daredevil like Li. Estonian author, poet, and translator Kätlin Kaldmaa (b. 1970) adopts Li's perspective as she portrays the girl's self-assertive life in rural Estonia in the 1980s. Adults are kept at arms' length, while Li and her siblings Lotta and Sass, as well as her best friend Taavi, explore and define their territory. Kaldmaa knows exactly what interests children, why they tell each other stories, what kind (spooky stories!), and how harshly they can treat each other. She employs an energized language to capture this. The book offers more, though: Li's childhood unfolds during the time of the Estonian Soviet Republic, and readers gain subtle insight into the everyday realities of that period (working on a kolkhoz or hospital conditions). This might be why children and adults alike enjoy the book so much and why it is already in its second printing. (Age: 10+)

64



Taul, Jonas (text/illus.)

Õömõtted*(A serious thought)*

Tallinn: Kirjastus Draakon & Kuu, [2016]. – [63] p.

ISBN 978-9949-574-01-8

Philosophizing | Meaning of life | Presence | Meaninglessness | Picture book

A little boy begins to reflect: What if the world is but a marble surrounded by endless space? What if everyone lived alone on their own little marble? Is there a point to being a little boy and to doing things? Isn't everything more or less meaningless in the face of the vastness of the world and the universe? These questions bother the boy, drawn in a delicate and fragile way by Jonas Taul (b. 1986). His inner restlessness only abates thanks to a cat, a hedgehog, and an ant. Taul's picture book debut takes on bold content, for it shows that children, too, can be burdened by difficult and depressing questions. It is also courageous in its illustrations, for Taul exclusively employs black and white, using his reserved pictures and sparse text to open the space needed for such big questions. »Õömõtted« was named one of the »5 Best Designed Estonian Children's Books of 2016«. (Age: 5+)

65



Lampela, Hannele (text)

Reittu, Ninka (illus.)

Prinsessa Pikkiriikki*(Princess Pikkiriikki)*

Keuruu: Otava, 2016. – 77 p.

ISBN 978-951-1-29577-8

Girl | Dog | Stubbornness

A girl who wants to be a princess and a dog who has the same (nick)name as the Queen of England: sausage. (It's true! That's what her husband calls her.) What a promising lineup! And the story definitely measures up to the expectations; after all, Princess Pikkiriikki is a true little »Sun Queen«, who is quite stubborn, but also presents herself as resourceful and adventurous. Luckily enough, her companion Sausage is game for any venture. Well, almost any; because when Pikkiriikki wants to paint him with red lipstick, he quickly scampers. Quirky ideas, lively dialogue, and cheeky illustrations by Ninka Reittu, these are the ingredients to make »Prinsessa Pikkiriikki«, whose red-plaited resemblance to Pippi Longstocking is certainly no accident, a reader's delight. With Pikkiriikki, life is never boring! (Age: 4+)

66



Merz, Laura (text/illus.)

Järvinen, Aino (text)

Tuhat ja yksi otusta*(A thousand and one creatures)*

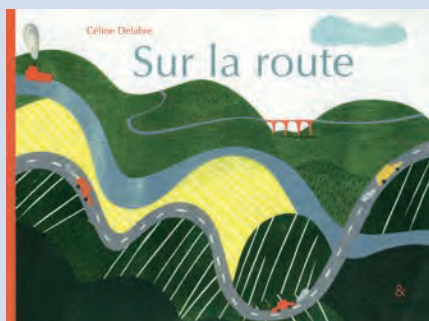
Helsinki: Etana Editions, [2016]. – 57 p.

ISBN 978-952-7105-07-8

Animals | Poetry

»Tuhat ja yksi otusta« – the book title says it all: This large-format picture book celebrates wildlife. However, it does not simply introduce whales, polar bears, or camels via ordinary factual texts. The authors rather employ poems, the contents of which form a felicitous and suspenseful symbiosis with the full-page watercolour illustrations. The texts frequently point out the humorous aspects of the animals' cohabitation, such as the poem about crocodiles and Egyptian Plovers (aka as crocodile birds), the feathered »dental helpers« who clean the reptiles' teeth. The minimalist images, accentuated with just a few boldly coloured highlights, are impressive: spontaneously brushed onto the page, of sketch-like quality, they result in truly expressive, large animal drawings. The creator of these pictures, Laura Merz, was born in Finland and now lives in Berlin, where she creates works of fine art in addition to illustrating books. (Age: 5+)

67



Delabre, Céline (text/illus.)

Sur la route

(On the way)

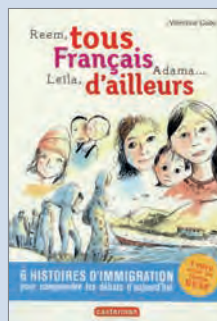
Noville-sur-Mehaigne: Esperluète Éditions,
[2016]. – 24 p.

ISBN 978-2-359840-66-7

Landscape | Trip | Transportation | Holidays |
Picture book

Up, down, around the curve, and over the hill. A precise, poetic text accompanies a little red car through hill and dale as it drives along a meandering road. It coasts through varying landscapes, changing colours, shapes, and patterns, until it finally reaches its goal: a little red vacation cottage on the coast. A growing delight of reaching the goal – the ocean – is perceived, or written into, the landscape as it whizzes by, letting it take on features of the ocean, for instance, in hills that imitate steep waves or plateaus that seem like wide waterways. Strasbourger Céline Delabre uses extra-wide horizontal collages, coloured pencil and chalk in this lovingly designed picture book, making the holiday road trip a series of cleverly calculated surprises. Thus, »Sur la route« is an ideal travelling companion for children who incessantly ask: »Are we there yet?« (Age: 3+)

68



Goby, Valentine (text)

Badel, Ronan / Tallec, Olivier (illus.)

Magana, Jessie (preface)

Reem, tous Français, Adama... Tous français d'ailleurs

(Reem, Leïla, Adama... All French from elsewhere)

Bruxelles: Casterman, [2016]. – 311 p.

(Series: Français d'ailleurs)

ISBN 978-2-203-10199-9

France | Immigration | Escape | Refugee |
Integration | Non-fiction

Since centuries, France has been a country of immigration. The series »Français d'ailleurs«, created in cooperation with the ground-breaking Musée de l'histoire de l'immigration in Paris (Museum for the history of immigration), shines a light on this fact by drawing on the perspectives of immigrant children. It shows the influence immigration can have on social progress, but also does not shy away from inconsistent attitudes in the receiving country, in immigrant communities, and in individual biographies. This anthology unites five short novels previously published in the »Français d'ailleurs« series and a new story from Syria. In these »Docufictions«, Valentine Goby describes the varying immigration and integration processes children and teens aged 9 to 13 experience, realistically and mostly avoiding the usual clichés. These stories are accompanied by dossiers recounting the histories of immigrant communities in France that originated in Spain, Algeria, Vietnam, Mali, and Romania. Sadly, the beautiful maps and photos present in the original versions are absent in this edition. (Age: 10+)

69



Rebrović, Ljerka (text)

Pipal, Ivana (illus.)

Ville bleue, ville jaune*(Blue city, yellow city)*

Bruxelles: Alice jeunesse, [2017]. – [44] p.

(Series: Histoires comme ça)

ISBN 978-2-87426-306-4

Difference | Discrimination | Border | Peace |
Colour | Picture book

Two befriended towns border opposite sides of a river and are connected by a bridge. One day the bridge must be refurbished and freshly painted, but the adults cannot decide on a colour. Blue or yellow? The colour war escalates to ever more absurd heights, the adults siding along extreme monochromatic lines, so »blue against yellow«. The colour terror comes to define people's everyday lives – their view of their hometown, their relation to their neighbours and to their own identity. Ever more drastic infringements and acrimonious attempts to paint over the other occur until nature – and the children! – end the ridiculous drama. The Croatian artist duo Ljerka Rebrović and Ivana Pipal succeed in offering a convincing parable about borders, stereotypes, and violence. Beyond this, the story provides a good point of departure for all ages to start a conversation about these topics. (Age: 6+)

70



Britt, Fanny (text)

Arsenault, Isabelle (illus.)

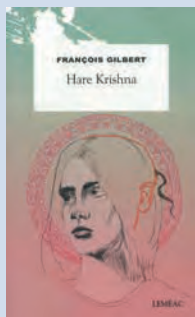
Louis parmi les spectres*(Louis among demons)*

Montréal (Québec): Éditions de la Pastèque, [2016]. – 153 p.

ISBN 978-2-89777-000-6

Love | Growing up | Family | Alcoholism |
Courage | Separation | Graphic novel

For eleven-year-old Louis, a shy boy, the summer turns out to be an unexpected turning point. After many ups and downs, his mother finally leaves his alcoholic father. Together with his little brother Truffe and his friend Boris, Louis tries to grasp the bizarre codes of adulthood, and not only those pertaining to adults' contradictory love lives. Their considerations let him reflect on his own inner inconsistencies. How will he ever get closer to Billie the bicycle queen – tough, cool and utterly adored by him – without giving up his »manly« reserve? This touching graphic novel from successful duo Fanny Britt and Isabelle Arsenault is about the interplay of courage and timidity. Arsenault's soft, flowing drawings with their blurred contours give apt aesthetic expression to the protagonist's steadily growing sense of becoming older and more self-aware. (Age: 12+)



71

Gilbert, François (text)

Hare Krishna

Montréal, Québec: Leméac, [2016]. – 194 p.

(Series: Leméac jeunesse)

ISBN 978-2-7609-4222-6

[Growing up](#) | [Diversity](#) | [Differentness](#) | [Sect](#) | [Religion](#)

Sixteen-year-old Mikael leaves his home region of Beauce and heads to Montreal »with no safety net«. After some difficulties, he finds welcome with the Hare Krishna community and stays with them some months, until the sudden death of his father requires him to return home. Only reluctantly does he face the objections, conflicts, and questions of his family, the villagers, and his circle of friends, all of which he escaped moving to the city. The Krishna convert is treated with a mix of prejudice, aggression, and resentment, and Mikael feels pressured to embrace earlier behavioural habits. He asks himself whether he should flee all this with another trip. With acuity and sensitivity, François Gilbert's fourth novel navigates the difficult crises of adolescence and a young man's search for identity, his negotiation between independence and being swayed by outside forces, and his attempts to distinguish temporary from enduring solutions. (Age: 15+)



72

Gravel, François (text)

Les vieux livres sont dangereux

(*Old books are dangerous*)

Montréal, Québec: La courte échelle,

[2016]. – 98 p.

(Series: Collection noire – Horreur)

ISBN 978-2-89774-053-5

[School](#) | [Library](#) | [Fear](#) | [Horror fiction](#)

Off to detention! Mathieu wasn't paying attention in class, and his teacher sends him to the school library as a penalty. The librarian there is an odd fellow, but he unexpectedly offers Mathieu a well-paid part-time job in the library, which Mathieu can't resist. Come the next school-free Saturday, Mathieu finds himself in the library basement. He soon realizes with growing discomfort that the strange librarian has a scheme brewing. Mathieu has fallen into a dangerous trap and looks for a way to escape it. Written by François Gravel, one of the best-known young adult authors in Quebec, this spooky horror story is perfect for the new »Noire« series from »La courte échelle« Press. The illustrations and the book pages alternating between black and white support the cleverly conceived suspense arc. (Age: 9+)

73



Alemagna, Beatrice (text/illus.)

Un grand jour de rien

(A big day of nothing)

Paris: Albin Michel jeunesse, [2016]. – [42] p.

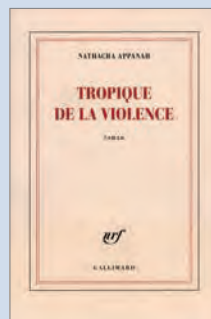
(Series: Trapèze)

ISBN 978-2-226-32937-0

Nature | Playing | Video game | Imagination |
Picture book

Such a boring holiday! Black clouds hang over the mansion in the forest. The never-ending rain invites the child to retreat into the Martian world of his PlayStation. He even schleps the indispensable device with him for his first exploration of the outdoors. And then the unthinkable happens: Skipping across the pond, he accidentally lets the magical rectangle slip into the water – where it disappears. Instead of lamenting, though, the child turns its »liberated« attention to woodland wonders. He enjoys the rain and being all alone. The child's bright orange rain poncho becomes like a streak of fluorescent lightning hitting here and then over there as he plays ever more exuberantly. The child returns to his mother drenched and happy. Beatrice Alemagna's lively book captures the key moment when boredom converts into creativity. The message is clear: Back to nature! Just turn the PlayStation off – or in the worst (or best) case: into the pond it goes! (Age: 5+)

74



Appanah, Nathacha (text)

Tropique de la violence

(Tropic of violence)

[Paris]: Gallimard, [2016]. – 174 p.

(Series: nrf)

ISBN 978-2-07-019755-2

Mayotte | Social problem | Homelessness |
Gang | Identity | Criminality

This novel oscillates between two poles. The legendary beauty of Mayotte Island's landscape stands in contrast to the explosive social problems of the 101st French département. There, thousands of street children live in slums, written off by the »Mère Patrie« (Motherland) and its representatives (who range from corrupt to naïve). The author, a native of Mauritius, knows the island's troubling questions and contradictions well, having lived on Mayotte for some time. Her protagonist, eleven-year-old Moïse, falls into the hands of the worst youth gang on the island after the death of his French foster mother. Gang leader Bruce tortures Moïse in horrible ways. Moïse, whose psyche crumbles under the abuse Bruce rains on him, ultimately revenges himself on his tormentor. The situation spins out of control for everyone involved. Nathacha Appanah recounts the dark story from four different perspectives, including those of Moïse and Bruce. The relentlessly intense yet still poetically written work, which won the Prix Femina des lycéens in 2016, possesses a staggering acuity. (Age: 16+)



75

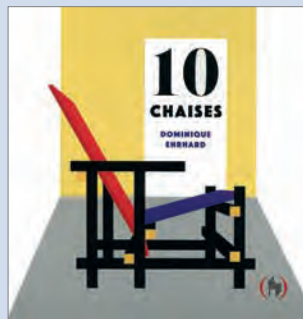
Desplechin, Marie / Hok, Sothik (text)
Tian (illus.)

Sothik

Paris: L'école des loisirs, [2016]. – 95 p.
(Series: Médium)
ISBN 978-2-211-23062-9

[Cambodia](#) | [History 1950s-1970s](#) |
[Khmer Rouge](#) | [Dictatorship](#) | [Indoctrination](#) |
[Resistance](#) | [Biography](#)

In this moving (auto-)biographical novel, co-written with Marie Desplechin, Cambodian Sothik Hok recounts his childhood years under the dictatorship of the Khmer Rouge (1975-1979). At the age of eight, Sothik is taken from his family and spends four years in the regime's horrific re-education program, being put to work in the rice paddies. After the dictatorship ends, he slowly finds his family and a freer life again. By focusing on a concrete case, this soberly yet artfully told book shows the mechanisms of dehumanization that victimize children in a dictatorship. How do they become such obedient subjects who question nothing? How do they survive and process these traumatic experiences? Today, Sothik Hok teaches for a literacy program in his native country and considers the book an important memorial to past events for later generations to learn about. The book is illustrated by the well-known Franco-Cambodian comic artist Tian. (Age: 12+)



76

Ehrhard, Dominique (text/illus.)

10 chaises

(10 chairs)

Paris: Éditions Des Grandes personnes,
[2016]. – [26] p.
(Series: Les Grandes personnes)
ISBN 978-2-36193-442-2

[Art](#) | [Design](#) | [Chair](#) | [History](#) | [Pop-up book](#) |
[Picture book](#)

This pop-up book by French artist Dominique Ehrhard is a showpiece of contemporary paper engineering; its mechanical ingenuity and filigreed precision are enchanting. The book presents ten timeless chairs and armchairs of the 20th and 21st centuries. Even in paper miniature form, they appear not as playful luxury objects but as well-made furniture, each with its own special way of uniting beauty, elegance, functionality and everyday suitability. The last five pages briefly introduce the »inventors« of these magical chairs: from Thonet to Le Corbusier to Mendini. Many of these are multi-talented creators who worked as furniture makers, carpenters, architects, or designers, and sometimes all in one. The book hails from avant-garde publisher Les Grandes Personnes and kick-starts a new chapter in art history for readers of all ages, in a striking and compact format. It certainly earned the Grand Prix du Jury de la nuit du livre it received in 2017. (Age: 10+)

77



Escoffier, Michaël (text)
Di Giacomo, Kris (illus.)

La leçon

(The lesson)

[Montrouge]: Éditions Frimousse, [2017]. – [33] p.

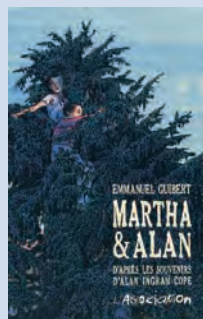
(Series: La question)

ISBN 978-2-35241-303-5

Humans | Animals | Wolf | Brutality | Revenge |
Moral | Philosophy | Picture book

Once again, the wolf stole three of the hunter's chickens at night! Enraged, the man decides to finally teach the thief a lesson and grabs his gun. He then sets many leg hold traps (known for their brutality and banned in many countries) and lies in wait. The best laid plans... the hunter clumsily steps into one of his traps. The pain knocks him out. When he opens his eyes, the wolf is sitting in front of him. This concise, understated philosophical book about the complex human/animal relationship boldly uses multiple perspectives and leaves an open ending. Important questions stay unanswered and are passed on to the reader: Who is the dangerous one? Who is the »monster«? Can you compare the motives of an animal to kill and the intentions of human beings to torture and kill? »The lesson« is a fantastic book of strange, sobering beauty. (Age: 8+)

78



Guibert, Emmanuel (text/illus.)

Martha & Alan. D'après les souvenirs d'Alan Ingram Cope

(Martha & Alan. After the recollections of Alan Ingram Cope)

Paris: L' Association, 2016. – 115 p.

ISBN 978-2-84414-593-2

Cope, Alan Ingram | USA | History 1930s |
Childhood | Friendship | First love

A California childhood in the shadow of the economic crisis of the 1930s: lower middle class, white, no contact with other communities. Alan builds a special friendship with Martha, which lasts from his fifth birthday to his thirteenth. They aren't expressed, but deeper feelings exist between them. When Alan's mother dies early, his new, narrow-minded stepmother forbids the contact. Alan doesn't fight her and only re-establishes the connection to his childhood girlfriend unexpectedly late in life. The virtuosic water-colour and ink pictures enrich the reserved text. Emmanuel Guibert perfectly deploys his drawing skills to depict the »selectivity of memory« in unusual perspectives, image details, and flashes. He describes the childhood experiences of former American GI Alan Ingram Cope, a man he met in France and to whom a portion of his books are dedicated (including »La guerre d'Alan«). Guibert received the Prix Goscinný in 2017 for his complete works and for this graphic novel. (Age: 10+)

79



Guillem, Julie (text/illus.)

Atlas des nuages

(Cloud atlas)

Arles: Actes Sud junior, [2016]. – 92 p.

ISBN 978-2-330-06914-8

Cloud | Weather | Climate | Art | Non-fiction

A book written in the language of the clouds: Even its velvety cover reveals the intriguing synthesis of non-fiction and art book that embodies Actes Sud publishers' innovative non-fiction book line. This first book by young artist Julie Guillem links scientific with artistic work, showing how clouds make the weather »visible« since they contain key information about water content, temperature, and storms. Knowing about clouds, for instance their height and formation, is thus a survival tool. Many great painters have conducted systematic cloud studies and been inspired to create masterpieces. Julie Guillem's expressive chalk drawings belong in the long tradition of landscape painting. She marvellously meets the challenge of giving form and colour to a fog-like object without firm location and solid outline. Her pictures coalesce into »spiritual landscapes« that contain much more than fleeting appearances in the skies. (Age: 10+)

80



Hérédia, Géraldine (text)

Dentan, Corinne (illus.)

Daaboul, Georges (transl.)

Poèmes du soir = Aš'ār al-masā'

(Evening poems)

[Marseille]: Le Port a jauni, [2016]. – [24] p.

ISBN 978-2-919-51122-8

Text French and Arabic

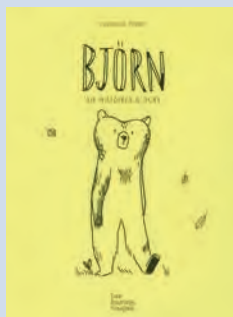
Evening | Night | Poetry | Bilingual book

This bilingual volume of French poems by Géraldine Hérédia, offered in Arabic as well, is an atmospheric tribute to the evening, to twilight, and to night time. The book portrays the darkest part of the day in its ambivalence, with its mysterious, unsettling side, but also its ability to give consolation, trust, and peace. The book is like a musical piece in multiple verses, which offer ever new variations on chord progressions and refrains. The collages of artist Corinne Dentan invite one to explore the night as an open plain for dreams, fantasy, and riddles and to transcend the boundary between the imaginary and the real. This little jewel comes from the bilingual program of Le port a jauni, a new, independent and ambitious publisher in Marseille, which was founded by Arabist Mathilde Chèvre, an expert on the Arab world. Since 2015, her press has become more committed to publishing illustrated volumes of poetry. (Age: 8+)

FRENCH

France

81



Perret, Delphine (text/illus.)

Björn. Six histoires d'ours

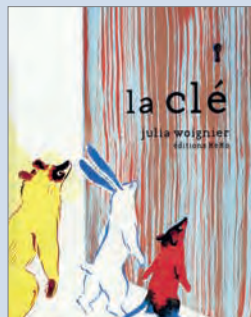
(*Björn. Six bear stories*)

[Montreuil]: Les Fourmis rouges, [2016]. – [54] p.
ISBN 978-2-36902-065-3

Bear | Animals | Friendship | Animal story

In her best book to date, Delphine Perret gives us six chapters from the life of Björn the bear. Björn loves the tranquil life of the forest, and he shares harmless yet magical experiences with his animal friends in this orderly world. His little adventures cleverly vacillate between playfully absurd and revealing a »thoughtful bear logic«. The irresistible charm of the book lies precisely in the small, lovable eccentricities of its protagonist. Illustrator Delphine Perret, who lives in Lyon, provides a wonderful and inviting combination of good entertainment and thoughtful observation to spark children's imaginations. With seeming effortlessness, she has crafted animal stories full of wit and tenderness – stories on par with »Winnie the Pooh«. Indeed, there are a few whimsical winks at the classic, but Björn the bear does not need to shy from the comparison with Pooh nor feel he is a mere imitation. (Age: 5+)

82



Woignier, Julia (text/illus.)

La clé

(*The key*)

[Nantes]: Éditions MeMo, [2016]. – [44] p.
(Series: Les albums)
ISBN 978-2-35289-301-1

Friendship | Animal welfare | Liberty | Curiosity |
Picture book

Three animal friends discover a mysterious, Eden-like garden. Oddly enough, there are doors hidden behind the lush vegetation. Insatiably curious, the friends open them. Animals are concealed behind the doors, and they rambunctiously pursue the liberty they so long for, nearly trampling the friends in the process. In bright watercolour drawings, Julia Woignier carefully lets the comic plot unfold, building hidden meaning into the goings-on. The naive and chaotic trio turns the zoo topsy-turvy: the sleeping guard is the last one behind bars. Furthermore, the gang of boisterous rascals doesn't know what they've done until they hand over the key to the sleeping zoo guard! The reader suspects things much sooner and is usually a laugh ahead. This thoughtful animal fable raises important questions for our time, without becoming overly didactic: Why do we still need zoos? Can we still justify keeping animals in captivity? (Age: 3+)

83



Wouters, Nicolas (text)
Ross, Mikaël (illus.)

Totem

(*Totem*)

Paris: Sarbacane, [2016]. – 125 p.
ISBN 978-2-84865-926-8

Boy scout | Summer camp | Forest |
Metamorphosis | Siblings | Graphic novel

Even though Louis wants to stay with his brother Thomas, who is deathly ill, he's sent to the Ardennes for the holidays. A sombre atmosphere hangs over the boy scout summer camp, recalling William Golding's »Lord of the Flies« more than an idyllic scout tale. During a totem game Louis receives a »warrior name« and a fox mask. Unlike the others, though, he really can change himself into a fox. Thus he roams the forest and meets, among other beings, his (dying?) brother. Do these experiences spring from Louis' imagination? Is the story an allegory for adolescence? Or does a magical transformation really take place? Belgian artist Nicolas Wouters sustains the book's narrative ambivalence and ambiguity to the end. The expressive drawings of German artist Mikaël Ross give it sophisticated visual expression. This unusual »mystery« comic was awarded the Pépite de Montreuil in 2016 (Jeune Ados category). (Age: 15+)

84



Lakhal-Chevé, Nezha (text)
Buguet, Anne (illus.)

Razina la sage sultane

(*Razina the clever sultana*)

[Casablanca]: Tiara Jeunesse,
Éditions Afrique Orient, [2015]. – [26] p.
ISBN 978-9954-630-98-3

Profession | Weaver | Carpet | Cleverness |
Fairy tale | Picture book

Prince Mahmoud is only interested in hunting. When he loses his way, he meets a confident country girl, the beautiful Razina, whom he falls in love with and absolutely wants to marry. Practical-minded Razina attaches a condition to her acceptance, however: before they marry, Mahmoud must learn a trade, because his existence as a prince seems too insecure and rather parasitic to her. Though he cannot understand the logic of her argument, Mahmoud agrees. How far-sighted and sober-minded Razina's advice was is revealed after they are wed. The prince, now a famous carpet maker, is abducted. It is his iconic artistic style that saves his life. This book is Nezha Lakhal-Chevé's reworking of traditional Armenian material – the fairy tale of the clever queen Anahid. Anne Buguet's gorgeous illustrations are clearly inspired by the ornamental beauty of old Persian miniature painting. The book received the Prix Grand Atlas in 2016. (Age: 7+)

FRENCH

France
Morocco

85



Wehrle, Nina / Laube, Evelyne (text/illus.)

Marta & moi

(Marta & I)

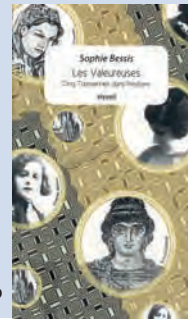
Genève: Éditions Notari, [2017]. – [84] p.

ISBN 978-2-9701150-2-1

Art | Drawing | Creativity | Fantasy |
Reality | Lion | Picture book

Draw, Marta, draw! With unbridled energy and an exuberant pace she fills page after page, until the walls of her studio are plastered with animal drawings. One day Marta draws a lion so expressive-ly that he steps right out of the picture. The lion recounts a wonderful day spent with Marta: a time filled with art-making, adventures, singing and dancing. But their wild water games put the studio, full to the brim with art materials, under water. The lion suddenly dissipates, and Marta sets to work on the next magical animal sketches... This wonderful picture book for all ages is all about experiencing creativity as fulfilment and as a great pleasure. Its light-hearted playfulness shows how art begins and what it feeds on. The Swiss artist duo, which calls itself »It's raining elephants«, masterfully builds interest by juxtaposing black-and-white space with the coloured space onto which Marta's »artistic explosions« are cheerfully splashed. (Age: 5+)

86



Bessis, Sophie (text)

Les valeureuses.

Cinq Tunisiennes dans l'histoire

(The brave ones. Five Tunisian women in history)

Tunis: Elyzad, [2017]. – 222 p.

ISBN 978-9973-58-090-0

Tunisia | History | Culture | Religion |
Gender role | Biography | Non-fiction

Many women have decisively shaped Tunisian history and culture through the centuries. Franco-Tunisian researcher and journalist Sophie Bessis presents five of these extraordinary women: the mythical founder of Carthage and Phoenician princess Elissa (Dido), the learned mystic Aicha Sayida Manoubia, the well-educated benefactor Aziza Othmana, the women's rights advocate Habiba Menchari, and the Jewish-Tunisian singer Habiba Msika. What these five diverse biographies from five different centuries have in common is that these women were able to find their own paths through life in self-determined, empathic, and constructive ways, while facing constraints imposed by social and familial conventions. Bessis draws together rare material into interesting biographical sketches. These are not hagiographies, but texts with critical edge, that invite young women to define their own lives. (Age: 15+)



87

Jong, Hanneke de (text)

Wês net bang (mar wol foarsichtig)

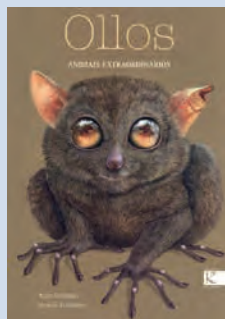
(Don't fear, but be careful)

Ljouwert: Afûk, 2016. – 83 p.

ISBN 978-94-92176-40-0

Syria | War | Refugee

This book is about Lilian from Aleppo, Syria, who came to the Netherlands as a refugee. The writing of the story started with a request to provide a violin for a refugee to which author Hanneke de Jong responded. She describes how life in Aleppo became extremely dangerous because of the bombings and how Lilian and her family flee to the grandmother's farm. Since they aren't safe there either, they decide that Lilian and her two brothers should escape to the Netherlands because their father has heard many good things about Dutch football. But Lilian doesn't want to leave her parents and grandmother alone and wants to take her own decisions. But as the situation in Syria grows more and more dangerous, she has to go to the Netherlands on her own. Hanneke de Jong writes books in Frisian and Dutch. Her book »Sterke skouders« (Strong shoulders) made the 2006 »IBBY Honour List«. Two other books, one of them »Salsafamke« (Salsa girl), won the Frisian prize for children's literature, the Simke Kloostermanprijs, in 2001 and 2016. (Age: 9+)



88

Gutiérrez, Xulio (text)

Fernández, Nicolás (illus.)

Ollos

(Eyes)

Pontevedra: Factoría K de Libros, 2016. – 31 p.

(Series: Animais extraordinarios; 5)

ISBN 978-84-15250-98-2

Animals | Eye | Sense of sight | Non-fiction

Many non-fiction books about the animal world are similar to one another, in that they organize their content around classes of animals, animal groups, or habitats. The series on »Extraordinary animals« employs a different strategy to explain nature's amazing diversity and creativity. After the four previous volumes focused on »Mouths«, »Builders«, »Camouflage« and »To be born« respectively, this time the focus of duo Xulio Gutiérrez and Nicolás Fernández is on eyes. Adopting a favourite layout of many non-fiction books, they introduce a different kind of animal on every double page. Alongside general information, a further text describes how the animal's eyes function and what tasks they have. In an easy-to-grasp manner, the texts and the precise, detailed colour illustrations explain, why, for instance, lions are outstanding nocturnal hunters, why falcons can unerringly approach their prey, even from great distances, and why snails move so slowly and rely on their sense of smell rather than their eyes. (Age: 8+)

FRISIAN
GALICIAN

Netherlands
Spain

89



Hula, Saskia (text)

Blau, Aljoscha (illus.)

Die 7 Leben meiner Katze*(The seven lives of my cat)*

Wien: G & G Verlagsgesellschaft,

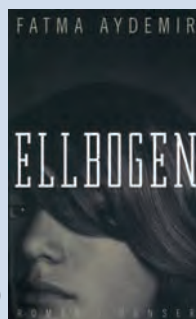
2016. – 48 p. (Series: Nilpferd)

ISBN 978-3-7074-5180-1

Cat | Death | Grief | Picture book

With his van, the postman has run over a cat, a young and fearless animal. The cat's owner, a little girl, is inconsolable and falls ill with a fever. While she is lying in her bed, the girl suddenly remembers that cats are said to have seven lives – and therefore, after three days, the cat climbs out of its grave and starts a new life as a mouse. Unfortunately, this life is over fairly quickly, too, and so are the next five. Some of the sudden deaths are caused by predators, others by people, others by the chilly weather. Finally, at the seventh attempt, the book's open ending allows for some hope: maybe this life will last longer. Oscillating between dream and reality, »Die 7 Leben meiner Katze« talks about death. Aljoscha Blau's pictures are partly reminiscent of children's drawings. The text by Saskia Hula is unsentimental, but not harsh. Thus, death is taken seriously; it is neither trivialised nor demonised. (Age: 6+)

90



Aydemir, Fatma (text)

Ellbogen*(Elbow)*

München: Hanser, [2017]. – 270 p.

ISBN 978-3-446-25441-1

Berlin | Istanbul | Identity crisis | Violence

A flat the size of a shoebox in Wedding (a poor neighborhood in Berlin); sixty application letters but no job offer; parents who want to know about every step she takes, but ignore her two suicide attempts. Somehow, Hazel keeps going, swallows it all, and quickly buries her dreams whenever they dare to surface. Still, all the disappointments cumulate into a huge boulder of frustration – and one night Hazel explodes. The situation gets completely out of hand; the girl panics and flees to Istanbul. Readers will feel the urge to shake Hazel awake, comfort her, shout at her, take her in their arms, and make her see that she mustn't throw her life away like that. However, Hazel locks everything away and everyone out. The teenage girl uses a shell of steel as a barricade for her injured and vulnerable soul – that's the biggest tragedy. Right from the first line, the language of Fatma Aydemir's novel develops an impressive momentum. Deep down however, a sensitive narrator reveals herself, who searches and fights; and who fails again and again. (Age: 14+)

91



Bach, Tamara (text)

Vierzehn

(Fourteen)

Hamburg: Carlsen, [2016]. – 106 p.

ISBN 978-3-551-58359-8

Self-discovery | Loneliness | Falling in love |
Coming of age

Hardly anyone writes as authentic a story about coming of age as Tamara Bach. »Vierzehn« features Beh and her first day after the summer holidays when – everyone knows this feeling – everything seems so familiar and yet so tingly-new and different. Beh feels exactly this way, because during the holidays a few things have happened, sad and stupid, happy and exciting ones. The unusual second-person narrative that the author employs to talk about Beh turns the readers into accomplices and confidants. And thanks to Bach's reserved and elusive style, it does so without clumsily cosying up to them. Beh's emotional turmoil is clad in a language that is both delicate and down-to-earth, poignant and vague, and thus matches the girl's feelings to a tee. Bach does not churn out novel after novel in quick succession, which on the one hand is unfortunate, because it would be an absolute pleasure to read more books by her. On the other hand, the result is always well worth the wait – just as in this case! (Age: 14+)

92



Baltscheit, Martin (text)

Sieg, Katharina (illus.)

Die Nacht des Elefanten

(The night of the elephant)

Münster: Bohem, 2016. – [44] p.

ISBN 978-3-95939-038-5

Night | Darkness | Picture book

»As TALL as a house. As STRONG as a tree. FEARLESS and proud.« No doubt, that's the elephant. Well, at least during the day. At night, he may still be tall and strong, but fearless he is definitely not. Every snap, every crackle makes him panic. He immediately bolts and leaves a swath of destruction in his wake. When the other animals ask him what happened, the elephant mumbles something like »storm« or »meteor« – and thus digs a big hole for himself. Now all the animals are afraid and demand to be protected by the elephant at night. He is tall, and strong, and fearless after all.... In a witty and pointed way, this book relates how you can advance to hero status by conquering your fears. Martin Baltscheit's laconic language and Katharina Sieg's colourful, exuberant tissue paper collages, as well as her knack for portraying facial expressions, make it a true work of art in every respect; a masterpiece that readers will want to pick up time and again. (Age: 3+)



93

Duda, Christian (text)

Friese, Julia (illus.)

Gar nichts von allem*(None of those things)*

Weinheim [et al.]: Beltz & Gelberg, 2017. – 158 p.

ISBN 978-3-407-82213-0

Germany | History 1970s | Domestic violence | Family | Diary

Germany in the 1970s: submission to the authorities, everyday racism, sweeping things under the carpet, kiss-up kick-down behaviour. Twelve-year-old Magdi knows all of this well enough, as he experiences it at home every day: His father beats him and his siblings, the mother tries to »avoid attention« at all costs. Yet the children come up with various ways to defend themselves. In his diary, Magdi talks frankly about his life. The diary entries have a colloquial feel to them, but they provide glimpses into an abyss. Magdi maintains his inner freedom and his sense of self through his writing. Thus, Christian Duda has created an exceptional book that is both a psychological study and a sociocritical novel. As a brilliant observer and narrator, Magdi exposes the adults as pitiable weaklings, who have built their own prisons from social conventions. Nevertheless, they constantly feel threatened by a loss of control or power and therefore transform their own insecurity into rage and take it out on the weak. (Age: 10+)



94

Feldmann, Annette (text)

Engelke, Mareike (illus.)

Vor den 7 Bergen. Davon, wie Schneewittchens Enkel in die Berge wollen und alles schiefgeht*(At the foot of the 7 mountains. How Snow White's grandchildren wanted to go into the mountains and how everything went wrong)*

Mannheim: Kunstanstifter, 2017. – [36] p.

ISBN 978-3-942795-48-7

Rain | Journey | Picture book

Rain is a pain, especially when it never stops. No wonder that Ali, Uli, Paula, Lola, Hanno, Fritzi, and Baby are fed up. They decide to visit their grandma in the mountains where it never rains, but it snows. Just quickly tell Mum about their plans and off they are. Theoretically! Unfortunately, chicken pox have them all stay in bed instead of sledding down the hills. Well, there's always another time. Yet again something spoils their plans. You've got to be kidding! A little later, a last attempt, but again.... Yet rescue is on its way, and Bo the ice cream man eventually manages to cart seven children and one mother to snowy regions. The author-illustrator duo tell a turbulent story that contains a little bit of fairy tale and a lot of everyday life. Even parents who do not have seven children know all too well that plans are constantly thwarted. Mareike Engelke's perky lines aptly present the hustle and bustle, while Annette Feldmann comments on it in both a true-to-life and politically incorrect way. (Age: 4+)

95



Friedrich, David (text)

Solange es draussen brennt*(As long as it is burning outside)*

Berlin: Satyr Verlag, 2016. – 110 p.

ISBN 978-3-944035-79-6

Social criticism | Poetry

Those who have seen slam poet David Friedrich on stage know that a good performance makes good texts even better. Since he is one of the best slam poetry artists in Germany, his texts are now available as a book, too, so that they can live on beyond the fleeting moment of the slam performance. Reading the poems, you will almost hear the characteristic David-Friedrich-sound echoing in your mind, the pointed intonation, and the accented rhythm. However, the texts do not only stand out for their sound, the precise, surprising, associative figurative language, but also for their content. They are sometimes personal and contemplative, sometimes socially critical and caustic. »Je suis Siegfried«, for example, a text that tackles xenophobia: »Siegfried's not my name, but through deserts I can whizz / My feet are touched by a flame, so I'm as fast as a fizz, / Bullets and fire are not new to me, nay / I'm unstoppable, when your taxes I take away? / With my bare hands, all animals I can kill? / And to live inside four walls would be my thrill.« (Age: 14+)

96



Huppertz, Nikola (text)

Klever, Elsa (illus.)

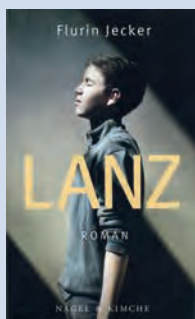
Meine Omi, die Wörter und ich*(My granny, the words, and I)*

München: Tulipan, 2017. – [30] p.

ISBN 978-3-86429-299-6

Language | Grandmother | Granddaughter | Picture book

A few years ago, there was an initiative in Germany to find the »most beautiful« German word. Everyone was invited to contribute, and a large number of superb, often forgotten words were gathered. The narrator of this picture book could certainly have sent in a lot of her own suggestions. Thanks to her granny, the girl, too, is a word-collector and -lover. She knows loud and aggressive words e.g. »Springteufel« (jumping devil), as well as quiet ones such as »Augenstern« (eye star), who »hid under my bed, made low sizzling noises, glittered bashfully, and when I finally discovered it, it was my most beautiful treasure«. Readers will (re)discover many words making the language richer and more colourful, embedded in a warm-hearted grandmother-granddaughter story. The pictures in white and deep shades of blue and red provide a stage for the words and create a rich atmosphere. This is a book for word- and picture-enthusiasts. (Age: 5+)



97

Jecker, Flurin (text)

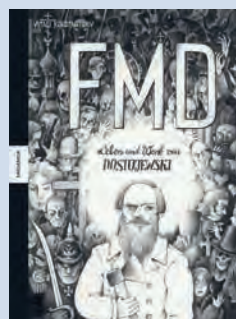
Lanz

München: Nagel & Kimche, 2017. – 124 p.

ISBN 978-3-312-01022-6

[Writing](#) | [Blog](#) | [Everyday life](#) | [Self-discovery](#)

His crush, Lynn, has signed up for a blogging project; that is why Lanz has also ended up in this group. Unfortunately, the boy hadn't noticed that his stupid class teacher Gilgen would be the project leader. And to top it all: Lynn doesn't even turn up at first; and when she does, she is not very approachable. An interesting topic for his project also eludes Lanz so, spontaneously he simply chooses the title: »My blog in Mr Gilgen's course«. In it, he slags off the »Gilgonator«, describes his attempts to get closer to Lynn, talks about the wrangles between him and his mother's new boyfriend, and discloses his doubts about the world and about himself. Lanz is pounding away at his keyboard, pouring out everything that crosses his mind and touches his heart in an open and honest, sometimes silly, often insightful way. Flurin Decker's debut novel – his final thesis at the Swiss Literature Institute – is refreshing, linguistically creative, and geared towards all readers who are, or have ever been, fourteen. (Age: 14+)



98

Konstantinov, Vitali (text/illus.)

FMD. Leben und Werk von Dostojewski

(FMD. The life and works of Dostoyevsky)

München: Kneesebeck, [2016]. – 64 p.

ISBN 978-3-86873-850-6

[Dostoyevsky, Fyodor](#) | [Biography](#) | [Graphic novel](#)

Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoyevsky is a prime example for the fact that genius and madness often sit side by side. The Russian author, who was a compulsive gambler and was imprisoned in a Siberian labour camp for criticizing the establishment, is considered a trailblazer for modernity. In an almost seismographic way, he sensed socio-critical conflicts and psychological shallowness and shaped them into literature. With this graphic novel, Vitali Konstantinov pays tribute to the author from St. Petersburg. He weaves together Dostoyevsky's life and works, ranging from the cradle to the grave, and from his debut novel to his late works. The pictures in black-white-and-grey, the different fonts, and the often grotesquely distorted faces aptly mirror Dostoyevsky's fears and neuroses. Small, revealing details show Konstantinov's skill for writing concisely. In a masterful way, he makes readers experience Dostoyevsky's genius and madness, exuberant creativeness and depressing abysses. (Age: 16+)



99

Kubiczek, André (text)
Skizze eines Sommers
(Sketch of a summer)

Berlin: Rowohlt, 2016. – 375 p.
 ISBN 978-3-87134-811-2

GDR | History 1980s | School holidays |
 First love | Coming of age

René's father is on a business trip and it's the summer holidays. Seven paradise-like weeks are ahead of René – parentless and full of freedom. André Kubiczek describes the enviable state of drifting-through-the-days that one can only experience during the school holidays. René and his friends couldn't care less about the Socialist Unity Party regime: They want to be bohemians. They are sauntering through Potsdam and Berlin and reading French books. Since Baudelaire's works are in short supply in the GDR, the boys meticulously copy them down by hand – that's true passion for you. They enjoy »Napoléon« on the rocks and tinned fish, accompanied by the latest forbidden songs on tape; and they go dancing at the youth club every Wednesday, where all sorts of girls are milling around. More than once within these seven weeks, René finds his one true love. »Skizze eines Sommers« is a coming-of-age novel told in such an authentic voice that it makes readers feel like sixteen again – even if they are a tad older. (Age: 14+)



100

Meschenmoser, Sebastian (text/illus.)
Rotkäppchen hat keine Lust
(Little Red Riding Hood doesn't feel like it)
 Stuttgart: Thienemann, [2016]. – [28] p.
 ISBN 978-3-522-45827-6

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

It's plain to see on the cover of this book that Little Red Riding Hood is fed up. Scowling grumpily, a girl with a red hat trudges along behind a cheerful wolf. True, the two of them are the familiar fairy-tale protagonists, but everything is different in Sebastian Meschenmoser's version of »Little Red Riding Hood«. The story focuses on a hungry, but mainly lonely wolf following Red Riding Hood, who is irate because she was ordered to visit her crazy grandmother. Since the wolf is craving company, it's hardly surprising that Grandma and Wolf immediately become best friends; after all, they both share a passion for old photo albums and a bottle of good wine. Red Riding Hood, however, isn't part of this new club. The author adds a lively new twist to the well-known fairy tale, especially through his pictures. Red Riding Hood seems neither charming nor girlish, but rather strong-headed and determined. A wolf's victim? Definitely not! (Age: 4+)

101



Raschke, Jens (text)

Rasmus, Jens (illus.)

Schlafen Fische?*(Do fish sleep?)*

München: Mixtvision, [2017]. – 57 p.

(Series: Dramatiker erzählen für Kinder)

ISBN 978-3-95854-070-5

Siblings | Death | Hope

As of late, Jette is a double-digit girl: She has just turned ten. Her brother would certainly want to be double-digit, too, but »Emil was only six. Merely single digit. Emil would have preferred to turn seven, that's for sure.« Emil was sick and died. Jette talks about it – about her brother, who lay in his bed and looked as if he was sleeping; about crying parents, who are drowning in their sorrow; and about a funeral, at which they paint Emil's coffin, but then the rain washes the colours away. Playwright Jens Raschke lets Jette share her story without restricting his heroine in any way; he allows her the whole range of emotional turmoil: helplessness, grief, anger, as well as the quick bouts of relief that the long illness is finally over, and the ensuing guilty conscience caused by these thoughts. Raschke hits a convincing and subdued tone, which does not drift into kitsch, but truly moves the readers. (Age: 8+)

102



Reffert, Thilo (text)

Kurzbach, Sonja (illus.)

Fünf Gramm Glück. Die Lebensgeschichte einer Brotdose, erzählt von ihr selbst*(Five grams of happiness. From the life of a lunchbox)*

Leipzig: Klett Kinderbuch, 2017. – 54 p.

ISBN 978-3954701551

Lunchbox | Everyday life | Economy | Nutrition

It's hard to think of a storyteller more unusual than the one that readers get to meet in this surprising insider story – it's a lunchbox! This particular lunchbox belongs to Ludwig, a school boy by profession; but instead of being carefully packed each day and taken to school, the box is currently not much in demand. »I am lying in the dark drawer alone. [...] I am not sure how long I will have to stay here. Maybe forever. So I have decided to write my memoirs.« And that's what the box does, in a wonderfully funny, silly, and action-packed way. Not only does the box experience a lot, beginning with its production in Asia and shipping to Europe to its days in the drawer, it is also an exceptionally gifted storyteller. Therefore, the best thing people should do is to not simply cram bread, vegetable sticks, slices of apple, or the occasional cookie into it, but rather listen to its opened lid. A great book (not only) for those who are starting school! (Age: 6+)

103



Stelling, Anke (text)

Erna und die drei Wahrheiten*(Erna and the three truths)*

München: cbt, 2017. – 235 p.

ISBN 978-3-570-16458-7

Family | School | Communal living | Community

Anke Stelling's novel »Bodentiefe Fenster« (Floor-level windows) tackled the topic of »the modern family between idealism and reality« for an adult readership. In her novel »Erna und die drei Wahrheiten«, Stelling deals with the same issue for a younger audience. Here, the author has her eleven-year-old eponymous heroine talk about the family madness in a communal house and her daily life at a grass-roots democratic community school – and she is completely fed up with both of them. Her parents, who apply double standards – an adult-parent-standard and a child-education-standard – get on her nerves, as does her pseudo-sympathetic teacher Birgit. Erna has long been aware that all their rules are (false) pretences, nothing but silly airs... Well, in a way, Erna is right. Life unfortunately consists of many »actually-s« and the subjunctive clause is ever present. However, the girl eloquently puts her finger on the sore spot. Therefore, also this book reveals much about »the modern family between idealism and reality«. (Age: 10+)

104



Teckentrup, Britta (text/illus.)

Worauf wartest du? Das Buch der Fragen*(What are you waiting for? The book of questions)*

Berlin: Jacoby & Stuart, [2016]. – [192] p.

ISBN 978-3-946593-09-6

Philosophy | Question

In this philosophical exploration you will find almost 100 questions and zero answers. This mismatch may reflect the essence of human existence; after all, life has a lot more questions in store than answers. Yet as long as you ask questions, you are alive. They trigger your thoughts and help you more fully grasp yourself and the world. This is definitely true for the questions that Britta Teckentrup has gathered in her book. Some of them, many people might have asked themselves at some point: »What happens when the winter doesn't end anymore?« or »Is he going to like me?« Other questions are so original and surprising, that you will first grin and then ponder them: »When an eagle collects food for its babies, is this similar to going to work?« or »Why do people have the least contact with each other when they are most closely crowded together?« Due to the reduced style, Britta Teckentrup's prints show the underlying atmosphere in a tangible and sensuous way. (Age: 5+)

105



Völck, Julie (illus.)

Guten Morgen, kleine Straßenbahn!*(Good morning, little tram!)*

Hildesheim: Gerstenberg, 2016. – [26] p.

ISBN 978-3-8369-5912-4

City | Tram | Passenger | Picture book |
Textless book

More and more people get on the little tram; some look tired, some grumpy. Well, not everyone gets up bright-eyed and bushy-tailed... The adults are on their way to work, the children catch a ride to school, fool around, and quickly finish their homework. The double-page, filigree pencil illustrations are rendered in grey, accentuated with a few spots of colour. The tongue-in-cheek pictures are created with careful attention to detail. Despite their delicate nature, they do not conjure up an idyllic world – a quality which is just as typical for Julie Völck as the fine lines that have become her trademark style with just two picture books. In this wordless book, the artist shows everyday life: There are people who are stressed out, others who are in love, and even someone who searches for empty bottles in the rubbish. This realism puts this picture book on a par with beloved wimmelbook-classics. Like them, Julie Völck creates many stories in her pictures, and readers can imagine new tales with every turn of the page. (Age: 3+)

106



Lücker, Kerstin / Daenschel, Ute (text)

Hüetlin, Linda (illus.)

Weltgeschichte für junge Leserinnen*(World history for young female readers)*

Zürich [et al.]: Kein & Aber, [2017]. – 517 p.

ISBN 978-3-0369-5760-9

Woman | Historical person | History |
Non-fiction

You would assume that in the year 2017 it is a well-known fact that women are not born to be housewives, but that they commit and distinguish themselves – just like the other half of humanity does – in the professional, political, and social fields. Looking around, however, makes you notice that you can't point these things out often enough. That's why this »World history for young female readers« is a timely offering. The book is neither feminist propaganda nor a book that paints the women's role in the rosiest colours. If it did, this would be both wrong and negligent, as the two editors – both renowned scientists – are absolutely aware of: »You often have to say 'maybe', when talking about history.« They emphasise that people may know so little about women's deeds because either they simply did not happen or because they were not documented accordingly. The inspiring book frequently veers off beaten tracks and invites readers to think critically – girls as well as boys. (Age: 14+)

107



Kukias, Thodōrēs (Kukias, Thodoris) (text)

**To museio tōn apoxēramenōn
synaisthēmātōn**

(The museum of dried up feelings)

Athēna: Kedros 2016. – 270 p.

(Series: Big Bang Books)

ISBN 978-960-04-4750-7

Outsider | Identity | Self-esteem | Diversity

Nefeli tries to come to terms with her parents' separation and their move to the country. She meets Antela at her new school, whose mother is stigmatized as »indecent« in the town, and Ion, who is autistic and lives with Asperger Syndrome. Together, the three outsiders cut a course through a jungle of ostracization and depression until they find recognition and heal themselves emotionally. A second story unfolds parallel to this plot, wherein the office equipment at the dull workplace of Nefeli's mother come alive and, in their own society, allegorically mirror human diversity. So, for instance, an A4-sized piece of paper faces discrimination, but in Nefeli's hands, it helps her realize its dreams. In his novel, Thodoris Koukias peers into the souls of his young protagonists in a non-pedantic, compelling way. He animates readers to stand by their dreams and abilities. (Age: 15+)

108



Michaēlidu-Kadē, Marina (Michailidou-Kadi, Marina) (text)

Stamatiadē, Ntaniela (Stamatiadi, Daniela) (illus.)

Paidika oneira = Children's dreams

Athēna: Patakēs (Patakis), 2016. – [32] p.

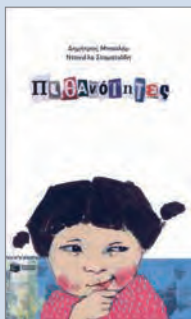
ISBN 978-960-16-6643-3

Text in Greek and English

Dream | Fantasy | Game | Picture book |
Bilingual book

A boy dreams of flying. A girl builds a sand castle that should never collapse in on itself. Another girl wants to spend her life among animals. Dreams are more than mere impulsive wishes, they are bridges to goals and visions, which allow children to look confidently into the future. All too often, they are countered with sceptical cynicism from adults. But for a child no dream is unthinkable or too bizarre, and sometimes they do come true. What goes on inside children when they focus on a game, and what this means for their growth, is expressively and sensitively captured by Daniela Stamatiadi's illustrations, which form the book's second plane of storytelling. This is the second bilingual title of the award-winning Cyprian author Marina Michailidou-Kadi, who received the 2016 IBBY Sweden Peter Pan Award for »To kokkino phorema tēs Sabel« (Chavel's red dress) (White Ravens 2014). (Age: 3+)

109



Mpaslam, Dēmētrēs (Baslam, Dimitris) (text)
 Stamatiadē, Ntaniela (Stamatiadi, Daniela) (illus.)
Pithanotētes
(Possibilities)
 Athēna: Patakēs (Patakis), 2016. – [28] p.
 ISBN 978-960-16-7208-3

Possibility | Philosophy | Thinking | Logic |
 Non-fiction

A point at the end of a path is also the beginning of new one. But in which direction? Definitely not back! Left, right or straight? All directions at once? Time and space don't allow such a thing. Should one roll the dice or perhaps toss a coin? When all is a matter of »if«, the freedom to make decisions may no longer be liberating. In this book, Dimitris Baslam, an author and musician who has received the Greek national award, offers young readers philosophical insight to reflect on the nature of possibility and hypotheticals. In a simple, clear and yet playful manner, he accompanies them into the realm of concrete logical thinking. The pictures of internationally renowned illustrator Daniela Stamatadi aptly express the texts, revealing sophisticated links between the abstract and the concrete. The book's threaded binding, its format and its textured paper make this a convincing whole. (Age: 4+)

110



Ntecastro, Mariza (Dekastro, Mariza) (text)
Me tus zōgraphus tēs Pinakothēkēs Aberōph
(With the painters of the Averoff Museum)
 Athēna: Idryma Evangelu Aberōph-Tositsa
 (Evangelos Averoff Foundation), 2016. – 51 p.
 ISBN 978-960-7694-24-9

Greece | Painting | History 19th and 20th
 centuries | Non-fiction

Mariza Dekastro is a highly decorated author, whose broad subject knowledge, consistency, and authenticity in the domain of non-fiction books are outstanding. The present title is an exceptional museum guide for children and young adults that explores the important collection of the Averoff Museum. Twenty representative works of Greek artists of the 19th and 20th centuries are presented and interpreted for children. Information concerning the techniques and subjects are interwoven with a little story. In this way, the readers' interest is captured in an imaginative and poetic way. Young readers are invited to creatively explore the artworks and thus build knowledge, develop aesthetic judgment and increase their interest in reading. At the end of each page, the respective artist is presented with a photo, accompanied by an informative text about his/her life and work. This book was awarded the IBBY Greece Prize in 2017. (Age: 9+)



Papatheodulu, Antōnēs
(Papatheodoulou, Antonis) (text)
Mpulumpasēs, Petros (Bouloubasis, Petros) (illus.)
Och, chtapodi, lathos podi!
(Uh oh, Octopus, wrong leg!)
Athēna: Papadopoulos (Papadopoulos),
2016. – [28] p.
ISBN 978-960-569-539-2

Octopus | Profession | Industriousness |
Picture book

Giannos the octopus no longer scampers about on the playground with his tentacles. He is now all grown up and making a living. Most of all, he's ever so efficient! One tentacle cooks, another photographs, another cuts hair. Giannos is a gardener, a fireman, a doctor... where would the city be without him! But sometimes he is tired, and by early morning even his tentacles get all confused. Then the gardening shears turn up at the hair salon, or mustard gets smeared on the bruised bump instead of ointment. The fire engine extinguishes the kitchen gas stove, the mason shovels cream and powdered sugar into the garden. Uh oh, octopus, wrong leg! In this story, much-praised author Antonis Papatheodoulou sparks the empathy of little readers by showing in a concrete and funny way that no one is perfect and mistakes can be forgiven, especially when someone is overwhelmed. On top of this, the book is also about professions. Petros Bouloubasis's colourful illustrations mirror the charming chaos with wit and many details. (Age: 3+)



Pipinē, Argyrō (Pipini, Argyro) (text)
Razēs, Achilleas (Razis, Achilleas) (illus.)
Melak, monos
(Melak, alone)
Athēna: Kaleidoskopio (Kaleidoscope Publ.),
2016. – [34] p.
ISBN 978-960-471-121-5

Refugee | Migration | War | Picture book

Migration and escape have shaped the history of Greece and the topic has formed its own category in Greek children's literature. In recent years, such books have focused on refugee children, sensitizing readers to topics such as tolerance, acceptance, and integration. This story about Melak is no exception. Melak is alone and afraid; he lost his homeland because of war and was forced to flee, with his little sister in tow. Renowned author Argyro Pipini stirs readers' empathy, letting them intimately experience Melak's desperate situation by means of a clear, riveting portrayal of events, a subtle and perceptive use of language and a smart alternation of first- and third-person perspectives. The expressive picture sequences of artist Achilleas Razis employ intense colours and skilful light effects to reveal the entire spectrum of the text – from dismal terror to shining hope. An unusual format and high-quality paper complete this aesthetically outstanding picture book. (Age: 6+)

113



Smit, Shoham (text)
Tsarfati, Einat (illus.)
Agadat Kamtza u-Bar-Kamtza
(The legend of Kamtza and Bar Kamtza)
Modi'in: Kinneret, 2016. – [32] p.
ISBN 978-965-566-310-5

Hatred | Escalation | Legend | Picture book

This story is based on a Talmudic legend from the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in the first century. A rich man mistakenly invites his enemy Bar Kamtza to his party instead of his friend Kamtza. Bar Kamtza hopes for reconciliation, but is insulted at the party and thrown out. He wants revenge for this public humiliation. He complains to the emperor, who immediately sends his soldiers to light the city on fire. The story suggests this is the price for senseless hate and warns of its possible consequences. In her adaptation for children, Shoham Smit situates the legend within a framing narrative: In order to settle a fight, a grandmother tells her grandchildren of Kamtza and Bar Kamtza. Einat Tsarfati uses well-defined shapes and colours and speech bubbles in her comic-like illustrations. The facial expressions of the characters are very vivid and reveal their changing emotional states. The picture book won numerous awards and entertains rather than sermonizes. (Age: 4+)

114



Vajda, Éva (text)
Bodonyi, Panni (illus.)
Anup és a csodálatos tűzhely
(Anup and the marvellous stove)
[Budapest]: Móra Könyvkiadó, [2016]. – [28] p.
ISBN 978-963-415-295-8

Child labour | Poverty | Industriousness |
Tenacity | Picture book

The story of Anup from Kerala, India, captures the lives of many: As a child in a large family, the boy grows up in humble circumstances, having to sleep on the roof of his parents' hut, for instance, because there is no room inside. In order to support his family – in this case, his grandmother –, Anup begins working. The money trickles in very slowly, he is robbed, but remains persistent. In the end, he acquires the oven much wished for by his grandmother. Éva Vajda and Panni Bodonyi take on the topic of child labour and poverty in a clear and direct way, using pictures that are not overly impassioned: They show but don't judge. Anup's story was first developed as an app and was Panni Bodonyi's final project at the Danish School of Design. Fortunately, the picture book also came about. It made the list of the twenty-five best children's books to appear in Hungary in 2016. (Age: 4+)

115



Mac Dhonnagáin, Tadhg (text/music)
Various artists (illus.)

Bliain na nAmhrán

(The year of songs)

An Spidéal: Futa Fata, 2016. – 51 p. + CD
ISBN 978-1-910945-21-6

Seasons | Song | Poetry

»Bliain na nAmhrán« is a book of songs published by Futa Fata, who are committed to publishing books for readers of all ages in the Irish language. Lyrics composed by Tadhg Mac Dhonnagáin are presented as poetry, and the songs are performed on an accompanying CD. Each of the four sections paints a picture of one season and evokes memories of childhood, whether that of the zoo, the beach, or picking blackberries. Although each section is illustrated by a different artist – Christina O'Donovan, Brian Fitzgerald, Tarsila Krüse, and Jennifer Farley –, and each applies a unique style and seasonal palette of colours, there is continuity and visual flow across the seasons. It is a joyful book, full of fun with its clever rhymes and witty turns of phrase. On a deeper level we find a love song to the natural world, evoking respect in a time when nature has never seemed so fragile. It opens with a simple little rhyme, »Síolta Beaga« (Little seeds), and this sets the tone, with gentle philosophy reminding us that the seeds will wake after the snows of winter. (Age: 3+)

116



Aristarco, Daniele (text)
Pellizzon, Nicolò (illus.)

Io dico no! Storie di eroica disobbedienza

(I say no! Stories of heroic disobedience)

San Dorligo della Valle: Einaudi Ragazzi,
[2017]. – 205 p.
ISBN 978-88-6656-392-1

Freedom | Justice | Truth | Courage |
Biography | Non-fiction

This book is about people who have the courage to say no. Out of their »no«s stories of heroic disobedience are born. Daniel Aristarco here selects thirty-five examples from all over the world, from antiquity to today: from Gandhi's »no« to violence using peaceful yet determined opposition to Abraham Lincoln's laws passed against slavery, from Nazim Hikmet's stance against censorship to Nelson Mandela's fight against Apartheid and for the recognition of universal rights for all, from Vandana Shiva's efforts to preserve species diversity to Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya's defence of the right to express truth, for which she paid with her life. These are the life stories of defiant men and women who changed the course of history with their decisions and who are bound together in the fight against injustice in the name of that great indispensable freedom. (Age: 10+)

IRISH
ITALIAN

Ireland
Italy

117



Ballista, Serena (text)

Carrer, Chiara (illus.)

Una stanza tutta per me

(A room of my own)

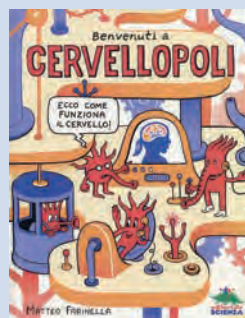
Cagli (PU): settenove, [2017]. – [26] p.

ISBN 978-88-9894725-6

Woolf, Virginia | [Autonomy](#) | [Freedom](#) | [Creativity](#)

This book's title is in obvious reference to Virginia Woolf's well-known essay. What connects the picture book with the work of the great English author? The threads of a spider's artfully woven web recall the narrative web of stories that an author invents. The short, apt text enhances Chiara Carrer's outstanding, intentionally simple illustrations. A story emerges about being alone, about reflection and thought, about the wish for change and autonomy. »Una stanza tutta per me« engages readers by representing the meaning of freedom on every page and the possibility of acting autonomously and standing up for one's own decisions. Thus, through interplay of »weft« and »warp« a special, unique »fabric« is made. (Age: 6+)

118



Farinella, Matteo (text/illus.)

Benvenuti a Cerveellopoli.**Ecco come funziona il cervello!**

(Welcome to Brainopolis.

Firenze [et al.]: Editoriale Scienza, 2017. – [44] p.

ISBN 978-88-7307-844-9

[Brain](#) | [Nervous system](#) | [Neuron](#) | [Non-fiction](#)

Neuroscientist Matteo Farinella explains how the brain works by means of a young neuron named Ramon. Ramon visits »Brainopolis« to understand his future role in the inner centres of the brain. What is the nervous system? What are neurons for? How do the senses function? Led by Master Comillo, Ramon finds answers to these questions on his journey of discovery. An adventure-filled journey through the various regions of the brain ensues: from the thalamus to cortex, the cerebellum to the hippocampus. In his first publication for children, the author pairs the pictorial language of the comic with exact scientific information and an excellent text. This non-fiction book makes a topic of great complexity accessible in an accessible, playful, and entertaining manner. Young readers become acquainted with an unfamiliar world that is made comprehensible in an impressive way. (Age: 8+)



119

Mattia, Luisa (text)
Ballerini, Luigi (text)

Cosa saremo poi

(What will we be then?)

Roma: Lapis edizioni, [2017]. – 229 p.

ISBN 978-88-7874-529-2

School | Cyberbullying | Suicide attempt

According to the dictionary, cyberbullying is aggressive, abusive, or harassing treatment that plays out over telecommunicative media (text messages, email, websites, chat, etc.). It is a form of contemporary violence, a violence that uses mockery, derision, and insult to set into motion a persecution campaign that can have devastating consequences. Lavinia, the novel's protagonist, knows these consequences all too well as they disrupted her life. Her classmates made her into an object that they collectively made fun of in a sickening way. This shook Lavinia so deeply that at one point she just wanted to disappear. But she stays alive and is now ready to attempt a fresh start and to face the future. The theatre, the performance of works by Shakespeare, and a man who knows how to inspire young people with his enthusiasm and love make this new beginning easier. (Age: 11+)



120

Rinaldi, Patrizia (text)
Paci, Marco (illus.)

La compagnia dei soli

(The company of the abandoned)

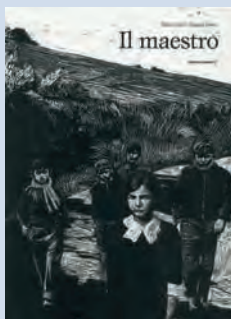
Roma: Sinnos, [2016]. – 95 p.

ISBN 978-88-7609-336-4

Abandonment | Loneliness | Anarchy |
Outsider | Survival | Graphic novel

The stories of Sara, Pier Remigio, and Izio are about abandonment and loneliness. Sara is beautiful, free-spirited, and determined. Courageous and caring, Pier Remigio is the son of a brutal and cruel commander. Izio is an acrobatic dwarf who is devious, belligerent, and almost monstrously ugly. The story tells of a world in which the abuse of power, the disregard of dignity, and emotional coldness are the norm. And in this world, in which there seems to be no hope for them, Sara, Pier Remigio, and Izio meet. Their encounter reveals the possibility of changing one's fate. The three powerless adolescents, living outside the norms, hide themselves away in the unreal city built under a volcano. They bind together to survive, experiencing shared feelings of pain, anger, and desire. A suspenseful text courtesy of the perceptive author pairs itself perfectly with the work of the fantastic illustrator, for whom this is the first foray into graphic novel illustration. (Age: 11+)

121



Silei, Fabrizio (text)
Massi, Simone (illus.)

Il maestro

(The master)

Roma: orecchio acerbo, [2017]. – [48] p.
ISBN 978-88-9906449-5

Milani, Lorenzo | Tuscany | Country life |
Alphabetisation

Why does Don Milani (1923-1967) decide to give his time, dedication, and knowledge to farmers' children in rural Tuscany? Because his heart goes out to those with the least power and rights, to those who are passed over by society. At Barbiana, he teaches them reading, writing, and awareness of the circumstances in which they are forced to live. He helps them to grow through knowledge and to find their places in society. The parson, an educated man, transforms himself into an extraordinary teacher, who made a mark on the history of the Italian school. Fabrizio Silei chooses a boy as his story's protagonist, who from his perspective describes life in the Mugello, a hilly region near Florence, in the 1960s. He also explains Milani's famous »Letter to a teacher«, which surely would inspire young teachers today. Simone Massi's black-and-white illustrations are truly unique and powerful. (Age: 8+)

122



Vecchini, Silvia (text)
Sualzo (illus.)

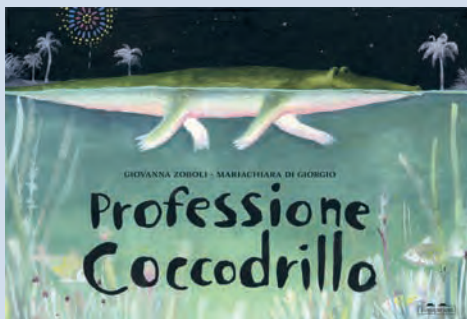
Forse l'amore

(Love perhaps)

Latina: Tunué, 2017. – [27] p.
(Series: Mirari; 4)
ISBN 978-88-6790-222-4

First love | Graphic novel | Picture book

The result of a collaboration between Sualzo and Silvia Vecchini, this book presents a gentle, simple yet profound story. The illustrations harmonize especially well with the short text, which is reprinted in full at the end of the book, much like a poem. Silvia Vecchini's language is poetic, and both the text and pictures are full of musicality. The story is set in everyday life: a girl and a boy, the morning alarm clock, getting to school, classes. The various class periods (literature, geography, sport, natural sciences, music) all add new facets to what love is about and can be like. Normal life can also have pleasant surprises in store. The thoughts, glances, and lives of the boy and girl come together for the first time. And the mundane bears amazement, excitement, and anticipation. (Age: 11+)



123

Zoboli, Giovanna (concept)
Di Giorgio, Mariachiara (illus.)

Professione coccodrillo.

Una storia senza parole

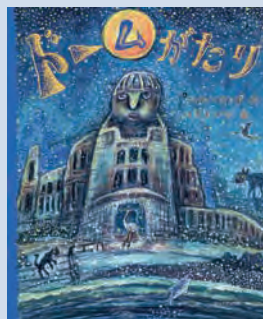
(Career crocodile. A story without words)

Milano: Topipittori, [2017]. – [26] p.

ISBN 978-88-9852364-1

Crocodile | Zoo | Career

It's morning, the alarm clock's ringing, the crocodile wakes up. A day like any other, and the same sequence of events: get dressed, eat breakfast, leave the house, and cross town. Readers accompany the crocodile into the underground, the florist, the butcher, and on to the park, where he enters the zoo and prepares himself for his job with the slow and measured gestures of a pro. This outstanding wordless picture book pairs an original story with images that are just as original. It presents a perfect sequence of pictures, each of which is wonderfully composed. The pages create a special rhythm that will delight and amaze observers. »Professione coccodrillo« is the work of »four hands«: Giovanna Zoboli came up with the storyline, while the skilful hands of Mariachiara Di Giorgio crafted the pictures that unfold before readers' eyes. (Age: 4+)



124

Binard, Arthur (text)

Suzuki, Koji (illus.)

Dōmu gatari

(The Dome tells...)

Tōkyō: Tamagawa Daigaku Shuppanbu, 2017. – 34 p.

(Series: Mirai e no kioku)

ISBN 978-4-472-05991-9

Japan | History 1945 | Hiroshima | Atomic bomb | Victim | Nuclear power | Picture book

There are many children's books about the atomic bombing of Japan, but this picture book handles it in a totally new way. The Hiroshima Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall, a modern building designed by a Czech architect, became the A-Bomb Dome after its destruction on August 6, 1945. Since then, it has been the symbol of the atomic bombing in Hiroshima. Its historically complex identity is revealed in the poetic text of Arthur Binard, an American poet who has been living and writing in Japan for more than twenty years. Ingeniously narrated by the A-Bomb Dome itself, this book makes readers look at the familiar historical event with a fresh eye. Connecting atomic bombing to nuclear power plants, it also depicts nuclear power as a fundamental issue all people should face. The dynamic, imaginative illustrations help visualize nuclear radiation as a harmful force to all living things for an immeasurable time. (Age: 7+)

ITALIAN
JAPANESE

Italy
Japan

125



Fujishige, Hikaru (text)
Iino, Kazuyoshi (illus.)
Hiomi fushigi zōshi
(*Marvellous tales of Hiomi*)
Tōkyō: Kaiseisha, 2016. – 230 p.
ISBN 978-4-03-540400-2

Japan | Edo period | Literary fairy tale

In Hiomi, each place is full of legend. The dam, for instance, is said to have been the body of a dragon who fell from the sky. However, it wasn't the dragon who built the dam, but good-natured bears who fought the dragon and built the dam for the people. This book tells five short tales of Hiomi, the imaginary Edo period town in Japan. Each story presents a drama of life and love in a world where all creatures coexist in harmony and without hierarchies between the species. Animals sometimes transform themselves into human beings, such as the beautiful and caring neighbour of a girl who lost her mother. She is actually a cat and takes the girl to the cats' festival. In another story, a young samurai who never kills any animals gets a sword which causes a dandelion to grow on his nose and makes him invincible. Drawing out our universal humanity, »Hiomi fushigi zōshi« helps readers look at the world differently. The captivating illustrations match the stories very well. (Age: 11+)

126



Furuuchi, Kazue (text)
Furadan
(*Hula boys*)
Tōkyō: Komine Shoten, 2016. – 288 p.
(Series: Sunnyside Books)
ISBN 978-4-338-28710-4

Japan | History 2011 | Fukushima | Nuclear accident | Hula

The annual high school hula competition in Fukushima commemorates the hula show held there half a century ago to prop up the local mining town economy. In this novel, Yutaka joins a hula club there and enters the competition as a rare male dancer. After the nuclear power plant accident caused by a great earthquake and a tsunami on March 11, 2011, residents living in the contaminated area of Fukushima are evacuated. When Yutaka dances for the victims, who are still living in temporary housing, he senses their anger at people's lack of compassion. This poignant novel draws an analogy between the suffering of the displaced people of Fukushima and the plight of the native Hawaiians who lost ownership of their land to the United States. It also speaks out against the idea that the weak should sacrifice themselves for the strong. The book's very unique and funny characters help create a lively account of the realities of Fukushima. (Age: 13+)

127



Kayano, Shigeru (text)

Doi, Kaya (illus.)

Hima na konabe.

Ainu no mukashi banashi

(The idle pot. An Ainu folk tale)

Tōkyō: Asunaro Shobō, 2016. – 32 p.

ISBN 978-4-7515-2819-8

Japan | Ainu | Indigenous people | Folk tale | Picture book

The Ainu, the indigenous people of the north in Japan, live in harmony with nature. They believe animals, plants, and even kitchen tools have souls. They respect nature and cherish their possessions because all these things are gods for them. This picture book tells one of the unique folk tales that is based on their belief. After the bear god is killed by an Ainu hunter, the bear's soul is enthralled by a great dancer it watches at the feast in the hunter's house. Wishing to see the man's dance again, the soul decides to come back to the earth as a bear and to be killed by the same hunter again and again. The bear god finally learns that the dancer is the god of the pot, who wants to thank the hunter family for their thoughtful use of the artefact. The author Shigeru Kayano (1926-2006) was Ainu himself and one of the leading researchers of Ainu culture. This posthumously published work is illustrated by Kaya Doi based on meticulous research. The charming illustrations beautifully convey the Ainu mind-set that all things ought be cherished. (Age: 9+)

128



Kubota, Kaori (text)

Sakamoto, Himemi (illus.)

Hayuma no suzu

(The post riders' bell)

Tōkyō: Kumon Shuppan, 2016. – 347p.

(Series: Kumon no jidō bungaku)

ISBN 978-4-7743-2506-4

Japan | History 8th century | Post rider | Buddha | Statue

In ancient Japan, orders of the emperor were passed on through the country by men on horseback tasked to deliver the post. Born into a family who takes care of post horses, Kozato wants to take over her family business when she grows up, but as a girl, she is confronted with prejudice and objection. When Kozato's family have their horses stolen, they leave their house and work to build the great statue of Buddha. At that time, after a war, plague and natural disasters, many people willingly worked on the government-mandated statue. Unique and appealing characters, such as the poem-writing post rider boy, help Kozato to overcome the hardships in her life. This coming-of-age novel speaks powerfully to readers today, vividly depicting the lives and feelings of ordinary citizens who lived during the same difficult time the author explores in her highly regarded historical novel »Kōriishi«. (Age: 11+)

129



Motohashi, Seiichi (text/photos)

Arayashiki no jūnitachi*(People living in the Arayashiki)*

Tōkyō: Nōsan gyoson bunka kyōkai, 2015. – 36 p.

ISBN 978-4-540-14258-1

Japan | Community | Disability |
Self-determination | Photo book | Picture book

In the mountains of Nagano in Japan, there is a small village which has a 100-year-old house called the Arayashiki. Kyodogakusha, a Christian welfare organization created in 1974, founded a unique community there in 1976. Since that time, people with and without disabilities live there together, leading an almost self-sufficient life through farming. They roof the building with thatch they made, and when the only trail on the mountain between their house and the town collapses, they repair it together. Vivid black-and-white photos show people's expressions and the mutual respect they have for each other. While this book avoids mention of any problems that could occur in such a community and thus conveys quite an idealistic picture, it is still an important book needed in Japan and other countries, as it reveals the value of an inclusive life in which different people coexist. The author also made a documentary film of Arayashiki with the same title. (Age: 9+)

130



Tomori, Shiruko (text)

Satō, Makiko (illus.)

Bokutachi no Riaru*(Our Riaru)*

Tōkyō: Kōdansha, 2016. – 222 p.

ISBN 978-4-06-220073-8

Family | Friendship | Homosexuality | School |
Perfectionism

Riaru is a special boy. He is perfect at everything. His family is not, however. When his young brother died four years ago in an accident, his mother's mental health suffered. She's been living apart from the family since then, but only some of of Riaru's classmates know this – as Wataru, his childhood friend. Unlike Riaru, Wataru does not want to stand out, but he doesn't like how Riaru makes him feel inferior. However, when friendship grows between Wataru, Riaru, and Saji, a new student, Wataru comes to realize that the class expectation for Riaru to be perfect might be an unfair burden. He also notices Saji's suppressed love for Riaru. In supporting them, he finds his own strengths. »Bokutachi no Riaru« shows that unrequited love can sometimes lead to special, long-lasting friendship. This book about homosexual love, which is still an unusual topic in Japanese literature for young readers, is the author's first novel. She has written a second novel that focuses on a transgendered person. (Age: 11+)



131

Yatsuka, Sumiko (text)

Ashita no hikōkigumo

(*Contrails into the future*)

Tōkyō: Poplar, 2017. – 286 p.

(Series: Teens' best selections; 44)

ISBN 978-4-591-15429-8

School | Club activities | Football | Friendship |
Love | Family | Depression

Love stories are popular among teenagers in Japan, but not many of them are of high literary quality. This novel is certainly one of the exceptional literary works. Since her mother is afflicted with depression, fourteen-year-old Yū is kept busy with housekeeping and taking care of her younger brother. When she unexpectedly falls in love with a boy who loves football and becomes a coach's assistant for his football club, her life changes. Love gives her strength to face life's challenges and support the players and her family. With a fresh awareness, she straightforwardly describes the change in her mind. Even when the situation gets worse and her mother overdoses, Yū's humour and youthful optimism keep the story from becoming too gloomy. Teenage readers enjoy reading this coming-of-age novel, which depicts friendships and love, and shows that family problems can be managed however hard they seem. (Age: 13+)



132

Bak, Jeong Hui (Park, Junghee) (text)

Gim, Jin Hwa (Kim, Jinwha) (illus.)

Ttang Jiwon ui ki keugi

(*Tiny Jiwon's story of growing taller*)

Paju: Parangsae eorini (Bluebird), 2016. – [188] p.

(Series: Parangsae sagwamungo; 84)

ISBN 978-89-6155-655-2

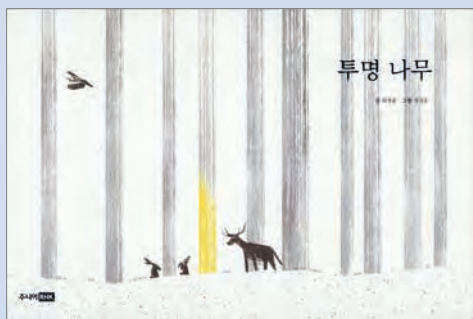
Coming of age | Lookism | Dream | Diversity

Jiwon has a dream: She wants to be a teenage star as a singer and dancer. However, her goal seems increasingly unattainable, as it clashes with reality: She's stopped growing. Does she have to give up her dream because of her diminutive height? The story tells how the twelve-year-old girl hides her dream from her family, neighbours, and classmates, because they either deride her or discriminate against her or feel entitled to solve her »problem« for her. Jiwon's mom wants to take her to a hospital specializing in children's growth disorders. In the end, Jiwon, who has no one to confide in, has to find her own way to attain a »true« self-image without worrying about her »real« outward appearance. Park Junghee graduated from Seoul National University and the University of New York and has already published several books. Kim Jinwha majored in painting at university and explores new means of expression through the use of varying styles. (Age: 10+)

JAPANESE
KOREAN

Japan
Republic of Korea

133



Heo, Jeong Yun (Heo, Jungyun) (text)
Jeong, Jin Ho (Jung, Jin-ho) (illus.)

Tumyeongong namu

(Transparent trees)

Seoul: Junieo RHK (Junior RHK), 2017. – [35] p.
ISBN 978-89-255-6087-8

Tree | Nature | Humans | Picture book

In »Forest #1« a group of »transparent trees« without shape or colour live together. One by one they start to reveal their presence to the animals living in the forest. As they grow, they take on the various hues of the visible spectrum, and with their gradual change, the forest creatures become beautifully coloured, too. The initial transparency reflects the potential of young creatures, who share their stronger life energy when fully mature. The story strives to conjure up the image of a harmonious coexistence between nature and human beings. These very same human beings, however, put an end to the harmony: They cut down the trees. This theme may sound too sombre for a picture book, but the book gently and successfully delivers its message through its thought-provoking narration and unique design. Heo Jeong Yun is well known in Korea for her award-winning book »Nose Wax« (2015), and this is her first collaboration with Jeong Jin Ho, who was awarded the Bologna Ragazzi Award in 2015. (Age: 4+)

134



I, Hyang An (Lee, Hyang-an) (text)
I, Yeong Rim (Lee, Yeong-rim) (illus.)

Tteogiyo! Tteok! Nae dongsaeng doltteogiyo!

(Birthday rice cakes from my little brother)

Seoul: Hyeonamsa Publishing, 2017. – [26] p.
(Series: Dallajil su isseoyo)
ISBN 978-89-323-7441-3

Birthday | Communal tradition | Sharing | Picture book

Today is the first birthday of Haesol's baby brother. Her favourite yummy rice cakes arrive from the bakery. She can never have too many of these, but Daddy wants to share them with the neighbours. »Rice cakes, rice cakes! Birthday rice cakes from my little brother!« Haesol sings out loud, passing the cakes from door to door, only to find when she comes home that nobody has saved any for her. It's so unfair, Haesol can hardly believe it. The sharing of rice cakes on the little boy's birthday represents the communal tradition of sharing whatever is good with others. With neighbours becoming more like strangers these days, the book shows how sharing even very humble things can amplify one's joy and happiness. Lee Hyang-an has been awarded the SBS TV Literature Award and the Woongjin Junior Literature Prize for her fairy-tale and picture books. Lee Yeong-rim studied illustration at Kookmin University and at Kingston University in London. (Age: 4+)



135

I, Seon Il (Lee, Sun-Il) (text)

Gim, Su Ok (Kim, Soo-ok) (illus.)

Gimchi goemul

(Kimchi Monster)

Incheon: Pureun nalgae (Bluewing), 2016. – 41 p.

ISBN 978-89-6559-135-1

Vegetable | Monster | Eating habits | Diet |
Picture book

Are kimchi, spinach, beans, and carrots really the best foods for you? That is what parents would have you believe! But you know better: Lactic acids? No, that thing soaked in spicy red chili sauce is the Kimchi Monster and it makes you spit fire! Vitamins? One bite of that tasteless mush called spinach turns you into a green freak! And don't be fooled by the cute tidbits mom conjures up – their orange colour betrays them as carrot monsters. Yuck! Proteins? These vicious beans pop out of your mouth every time you try to chew them! But monsters are strong, invincible super heroes, and when you eat them and consume their energy, you can romp about more vigorously and enjoy yourself more. So these vegetable monsters might make children think about a healthier diet! Lee Sun-Il learned the truth about the Kimchi Monster from his two sons. Kim Soo-ok studied illustration at Kookmin University's Graduate School of Design and works now as a freelance illustrator. (Age: 4+)



136

Sin, Seon Mi (Shin, Sun-Mee) (text/illus.)

Hanbamjung gaemi yojeong

(Ant fairies in the middle of the night)

Seoul: Changbi Publishers, 2016. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-89-364-5502-6

Fairy tale | Dream | Reality |
Intergenerational relationship | Fairy |
Picture book

This picture book tells the story of a world where tradition and modernity as well as dream and reality overlap. Shin Sun-Mee's works take up a feminist perspective, while her illustrations mix traditional Korean brush painting, contemporary settings, and fantasy book features. The book's main theme is the communication or rather the non-communication between generations. Ant fairies, tiny women clad in traditional Korean clothing, appear to a sick boy. They are visible only to the eyes of an innocent child. The boy's mother, sitting at his bedside, obviously cannot see them. This was not always the case, as the fairies reveal. They share stories and visions about the past, when the boy's mother was still a little girl and used to play with them. Is the little girl he now sees at his bedside real? Is it his mother? And why hasn't she shared with him her childhood adventures with her fairy friends? Shin Sun-Mee, who studied traditional Korean painting at Hongik University and the University of Ulsan, has become famous after presenting an exhibition of the »ant fairies« series. This is her first picture book. (Age: 4+)

137



Hearn, Lafcadio (text)

Kreituse, Anita (illus.)

Punka, Renāte (transl.)

Puika, kas zīmēja kaķus. Pēc japāņu pasakas motīviem (*The boy who drew cats. Motifs from a Japanese fairy tale*)

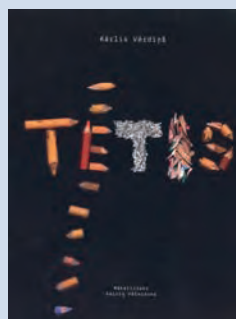
Rīgā: Jāņa Rozes apgāds, [2017]. – 44 p.

ISBN 978-9984-23-623-0

Art | Beauty | Drawing | Protection |
Fairy tale | Picture book

A Japanese seminary student loves to draw cats – on cliffs, walls, and in books. His teacher sends him away to become an artist. But the boy requests admission to another temple, without realizing that the temple is abandoned. A malevolent kobold has scared everyone away. Perturbed by the solitude of the temple, the boy draws cats on the walls one night. When he wakes up the next morning, he finds blood in the temple and a giant dead rat – the kobold. Then he notices that the cats he drew have bloody maws... Latvian artist Anita Kreituse (b. 1954), who lives in Hamburg, has illustrated this poetic Japanese fairy tale based on the original 1898 translation by Lafcadio Hearn. Throughout the book, huge feline creatures accompany the young artist on his way and protect him – on cliffs, walls, and hidden in the landscape. They show how art, drawing, and beauty protect one from evil. (Age: 5+)

138



Vērdiņš, Kārlis (text)

Pētersons, Reinis (illus.)

Tētis

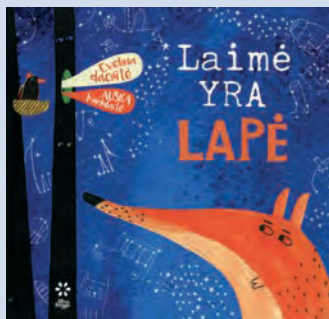
(*Daddy*)

[Rīgā]: Liels un mazs, [2016]. – 61 p.

ISBN 978-9934-533-54-9

Father | Gender role | Parents | Child | Poetry

Kārlis Vērdiņš (b. 1979) made waves in Latvia in 2016: His poems for adults as well as »Daddy«, for younger readers, accrued numerous important Latvian literary awards, including the 2016 International Jānis Baltvilks Prize for children's literature. All well earned! In twenty poems, Vērdiņš considers today's »new« fathers and probes into their familial roles as men and in relation to their children. In the process, he uncovers wonderfully grotesque and funny stereotypes of masculinity and makes the papa-protagonist of his poems into a house husband, while his wife brings home the bacon. To complement Vērdiņš's wonderful verse, Reinis Pētersons (b. 1981), one of Latvia's leading illustrators, offers serene, delicate and expressive pictures. Arranging the stubs of coloured pencils, the residue of pencil sharpenings, and paper scraps against a black background, he recreates motifs from the poems and photographs them. (Age: 7+)



139

Daciūtė, Evelina (text)
Kiudulaitė, Aušra (illus.)

Laimė yra lapė

(Happiness is a fox)

Vilnius: Tikra knyga, 2016. – [48] p.
ISBN 978-609-8142-31-0

[Happiness](#) | [Picture book](#)

Happiness is an orange-furred fox? Evelina Daciūtė (b. 1975) and Aušra Kiudulaitė (b. 1978) demonstrate this idea as thoroughly plausible in their marvelous picture book. A boy named Povilas encounters a fox on his way to the bakery, who shows him what happiness and good fortune are about. For instance, they lie in the orange colour that shimmers in the fox's fur, but which also reminds Povilas of his mother's ceramic pots and his father's helicopter. The boy and the fox become friends and roam far and wide, seeing how happiness is sought, found and also lost. The poetic, imaginative story is accompanied by wonderfully naive illustrations, which were exhibited in the Illustrators' Exhibition at the Bologna Children's Book Fair in 2017. »Laimė yra lapė« was also included in the recommendation catalogue for children's literature (2011-2016) of the Lithuanian IBBY section. (Age: 5+)



140

Zylė, Kotryna (text/illus.)

Didžioji būtybių knyga. O kaip šiandien gyvena lietuvių mitiniai padarai ir dievybės?

(The big book of creatures. How do Lithuanian mythical creatures and deities live today?)

Vilnius: Aukso žuvis, 2016. – 76 p.
ISBN 978-609-8120-22-6

[Baltic region](#) | [Mythology](#) | [Gods](#)

As with her first book, Lithuanian illustrator and author Kotryna Zylė (b. 1986) once again takes up mythology. In this, her second book, she presents twenty-six beings of the Baltic pantheon – along with their good and bad traits, their adventures and tasks. Notably, Zylė transports these mythological beings into today's world and lets them take effect there: The double-headed sea god Bangpūtys steers kite surfers across the Baltic Sea, and the fickle, fairy-like Laumes, who help good people by laundering, weaving and cleaning up, are playfully represented as washed-up young women, sitting on washing machines, surrounded by a chaotic assembly of clothes and ironing board. The illustrations are kept to pastel hues and on second glance reveal the special features of the deities and their casting in the here and now. The chaotic young women, for instance, have animal legs, strangely long hair, and make one shudder slightly. An eerie delight! (Age: 9+)

141



Sironi, Maria Antonia (text)
Diemberger, Jana / Diemberger, Karen (illus.)
Yaňajoma, Chiriña (Yangdzom, Tsering) (coll.)

Phuccē Tibbatī goṭhālo.

The little Tibetan shepherd

Kathmandu: Vajra Books, 2016. – 45 p.

ISBN 978-9937-623-56-8

Text Nepali and English

Himalayas | Spider | Disease | Healing |
Music | Magic | Folk tale | Bilingual book

Tibetan shepherd boy Sonam sees his prayers to the mountain spirits answered when he miraculously obtains a magical lute. When playing it, he can understand all other beings and overhears two ravens talk of the queen's incurable disease: If only the doctors knew it was caused by spiders in her ear. Sonam sets out to the royal court and lures the spiders out of the queen's ear. Subsequently she recovers and Sonam returns to his mountains giving his generous reward away to the poor. This ancient Himalayan folk tale was collected in Lhasa and originally retold and published in Italian by geologist and mountaineer Maria Antonia Sironi. This Nepali/English bilingual version is part of an educational project of Sironi's non-profit organization Eco Himal, dedicated to the preservation of Himalayan cultures. Sironi's daughter and granddaughter, both professional illustrators, provide coloured chalk drawings that attest to their intimate knowledge of the area. (Age: 6+)

142



Ekman, Fam (text/illus.)

Møte ved fuglebadet

(Meeting at the bird bath)

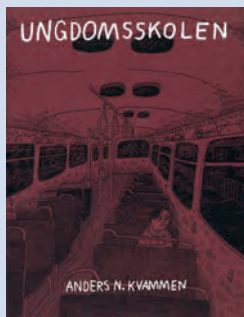
Kolbotn: Magikon forlag, [2016]. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-82-92863-70-1

Chick | Journey | Adventure | Picture book

Boy, what a nuisance! Every day at four in the morning, the cock makes a racket and throws everyone out of their beds. Little Chick is not amused. Well, the nest has become far too small anyway, so let's just get out of here! This picture book tells the story of a cheeky chick on an adventurous journey. How exciting and thrilling! At the naïve little chick's very first encounter, for example – a meeting with a cat wearing a look of happy anticipation on its face dreaming about a yummy yellow morsel – the thrush manages to prevent a big cat-astrophe... Fam Ekman's picture books often exude a mysterious and obscure quality. In this work, however, she tells a tangible tale packed with small and big adventures without compromising her trademark illustration style. She skilfully arranges collages from small scraps of paper, and thus creates multi-layered, small-format universes in her pictures. (Age: 4+)

143



Kvammen, Anders N. (text/illus.)

Ungdomsskolen

(High school)

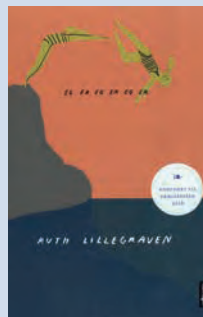
Oslo: No Comprendo Press, 2016. – [128] p.

ISBN 978-82-8255-055-0

[School](#) | [Search for identity](#) | [Graphic novel](#)

Loudmouths such as Jon and his loudmouth-companions make life at school hell for Aksel. From day one, the teenager hates high school, where the biggest gobbies rule and fists are employed occasionally. »Ungdomsskolen« follows in the footsteps of classic school novels, recounting the story of an introverted boy who enjoys comic books, listens to Nirvana, and loves skiing. When Eirik, his cousin and best friend, dies in an accident, Aksel's life is thrown off course. Everything becomes too much: the horrible schoolmates, Eirik's death, and the search for the meaning of life. Eventually however, Aksel manages to cope with his crisis and, three years later, school is finally history – and literally so: In his graphic novel, partly based on his own life, Anders N. Kvammen, sketches Aksel's school career in black and white. Thanks to an alternation between time-lapse and slow-motion narration, the novel creates a perfect arc of suspense; the language is not overly sentimental, the story's tone almost casual, which makes it all the more convincing. (Age: 12+)

144



Lillegraven, Ruth (text)

Johnsen, Mari Kanstad (illus.)

Eg er eg er eg er. Dikt for barn

(I am I am I am. Poems for children)

Oslo: Samlaget, 2016. – 55 p.

ISBN 978-82-521-9013-7

[Seasons](#) | [Everyday life](#) | [Poetry](#)

»Eg er eg er eg er« is a collection of 39 poems in which a first-person persona – a girl – talks about herself and her life. Many of the poems recall situations from her daily life at school or with her family, as well as observations of nature, but thanks to author Ruth Lillegraven's virtuosity of sound and metaphors, these situations are effortlessly moved beyond their ordinarieness; e.g. in the poem »Alt brenn« (Everything is burning), which describes a shimmering hot day in late summer: „nokon sette ei fyrstikk / borti sommaren / skogen og trea og / blada flamma opp / alt blei gult / og gulare / enn gulast / det er eg« (someone has struck a match / and touched summer / setting fire to the woods and the trees / and the leaves / everything's turned yellow / and yellower than yellow / this is me). The heat and the power of the colours become tangible in the poem. The few flat illustrations by Mari Kanstad Johnson provide a bold-coloured framework for the poems, mark breaks, and at the same time build up an intensity that perfectly matches the atmosphere of the texts. (Age: 10+)



145

Løes, Synne Sun (text)

Miss

(Mis-/s)

Oslo: Aschehoug, [2017]. – 322 p.

ISBN 978-82-03-26241-8

Overweight | Outsider | Norm | Differentness

»I am looking for unconventional people, special people.« That's what author Synne Sun Løes said in an interview a while ago. The protagonist of her novel »Miss« is such a special person: Ea is contrary, lazy, and fat; yet she isn't a loser. She simply doesn't want to conform to the others' expectations of her: to be thin, nice, and efficient. Ea's parents try their best to push her into these moulds and make her »fit for society«. Yet they themselves are the best examples of what happens when you only live to keep up the façade (her mother) or when you run a mega-marathon trying to evade all communication (her father). Security, closeness, and sympathy are in short supply in this family. Therefore, it is not surprising that Ea, despite all her stubbornness, is racked by self-doubt. This novel offers insights into the ambivalent emotional state of a girl whose rebellious differentness is also a strategy for coping with her fears. (Age: 14+)



146

Markhus, Rune (illus.)

En skrueløs

(A screw loose)

[Oslo]: Gyldendal, [2016]. – [36] p.

ISBN 978-82-05-49307-0

Forest | Mushroom | Screw | Picture book | Textless book

In 2016, the publishing house Gyldendal started a new series of wordless picture books, which continues in 2017 with titles such as »En skrueløs«. A little man is gathering mushrooms in the woods. He is ecstatic, when he spots a large mushroom-like object sparkling in the clearing. No doubt, this mushroom must be taken home! Yet while the manikin is huffing and puffing, the reader notices a huge robot who obviously misses something tiny but important, i.e. a glittering, mushroom- or rather screw-like thing... Without any words, this book tells a wonderful tale. It combines typical fairy-tale motifs with sci-fi characters in a comic-like style rendered in a seemingly dated palette of shades of brown. What makes the book even more special are the various visual possibilities that Markhus exploits masterfully, such as change of perspectives and picture-within-a-picture. Thus, he manages to have both storylines run together, in parallel, or against one another. This creates both a double arc of suspense and some dramatic irony. (Age: 4+)

147



Nyhus, Kaia Dahle (text/illus.)

Hun som kalles søster

(The one who is called sister)

[Oslo]: Cappelen Damm, 2016. – [44] p.

ISBN 978-82-02-52012-0

Siblings | Admiration

The majority of sibling books are told from the point of view of the »older ones« and tackle dethroning-fears and -traumas. »Hun som kalles søster« turns the tables on the familiar narrative. In this book, it is the younger sister, who tries to come to grips with the big one; because first and foremost, she is an unknown entity. She lives behind a door through which the younger one has never entered yet. She vanishes into the bathroom for hours – what on earth is she doing there? She gets money for baby-sitting her sister, but is grumpy nevertheless. In a mixture of awe, curiosity, and puzzlement, the little one approaches the big one – slowly, slowly. Kaia Dahle Nyhus presents the »sister phantom« in headstrong illustrations in brown, cream, black, and white, and describes her in a tone that perfectly gets across how the little protagonist's feelings for the mysterious creature called sister oscillate between admiration and astonishment. (Age: 5+)

148



Akramī, Ğamāl-al-dīn (Akrami, Jamal al-din) (text)
Ḥaqqānī, Muḥammad (Haqqani, Mohammad) (illus.)

Gūy wa Čaugān. Sarguzašt-i warzeš dar

Irān (Gouy wa Chowgan. Sargozashte warzesh dar Iran) *(Ball and Polo. The history of sport in Iran)*
Tihṛān: Kānūn-i Parwariš-i Fikrī Kūdakān wa Nauḡa-wānān (Kanoon), 2016 (= 1395 h. sh.). – [44] p.
ISBN 978-600-01-0227-2

Iran | Sport | Game | Tradition | History |
Non-fiction

Iran has a very long tradition of sports and traditional games. »Gouy wa Chowgan« (Ball and Polo) tells the readers many things about this history. In ancient times, sport was just for kings and commanders, but over the course of centuries sporting activities became enjoyed by many. Some traditional Iranian sports are described in this non-fiction book, including wrestling, archery, fencing, and polo (which in Iran is played with a wooden ball). But the most important sporting event involves the Pahlevani and Zoorkhaneh rituals, a system of athletics originally used to train warriors in ancient Persia and its adjacent lands during the Achaemenid Empire (550-330 BC). The book includes interesting painted illustrations of the rituals and traditional Iranian sports equipment. This is the first volume in a series published by Kanoon that concerns different aspects of Iranian culture and history. (Age: 10+)

NORWEGIAN
PERSIAN (FARSI)

Norway
Iran

149



'Azīzī, Maryam (Azizi, Maryam) (text)
Dašti Pārsuā. Hūma-i sukūt
 (Dashte Parsua. Houmeys sokout)
 (Parsua Plain. Outskirts of knowledge)
 Tih-rān: Našr-i Ufuq (Ofoq), [2016]
 (= 1395 h. sh.). – 469 p.
 ISBN 978-600-353-047-8

Magic | Competition | Fantasy fiction

»Dashte Parsua« (Parsua Plain) is set in a fictional realm of the same name. After experiencing a fatal car crash, protagonist Mandana Toosi finds herself safe and sound in a parallel world of wizardry with rules different from the world she lived in before. Having trouble proving her abilities in the new society, with the help of her mentors she learns how to control her inner magical powers and the powers bestowed upon her during the magical process of resurrection. However, as she rises against the brutal system and tries to protect her new family and friends, she gradually discovers the dark secrets behind the rules and masks of both her friends and her enemies. In this gripping novel, suspenseful incidents unfold to surprising effects. Brilliant characters, an imaginative atmosphere, and both familiar and unfamiliar legends and myths create an altogether unique experience which readers of all cultures can relate to. (Age: 14+)

150



Mahdawī, 'Azam (Mahdavi, Azam) (text)
Şafūrā Arrih wa Ġulām-i Bahūnī gīr
 (Safoora Arreh va Gholam Bahouneh gir)
 (Safoora the acerbic and Gholam the peevish)
 Tih-rān: Hūpā (Houpaa), 2015 (= 1394 h. sh.).
 – 114 p. (Series: 'Išqha-i Farāmūš šudi; 10)
 ISBN 978-600-8025-09-2

Love | Folk tale | Satire

The story of this book is based on an old Iranian folk tale that has been passed orally through generations. Safoora is an unmarried woman who disdains everyone – a nonconformist woman who doesn't obey traditional conventions and morals. But one day she falls in love with peevish Gholam who is actually a ladies' man and at first doesn't care for Safoora's love. Finally, when Safoora proposes marriage to Gholam, he mockingly accepts. Safoora starts learning to be calmer and more patient. After the wedding, her behavior touches Gholam's heart, and in the end they become a perfect couple. In this free adaptation, the author revives the protagonists of the old folk tale by mocking the rather saccharine features ascribed to them in the original, using satire and folkloric language in an interesting way for teenage readers. Safoora is a charming character, in spite of her wildness, giving a picture of an independent girl fighting for her rights and her love. (Age: 14+)



151

Šābirī, Bābak (Saberi, Babak) (text)
 Ihtisābiyan, Nigīn (Ehtesabian, Negin) (illus.)
Āwāz Mīhānī zanjīrī
 (Chera awaz mikhani zanjereh?)
 (Cicada! Why do you sing?)
 Tih-rān: Tū-ti Kitābi Kūdāk wa Nawgawan-i Fāṭimī
 (Fatemi, Touti), 2016 (= 1395 h. sh.). – [36] p.
 ISBN 978-964-318-856-6

Cicada | Insect | Singing | Friendship |
 Picture book

This story imaginatively depicts the friendship between a man and an insect, the cicada. They talk about singing and the occasions when they sing, such as times of happiness, sadness, boredom, and loneliness. They share these feelings and experiences and a common artistic sensibility. They understand each other so well, for example during times of missing a loved one. They wait for each other in the garden and listen to each other's songs, which strengthens their friendship. This picture book helps children care about nature, the environment, and animals. Author Babak Saberi received the Huckepack Award in Germany for his picture book »Ein großer Freund« (A big friend), which was also selected for the White Ravens 2016. Negin Ehtesabian, a very productive, well-known illustrator, has received many awards in Iran. (Age: 6+)



152

Various authors (text)
 Various artists (illus.)
Ismi-š čī-ia. 52 šī'r az šīš šā'ir
 (Esmesh chie? 52 she'r az sha'er)
 (What is it called? 52 poems by six poets)
 Tih-rān: Kitābāhā-i Fandoq; Našr-i Ufuq
 (Ketabhaye Fandoq; Ofoq),
 2016 (= 1395 h. sh.). – 111 p.
 ISBN 978-600-353-217-5

Poetry | Picture book

At certain ages children ask a lot of questions. What's this? What's that? or What's it called? This book includes fifty-two poems about things children deal with in their daily life. Readers can enjoy the rhymes, rhythms, and homophone words of poems concerning many different topics, such as cheese, trains, rivers, keys, bicycles, rain, socks, moon, pens, pencils, flowers, streets, sweets, and many more. Ja'far Ebrahimi, Mostafa Ramandoust, Afsaneh Sha'ban Nejad, Asadolah Sha'bani, Shokouh Qasem-nia, and Babak Niktalab are the six authors of this book in whose creation thirteen of the best Iranian contemporary children's book illustrators have been involved by contributing imaginative pictures. The artists's different styles make this collection of poems a highly diverse, colourful and entertaining read. This book is the result of a project initiated and organized by Tehran-based House of Children's Poetry. (Age: 4+)

153



Fabicka, Joanna (text)
Andryszczyk, Mariusz (illus.)

Rutka

Warszawa: Agora, 2016. – 223 p.
ISBN 978-83-268-2330-5

Poland | History 1939-1945 | Ghetto |
Persecution of the Jews | World War II |
Time travel

Zosia from Łódź is having a hard time because she's all alone during holiday season in her neighbourhood of Bałuty. But then the strange Rutka surfaces. She lives alone, has drawn her family on furniture and walls and talks with Zosia in an unusual language. She shows the girl an unfamiliar Bałuty with a »dry bridge« that doesn't lead over a river, and the train station Radegast, from which windowless wagons depart. What seems like an adventure to Zosia turns out to be a trip back in time into the Jewish ghetto of Łódź during the German occupation of Poland in the Second World War. Rutka speaks Yiddish, the bridge connects two parts of the ghetto and the train station is the infamous site of concentration camp deportations. Joanna Fabicka (b. 1970) hints at all of this but does not name anything directly. It's more important that Zosia learns of the hidden past that exists around her, even if it is no longer visible today. »Rutka« was named 2016 Polish young adult book of the year (IBBY). (Age: 10+)

154



Jędrzejewska-Wróbel, Roksana (text)
Pękalski, Adam (illus.)

Praktyczny pan

(The practical man)

Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Bajka, 2016.

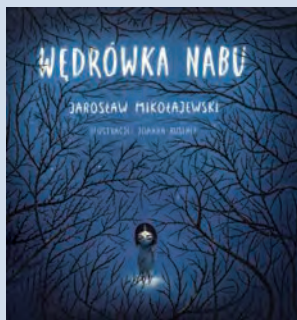
– [30] p.

ISBN 978-83-65479-07-5

Efficiency | Performance society | Cat |
Picture book

In this story, an optimization-obsessed and performance-oriented contemporary man who thinks only in terms of time, usefulness, and effectiveness, gets a cat. The cat is supposed to help prevent his becoming stressed so that his productivity and mental output increase. The »practical man« meticulously plans the acquisition of the feline and reads all the advice guides. But even though the cat is optimally housed, she doesn't purr and causes even more stress. It's only when the veterinarian recommends being kind to the cat, to play with her and pet her, that his wished-for result comes about. There can be a point to pointless activity! In her inimitably witty way, Roksana Jędrzejewska-Wróbel (b. 1969) pokes fun at performance society and its offshoots. Adam Pękalski (b. 1975) illustrates the story no less comically, portraying the man as a bourgeois nerd who likes designer furniture and loves all things petty. (Age: 3+)

155



Mikołajewski, Jarosław (text)
Rusinek, Joanna (illus.)

Wędrówka Nabu

(*Nabu's journey*)

Kraków: Wydawnictwo Austeria,
2016. – [56] p.
ISBN 978-83-7866-058-3

Migration | Refugee | Foreigner | Otherness |
Picture book

Nabu is self-assured. When the girl's house burns down, she decides to leave her family. On her journey, she meets soldiers, police officers, and customs officers who try to stop her, claiming that walls, fences, and suffering lie ahead. The way does indeed become harder: There are invisible walls, fences, and obstacles. Nabu crosses the sea and, exhausted, arrives at a tourist beach, only to be told by some to get back into the water. Others recommend she stops by the houses. What Nabu decides is left open, but one is left with an uneasy feeling. Novelist and poet Jarosław Mikołajewski (b. 1960) crafts this journey poetically. His laconic text makes the events seem allegorical, yet still unsettling. Joanna Rusinek's (b. 1978) illustrations amplify the text. Her depictions of Nabu's escape uncannily let fear seep in, as in the screaming mouths of the enormous soldiers, whose speech remains incomprehensible. (Age: 7+)

156



Zdanowska, Anna Marta / Odnous, Julia (ed.)
Pawliński, Wojciech (illus.)

Legenda warszawska. Antologia

(*Warsaw legends. Anthology*)

Warszawa: Muzeum Warszawy, 2016. – 621 p.
ISBN 978-83-62189-80-9

Warsaw | History | Mythological creature |
Saga | Legend | Anthology

Who would have thought there are so many stories about the city of Warsaw – its creation, the river Vistula, its neighbourhoods and houses?! This exceptionally beautiful and appealingly designed 621-page tome »Legenda warszawska« collects many of these stories, often in multiple variations. There are six versions of the legend of the magical beast known as the basilisk, for instance. There is, of course, also the story of Warsaw's emblem and crest – the mermaid – and the one about the name of the city, which supposedly comes from Wars and Sawa, settlers on the banks of the Vistula. Each legend is prefaced with an age advisory that lets readers know whether the legend is suitable for younger readers or is intended for adults. There is also an index with a glossary. Beyond this, the editors thoroughly introduce the stories according to the contemporary Warsaw's layout. Steeping oneself in the book, the city itself comes to seem like a legendary mythical being. (Age: 7+)

157



Cunha, Leo (text)
Neves, André (illus.)

Um dia, um rio

(One day, a river)

São Paulo: Pulo do Gato, 2016. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-85-64974-96-8

River | Environmental destruction | Poetry |
Picture book

Brazil's gravest environmental catastrophe occurred in November 2015, when two dams broke and highly toxic sewage from an ore mine flowed into the Rio Doce. A 700 kilometre long stretch of the river was poisoned, flora and fauna were killed, the human population cut off from drinking water. The river's ecosystem is destroyed for the foreseeable future. Renowned author Leo Cunha handles this inconceivable event in an unusual way in his poem by giving the river a voice. In gentle, melodious language, it speaks of itself and of life, and of the riches it gives to people and to nature – until one day it is suddenly no longer a river. Where there was melody, now there is silence. Where there was sweet water, now there is bitter sludge. Where there was life, now there is only death. Illustrator André Neves enhances the poignant text with pictures full of symbolism and melancholy. The river is depicted as a child, unshielded from and succumbing to the violence and overpowering force of industrial destruction. (Age: 6+)

158



Meirelles, Maurício (text)
Moraes, Odilon (illus.)

Birigüi

Belo Horizonte: Miguilim, 2016. – 44 p.

ISBN 978-85-7442-186-5

Hunting | Humans | Animals |
Father – Son | Picture book

»The jaguar hunts to eat. Father hunts for pleasure«. These statements perfectly capture this story's essence, as it focuses on hunting and its many facets, such as necessity, pleasure, power, suffering, compassion, and death. Young Birigüi abhors hunting, unlike his father, who loves it and sees it as proof of manliness. The conflict comes to light when Birigüi is forced to accompany his father hunting for the first time. While the father is gripped by the thrill of the hunt, the son fears for a female deer, threatened by guns and a pack of hounds. In the end, thanks to him the doe gets away (at least this one time). Maurício Meirelles tells this story using dense and intense language. The story grabs readers from the start, as they experience directly the conflicting feelings of the main characters. The rough-textured, naturally brown paper that the large-size picture book is printed on, along with Odilon Moraes' sketch-like pencil drawings heightened by white ink, match the atmosphere of the story in an outstanding way. (Age: 8+)



159

Munduruku, Daniel (ed./retelling)

Vozes ancestrais. Dez contos indígenas

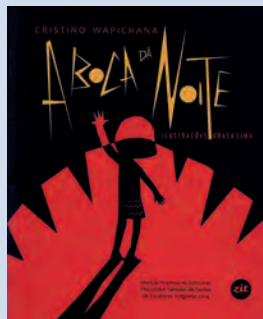
(Voices of the ancestors. Ten indigenous stories)

São Paulo: FTD, 2016. – 79 p.

ISBN 978-85-96-00546-3

Brazil | Indigenous people | Myth | Fairy tale

Daniel Munduruku, one of Brazil's most high-profile indigenous children's book authors, provides further evidence of his narrative skills with these »Voices of the ancestors«. In the foreword to the book, he remarks upon the enormous number of ethnicities found in his country: there are 307 known ethnic groups, about 275 languages are spoken, and there still remains much to be discovered. Some ethnicities are nearly unknown, others are threatened by extinction – and with them their culture and rich treasure of surviving stories and myths. Daniel Munduruku, who himself belongs to the Munduruku people, has collected stories from all parts of Brazil, with the support of friends, and retells ten of them in this volume. The stories are about, for instance, the creation of the world, about festivals and rites, about the origin of particular peoples or about the meaning of life. Information concerning each of the ethnic groups as well as black-and-white photos of individuals complete this well-worth-reading book. (Age: 10+)



160

Wapichana, Cristino (text)

Lima, Graça (illus.)

A boca da noite. Histórias que moram em mim

(The mouth of the night. Stories that live inside me)

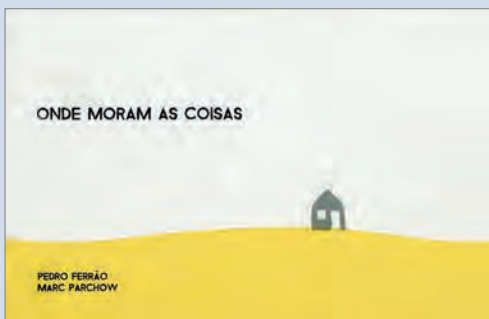
Rio de Janeiro: Zit, 2016. – [40] p.

ISBN 978-85-7933-107-7

Wapishana <people> | Indigenous people | Myth | Night | Day | Sun | Picture book

The rich oral storytelling traditions found in multi-ethnic Brazil have increasingly found their way into the country's children's and youth literature in recent years. This book is the result of a project aimed at supporting this development. Cristino Wapichana, of the Wapishana people, received distinction for the text at a literary competition for authors of indigenous origin. The story is about a boy who secretly sneaks to the river to experience the sunset for the first time. Astounded and curious to know more, in his sleep Kupai finds out in a dream conversation with his father why the sun goes down and what the mysterious »Mouth of the night« is. Thus, Kupai learns much about his people's notions regarding the workings of the world. Graça Lima, one of the best-known Brazilian children's book illustrators, adds impressive images to the story. Her large-format pictures derive their force from the contrast of colours, of light and dark as well as the play of shadows and silhouettes. (Age: 6+)

161



Ferrão, Pedro (text)

Parchow, Marc (illus.)

Onde moram as coisas

(Where the things live)

[Oeiras]: Qual Albatroz, 2016. – [52] p.

ISBN 978-989-8696-40-3

Living | Language | Storytelling | Imagination |
Picture book

A sentence hidden on the book's impressum says it well: »This book may contain smiles«. Smiling is in fact inevitable, due to the haptic pleasure the book pages provide and due to the silkscreen-style pictures, wonderful in their minimalism and exquisite pastel tones. And of course also due to the text, which is about the Portuguese word »morar«, i. e. »to live« or more precisely »to reside«. From the opening reflection, »where houses live«, the text relentlessly and a little erratically meanders across winding associations. For instance, it considers the birds who live on the »top floor« of the street, then music that constantly »moves« and can live at any place, and then on to beehives and bee wax and from there straight to ear wax, which leaves its »house« to »live« on cotton swabs. In the end, this picture book is about language and the marvellous pleasure of allowing one's thoughts and words to roam in all directions. (Age: 5+)

162



Negrescolor, Joan (text/illus.)

Oliveira, Carla (transl.)

A cidade dos animais

(The city of the animals)

Lisboa: Orfeu Negro, 2017. – [36] p.

(Series: Orfeu Mini)

ISBN 978-989-8327-99-4

Nature | Civilisation | Forest | City |
Picture book

The book of Catalan artist Joan Negrescolor (b. 1978) will intoxicate readers with intense colours and fabulous forms. A lush world reveals itself in swirling and shining reds, yellows, greens, and turquoises. We are seeing the remains of an apparently abandoned or destroyed city, overgrown by the jungle and inhabited by wild animals. A girl named Nina loves to visit the city to tell the animals of the past days of the world of human beings. The book's short text is ambiguous and leaves many things in the air. It seems most like a prophetic vision of a future where the disappearance of human civilisation is not a grim dystopia, but rather a lively utopia. Nature takes back what humans have taken away from it. Across large double-page spreads, the silhouettes of plants, animals, buildings, and objects layer one on top of the other or merge. They aptly visualize the concept of the book, where artifacts gradually disappear behind vigorous, powerful nature. (Age: 5+)

163



Ondjaki (text)
Gonçalves, António Jorge (illus.)
O convidador de pirilampos
(*The firefly inviter*)
Alfragide: Caminho, 2017. – [64] p.
(Series: Estórias sem luz elétrica)
ISBN 978-972-21-2844-5

Darkness | Forest | Grandfather | Grandson |
Humans | Nature | Firefly

Following their first collaboration »Uma escuridão bonita« (2013), Ondjaki and António Jorge Gonçalves show once again in this newest co-created book that they have an obvious interest in darkness. The story is about a boy who lives close to the »Great Forest«. Together with his understanding and patient grandpa, he wants to investigate the world of fireflies, including the »switched-off« fireflies who are not allowed to be discovered. The nature-loving boy has equipped himself for the expedition with, among other things, an »one-ocle«, a »path expander« and a »firefly inviter«. These are not only practical devices, they also help the boy cope with his fear of darkness. The poetic text fits beautifully with the atmospheric pictures, which are full of silhouettes and shadows and are kept to various shades of blue. The text and images create a space between the real world and a child's fantasy, while also revealing something of the relationship between human beings and nature. (Age: 7+)

164



Pessoa, Ana (text)
Carvalho, Bernardo P. (illus.)
Mary John
Carcavelos: Planeta Tangerina, 2016. – 183 p.
(Series: Dois passos e um salto)
ISBN 978-989-8145-77-2

Adolescence | Love | Lovesickness | Letter

In contemporary Portuguese young adult literature, the novels of Ana Pessoa (b. 1982) take up an exceptional place. The author is masterfully adept at describing the cosmos of maturing teens, with its challenges and dramas, turbulences, moments of happiness, disappointments, and catastrophes. She writes in an authentic language that captures the protagonists' sense of life and closely orients itself to their pulse. In an astonishing way, her newest book does all this and more. »Mary John« sets itself apart from the author's previous novels by its even more coherent storytelling, its undisguised, intense language, and the deep insight it offers into the emotional world of the protagonist and first-person narrator. Maria João, called Mary John, writes a single, long letter to Júlio »Pirata«, her first, unrequited love. She openly writes of friendship, longing, desire, and sexuality and the painful process of dealing with feelings such as rejection and loneliness. (Age: 14+)

165



Braniște, Lavinia (text)
Măceșanu, Andrei (illus.)

Rostogol merge acasă

(Rostogol goes home)

București: Editura Arthur, [2016]. – 110 p.

ISBN 978-606-788-044-1

[Stork](#) | [Offspring](#) | [Delivery](#) | [Pig](#)

The stork brings everyone their babies, that much is certain. But even the stork – in this case stork lady Flavia – must eventually retire. She has one last transport to deliver: Piglet Rostogol must get to his future family. Things are not so simple, though, because the piglet is afraid of heights, is fat, and hence must be rolled to his destination by Ms. Flavia. The fox and the raven are casting a watchful eye, too. In her fast-paced, humorous story about animal community, Lavinia Braniște (b. 1983) also examines typical human fears, wishes and behaviours. Following highly praised short stories, poetry, and a debut novel (2016), »Rostogol merge acasă« is her first children's book. The manuscript won the 2014 Prize from Arthur Press, which intends to encourage new Romanian children's literature. In her homeland, Lavinia Braniște is among the most promising new literary voices. (Age: 7+)

166



Rosetti, Adina (text)

Radu, Cristiana (illus.)

De ce zboară vrăjitoarele pe cozi de mătură?

... și alte 10 întrebări fantastice

(Why do witches fly on a broom?

... and ten other fantastic questions)

București: Cuerta Veche, 2016. – 54 p.

ISBN 978-606-588-867-8

[Question](#) | [Fairy-tale character](#) |
[Topsy-turvy world](#) | [Picture book](#)

Romanian author/illustrator duo Adina Rosetti and Cristiana Radu tap into an unlimited resource in realizing that children usually have the most, and probably also the oddest, questions up their sleeves. With funny texts and imaginative pictures, their creative picture book answers ten »children's questions« that all have to do with well-known fairy-tale characters and ask why they are the way they are. Why, for example, does pink seem to be the favourite colour of princesses? What would happen if the princess hadn't kissed the frog? And why do dragons need multiple heads? Rosetti and Radu playfully bring in well-known fairy-tale material and mix things up. This is the second collaboration of these two artists. Like the first in 2015, the result is both charming and entertaining. (Age: 4+)

167



Daševskaja, Nina (Dashevskaya, Nina) (text)

Ja ne tormoz!

(I am not dopey)

Moskva: Samokat, 2016. – 157 p.

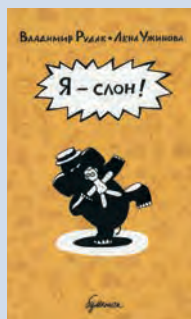
(Series: Vstrečnoe dvizhenie)

ISBN 978-5-91759-470-5

Childhood | Inner world | City | Family

For some time, Nina Dashevskaya (b. 1979) has been one of the best-loved Russian children's book authors. Publishing houses fight over her, and the public and critics adore her. Nearly every one of her books has received accolades – »Ja ne tormoz!« is no exception. In the first-person voice, thirteen-year-old Ignat, a wonderful character, describes his city of Moscow, his school, and family. With him it's all about tempo, rhythm, beat: riding the escalator in the subway, the houses and trees zipping by when he's scootering around town. He rarely shares his perceptions and sensations with someone, because Ignat keeps to himself and is introverted. With her great sense of the musicality of language and linguistic rhythm, Nina Dashevskaya portrays an urban childhood as well as today's challenges for children and families, such as ADHD and an achievement-driven society, hinted at through the prismatic lens of a young person's perspective. (Age: 10+)

168



Rudak, Vladimir (text)

Užinova, Lena (Uzhinova, Lena) (illus.)

Ja – slon! Grafičeskij roman

(Ya – slon! Grafichesky roman)

(I am an elephant! Graphic novel)

Sankt-Peterburg: Bumkniga, 2017. – 133 p.

ISBN 978-5-906331-45-8

Disability | Discrimination | Paternalism | Graphic novel

This graphic novel was first a theatrical work and still retains that dramatic quality, since its main characters – an elephant and a tattered doll – tell their story on a stage. They represent the body and the mind of a paraplegic person. What one learns from them makes one gulp one instant and laugh out loud the next. For instance: apparently, when one is wheelchair-bound one is supposed to find a girlfriend who also uses a wheelchair, since after all you'd fit so well together. In chat sequences, telephone conversations, and flashbacks, the fictional audience and real readers witness the everyday discrimination, paternalism, boredom, fun, and thoughts about helpless parents and care-workers that people with disabilities face. Vladimir Rudak and Lena Uzhinova worked on this very stirring book for two years. It is the first Russian comic that focuses on the topic of disability. How fortunate that it found its way to the wonderful and wonderfully open-minded Petersburg comic publisher Boomkniga. (Age: 14+)

169



Rudaševskij, Evgenij (Rudashevsky, Yevgeny) (text)

Voron

(The raven)

Moskva: Kompasgid Izdatel'skij Dom,
[2017]. – 170 p.

ISBN 978-5-00083-333-9

Taiga | Hunting | Ethics | Humans | Animals

Yevgeny Rudaševsky (b. 1987) has been exploring new terrain in contemporary Russian youth literature for a solid two years now: After his story set in Abkhazia about a boy named Amza who befriends a dolphin, Rudaševsky turns toward Siberia: Following a story about a Baikal seal and a boy named Maxim, the novel »Voron« is also set in the Siberian taiga. Here, too, the author focuses very precisely on the relationship between human and animal. Fourteen-year-old Dima is allowed to go along on the Siberian weasel hunt! What many readers certainly will find alienating is initially the boy's greatest dream: to hunt like a »real man«, trekking through the wilderness, shooting, catching prey, and boasting about it. But the hunt, led by his testosterone-driven uncle and his two pals, turns out to be reformatory for the boy. Dima recognizes the cruelty and the overbearing manner of the hunt. This change of heart is very understandable, given how vividly Rudaševsky describes the setting of the traps and the strangulation and skinning of the animals. (Age: 12+)

170



urđev, Pop D. (text)

Milovanović, Kosta (illus.)

Mrnjavčevići

Čačak: Pčelica, 2016. – 38 p.

ISBN 978-86-6089-617-1

Cat | Love | Poetry | Picture book

In Serbia, the title that Pop Đurđev (b. 1953) chose for his book could lead to misunderstandings because it carries the name of an important Serbian royal family from the 14th century. The book is only about the Mrnjavčevićs in a witty, intertextual sense, however. It is really about another family that likens itself to royalty: cats stand at the centre of this rhymed text. In funny verse and imagery, Đurđev and illustrator Kosta Milovanović (b. 1971) tell of the mishaps and turmoil of a love between a poor yellow cat and a classy black cat. Next to his authorial work, Pop Đurđev directs one of the most important children's literary festivals in Serbia. Kosta Milovanović is known in his home country for his comic-like illustrations, which often have a touch of irony. »Mrnjavčevići« is a nice example of the new line coming from Pčelica Press, which is publishing more and more children's fiction. (Age: 5+)



171

Petrović, Jasminka (text)

Petrović, Ana (illus.)

Choću kući!

(I want to go home!)

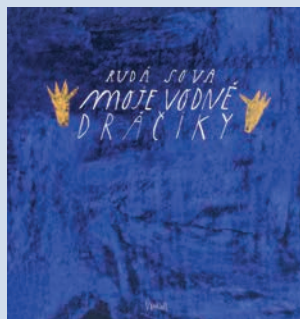
Beograd: Odiseja, 2016. – 87 p.

(Series: Biblioteka Prozna putovanja; 44)

ISBN 978-86-7720-142-5

Parents | Child

Small publisher Odiseja is known in Serbia for its children's book translations. Alongside classics from the likes of Astrid Lindgren, stars of contemporary children's literature, such as Jacqueline Wilson, Jean-Claude Mourlevat, and Andreas Steinhöfel, are also represented. Here, Odiseja offers a gem of native Serbian children's literature: young adult and children's book author Jasminka Petrović (b. 1960). With illustrator Ana Petrović (b. 1989), she has written a very funny children's book about what it would be like if one could exchange one's parents. Young Nikola is annoyed by his parents' constant »Do this« and »Leave that alone«, so he wants to find new parents on another planet. The selection is rather thin, though: Stiff robot parents and infantile mamas and papas who themselves want to be taken care of are not what Nikola had in mind. He returns home and – lo and behold – finds his own parental exemplars pretty okay! (Age: 6+)



172

Sova, Rudá (text/illus.)

Moje vodné dračiky. (O axolotloch mexických)
(My water dragon. [About Mexican axolotls])

Zohor: Virvar, 2015. – [30] p.

ISBN 978-80-89693-07-8

Axolotl | Pet | Picture book

There are heaps of books about house pets. But when a book comes along that's about two Mexican axolotls, as in young illustrator Rudá Sova's (i. e. Mirka Rudášová) book »My water dragon«, then we have something special indeed. As becomes evident from each descriptive text and image, axolotls are unusual critters. Bruno is an albino axolotl, while Ugo is spotted. Both have gills that look like Native American feather adornments, and can either live on land or in water. Rudá Sova stylizes her axolotls into magical pink-hued, dragon-like beasts. This makes seeing the realistic representation of the animals all the more astonishing. They truly possess all those peculiarities and are portrayed with accuracy and care in this picture book. »Moje vodné dračiky« received accolades in 2015 as one of the most beautiful books in Slovakia – a lovely feather in the cap for small publisher Virvar. (Age: 3+)

SERBIAN
SLOVAK

Serbia
Slovakia

173



Vadas, Marek (text)
Olejníková, Daniela (illus.)
Útek
(*The escape*)
Bratislava: Brak, 2016. – 43 p.
ISBN 978-80-972028-5-9

Refugee | Foreignness | Uncertainty |
Picture book

Together with master illustrator Daniela Olejníková (b. 1987), Slovakian author Marek Vadas (b. 1971) enters the world of children's books for the second time with »Útek«. In muted yet intense colours, Olejníková's pictures and Vadas's text tell the story of an escape across surreal locations that only furtively mark points on a route across the African continent. A boy, his father, and a dog named Alan leave their village in the wake of strange, threatening goings on: The people there were eating everything they could get their hands on. Father and son go from one place to the next, meeting inhabitants who demonstrate strange behaviours and make them aware of their own foreignness: Some love to ignore each other and to lie, others shut themselves off from the world, and still others have a pedantic penchant for order. Driven ever onward, the boy gets separated from his father along the way and arrives on his own at a giant refugee camp. The ending is left open. (Age: 8+)

174



Peklar, Andreja (illus.)
Ferdo, veliki ptič
(*Ferdo the giant bird*)
Ljubljana: KUD Sodobnost International,
2016. – [32] p.
(Series: Gugalnica. Zbirka najboljših slikanic)
ISBN 978-961-6970-50-1

Helpfulness | Fairness | Gratefulness |
Acknowledgment | Textless book | Picture book

Ferdo, a giant raven-like bird, is helpfulness incarnate. He's a wonderful jungle gym for children, he works as a crane at the construction site, and he comes to the aid of chimney cleaners. Ferdo gets thirsty after all that hard work and sucks an entire pond dry. He's shooed away by the fishermen, fish and water fowl left high and dry, so he finds a large rain cloud and empties its rain water into the pond. Finally, everyone realizes the big bird's helpfulness and he is awarded a medal. The illustrator of this little bird story is Andreja Peklar, well known in Slovenia and a winner of many awards. The manuscript of »Ferdo« made her one of eight finalists in the Silent Book Contest at the 2015 Bologna Children's Book Fair. Typical for Peklar are the extensive cut-out style illustrations that focus on just a few pictorial elements. They make it possible to tell and intensify Ferdo's story using only a few select central scenes. (Age: 3+)



175

Tratnik, Suzana (text)

Tombola ali življenje!

(Bingo or life!)

Ljubljana: Mladinska Knjiga, 2016. – 253 p.

(Series: Zbirka Odisej; 130)

ISBN 978-961-01-4540-0

Yugoslavia | History 1970s | Adolescence |
Search for identity

At least since her novel »Ime mi je Damjan« (My name is Damjan; 2001), author Suzana Tratnik (b. 1963) has been an important voice in nationally and internationally recognized Slovenian literature. In »Tombola ali življenje!«, Tratnik deploys her powerful, irony-laden, tough language to present the story of Mija, a teenager in Yugoslavia in the 1970s. Over the course of ten chapters, Mija's roaming adolescent life unfolds, complete with a bitter, single-parenting mother, a dodgy stuntman father, true friends, false friends, and falling in love. The novel also shows the complexity of life and the circumstances that take subtle effect on Mija's reality: Animosity amongst the Yugoslavian populations, discrimination against Sinti and Roma, the promise of guest labourer work in Germany, and the power of President Tito. At the centre stands Mija, trying her luck and searching out her own story. A powerful book! (Age: 14+)



176

Averbach, Marga (text)

Los que volvieron

(Those who returned)

Buenos Aires: Sudamericana, [2016]. – 180 p.

(Series: Sudamericana Joven Novela)

ISBN 978-950-07-5252-7

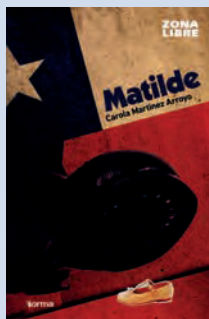
Argentina | History 1970s | History 2003 |
Military dictatorship

Violence and tyranny leave behind wounds and scars. These only heal when victims receive justice, have their identity and dignity restored, and are protected from being forgotten. In her newest novel, inspired by a real event in 2003, Marga Averbach shows that often it is only the subsequent generation who first tends to these tasks. The novel is about five students who, animated by their history class, want to find out who is buried in the anonymous grave in their town's cemetery. After researching in archives and libraries, it becomes clear that the buried bones belong to a woman and a man who were murdered during the military dictatorship in Argentina (1976-1983). The novel connects different temporal planes, perspectives and experiences, by joining individual voices – of the students, witnesses, of the victims' kin, and of the victims themselves – into a multi-voiced choir. The book demonstrates that society bears a great responsibility for the fate of individuals. (Age: 12+)

SLOVENIAN
SPANISH

Slovenia
Argentina

177



Martínez Arroyo, Carola (text)
PowerPaola (illus.)

Matilde

Buenos Aires [et al.]:
Norma, 2016. – 110 p.
(Series: Zona libre)
ISBN 978-987-545-712-6

[Chile](#) | [History 1980s](#) | [Dictatorship](#) |
[Oppression](#)

The time of the military dictatorship in Chile (1973-1989) has only recently been broached in children's and young adult literature. In her debut novel, Carola Martínez Arroyo, a Chilean native author who has long lived in Argentina, portrays that time through the experiences of a child. Matilde, who is approximately ten years old, grows up in the 1980s without her father, one of the thousands of the regime's »disappeared« victims. Matilde's mother and friends of the family also face the threat of persecution. The girl, who experiences her mother's and grandmother's suffering, insecurity, fears, taboos, and sense of powerlessness, wishes nothing more fervently than to live a »normal« life like other children. When the situation comes to a head, mother and daughter finally get themselves to safety in exile. Martínez draws this portrait of an injured childhood against the concrete background of Chilean history. At the same time, her moving, unsettling novel has a universal character, since it shows that Matilde's story can repeat itself anywhere and anytime. (Age: 10+)

178



Bertrand, Sara [et al.] (text)
Magallanes, Alejandro (illus.)

No se lo coma

(Don't eat it up)
Santiago de Chile:
Hueders, 2016. – [64] p.
(Series: Hueders niños)
ISBN 978-956-8935-87-0

[Question](#) | [Philosophy](#)

This book for readers young and old is strikingly different in terms of both its content and appearance. Thumbing through the pages, one first notices the book's design: the use of very diverse fonts and font sizes, as well as irregularly placed text on white and light green pages entices readers to look more closely. The playful layout and creative typography, however, do not simply serve as decoration, but mirror the heterogeneity of the voices speaking here. Each of the eight chapters opens with an introductory question, a humorous black-and-white drawing and a short story, in which author Sara Bertrand considers the question. On the subsequent pages, twelve children who helped with the book give their own answers. The questions are ones you wouldn't necessarily expect, such as »Is death ugly?«, »What is the imagination for?« or »Do your parents lie?«. But children find no topic too outlandish to concoct an unexpected, funny, or reflective pronouncement on the matter. (Age: 7+)

179



Muñoz Toro, Juliana (text)

Builes, Elizabeth (illus.)

24 señales para descubrir a un alien

(24 signs for recognizing an alien)

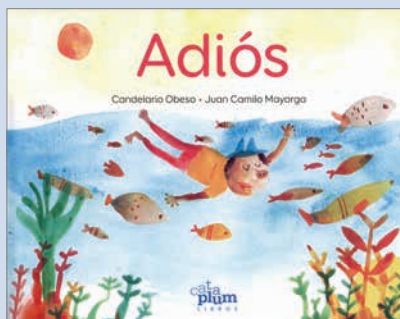
Medellín: Tragaluz, 2017. – 123 p.

ISBN 978-958-8845-82-1

Family | Father | Son | Estrangement

Ben doesn't understand his father. He often seems so strange that Ben believes his father is an extra-terrestrial inhabited by an alien. In the book's twenty-four chapters, Ben looks for evidence to confirm his suspicion and wonders how things came to be like this. Why does Dad yell at Mom and hardly say a word to his son? The first-person narrator tries to explain his environment using a mix of fantasy, incomprehension, humour, and observational skills. Based on Ben's perspective, a picture gradually forms of an ailing family that is close to falling apart. Despite no real happy ending, the family still moves forward together, and Ben finally learns something personal about his father, who lets his guard down a little and gives his son insight into his own childhood. Thus, an initial, fragile connection forms between the two. In her very worthwhile children's book debut, Juliana Muñoz Toro (b. 1988) offers an unadorned, unusual view into the conflicts and mechanisms of an ordinary family. (Age: 8+)

180



Obeso, Candelario (text)

Mayorga, Juan Camilo (illus.)

Dautant, Maité (adapt.)

Adiós

(Good bye)

Bogotá: Cataplum libros, 2016. – [24] p.

ISBN 978-958-59619-0-6

Place of origin | Homesickness | Longing | Sea | Mountains | Poetry

In recent years one has been able to find rare little treasures in Latin America, which widen the often narrow and unnecessarily constrained framing of children's literature. In part, by »discovering« older texts of general audience literature and publishing these in editions for young readers, new facets in children's literature are created. This picture book is an example of this, published by Cataplum libros, a small independent press that has recently entered the arena with a couple of very promising titles. »Adiós«, a poem by Black Colombian author Candelario Obeso (1849-1884), first appeared in Obeso's collection »Cantos populares de mi tierra« (1877). Originally written in a local, rural Spanish dialect, it has been translated into modern-day Spanish for this edition. Illustrated with shining, atmospheric water colour pictures, it describes in verse the happy anticipation of a man who, having spent years away from his place of origin, is returning to his long-missed village by the sea. (Age: 5+)

181



Ungar, Antonio (text)
Guevara, Santiago (illus.)

Corazón de león

(Lion heart)

Bogotá: Babel Libros, 2016. – [42] p.

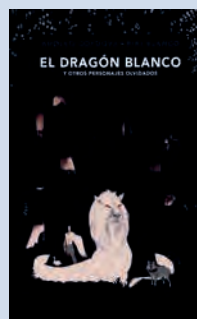
(Series: Frontera ilustrada)

ISBN 978-958-8954-09-7

Orderliness | Compulsion | Courage | Freedom

»Ordenadito« – the orderly one – is what the other children call this story's protagonist. Even if the boy cannot himself explain his nickname, it is not unfounded. He's compulsively driven to organize everything in his life, for example by setting up his coloured pencils in right angles on the table or spooning up the alphabet noodles in his soup in a particular order. A trip to the countryside proves liberating: he there encounters resolute, impetuous Irina as well as a circus lion. This experience with the imposing animal makes life easier for the boy and allows him to fly away. The short, well-crafted story by noted Colombian author Antonio Ungar is here published in the attractively designed book series »Frontera ilustrada«. Ungar's text and the lively pictures by young illustrator Santiago Guevara are separated. The text, which forms the middle part of the book, is framed by double-page black-and-white drawings with orange highlights. (Age: 8+)

182



Córdova, Adolfo (text)

Blanco, Riki (illus.)

El dragón blanco y otros personajes olvidados

(The white dragon and other forgotten characters)

México: Fondo de Cultura Económica, 2016.

– 121 p.

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

ISBN 978-607-16-4247-9

Literature | Literary character

What happens to literary characters who only play supporting roles and because of this are less noticed and more easily forgotten? Inspired by such characters from six international classics of (children's) literature, author Adolfo Córdova created stories about them. Between three and thirty pages long, they tell us about the king of the winged monkeys from »The Wizard of Oz«, about the Fairy with Turquoise Hair from »Pinocchio«, and of Falkor the Luckdragon from Michael Ende's »Neverending Story«, who gave this book its title. The stories open new worlds to readers and are narrated using poetic, powerful, highly figurative language. The mysterious atmosphere of the stories is echoed in Riki Blanco's dark-coloured illustrations. The book at its core is about the power of the imagination and the limitless freedom of storytelling: Even side-line characters and events are fertile enough to give rise to ever new stories. (Age: 10+)

183



Hinojosa Rebolledo, Esteban (text)
Bonilla Núñez, Abraham (illus.)
Tres caídas y un salto al mar
(Three falls and a jump into the sea)
México: Ediciones Proceso, 2016. – 63 p.
ISBN 978-607-7876-32-8

Outsider | Friendship | Peer group | First love

Andrés and Margarita Rosa, the main characters of this great story from young Mexican author Esteban Hinojosa Rebolledo (b. 1987), couldn't be more different. Andrés is the small, shy, new boy in class whose mother is fatally ill, and Margarita Rosa is the stoic, quiet, resolute, overweight girl. They form an invisible bond as outsiders of the class. Margarita Rosa protects Andrés, who longs for recognition. She helps him gain self-esteem and gradually establish his place at the school. But she also guards him from abusing his newly won status: when Enrique the »nerd« joins the class and is bullied by all the children, Andrés finds himself annoyed by the new kid but also oddly drawn to him. Margarita Rosa urges him to look inside his heart, which beats fast in Enrique's presence! The sensitive story ends with a jump into cold water, goose bumps, and butterflies in the stomach. (Age: 10+)

184



Ramos Revillas, Antonio (text)
Mijangos, Amanda (illus.)
Yo te pego, tú me pegas
(I hit you, you hit me)
México, D.F.: Ed. 3 abejas, 2016. – [40] p.
ISBN 978-607-8306-32-9
(Coedition with Secretaría de Cultura, México)

Harassment | Hatred | Empathy | Masculinity |
Picture book

This story bowls the reader over with unbelievable force. In sentences that seem carved in stone, each hitting the mark, Antonio Ramos Revillas tells the tale of a boy whose environment almost destroys him. Shy and a little fearful, Bruno endures the coldness, malice, and antagonism of his family and classmates. Once he is only a ghost of his former self, it's his little brother who saves him by awakening Bruno's compassion and empathy. All the hardness crumbles. The story is definitely addressed to older readers, yet has the look and format of a picture book. Amanda Mijangos's dismal, threatening illustrations correspond closely to the text. At the same time, they interpret it freely, adding a whole other level to the story: Bruno is represented as a bright yellow canary in the midst of black crows, trapped behind cage bars, threatened by dangerously dangling strings, pointy beaks, and sharp claws. This book will long reverberate in readers' minds. (Age: 10+)

185



Costas, Leticia (text)

Verne y la vida secreta de las mujeres planta

(*Verne and the secret life of the plant women*)

Madrid: Anaya, 2016. – 222 p.

ISBN 978-84-698-1680-6

Verne, Jules | Fantastical creature | Secret | Fantasy fiction

The dust cover of this book features old apothecary jars, leaves, and blossoms, between which elf-like beings hide. This image captures the matter well: Leticia Costas's novel, which received the prestigious Premio Lazarillo in 2015, connects history, fantasy, and a dose of nostalgia. In colourful, multi-faceted language, the Galician author transports readers to the late 19th century. Starting point is Jules Verne's real-life stay in the city of Vigo in 1884. The French author, so the novel would have us believe, arrives at the port city in 1884 in order to get to the bottom of the mysterious species of »plant women«. An adventurous plot unfolds from square one, centered around three protagonists: Verne himself, a cabin boy named Pierre, and Violeta, a pharmacist's granddaughter who is herself a plant woman. With a great sense for detail, atmosphere, local and period colour, Costas tells a suspenseful story which tightly interweaves the real and the fantastical. (Age: 12+)

186



Hernández Chambers, Daniel (text)

Heras, David de las (illus.)

El secreto de Enola

(*Enola's secret*)

[Zaragoza]: Edelvives, 2017. – 140 p.

(Series: Ala Delta; Serie verde; 103)

ISBN 978-84-140-0483-8

Secret | Love | Friendship | World War II

Sandgate, England, 1989. In the chimney of his neighbour Enola's house, Ralph discovers a dove skeleton and a note with an encoded message. Uncovering the origin and meaning of the mysterious lines takes him back in time. It was a carrier pigeon, and its message came from Enola's first love, Norman, who hastily left England fifty years earlier but wanted Enola to join him in France. Because his missive never arrived, Enola waited decades in vain for a sign of life from him. Other plot threads weave around the book's core story, forming a coherent picture of Ralph, who is about twelve years old. Daniel Hernández Chambers tells the story in short sections that contain no unnecessary baggage, moving it fluidly and effortlessly forward. The protagonist and the other characters are portrayed in a lively and persuasive way. Carpe diem, live in the moment – this is the rule to live by that the boy learns from the old lady. (Age: 10+)



187

Rhei, Sofía (text)
Gras Cots, Marc (illus.)

Cómo tener ideas

(How to get ideas)

[Madrid]: Narval, 2016. – 104 p.

ISBN 978-84-944642-4-9

Writer | Writing | Idea | Creativity |
Fantasy fiction

A gapingly blank page and a case of writer's block. The writer featured in this story just can't think of anything to set down. And on top of this she is being interrupted! One after the other, the most unusual creatures burst into her apartment. The uninvited guests are: a tiny, oil-drenched mermaid whom she fishes out of a sardine can, a jealous mail parcel who meticulously alerts everyone to his physical unblemishedness, a harmless, (literally) omnivorous crocodile who lives in the sewers, three crazed seagulls, a lively neighbour's girl, and a few book-loving cockroaches. After these hefty turbulences, peace finally sets back in, but the author still can't think of anything to write, because, she surmises, nothing ever happens in her life... At a furious clip, using wordplay, comedy, and a great feel for odd characters, nonsense, and trenchant dialogues, Sofía Rhei tells this gloriously nutty story from the life of an easily disgruntled wordsmith. The humorous black-and-white drawings ensure that this book offers complete reading pleasure. (Age: 8+)



188

Sáez Castán, Javier (text)
Auladell, Pablo (illus.)

Dorothy. Déjale entrar

(Dorothy. Let her in)

[Barcelona]: A buen paso, [2017]. – 35 p.

ISBN 978-84-946368-4-4

Tornado | Force of nature | Picture book

A young, seemingly harmless tornado has lost its way and ended up whirling about in the backyard of Martha and Jonah's farm, deep in the heart of Kansas. Martha is delighted, Jonah is mistrustful, but lets his wife convince him to »adopt« the little wild child. »She« is to be called Dorothy. But unlike as hoped for, Dorothy won't let herself be easily tamed. On the contrary – she soon develops her raw power. Martha stays enchanted, Jonah remains sceptical, but self-composed. In the end every rock has been upturned. In truth, Dorothy has changed both of the farmers' lives. This is a wonderful story, nutty, confusing, poetic, with marvellous drawings which masterfully capture the characters' melancholy, longing, and forlornness. The upholders of picture book orthodoxy will surely protest: this book's text is far too long for a picture book, and how could it be meant for readers over the age of twelve? How could that work? Who does something like that? Luckily, A buen paso Press does something like that. (Age: 12+)

189



Serra, Adolfo (text/illus.)

Una historia diferente*(A different kind of story)*

[Aguadulce, Almería]: Libre Albedrío,

2017. – [28] p.

ISBN 978-84-946308-3-5

Life | Existence | Diversity | Similarity | Poetry |
Picture book

The life of a rhinoceros and of a rhinoceros beetle could not be more different. On the one hand, the gigantic, massive, armoured colossus, and on the other the little, fragile, easy-to-miss insect. But in spite of all their differences – and as their similar names already suggests – the two animals have some surprising things in common. Like all creatures, they also experience proximity and distance, limitation and vastness, big and little things, solitude and companionship. The rhinoceros and rhinoceros beetle meet one another someplace at some point, and realize both their unmistakable uniqueness and difference from each other, as well as their uniting similarities. Adolfo Serra's quiet, reflective, breezy poem helps even young children grasp the basic questions of human and creaturely existence. The beautiful double-page illustrations, kept to a gently glowing colour palette, radiate great peace, poise, tenderness, and power. (Age: 4+)

190



Arteaga Quintero, Arianna (text)

Di Cristofaro, Stefano (illus.)

Guachipira va de viaje*(Guachipira goes on a trip)*

Caracas [et al.]: Ediciones Ekaré, 2016. – [36] p.

ISBN 978-980-257-366-0

Venezuela | Plants | Hummingbird | Trip |
Picture book

Hummingbird Guachipira is so tiny one nearly misses her in the pictures, but she's also very brave to fly all around Venezuela to collect the blossoms of rare plants. Her grandmother urgently needs them to brew a healing drink. Having never left her home, Guachipira is a little fearful, but also determined. The bird girl leaps into an adventure that is part rescue mission, part quest, and part coming-of-age journey. The book thus not only portrays the protagonist's experiences, but also provides non-fiction information about the flora and fauna of Venezuela. Stefano Di Cristofaro illustrates Arianna Arteaga's text in an atmospheric way. Some landscapes, vegetation, and animals are only represented in a shadowy manner. Some pictures look like they've been painted with a sponge and recall plant printings. Overall, the illustrations impress with their gamut of colours in many different shades. They convey something of the special nature and atmosphere of the various biospheres of that vast country. (Age: 5+)

191



Sandelin, Annika (text)
Pertamo, Karoliina (illus.)

Potatisens dröm

(The potato's dream)

[Helsingfors]: Schildts & Söderströms,
[2016]. – 39 p.

ISBN 978-951-52-3810-8

Poetry

The Fenno-Swedish publishing house Schildts & Söderströms frequently publishes illustrated poetry for children. Even though most of the books are slim volumes, they always assemble a wide variety of poems ranging from thoughtful ones to nonsensical ones. The illustrations add extra pizzazz to the lyrical gems. Just take the potato – the speaker of this volume's eponymous poem; it looks rather funny sitting on a swing in the circus ring in its glittery miniskirt. And the text is quite bizarre, too: It focuses on the longings of this sad brown root vegetable: »Tänk om jag fötts till ett skimrande bär! / Tänk om jag fötts till en stor pianist / eller en världsberömt cirkusartist« (What if I had been born as a juicy berry / as a great pianist / or a famous circus acrobat). What if, indeed! Still, if you have such big dreams, there is no way you should end up an ordinary potato in the pot. So, hop onto the swing, brown tuber! (Age: 6+)

192



Stark, Ulf (text)
Bondestam, Linda (illus.)

Djur som ingen sett utom vi

(Animals that no one has seen except us)

Helsingfors: Förlaget, 2016. – [52] p.

ISBN 978-952-333-011-5

(Parallel edition: Stockholm: Berghs Förlag, 2016)

Imagination | Animals | Poetry

»Djur som ingen sett utom vi« includes such curious animals as a Lummali, the Kakakerna, the Väntansdjuren, or a Celansetten. These various creatures are weaving their nets, jumping into lakes (always in groups), waiting at the beach, or living deep down in the dark ocean. In this book, Ulf Stark, the Swedish doyen of children's literature who passed away in June 2017, brings to life an array of imaginary animals with just a few words in short poems. His concise texts are masterpieces of sound – laconic, sometimes even a little mocking. Yet they can also be quiet and melancholy, as the poem dedicated to Stella Parland shows, a young poet who died of cancer a few years ago. Linda Bondestam, who has repeatedly collaborated with Ulf Stark, places the imaginary beings into boldly colourful, atmospheric collage worlds and provides them with the fitting facial expressions: some look a little cheeky, others rather mournful. (Age: 6+)

193

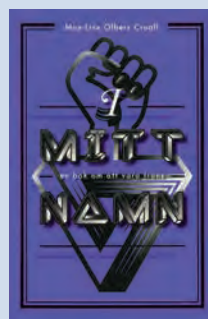


Bergman, Anton (text)
Adbåge, Emma (illus.)
Världens mesta Ester
(*The world's best Ester*)
Stockholm: Hippo, [2016]. – 121 p.
ISBN 978-91-87033-56-8

Loneliness | Independence | Friendship

Ester wears her key around her neck, is allowed to go home alone, and knows how to make French toast. Wow! Signe wants to do this, too. She simply thinks Ester is mega-cool. Signe's parents, on the other hand, are sceptical. Who is this Ester? Can it be true that her mother is called Greta Garbo? And what about Ester's dad? In a light-hearted tone, yet with depth, and adorned with humorous pictures, this novel describes how wonderful it is when you find a friend with whom you can have the best fun ever. Yet it also describes pinching a piece of cake to impress your friend, or the guilty conscience you have when you tell a fib to your parents. And it reveals that Ester wears the key around her neck because her mother is dead and her father is constantly away, so that she is almost always alone. Most of the time, the girl copes quite well, but sometimes she doesn't. Which is why it is wonderful that Signe is there. (Age: 8+)

194



Croall, Moa-Lina Olbers (text/photos)
Gustavsson, Hanna (illus.)
I mitt namn. En bok om att vara trans
(*In my name. A book about being transsexual*)
Stockholm: Natur & Kultur, [2016]. – 181 p.
ISBN 978-91-27-14481-1

Transsexuality | Non-fiction

Researching for her book, Moa-Lina Olbers Croall talked to, chatted with, and e-mailed many young people. What they all have in common is that their »biological gender« is not the same as their gender identity. The respective biographies and experiences are similar in a way; yet they all have their individual – often tragic – story. A lot of the trans-people interviewed consider themselves »wrong«, or lacking something, and are deeply unhappy. They feel that they don't belong anywhere, because they don't fit into any of the strict, predetermined categories. The book wants to enlighten people, and does so in a very pleasing way. It is rendered in a clear language and offers a wealth of information without rambling on. At the same time, it touches its readers because they become aware (again) of how restrictive language, terms, and thought patterns can be, and how much suffering and embarrassment they may cause. (Age: 14+)

195



Jaensson, Håkan (text)

Morfar till salu, farmor på köpet*(Maternal-Grandpa for sale, with paternal-Grandma for free)*

Stockholm: Alfabeta, [2016]. – 144 p.

ISBN 978-91-501-1908-4

Grandparents | Competition

»I've really thought about it: offering my grandpa for sale. [...] For those who take him, I'll throw my grandma in, too. Well-preserved widow, rich, but a smoker. Both as a package deal – it's a bargain. Unfortunately, they won't get along when they're in the same room.« Sometimes, you have to resort to radical measures; or gallows humour; or both. After her mom's mother and her dad's father have died soon after one another, their widowed partners need a new mission to take their minds off their grief. Luckily enough, there is Nicole. The child, who by the way is not that small anymore, needs to be fussed over, taken out for lunch and to the museum, cooked for, and spoiled with presents. Initially this feels quite nice, but after a while, Nicole doesn't have a minute to herself anymore – argh! – especially because it's not possible to satisfy both grandparents at the same time due to their severe dislike of each other. This calls for some guile and wiles and a few white lies. It's the only way to get things back on track and achieve an unexpected happy ending. (Age: 10+)

196



Virke, Emma (text/illus.)

Klä på Herr H*(Dress Mr H)*

Stockholm: Lilla Piratförlaget, [2016]. – [44] p.

ISBN 978-91-88279-14-9

Dress

»Bra att du är här! Jag kan inte hitta mina glasögon. Har du sett dom?« (Good that you're here. I can't find my glasses. Have you seen them?) Mr H is faced with the typical problem that all bespectacled people have: Where are those ruddy things!? Yet in addition, he is also missing a few other items: his hat, bowtie, and the glue-on moustache. However, the readers do not simply hand over these objects to Mr H; this would be boring. Instead, they try on the glasses – oops – the text suddenly looks all blurry! The moustache is put on Mr H's nose, the hat onto their own heads, and instead of the bowtie, they slide a housefly over to him... Mr H is not amused, but what can he do? He would be stuck without helpers. Therefore, he politely thanks the readers and is about to leave the house. But stop! Hasn't he forgotten something? His trousers maybe?! An amiable and kooky protagonist and many variations: This interactive picture book is a delightful treat for young and old readers alike. (Age: 3+)

197



Aslan, Sema (text)

Mit, Seda (illus.)

Şehrin göbeğini bulamıyorum!

(I can't find the heart of the city!)

İstanbul: İletişim, 2017. – 60 p.

(Series: Çocuk kitapları dizisi; 131)

ISBN 978-97-505-2225-3

Daughter | Mother | Urban life | House |
Friendship | Communication

This is a story that follows the pensive relationship of six-year-old Mercan and her mother, who is an illustrator. They live in a big house in İstanbul, with a circular backyard, cats, and a plane tree that the girl cycles around for fun and exercise. »Where is the heart of the city?« inquires Mercan, trying to understand the idioms and new concepts she comes across, at times recalling her grandmother's sayings. Their house has an order of its own with piles of objects, small hills made out of pillows and toys offering an imaginative landscape. Mercan's mother tries to sell the house as she does not have a full-time job. The story intertwines real-life issues with critical observations that help bridge adult and child perspectives. What does a thoughtful face look like? What does it mean to have a friend? How should one communicate with one another? This book presents a poetic narrative on dialogue, trust, friendship, and much more and is accompanied by illustrations designed with patterns, collages and line drawings. (Age: 6+)

198



Dikmen, Fatih / Sevde, Zeynep (text)

Dedeleroğlu, Eren (illus.)

Yeşil günlük

(Green diary)

Üsküdar-İstanbul: Taze Kitap, 2016. – 92 p.

ISBN 978-605-84228-5-8

Nature | Ecology | Gardening | Diary |
Non-fiction | Activity book

»Yeşil Günlük« is a multi-sensory activity book that animates its readers to go outside and engage with nature. Its cover is made out of natural linen (and includes a pencil case with a zipper). With a little wooden shovel attached to the cover and four little sachets of seeds on its inside front cover, the book provides everything that young nature enthusiasts need to start getting their hands dirty. The first pages explain some key concepts regarding plants and gardening with the help of enticing illustrations. The rest of the book is made up of descriptions of thirty-six different plants, all of which can be found in Turkey. Blank pages invite readers to fill them not only with their observations, but also with leaves that they have collected and dried following the informative book's instructions. This »green diary« encourages its readers to be more observant of their surroundings, invokes curiosity about nature, and helps children familiarize themselves with the flora and fauna around them. (Age: 5+)

199



Andruchovyč, Sofija Juriïvna (Andruchovych, Sofia Yurievna) (text)
 Prochas'ko, Mar'jana (Prokhasko, Mariana) (illus.)
 Subač, Olena (Subach, Olena) (photos)
Suzir'ja Kurky (Suzirya Kurky)
 (Great grand hen)
 L'viv: Vydavnytstvo Staroho Leva, 2016. – 42 p.
 (Series: Napyšymenik nyžku)
 ISBN 978-617-679-236-9

Old age | Youth | Closeness | Similarity

»You are like a young old person!« – »And you are like an old girl!«, the protagonists exclaim. The young old person in this case is a girl named Orisja, who lives with a lynx and her father in the forest; the old girl is an old woman named Marija, who lives with a hen in a Ukrainian village. The two meet each other in the forest, when Marija loses her way and Orisja helps her. They come to deeply care about each other, learning that young and old can get along great, and that the elderly can have a youthful temperament, while the young can be wise. Sofia Andruchovych (b. 1982) wonderfully upends typical categories and associations of youth and senectitude in this book and relativizes the two supposedly contrary life phases. Illustrator Mariana Prokhasko (b. 1976) and photographer Olena Subach manage to cleverly visualize this short, gentle, and somewhat off-beat story using montages of photos and drawings. (Age: 6+)

200



Franko, Ivan (text)
 Lavro, Kost' (illus.)
Farbovanyj lys
 (The coloured fox)
 Kyïv: A-ba-ba-ha-la-ma-ha, [2015]. – 21 p.
 ISBN 978-617-585-079-4

Fox | Cunning | Betrayal | Accountability | Fable | Picture book

»Farbovanyj lys« is one of the best-known fables of Ivan Franko (1856-1916), one of the most important poets of classic Ukrainian literature. For A-ba-ba-ha-la-ma-ha Press, which only publishes a few elaborately produced titles every year, Kost' Lavro's (b. 1961) quirky and edgy illustrations breathe new life into the tale. The devious fox Mykyta is cocky, clever, and boastful. He knows how to turn everything to his advantage, even when he has to hide himself in a vat of blue colour one day. He climbs out as an electrifying blue creature, claims to have been sent by Saint Nicholas and lets himself be waited on hand and foot. Of course, this doesn't last for long, for the other animals soon discover the ploy. Lavro dresses his fox as a shifty crook in a bow tie and trench coat and comments on the story's events with his jagged stroke in a marvellous and witty way. (Age: 4+)

NAME INDEX

A

Aamand, Kristina 13
Adbåge, Emma 102
Akrami, Jamal al-din 79
Alemagna, Beatrice 42
Aly, Hatem 32
Andrukhovych, Sofia Yurievna 105
Andryszczyk, Mariusz 82
Ang, Pam Marie 29
Appanah, Nathacha 42
Aristarco, Daniele 63
Arsenault, Isabelle 40
Arteaga Quintero, Arianna 100
Aslan, Sema 104
Auladell, Pablo 99
Averbach, Margara 23
Aydemir, Fatma 50
Aydin, Andrew 33
Azizi, Maryam 80

B

Bach, Tamara 51
Badel, Ronan 39
Ballerini, Luigi 65
Ballista, Serena 64
Baltscheit, Martin 51
Barnhill, Kelly 30
Baslam, Dimitris 60
Battersby, Lee 19
Bergman, Anton 102
Bertrand, Sara 94
Bessis, Sophie 48
Binard, Arthur 67
Bixley, Donovan 29
Blanco, Riki 96
Blau, Aljoscha 50
Bodonyi, Panni 62
Bondestam, Linda 101
Bonilla Nuriez, Abraham 97
Borkovec, Petr 12
Bouloubasis, Petros 61

Braniste, Lavinia 88
Britt, Fanny 40
Brgger, Lilian 14
Brown, Peter 31
Buguet, Anne 47
Builes, Elizabeth 95
Bukova, Jana 7

C

Carrer, Chiara 64
Carvalho, Bernardo P. 87
ech, Pavel 12
Chen, Shu 8
Chitrakar, Rohima 27
Christie, R. Gregory 35
Cordova, Adolfo 96
Costas, Leticia 98
Croall, Moa-Lina Olbers 102
Cunha, Leo 84

D

Daaboul, Georges 45
Daciute, Evelina 75
Daenschel, Ute 58
Daoud, Amy 19
Dashevskaya, Nina 89
Dautant, Maite 95
Dedeleroglu, Eren 104
Dekastro, Mariza 60
Delabre, Celine 39
Dentan, Corinne 45
Desplechin, Marie 43
Dickmeiss, Otto 14
Di Cristofaro, Stefano 100
Di Giacomo, Kris 44
Di Giorgio, Mariachiara 67
Diemberger, Jana 76
Diemberger, Karen 76
Dijkstra, Lida 16
Dikmen, Fatih 104
Dimitrova, Desislava 8

Doi, Kaya 69
Duda, Christian 52
Du, Lingyun 10
urdev, Pop D. 90

E

Ehrhard, Dominique 43
Ehtesabian, Negin 81
Ekman, Fam 76
Elliot, David 28
Ellis, Carson 31
Engelke, Mareike 52
Escoffier, Michael 44

F

Fabicka, Joanna 82
Farinella, Matteo 64
Feldmann, Annette 52
Fernandez, Nicolas 49
Ferrao, Pedro 86
Fienieg, Annette 17
Fleming, Candace 32
Franko, Ivan 105
Friedrich, David 53
Frieze, Julia 52
Frolich, Julie 13
Fujishige, Hikaru 68
Furuuchi, Kazue 68

G

Gamble, Paul 28
Geetha, V. 27
Dickwitz, Adam 32
Gilbert, Franois 41
Goby, Valentine 39
Gonalves, Antonio Jorge 87
Gordon, Gus 20
Gras Cots, Marc 99
Gravel, Franois 41
Green, Shari 22
Grugeaux, Julie 7

Guevara, Santiago 96
Guibert, Emmanuel 44
Guillem, Julie 45
Guo, Jiangyan 8
Gustavsson, Hanna 102
Gutierrez, Xulio 49

H

Hall, Leanne 20
Haqqani, Mohammad 79
Harrold, A. F. 23
Hearn, Lafcadio 74
Heo, Jungyun 72
Heras, David de las 98
Heredia, Geraldine 45
Hernandez Chambers, Daniel 98
Hinojosa Rebollo, Esteban 97
Hok, Sothik 43
Huang, Beijia 9
Huetlin, Linda 58
Hula, Saskia 50
Huppertz, Nikola 53

I

Iino, Kazuyoshi 68

J

Jaensson, Hakan 103
Jarvinen, Aino 38
Jecker, Flurin 54
Jensen, Louis 14
Jedrzejewska-Wrobel, Roksana 82
Johnsen, Mari Kanstad 77
Jong, Hanneke de 49
Jung, Jin-ho 72

K

Kaldmaa, Katlin 37
Kayano, Shigeru 69
Khristova, Zornitsa 8
Khurshid, Jikar 6

NAME INDEX

Kim, Jinwha 71
 Kim, Soo-ok 73
 Kiudulaitë, Aušra 75
 Klaasen, Geert 15
 Klárová, Barbora 13
 Klassen, Jon 33
 Klever, Elsa 53
 Končinský, Tomáš 13
 Konstantinov, Vitali 54
 Kreituse, Anita 74
 Kubiczek, André 55
 Kubota, Kaori 69
 Kukias, Thodoris 59
 Kurzbach, Sonja 56
 Kvammen, Anders N 77

L
 Lakhali-Chevë, Nezha 47
 Lampela, Hannele 38
 Laube, Evelyne 48
 Lavro, Kost' 105
 Ledden, Piet van 18
 Lee, Hyang-an 72
 Lee, Sun-Il 73
 Leeuw, Mattias de 15
 Lee, Yeong-rim 72
 Leonard, M. G. 24
 Lewis, John 33
 Lillegraven, Ruth 77
 Lima, Graça 85
 Lindelauf, Benny 17
 Linden, Martijn van der 16, 18
 Løes, Synne Sun 78
 Lückner, Kerstin 58
 Lundén, Maria 14

M
 Mac Dhonnagáin, Tadhg 63
 Măceşanu, Andrei 88
 Maclear, Kyo 22
 Magallanes, Alejandro 94

Magana, Jessie 39
 Mahdavi, Azam 80
 Markhus, Rune 78
 Martinez Arroyo, Carola 94
 Massi, Simone 66
 Mattia, Luisa 65
 Mayorga, Juan Camilo 95
 McLaren, Meg 24
 Meinderts, Koos 17
 Meirelles, Mauricio 84
 Merz, Laura 38
 Meschenmoser, Sebastian 55
 Mesropyan, Art'ur 7
 Metselaar, Menno 18
 Michailidou-Kadi, Marina 59
 Mijangos, Amanda 97
 Mikołajewski, Jarosław 83
 Millard, Glenda 21
 Milovanović, Kosta 90
 Mit, Seda 104
 Moraes, Odilon 84
 Motohashi, Seiichi 70
 Munduruku, Daniel 85
 Muñoz Toro, Juliana 95

N
 Najjar, Taghreed 6
 Negrescolor, Joan 86
 Neves, André 84
 Nyhus, Kaia Dahle 79

O
 Obeso, Candelario 95
 Odnous, Julia 83
 Ó Guilín, Peadar 25
 Olejníková, Daniela 92
 Oliveira, Carla 86
 Ondjaki 87

P
 Paci, Marco 65
 Papatheodoulou, Antonis 61
 Parchow, Marc 86
 Park, Junghee 71
 Pawliński, Wojciech 83
 Pękalski, Adam 82
 Peklar, Andreja 92
 Pellizzon, Nicolò 63
 Pennypacker, Sara 33
 Perret, Delphine 46
 Pertamina, Karoliina 101
 Pessoa, Ana 87
 Petersons, Reinis 74
 Petrović, Ana 91
 Petrović, Jasminka 91
 Pinfold, Levi 23
 Pipal, Ivana 40
 Pipini, Argyro 61
 Powell, Nate 33
 PowerPaola 94
 Pratt, Non 25
 Prokhasko, Mariana 105
 Punka, Renāte 74

Q
 Qiu, Chengzong 11

R
 Radu, Cristiana 88
 Ramos Revillas, Antonio 97
 Raschke, Jens 56
 Rasmus, Jens 56
 Rasouli, Parisa 6
 Razis, Achilleas 61
 Rebrovič, Ljerkica 40
 Reffert, Thilo 56
 Reittu, Ninka 38
 Reynolds, Jason 34
 Rhei, Sofia 99

Rinaldi, Patrizia 65
 Rinck, Maranke 18
 Rohmann, Eric 32
 Rõõmus, Jaan 37
 Rosetti, Adina 88
 Ross, Mikaël 47
 Rudak, Vladimir 89
 Rudashevsky, Yevgeny 90
 Rusinek, Joanna 83

S
 Saberi, Babak 81
 Sáez Castán, Javier 99
 Sakamoto, Himemi 69
 Sandelin, Annika 101
 Sanna, Francesca 26
 Sardà, Júlia 22, 24
 Satō, Makiko 70
 Saumande, Juliette 7
 Scarry, Huck 18
 Serra, Adolfo 100
 Sevde, Zeynep 104
 Shama, Charlotte 6
 Shin, Sun-Mee 73
 Sieg, Katharina 51
 Silei, Fabrizio 66
 Sim-Nada, Bru 29
 Sironi, Maria Antonia 76
 Smia, Shoham 62
 Sova, Rudá 91
 Špaček, Daniel 13
 Stamatidi, Daniela 59, 60
 Stark, Ulf 101
 Stelling, Anke 57
 Štěpán, Petr 13
 Sualzo 66
 Subach, Olena 105
 Suzuki, Koji 67
 Sweet, Melissa 34
 Szymanik, Melinda 29

NAME INDEX

T

Tachezy, Andrea 12
Tallec, Olivier 39
Taul, Jonas 37
Teckentrup, Britta 57
Thornhill, Jan 23
Tian 43
Tomori, Shiruko 70
Tonatiuh, Duncan 35
Torres, Catherine 30
Tratnik, Suzana 93
Tsarfati, Einat 62

U

Ungar, Antonio 96
Usher, Sam 26
Uzhinova, Lena 89

V

Vadas, Marek 92
Vajda, Éva 62
Vērdiņš, Kārlis 74
Vecchini, Silvia 66
Vendel, Edward van de 15
Verplancke, Klaas 16
Virke, Emma 103
Volbeda, Ludwig 17
Völk, Julie 58
Vujčić, Borna 11

W

Wapichana, Cristino 85
Weatherford, Carole Boston 35
Wehrle, Nina 48
Wenzel, Brendan 36
Westera, Bette 19
Weve, Sylvia 19
Woignier, Julia 46
Woollvin, Bethan 27
Wouters, Nicolas 47
Wung-Sung, Jesper 14

Y

Yangdzom, Tsering 76
Yang, Sifan 9
Yatsuka, Sumiko 71
Yoon, Nicola 36
Yu, Hongcheng 10

Z

Zaharieva, Siyana 8
Zdanowska, Anna Marta 83
Zhang, Zhilu 10
Zoboli, Giovanna 67
Zorn, Claire 21
Zylé, Kotryna 75

SUBJECT INDEX

A

Abandonment 65
Absurdity 17
Accountability 105
Acknowledgment 92
Activity book 104
Admiration 79
Adventure 24, 28, 32, 76
African American dance 35
African American music 35
African Americans 33
Agriculture 10
Ainu 69
Alcoholism 40
Allegory 11
Alphabetisation 66
Anarchy 65
Animals 8, 20, 31, 33, 38, 44, 46,
49, 84, 90, 101
Animal story 46
Animal welfare 46
Apraxia 21
Army 17
Art 16, 36, 43, 45, 48, 74
Atomic bomb 67
Aunt 6, 20
Author 34
Autonomy 37, 64
Axolotl 91
Aztecs 35

B

Baltic region 75
Bear 46
Beauty 74
Beetle 24
Betrayal 105
Bilingual book 45, 59, 76
Biography 18, 34, 43, 48, 54, 63
Bird 23
Birthday 15, 72

Blog 54
Book 9, 29
Border 40
Boredom 6
Boy scout 47
Brain 64
Brother 14
Brutality 44
Buddha 69
Bullying 23, 30
Burden 7
Butterfly 29

C

Career 67
Carpet 47
Cat 18, 36, 50, 82, 90
Caterpillar 29
Cemetery 19
Censorship 12
Chair 43
Chick 76
Childhood 9, 44, 89
Childhood memories 10
Child labour 62
Child oblate 32
Cicada 81
City 8, 58, 86, 89
Civilisation 86
Civil rights movement 33
Cleverness 47
Climate 45
Closeness 105
Cloud 45
Club activities 71
Collaboration 22
Colour 40
Comic 12
Coming of age 9, 51, 55, 71, 87, 93
Communal living 57
Communal tradition 72

Communication 104
Community 57, 70
Competition 80, 103
Compulsion 96
Conspiracy 28
Cook 17
Cope, Alan Ingram 44
Counting 15
Country life 66
Courage 40, 63, 96
Creativity 48, 64, 99
Crime fiction 15
Criminality 42
Crocodile 67
Cunning 105
Curiosity 46
Cyberbullying 65
Cycle of life 11, 31

D

Darkness 51, 87
Daughter 104
David of Sassoun 7
Day 85
Death 19, 25, 50, 56
Demon 16
Depression 71
Design 43
Diary 28, 52, 104
Dictatorship 12, 43, 93, 94
Diet 73
Difference 40
Differentness 41, 78
Dilemma 17
Disability 25, 70, 89
Discrimination 40, 89
Disease 76
Diversity 23, 41, 59, 71, 100
Dog 38
Domestic violence 52
Dostoyevsky, Fyodor 54

Drawing 48, 74
Dream 12, 59, 71, 73
Dress 103
Duck 20

E

Eating habits 73
Ecology 11, 23, 104
Economy 56
Edo period 68
Efficiency 82
Empathy 97
Environmental destruction 84
Environmental protection 8
Escalation 62
Estrangement 95
Ethics 90
Evening 45
Everyday life 6, 27, 54, 56, 77
Existence 100
Extinction 23
Eye 49

F

Fable 105
Fairness 92
Fairy 25, 73
Fairy tale 7, 19, 47, 55, 73,
74, 85
Fairy-tale character 88
Falling in love 51
Family 6, 13, 21, 22, 23, 40, 52,
57, 70, 71, 89, 95
Fantastical creature 98
Fantasy 48, 59
Fantasy fiction 19, 30, 32, 80,
98, 99
Fate 36
Father 74, 84, 95
Fear 41
Firefly 87

SUBJECT INDEX

First love 44, 55, 66, 97
 Flight 20
 Folk tale 69, 76, 80
 Football 71
 Force of nature 99
 Foreigner 83
 Foreignness 92
 Forest 8, 47, 78, 86, 87
 Forgetting 29
 Fortune 19
 Fox 33, 105
 Frank, Anne 18
 Freedom 63, 64, 96
 Freedom of thought 12
 Friendship 19, 23, 24, 25, 30,
 31, 44, 46, 70, 71, 81, 97, 98,
 102, 104
 Fukushima 68

G

Game 59, 79
 Gang 42
 Garden 8
 Gardening 104
 GDR 55
 Gender role 13, 48, 74
 Ghetto 82
 Giant 7
 Gods 75
 Granddaughter 53
 Grandfather 26, 87
 Grandmother 22, 53
 Grandparents 103
 Grandson 26, 87
 Graphic novel 33, 40, 54,
 65, 66, 77, 89
 Gratefulness 92
 Great auk 23
 Grief 21, 50

H

Handicraft 6
 Hani people 10
 Happiness 75
 Harassment 97
 Hatred 62, 97
 Healing 76
 Helpfulness 92
 Hierarchy 11
 Himalayas 76
 Hiroshima 67
 Historical fiction 17
 Historical person 58
 History 9, 10, 15, 17, 18, 32, 33,
 34, 35, 37, 43, 44, 48, 52, 55,
 58, 60, 67, 68, 69, 79, 82, 83,
 92, 93, 94
 Holidays 39
 Homelessness 42
 Homesickness 95
 Homosexuality 13, 25, 70
 Hope 56
 Horror fiction 41
 House 104
 Hula 68
 Humans 8, 33, 44, 72, 84, 87, 90
 Hummingbird 100
 Hunting 84, 90

I

Idea 29, 99
 Identity 42, 59
 Identity crisis 50
 Imagination 6, 12, 18, 29, 42,
 86, 101
 Immigrant 36
 Immigration 39
 Impatience 26
 Independence 102
 Indigenous people 69, 85
 Indoctrination 43

Industriousness 61, 62
 Inheritance 20
 Inner world 89
 Innocence 9
 Insect 11, 24, 29, 31, 81
 Integration 39
 Intergenerational relationship 6, 73
 Intertextuality 7
 Invented language 31
 Island 22, 31

J

Jews 18, 32
 Journey 14, 52, 76
 Justice 63

K

Khmer Rouge 43

L

Landscape 39
 Language 31, 53, 86
 Legend 7, 62, 83
 Leporello 12, 27
 Letter 87
 Liberty 46
 Library 41
 Life 100
 Lion 48
 Literary character 96
 Literary fairy tale 8, 68
 Literature 96
 Little Red Riding Hood 27, 55
 Living 86
 Logic 60
 Loneliness 17, 21, 51, 65, 102
 Longing 95
 Lookism 71
 Love 21, 35, 36, 40, 71, 80, 87,
 90, 98
 Lovesickness 87

Loyalty 17
 Lunchbox 56

M

Magic 16, 23, 24, 30, 76, 80
 Magician 24
 Magritte, René 16
 Masculinity 97
 Mayotte 42
 Meaninglessness 37
 Meaning of life 37
 Metamorphosis 29
 Migration 13, 61, 83
 Milani, Lorenzo 66
 Military dictatorship 93
 Monster 73
 Moral 44
 Mother 104
 Mountains 95
 Murder 15
 Mushroom 78
 Music 76
 Myth 30, 35, 85
 Mythological creature 83
 Mythology 25, 75

N

Nature 8, 42, 72, 86, 87, 104
 Nervous system 64
 Neuron 64
 New Orleans 35
 Niece 6
 Night 45, 51, 85
 Non-fiction 10, 11, 18, 23, 32, 39,
 45, 48, 49, 58, 60, 63, 64, 79,
 102, 104
 Nonsense 28
 Norm 78
 Nuclear accident 68
 Nuclear power 67
 Nutrition 56

SUBJECT INDEX

O

Octopus 61
 Offspring 88
 Old age 13, 105
 Oppression 94
 Order 22
 Orderliness 96
 Orphan 16
 Otherness 83
 Outsider 21, 30, 59, 65, 78, 97
 Overweight 78

P

Painting 16, 60
 Paranormal fiction 19
 Parents 74, 91
 Paternalism 89
 Peace 40
 Peer group 97
 Perception 8
 Perfectionism 70
 Performance society 82
 Persecution of the Jews 82
 Perspective 36
 Pet 91
 Philosophizing 37
 Philosophy 44, 57, 60, 94
 Photo book 70
 Picture book 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 20, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 29, 32, 35, 36, 37, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 46, 47, 48, 50, 51, 52, 53, 55, 58, 59, 61, 62, 66, 67, 69, 70, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 78, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 88, 90, 91, 92, 97, 99, 100, 105
 Picture story 14
 Pig 88
 Pirate 28
 Place of origin 95

Plants 31, 100
 Playing 42
 Poetry 12, 28, 38, 45, 53, 63, 74, 77, 81, 84, 90, 95, 100, 101
 Pop-up book 43
 Postman 8
 Post rider 69
 Poverty 9, 19, 34, 62
 Power 11
 Prejudice 22
 Presence 37
 Pride 7
 Prince 15, 35
 Princess 35
 Profession 47, 61
 Prophet 32
 Protection 74
 Puzzle 18

Q

Quest 19, 32
 Question 57, 88, 94

R

Rabbit 24
 Rain 26, 52
 Reading 9
 Realism 9
 Reality 48, 73
 Refugee 17, 26, 39, 49, 61, 83, 92
 Religion 41, 48
 Resistance 43
 Revenge 44
 Rhinoceros beetle 11
 Rice cultivation 10
 River 84
 Robot 31
 Role swap 6
 Routine 22
 Running 34
 Rural life 37

S

Sacrifice 14
 Saga 83
 Santhal <people> 27
 Satire 80
 School 11, 28, 41, 57, 65, 70, 71, 77
 School holidays 55
 Scientist 24
 Screw 78
 Sea 95
 Search for identity 30, 77, 93
 Seasons 63, 77
 Secret 24, 98
 Sect 41
 Self-assertion 37
 Self-determination 7, 70
 Self-discovery 51, 54
 Self-esteem 59
 Self-fulfillment 34
 Sense of sight 49
 Separation 40
 Sharing 72
 Short story 14
 Siblings 14, 56, 79
 Similarity 100, 105
 Singing 81
 Skeleton 19
 Slavery 35
 Social criticism 53
 Social problem 42
 Solomon <King> 16
 Son 84, 95
 Song 63
 Sophistication 9
 Spider 76
 Spontaneity 22
 Sport 79
 Squid 32
 Starvation 17
 Statue 69

Stork 88
 Storytelling 14, 86
 Strength 7
 Stubbornness 38
 Suicide attempt 65
 Summer camp 47
 Sun 85
 Superstition 22
 Surfing 21
 Surrealism 16, 20
 Survival 25, 31, 65

T

Taiga 90
 Tangram 18
 Tenacity 62
 Textless book 9, 12, 58, 78, 92
 Thinking 60
 Time 7, 13
 Time capsule 25
 Time travel 82
 Topsy-turvy world 88
 Tornado 99
 Track and field 34
 Tradition 6, 10, 79
 Tram 58
 Transience 13
 Transportation 39
 Transsexuality 102
 Trauma 21
 Travel 20
 Treason 18
 Treasure hunt 28
 Tree 72
 Trip 39, 100
 Truth 63

U

Uncertainty 92
 Urban life 104
 USSR 37

SUBJECT INDEX

V

Vegetable 73
 Verne, Jules 98
 Verse novel 22
 Victim 67
 Video game 42
 Village 27
 Violence 21, 50
 Volcano 35

W

Wapishana <people> 85
 War 17, 18, 26, 33, 49, 61, 82, 98
 Weakness 7
 Weather 45
 Weaver 47
 White, E. B. 34
 Winter 17
 Witch 30
 Wolf 44
 Woolf, Virginia 64
 World dominion 28
 World War II 17, 18, 82, 98
 Writer 99
 Writing 29, 54, 99

Y

Youth 105
 Yugoslavia 93

Z

Zoo 67

READING AGE INDEX

Recommended reading age level

(Indexed by catalogue number)

2+ years: 52

3+ years: 3, 42, 61, 67, 82, 92,
 105, 108, 111, 115, 154,
 172, 174, 196

4+ years: 8, 17, 20, 26, 29, 34,
 47, 65, 94, 100, 109, 113,
 114, 123, 133, 134, 135,
 136, 142, 146, 152, 166,
 189, 200

5+ years: 9, 21, 38, 44, 59, 64,
 66, 73, 81, 85, 96, 104,
 137, 139, 147, 161, 162,
 170, 180, 190, 198

6+ years: 2, 6, 11, 41, 43, 48,
 53, 60, 69, 89, 102, 112,
 117, 141, 151, 157, 160,
 171, 191, 192, 197, 199

7+ years: 1, 13, 15, 84, 124,
 138, 155, 156, 163, 165,
 17

8+ years: 10, 35, 36, 46, 77,
 80, 88, 101, 118, 121,
 158, 173, 179, 181, 187,
 193

9+ years: 24, 54, 56, 72, 87,
 110, 127, 129, 140

10+ years: 14, 22, 25, 30, 33,
 45, 50, 51, 57, 58, 63, 68,
 76, 78, 79, 93, 103, 116,
 132, 144, 148, 153, 159,
 167, 177, 182, 183, 184,
 195

11+ years: 5, 119, 120, 122,
 125, 128, 130

12+ years: 7, 18, 23, 27, 28,
 37, 55, 70, 75, 143, 169,
 176, 185, 186, 188

13+ years: 49, 126, 131

14+ years: 4, 16, 31, 32, 39,
 40, 62, 90, 91, 95, 97, 99,
 106, 145, 149, 150, 164,
 168, 175, 194

15+ years: 19, 71, 83, 86, 107

16+ years: 12, 74, 98