

2018 | The White Ravens

A Selection of International Children's and Youth Literature



Internationale Jugendbibliothek

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Stiftung
Internationale Jugendbibliothek

IMPRESSUM

The White Ravens 2018

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Catalogue cover: Copyright © 2018 by Stiftung Internationale Jugendbibliothek. Mariachiara Di Giorgio's wordless picture book »Professione coccodrillo« (Career crocodile) (Milano: Topipittori, 2017; concept by Giovanna Zoboli) was selected for »The White Ravens 2017«.

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PREFACE

With great pleasure we present to you the 2018 edition of our annual catalogue »The White Ravens«. This year's cover captures a perfect summer day at the beach: blue sky, ice cream, two girls, a book – and a white raven. It was crafted by Italian illustrator Mariachiara Di Giorgio, one of whose books was featured in the 2017 »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 59 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, 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 2018

1



Ġawād, Muḥammad Kāzim
(Jawad, Mohammad Kazim) (text)
Ḥaġġū, Ġilnār (Hajo, Gelnar) (illus.)
Aina zillī? (Ayna zelli?)
(Where is my shadow?)
Bairūt (Beirut): Dār as-Sāqī (Dar Al Saqi),
2016. – 24 p.
ISBN 978-6-14425-868-2

Shadow | Light | Shadow play | Picture book

How do shadows appear, and how do they disappear? A girl seeks to figure out this mundane yet astonishing phenomenon. Asking »Where is my shadow?«, she starts her search and soon finds enlightening answers in the sun and the clouds, the street lamps, and other light sources. In the schoolyard she notices how the shadows of playing children coalesce into new forms and geometric shapes. The last pages of the book show how one can use one's hands to make the head of a dog, cat, or goat appear as a shadow on the wall. The short, compact text was penned by Iraqi poet and children's book author Mohammad Kazim Jawad. The pictures were created by multiple award-winning Syrian illustrator Gelnar Hajo. She relies on white, black and grey hues, highlighting individual pictorial elements in yellow and orange tones to emphasize the effects of various light sources. (Age: 7+)

2



Ḥūršīd, Ġikar (Khourchid, Jekar) (text)
'Āwūr, Barā' al- (Awoor, Baraa al-) (illus.)
al- Qiṭṭa al-muhājira (al-Qutta al-muhajera)
(The migrant cat)
Bairūt (Beirut): Aṣāla lin-Našr wa-'t-Taūzī' (Asa-
la), 2017. – 23 p.
ISBN 978-9953-95-034-1

Violence | Escape | Forced displacement |
Migration | Cat | Picture book

On a peaceful winter day, when no one in the city of cats expects anything bad to happen, hurricane-like winds topple the buildings and blow the trees away. All the cats flee the ruins, including Mira, who journeys through the city of dogs, as well as the cities of crocodiles, elephants, hedgehogs, and hyenas. She is not safe anywhere, nor welcome, and she feels nowhere at home. It is only when she meets the hoopoe bird that she begins to feel she has reached a new home. This picture book describes violence, destruction, escape, forced migration, and exile in touching and thoughtful ways. The author draws on an accessible pictorial language. The illustrations only hint at the destructive storm, but the feelings of fear and forlornness are clearly visible in Mira's face. Syrian Kurd Jekar Khourchid has received multiple accolades for his children's books. He lives in exile in Den Haag. Palestinian illustrator Baraa Awoor lives in Gaza. (Age: 6+)

3



Zai'ur, Iyad (Zayour, Iyad) (text)
 Šams-ad-Dīn, 'Alī (Shams al-Din, Ali) (illus.)
Hikāyat al-farḥ al-ḥawwāf
 (Hykayat al-farch al-chowaf)
(The story of a fearful fledgling)
 Bairūt (Beirut): Dār al-Ḥadā'iq (Al-Hadaek),
 2017. – 29 p.
 ISBN 978-614-439-077-1

Bird | Flying | Fear of flying | Coming of age |
 Fable

The cover of this picture book shows what it's about: A wide-eyed fledgling grips onto an adult bird as the latter calmly glides through the air. The young buzzard is plagued by his fear of flying; he already faced a struggle hatching out of his egg, which his mother helped him out of. His four siblings have long left the parental nest, yet he is still perched there. His mother wonders what could get her child to finally fly away. Then she remembers a wise owl who gave her mother a clever piece of advice when she found herself in a similar bind. Set in an artful font, the text narrates a relatably human animal fable about children who won't leave the nest, who haven't grown up yet and don't want to. The illustrations, drawn with a delicate line and using black with highlights in two contrasting colours, suit this timeless fable well. Author Iyad Zayour is a lecturer at the Lebanese University in Beirut and a well-known journalist. (Age: 8+)

4



Hāšimī 'Alawī, Āmīna al-
 (Hachimi Alaoui, Amina) (text)
 Fidāwī, Māyā (Fidawi, Maya) (illus.)
Ḥawf al-yaum as-sābi'
 (Charouf al yaum al sabea)
(The ram of the seventh day)
 al-Dār al-baiḍā' (Casablanca): Yanbuī al-kitāb
 (Yanbow Al Kitab), 2017. – [31] p.
 ISBN 978-9954-486-80-1

Newborn | Tradition | Cat | Picture book

This picture book continues the story of Minush, Pasha, and Amir the cats following its 2016 prequel »Alyaa wa al-Qutat al-Salas«. As is common practice in Morocco, a great family feast is prepared to celebrate the birth of Alyaa on the seventh day. A ram is slaughtered for the occasion, tasty dishes fill the table, and guests relax and enjoy themselves, dressed in traditional costumes reserved for such special occasions. The three cats warily observe the proceedings and seem the only ones who need time to get used to the baby girl and the changes in the house. The story is lively and funny. It is illustrated with colourful pictures and unusual perspectives that place readers into the action, so they feel a part of the goings on. Amina Hachimi Alaoui is a children's book author and runs Yanbow Al Kitab publishing house. Maya Fidawi studied painting and sculpture in Beirut. She was named best illustrator at the 2017 Sharjah International Book Fair (UAE). (Age: 4+)

ARABIC

Lebanon
Morocco

5



Šaraf-ad-Dīn, Fāṭima (Sharafeddine, Fatima) (text)
'Āma Kun, Ḥasan (Amekean, Hassan) (illus.)
Ibn-Ḥaldūn
(Ibn Khaldun)
aš-Šāriqa (Sharjah): Kalimāt, 2017. – [52] p.
ISBN 978-9948-18-136-1

Ibn Khaldun | History 14th century | Biography |
Non-fiction | Picture book

This book is dedicated to the life of Ibn Khaldun, enlightened thinker and statesman, who was born in Tunis in 1332 and died in Cairo in 1406. The author uses straightforward language to describe the life of the learned man, who benefitted from a polymath education as a child, lost his parents at age seventeen and subsequently led a life full of adventure. He was a rising figure at various courts, repeatedly soured relations with his patrons, went into exile, and wrote progressive, enlightened texts. Hassan Amekean's colourful, to some extent abstract pictures accompany the narrated stages of this eventful life, avoiding specific biographical and historical references. They imbue a great poetry upon the text and unveil Ibn Khaldun as a visionary of the modern age. Fatima Sharafeddine, born in Beirut in 1966, is among the best-known Arabic-language children's book authors. She has lived in Brussels since 2001. Iranian illustrator and animated cartoon artist Hassan Amekean has illustrated more than 100 children's books. (Age: 9+)

6



Dor, Arewik (D'Or, Arévik) (text/illus.)
Žiro
(Giro)
Erewan (Erevan): Zangak, 2017. – 120 p.
ISBN 978-9939-68-565-6

Alphabet | Picture book

This book makes learning the alphabet fun. Giro, a friendly boy in a red and white striped t-shirt, and his friend the bear, set out to discover the Armenian alphabet, together with readers. After Giro cannot receive a mysterious mailed parcel because he can't provide a signature for the mail delivery person, the two set off to learn to read and write. They climb onto a boat that has the shape of a book, and travel around the world to find pictures of letters of the Armenian alphabet – on the beach, on the path of an overgrown hiking path or in a ski lift gondola. In the end, Giro can read and write the Armenian alphabet so that he can provide the delivery person with a signature once back at home and finally get his hands on that parcel. This picture book is a lovable debut for young illustrator and animator Arévik D'Or, in which she presents Armenian readers with a wholly novel take on the classic alphabet book. (Age: 5+)



7

Grozni, Nikolaj (Grozni, Nikolay) (text)
Saševa, Iva (Sasheva, Iva) (illus.)

Luna

(The moon)

Sofija: Izdatelstvo Begemot, 2017. – 32 p.
ISBN 978-619-90528-6-0

[Anteater](#) | [Identity](#) | [Philosophy](#) | [Picture book](#)

Two anteaters with unusual names investigate different craters on the moon and end up in philosophical conversations about existence and their way of being. What happens when an anteater doesn't identify itself as such? Can an anteater even be an anteater if it doesn't eat any ants? If so, what makes an anteater an anteater? Its appearance? Its behaviour? Or its wants? In this »picture book for everyone«, Bulgarian pianist and author Nikolay Grozni makes his affinity for the Buddhist worldview known and invites readers to join in philosophical contemplation. Iva Sasheva's illustrations and the typography extend the invitation by playing with spatial perspectives, allowing textual passages to snake along or curl snail-like, and sympathetically casting the two protagonists and their profound reflections and concerns. (Age: 7+)



8

Nedeva, Katina (text/illus.)

Ptiče selo. Prikazka (Ptiche selo. Prikazka)
(The bird village. A fairy-tale)

Plovdiv: Žanet 45 (Zhanet 45), [2017]. – 19 p.
ISBN 978-619-186-315-0

[Bird](#) | [Nest-building](#) | [Home](#) | [Hibernation](#) | [Picture book](#)

This little story is about a flock of birds who want to take their bird houses with them on their flights south for the winter. They tie together a great parcel of houses and start flying, until they notice that the package is too heavy and several houses have fallen out. One of the birds wants to stay with his house, but then he discovers that a sparrow has already made itself at home there, and wishes to use it through the winter. Comforted, the other bird heads south: his house has not been abandoned and will provide shelter to another bird. This book was made by the young illustrator Katina Nedeva (b. 1993) as her final project at the National Art Academy in Sofia. She created the bird characters and the houses as little collages made of fabric scraps, patterned paper, and newspaper clippings, combining these with painterly elements. (Age: 3+)

9



Rimbau, Roser (text)

Araya, Rocío (illus.)

La carta*(The letter)*

Barcelona: Takatuka, 2018. – [36] p.

ISBN 978-84-17383-07-7

Village | Home | Son | Father | Drawing |
Letter | Picture book

A piece of paper coincidentally blown in by the wind gives Moussa the idea to draw his father a picture. His father lives and works in another country, so the boy wants to help him remember the familiar aspects of life in the village. Easier said than done! How can he draw the »Pim Pam!« that's heard when couscous is being mashed, or the squeaking »Nyc Nyc!« of the well winch? And what about the taste of the hot pepper his father loves? Moussa would have so much to tell, but how can a whole village fit onto a single sheet of paper?! Fortunately, Moussa's friend Mariama has an idea. She paints a picture of Moussa that will surely please his father. Rocío Araya's original pictures accompany this story about proximity and distance, the familiar and the foreign. She seamlessly integrates cut-outs from drawings that children in a Senegalese village made into her brightly coloured illustrations. (Age: 5+)

10



Bai, Bing (text)

Liu, Zhenjun (illus.)

Yi ke zi dan de fei xing*(The flight of a bullet)*Beijing: Zhong guo shao nian er tong xin wen chu
ban zong she (China Children's Press & Publica-
tion Group), 2018. – 39 p.

(Series: Zhong shao yang guang tu shu guan)

ISBN 978-7-5148-2617-3

Bullet | War | Peace | Life | Picture book

The story is told through the perspective of a bullet. Lying quietly in the dark barrel, its only dream is to fly through the air. However, when the trigger is pulled and it finally begins its flight, the only desire it holds after the momentary excitement is to stop. With great reluctance and horror, it hits through the candy floss held in a child's hand, the colourful balloons tied onto a baby carriage, a kite flying in the sky ... Before penetrating the body of a mother, however, it manages to change course using a gust of wind, shooting through a tree instead. With explicitly allegorical language, this book encourages reflection on war and peace. Being a prominent publisher, Bai Bing is also an active writer of literature for young children. His picture books include »Ba ba, bie pa« (Don't be afraid, Dad), »Yu san shu« (The umbrella tree) and »Da ge zi shu shu de ye shou dao« (The beast island of Big Uncle). Liu Zhenjun is the illustrator of a number of well-known children's books including Cao Wenxuan's »Dingding & Dangdang« series. (Age: 6+)



11

Chang, Xingang (text)

Wang, Yue (illus.)

Ni ke dai biao wo

(*Nic is me*)

Beijing: Tian tian chu ban she (Daylight Publishing House), 2018. – 257 p.

ISBN 978-7-5016-1347-2

Parents | Ambition | Pressure | Loneliness |
Dog | Understanding | Respect

Wu Xiaoxiao gets to know Nic, the talking dog, in a news report on TV. The third-grade boy from then on devotes himself to searching for the stray dog. Nobody can understand his enthusiasm, just like nobody has ever noticed his joys and sorrows, desires or reluctances. In standing up to his parents' pressure, Xiaoxiao gets a strange disease called »selective deafness« due to which he's no longer able to hear their bickering. Not until he gets in touch with Nic does he gradually recover and gain their understanding. Chang Xingang maintains his typical symbolically resonant tone, and a deep sympathy cloaked in an objective, cold voice creates an emotionally overwhelming effect in this novel. Chang has been a committed and pioneering author of children's literature for nearly forty years. A series of his short novels, including »The Lonely Boat« published in 1984, played a vital role in the artistic exploration of Chinese children's literature at that time. He has, among others, won the National Award for Outstanding Children's Literature. (Age: 9+)



12

Qin, Wenjun (text)

Various artists (illus.)

Bao ta

(*The pagoda*)

Jinan: Ming tian chu ban she (Tomorrow Publishing House), 2017. – 210 p.

(Series: Qin Wenjun zuo pin)

ISBN 978-7-5332-9195-2

Cousin | Friendship | Adoption | Leukemia |
Shanghai | Culture

Thirteen-year-old Jiaqing and Jialin are cousins and best friends. The boys have shared a close relationship since their infancy, when they were sung to sleep by Jialin's mother humming the old folk song »The Golden Ring Pagoda«. However, Jialin is actually an abandoned child found by his adoptive parents. Soon after this secret is revealed to him, he is diagnosed with leukemia. What will befall him? The story is narrated in a charming Shanghai-style language with sensitive descriptions of everyday life. Qin Wenjun is one of the most influential children's literature writers in China, best known for »Nan sheng Jia Li« (Boy student Jia Li), a novel that started a new aesthetic trend for Chinese children's literature upon publication in the 1990s. She has won numerous awards including the National Award for Outstanding Children's Literature, the Chen Bochui Children's Literature Award and the Song Qingling Children's Literature Award. She was nominated for the Hans Christian Andersen Award in 2002. (Age: 10+)

13



Tang, Sulan (text) / Zhang, Wenqi (illus.)

A Lian

(*A Lian's Story*)

Changsha: Hu nan shao nian er tong chu ban she (Hunan Juvenile & Children's Publishing House), 2017. – 274 p.

(Series: Tang Sulan tong nian feng jing cheng zhang xiao shuo)

ISBN 978-7-5562-3141-6

Central China | Hunan | Rural life | Gender role

This is renowned writer Tang Sulan's first full-length children's novel. In semi-autobiographical style she tells of A Lian, a girl born into a rural family in central China, where she encounters parental neglect, her grandmother's tender attentiveness, and simple kindness and friendship amid life's hardships. It takes time for A Lian to reconcile with the family's wanting a male heir and the traditional gender role assigned to her, when she finally has made her way out into the big world. The book was selected for its authentic narration into the »Best Chinese Books« 2017 by the Association of China Book Review and CCTV. Tang Sulan is known for her literary fairy tales, including »Ben lang de gu shi« (Stories of the little silly wolf), »Ge lou jing ling« (Elves in the attic) and »Nan cun chuan qi« (Legends of the South Village). She has won, among others, the National Award for Outstanding Children's Literature, the Chen Bochui Children's Literature Award and the Song Qingling Children's Literature Award. (Age: 10+)

14



Wang, Yage (text)

Zhu, Chengliang (illus.)

Da deng long

(*Playing with lanterns*)

Beijing: Lian huan hua chu ban she (Picture-Story Publishing House), 2017. – [32] p.

(Series: Pu pu lan hui ben guan)

ISBN 978-7-5056-3331-5

Shaanxi | Folk culture | New Year | Lantern | Picture book

It is a traditional folk custom in China's Central Shaanxi Plain to »play with lanterns« to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Little Zhaodi has received a lantern from her uncle and is happy to join her playmates in the game. In a merry and poetically expressive voice, the narrator tells about a childhood that today mostly only exists in people's recollections. Zhu Chengliang vividly illustrates the festive atmosphere and the joyfulness of the playing children against the backdrop of snow-covered village streets, evoking a sense of nostalgia in the realization that all this will soon be over, just like the tradition itself. Zhu Chengliang is the illustrator of »Tuan Yuan« (A New Year's Union), which was selected into The New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Books of 2011. He was nominated for the Hans Christian Andersen Award in 2016. Wang Yage is a young writer majoring in Classical Chinese Literature. »Da deng long« is her debut in picture books. (Age: 3+)



15

Ander (Ye, Ande) (text/illus.)

Huan ying guang lin tian tang xiao zhen

(Welcome to the h(e)aven town)

Xin zhu shi: He ying wen hua (Heryin Books),
2017. – 205 p.

(Series: Wo men de gu shi xi lie)

ISBN 978-986952265-6

Environmental destruction | Wolf | Humans |
Habitat loss | Nuclear accident | Wildlife refuge

This hybrid between an opulently illustrated children's book and a graphic novel, set in »Heaven town«, is about a grandmother, a wolf, and a hunter, yet it is not a fairy tale. The wolf, who has been shot by a hunter, is saved and nursed back to health by the grandmother, who herself has survived several suicide attempts. However, the wolf will not be able to survive in his natural habitat, because the forest is increasingly being destroyed by lumbering, pipe line construction, and hunting. His pack has been killed or captured for the local zoo already. Only an accident in a nearby nuclear power plant and the subsequent evacuation of the human population opens up the opportunity for a new life in a protected space for the wildlife, the zoo animals, and the grandmother, who refuses to leave. »Heaven town« has become »Haven town«. Ye Ande, now a successful picture book author after fifteen years in the animation industry, has been working on this novel with its controversial message for many years. (Age: 10+)



16

Bakran, Tamara (text)

Cupek, Željka (illus.)

Gvalup i druge priče

(Gvalup and other stories)

Zagreb: Mala Zvona, 2017. – 80 p.

ISBN 978-953-7760-75-5

Humans | Nature | Nature spirits | Short story

Fifteen brief stories, fifteen special encounters: Croatian author and lyricist Tamara Bakran (b. 1979) brings human beings (usually children) into contact with nature's creatures – animals and plants – or with fantastical characters such as fauns and fairies, showing the magic of the relationships. Even physical objects, such as striking barges or the moon, speak up. In the titular story, Gvalup, a dwarf-like girl who lives by the sea with her white rabbit and sleeps in a bird's nest, watches people who come to the seaside. One day she meets Lamar, an author, and helps her write a story. Gvalup learns how to read in the process and in the end stays with Lamar to explore this new world, this new life. The stories are accompanied by Željka Cupek's illustrations, which possess the same pleasant restraint and poetic symbolic power as Tamara Bakran's texts. (Age: 7+)

CHINESE
CROATIAN

Republic of China (Taiwan)
Croatia

17



Lukačić, Gordana (text)

Jantolek, Saša (illus.)

Kakav sam – takav sam*(The way I am – is the way I am)*

Zagreb: Studeni, 2016. – [28] p.

(Series: Piši riši!)

ISBN 978-953-7190-64-4

Familial relations | Independence | Pet |
Picture book

Seven-year-old Lana lives in a family with many members: Mum and Dad, younger brothers, Grandma and Grandpa, Garo the dog, Monika the cat, Lero the parrot, Iris the turtle who wandered in, as well as a group of unnamed fishes in the aquarium. Lana has a relationship with all of them, as well as an opinion and perspective about them. In short passages, she describes from the first-person perspective how she views her brother, what her mother likes and doesn't like, what Lana finds fair and unfair, who gets along with whom in the family and what special qualities her pets have. It's soon evident what a self-directed, independent personality the girl has. The creative duo of Gordana Lukačić and Saša Jantolek, who received acclaim for this book, show in a simple, direct way that one must accord children their own thinking, reasoning, and feeling and accept this fact, even if adults are apt to forget it. (Age: 5+)

18



Černá, Olga (text)

Šašek, Miroslav (illus.)

**Ztracený deník profesora z Essexu
(aneb podivuhodná zvířena)***(The lost diary of the Professor from Essex
[or: The wonderful world of animals])*

Praha: Baobab, 2017. – 72 p.

ISBN 978-80-7515-056-1

Natural scientist | Research trip | Discovery |
Animals | Fantasy fiction | Fictional travelogue

A professor from Essex is on a research trip with his wife Rosamund. They are heading to an unknown island in the South Sea, somewhere near Australia and New Zealand. The nature researcher jots down what he finds in his diary. Mainly he discovers unknown animals: double-headed, multi-beaked, fork-tailed, a cross between millipede, beaver and eel. Described in precise detail, he draws and names the animals he discovers and documents his dangerous expedition through the densely forested island. Olga Černá has concocted a wonderful fictional diary report that could well have arisen from Charles Darwin's plume. The text exudes ancient adventure from a time when the world was still big and contained unseen spots. The other highlight of the book are the curious drawings of the fantastic animals. They are by Černá's great-uncle, the well-known Miroslav Šašek (1916-1980), and it is here that they have first been amassed in one book. No wonder that this »diary« was awarded the 2018 »Golden Ribbon« in the Czech Republic. (Age: 8+)



19

Malý, Radek (text)

Fučíková, Renáta (illus.)

Franz Kafka. Člověk své i naší doby

(Franz Kafka. A person of his time and ours)

Praha: Práh, 2017. – [100] p.

ISBN 978-80-7252-674-1

[Kafka, Franz](#) | [Biography](#) | [Non-fiction](#)

What of Kafka has actually stayed with us? First, he lived in Prague, wrote in German and was Jewish. Second, he wrote a story in which the hero wakes up one morning as an insect. Third, he had problems with his father, with work, with women and with everything, generally. These three widely held views are taken up by the wonderful lyricist and German cultural scholar Radek Malý (b. 1977) as the starting point for his Kafka biography for children. Together with the equally marvellous illustrator Renáta Fučíková (b. 1964), he succeeds not only in examining those common views and contextualizing Kafka within his family, his city, his religion, and his time. The author and illustrator also succeed in re-creating the Kafka-esque atmosphere of his short stories and novels. The informative biographical segments are interrupted by excerpts from Kafka's own texts and accompanied and enhanced by the dark and surreal black-and-white drawings typical of Fučíková. (Age: 10+)



20

Rubášová, Tat'ána (text)

Janíček, Jindřich (illus.)

Podivuhodná robotí expedice

(The wonderful robot expedition)

Praha: Labyrint, 2016. – 93 p.

(Series: William & Meriwether;

Komiks – 14. Svazek)

ISBN 978-80-906111-3-9

[Robot](#) | [Expedition](#) | [Discovery](#) | [Origin](#) | [Future](#) | [Cultural critique](#) | [Dystopia](#) | [Graphic novel](#)

Labyrint Publishing not only unveils a new series with »William & Meriwether«, but also a new narrative style for comics. Akin to a video clip with subtitles, the story is set in the future and centers around the robots William and Meriwether. It offers many witty allusions and irony: each page features a large illustration with an accompanying text at the bottom of the page, which describes the robots' expedition in the world on the other side of the wall. They are tasked to look for remnants of earlier life and to research where robots come from and why they exist. Naturally, William and Meriwether face obstacles along the way, must orient themselves in the underbrush and avoid falling into crevices and caves. In the end they discover a settlement, where they not only find old transport vehicles, such as rockets, and their ancestor, an early form of robot, but also proof of an ancient myth – human beings with real hands and faces. (Age: 9+)

CZECH

Czech Republic

21



Soukupová, Petra (text)

Ščerbová, Tereza (illus.)

Kdo zabil snížka?*(Who killed Snowflake?)*

Brno: Host, 2017. – 146 p.

ISBN 978-80-7577-226-8

Dog | Malice | Death | Value

Dogs are not stuffed animals, that's for sure. One must take care of them, take them on walks, give them food. Martina knows these things, because she wants to be a responsible young dog-owner. When her greatest wish comes true and »Snowflake« joins the family, everything is perfect. Or so it seems. Snowflake turns out to not be a loving pet, but instead has a difficult, possibly malicious character: she bites, disobeys, and makes everyone around her aggressive. One day, Snowflake is found dead. Murdered?! Unhappy Martina starts to investigate. In her second children's book, Petra Soukupová (b. 1979) once again shows a marvellous talent for weaving a suspenseful plot, this time regarding the dog's death into a text about being together with others, about people's interests and wishes. Beyond this, she touches on the problem of evil – in human beings, as well as in animals. Tereza Ščerbová's illustrations, dominated by cool blue water colours, capture all of this wonderfully. (Age: 9+)

22



Lemire, Sabine (text)

Bregnhøj, Rasmus (illus.)

Mira. #venner, #forelsket, #etårimitliv*(Mira. #friends, #inlove, #ayearinmylife)*

København: Gyldendal, 2017. – 99 p.

(Series: Mira; 1)

ISBN 978-87-022-1976-0

Child | Youth | Everyday life | Coming of age |
Instagram | Graphic novel

In Copenhagen the fireworks glitter, and Mira writes down her wishes for the new year: She finally wants an Instagram account, a cooler room, and it would be way sweet to fall in love, because it seems about time for that, too. Her best friend Naja talks of nothing else. But as hard as Mira tries, nothing seems to really work out. Mira is a totally normal girl: happy, thoughtful, sad, silly, playful, curious, insecure. In their graphic novel, Sabine Lemire and Rasmus Bregnhøj follow Mira through the year, with its highs and lows, friendship crises and peer pressures, with its intimate, embarrassing and funny moments. »Mira« is about a girl that is not really a kid anymore, but also not a teen, and is perfect for all readers stuck in the in-between who sometimes aren't sure where they belong. (Age: 10+)

23



Riewe, Jacob (text)

Jeg hader, når nogen fløjter*(I hate when someone whistles)*

København: Høst & Søn, 2017. – 310 p.

ISBN 978-87-638-5473-3

Misfortune | Silence | Hopelessness | Violence | Homosexuality

The air is still, and it is hot. Oliver can see the train tracks from the window of the drab high-rise building. Dogs bark. Talking with his mother is tough; the dialogue feels meaningless at best, damaging at worst. Conversations with his friends feel circular. Author Jacob Riewe tells Oliver's story with naturalistic exactitude and often in real time. This can make reading the novel quite a torment. Still, what comes of it is the ability to notice and to see how Oliver exists in a claustrophobic universe dominated by a sense of having no prospects and feeling angry. Overshadowing all this is a tragedy no one talks about. Oliver's frustration erupts into an aggressive outbreak one night. This is paradoxically the beginning of something new, something beautiful, if ephemeral. »Jeg hader, når nogen fløjter« tells a largely depressing tale, whose radical honesty is pursued to a degree rarely found in young adult literature. (Age: 14+)

24



De Doncker, Wally (text)

Ramos, Fátima (illus.)

Ik ben heel veel liefde*(I am a lot of love)*

Antwerpen: Davidsfonds Infodok, [2017]. – [40] p.

ISBN 978-90-5908-823-8

Love | Family | Generation | Picture Book

Where do I come from? Who was there before me? What of them do I have in me? These are just some of the protagonist's questions featured in this philosophical picture book. Luna's parents were deeply in love and that's why Luna was born. But what would have happened if her father and mother hadn't ever met each other? Probably she would be quite different from what she is now. And what aspects of her grandfather and grandmother are part of her? And what of generations long ago? Maybe she has a knight as an ancestor, or a real prince. This is a philosophical and at the same time light-hearted story told in poetic language about family, love, and the question of how former generations remain part of us. The dreamy illustrations in warm autumn colours possess a surreal radiance. The books of Wally de Doncker, former president of IBBY, always have a philosophical undertone, and many of his books have been adapted into musicals and theatrical plays. »Ik ben heel veel liefde« was nominated for the SABAM award for children's literature. (Age: 7+)

DANISH
DUTCHDenmark
Belgium

25



Dumon Tak, Bibi (text)
 Nozeman, Cornelis [et al.] (illus.)
Het heel grote vogelboek
(The very big book about birds)
 Tielt: Lannoo / Koninklijke Bibliotheek,
 2017. – 75 p.
 ISBN 978-94-014-4129-2

Bird | Non-fiction

Between 1770 and 1829, pastor and ornithologist Cornelis Nozeman compiled a foundational five-volume ornithological field guide, with the help of several draftsmen and engravers. Bibi Dumon Tak here selects 30 of the 250 birds featured in that historical guide, and enhances the old discoloured engravings with her own poetic, instructive, and very humorous written profiles. The author incorporates fictive reader questions in an engaging way. For instance, after she writes that the American robin is a real champion singer, an imaginary reader asks: How is that possible? She also holds fictive conversations with Cornelis Nozeman about the birds he chose for his books. When she muses that the wren must have ADHD, upon close inspection of its behaviour, she explains to Nozeman what ADHD means. Each double spread features one bird. Dumon Tak's writing is accompanied by text boxes containing more information, interesting facts, and a quote from Nozeman. Bibi Dumon Tak received the Theo Thijssen Prijs (the Netherlands' state award for children's literature given every three years) this year. (Age: 10+)

26



Van Nuffelen, Bart (text)
 Ruell, Kristina (illus.)
Amira. De prinses komt thuis
(Amira. The princess is coming home)
 Wielsbeke: De Eenhoorn, [2017]. – [34] p.
 ISBN 978-94-6291-257-1

Refugee | Newcomer | Migration | Picture book

Amira fled her country, together with her family. The journey was long and hard. The new country (in the picture we see elements reminiscent of New York) is now their home. But the new country is grey, and nobody understands that Amira is a princess. When Amira goes to school for the first time, the teacher uses words Amira doesn't understand. But then she hears her name: Amira. That means princess! In this intriguing picture book, the story of forced migration is told from the perspective of a young child. It impressively conveys how overwhelming it is to arrive in a new country with totally unfamiliar customs. In the background of the first double-spread illustration, the story starts with planes throwing bombs. The collage illustrations lend the story an additional dimension, portraying many details of life in a big city. Also, to symbolically express Amira's feelings, the illustrator uses dark colours when she is in school, and brighter colours when she goes home. This is a book about an urgent theme, which lends itself to be used in schools. (Age: 4+)

27



Akveld, Joukje (text/photos)

Grobler, Piet (illus.)

Fox, Justin [et al.] (photos)

Wij waren hier eerst

(We were here first)

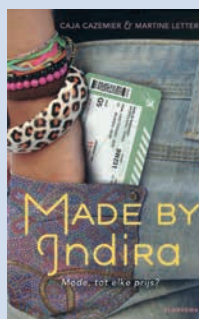
Haarlem: Gottmer, 2017. – 224 p.

ISBN 978-90-257-6649-8

[South Africa](#) | [Wild animals](#) | [Non-fiction](#)

Joukje Akveld trekked by foot through South Africa and visited shelters for threatened wild animals, including cheetahs who rarely breed, rhinoceroses on the run from poachers, and pesky bag-stealing baboons. An animal is introduced in every chapter of her book, along with its wild habitat. Akveld's personal observations, the know-how of local experts, and the funny tips about how to – and especially how not to – handle wild animals make her approach unique. Akveld also broaches difficult subjects. Are there, for instance, too many elephants or not enough? It all depends on how you look at it. There are few of them worldwide, but in and around nature reserves there are too many. She teases apart in humorous ways many tourist misunderstandings about the animals. The photos (most of them taken by Akveld herself) are beautiful, and Grobler's small, colourful illustrations, which sometimes form part of a photo, are sophisticated. The book was nominated for the 2018 Woutertje Pieterse Award and received a Silver Slate Pencil this year. (Age: 11+)

28



Cazemier, Caja / Letterie, Martine (text)

Made by Indira

(Made by Indira)

Amsterdam: Ploegsma, [2018]. – 215 p.

ISBN 978-90-216-7702-6

[Clothing](#) | [India](#) | [Child labour](#)

Most teenagers want beautiful clothes, if possible cheaply obtained. Fifteen-year-old Terra buys plenty of clothes. Her aunt, who works for the labour union, invites her to go with her on a trip to India, to visit the factories where clothes for companies in Western Europe are produced. During the trip Terra sees the conditions required to produce cheap clothes. She meets a young girl named Indira, who is forced to work in a factory that is more like a prison. She is not so much an employee, as the man who recruited her with all manner of enticing promises said she would be, as more a prisoner or slave. Told in alternation by Terra and Indira, this heart-wrenching story describes the terrible circumstances in which Indira and other young girls in India are living and explains how organizations try to help them. It will make young readers aware of how certain clothes in their favourite shops come to be so inexpensive, and of what they can do to help change the situation. (Age: 12+)

29



Huizing, Annet (text)
Westermann, Margot (illus.)

De zweetvoetenman. Over rechtszaken & regels (en een hoop gedoe)

(The Sweaty-Foot Man. Stories about the law [and a lot of trouble])

Rotterdam: Lemniscaat, [2017]. – 247 p.
ISBN 978-90-477-0826-1

Jurisdiction | Non-fiction

Most people think that the law is boring and complicated. In this non-fiction book full of exciting stories for children and adults, Annet Huizing brings the rule of law to life. Can you steal back your own bicycle? When are you allowed to strike someone? Why are there rules about chocolate sprinkles? Countless questions are touched upon, some to make readers burst out laughing, some to amaze them or make them think. Based both on famous and less well-known cases past and present, readers discover how the law works, what happens in court, how laws are made, and how difficult it is to judge, because every case has so many angles to consider. The stories are accompanied by cartoon-style drawings and lively infographics about, for example, what goes on in a courtroom, the difference between murder and manslaughter, and the role of the Supreme Court. A book that shows, in a varied, funny, and interesting way, that the law is everywhere, and belongs to everyone. The book received the 2018 Silver Slate Pencil. (Age: 12+)

30



Lieshout, Ted van (text/illus.)

Onder mijn matras de erw. Gedichten & portretten

(Under my mattress the pea. Poems and portraits)

Amsterdam: Leopold, [2017]. – 89 p.
ISBN 978-90-258-6498-9

Family | Divorce | Grandmother | Death | Poetry

Ted van Lieshout is a consummate artist. In this book of 35 free-verse poems and 15 photographic portraits of clay dolls, he explores, in his original and distinctive way, the mind and heart of a girl teetering precariously between childhood and adulthood. Her voice is distinctive, her tone direct, and her emotions are familiar. In the first poem, the girl plays at being mother to her dolls, which also marks the start of getting older and becoming aware of all the changes taking place in and around her. In beautiful, poetic language, she reflects on her grandmother »slowly dying«. She wonders about her relationship with her divorced parents and why she is actually here on Earth. The poems that playfully allude to the »princess« status her parents awarded her and to her longing for fairy-tale romance are particularly touching. The photographs of the white clay dolls' heads, made with household materials and glass eyes, reinforce her feeling of being special. With this approach, Ted van Lieshout offers a kaleidoscopic gaze into a girl's life and into the culmination of his artistry. (Age: 13+)

31



Remmerts de Vries, Daan (text)
Schubert, Dieter / Schubert, Ingrid (illus.)
Konijnentango
(Rabbit tango)
[Hoorn]: Hoogland & Van Klaveren,
[2017]. – [30] p.
ISBN 978-90-8967-221-6

Rabbit | Dancing | Love | Textless book |
Picture book

By the waterside at night, a rabbit awaits her boy-friend on the bank of a lake. She spots him in the distance, and when he arrives they embrace and kiss. Dancing, hopping, and playing, they greet the sunrise. The rabbits' movements are reflected on the smooth surface of the water. Looking carefully, though, one sees that the images in the water are not the same as the movements on land: they tell the same story, but from the perspective of the male rabbit. The sophisticated construction of this wordless picture book is based on the literary principle of telling the same story twice from alternate perspectives, leaving readers to interpret all that happens. Once through, you can turn the book and »read« the story once again. There are also two covers to this picture book. The colourful illustrations in water-colour, coloured pencil and pastel are artful and charming. Particularly great is the way in which the illustrations alternate colour spectrums to imply the time of day, the light of the sun or the moon. (Age: 5+)

32



Schaap, Annet (text/illus.)
Lampje
(Little Lamp)
Amsterdam: Querido, 2017. – 324 p.
ISBN 978-90-451-2037-9

Lighthouse | Storm | Monster | Mermaid |
Daughter | Father

Emilia (Lampje) lives in a lighthouse with her father, who drinks too much. She has to do all the work. During a terrible storm, Emilia realizes she forgot to buy matches, and as the lighthouse lamp remains unlit, a ship smashes into the rocks. As punishment, her father is locked up in the lighthouse, and for seven years Lampje must work as a cleaner in the admiral's spooky house, which everyone says houses a monster. The story is told through the eyes of Lampje and the other characters, including the monster itself. It's a sad, but also exciting and mysterious story, with references to classics such as »The Water Babies« and »Sans famille«, but most of all to the tale of the »Little Mermaid«. The book has everything it takes to become a classic itself. Annet Schaap is best known in the Netherlands as an artist who illustrates the books of successful authors. »Lampje« is her first self-authored book, which was unanimously praised by children's literature critics and won the prestigious Woutertje Pieterse Award 2018. (Age: 9+)

33

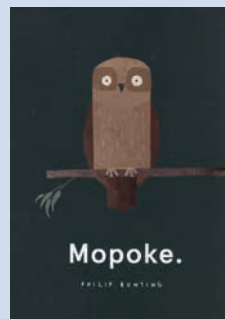


Ben-Barak, Idan (text)
Frost, Julian (illus.)
Rundgren, Linnea (photos)
Do not lick this book
Crows Nest, N.S.W.: Allen & Unwin, 2017. – [43] p.
ISBN 978-1-76029-305-5

Microorganism | Exploration | Science |
Picture book

This square picture book stars a gang of very friendly talking microbes – Min, Rae, Dennis, Jake, and their friends – who are eager to explore their surroundings. In a mix of facts and fictitious elements, the author-illustrator-photographer team use an interactive story, plus clear, cartoon-like illustrations and close-up microscope photographs to invite children on a tour of ordinary locations distorted: When mega-magnified, a book page evolves into a jungle, a child's tooth turns into a craggy mountain range, and the fabric of a T-shirt resembles a big bowl of green spaghetti. The common denominator of all these places is that they are inhabited by millions of minute germs. Breaking down complicated scientific details into child-friendly information, which is revealed through a silly and partly revolting story, this book will ignite children's curiosity about the world of bacteria. This engaging science experience for small readers was shortlisted for the Eve Pownall Award 2018. (Age: 4+)

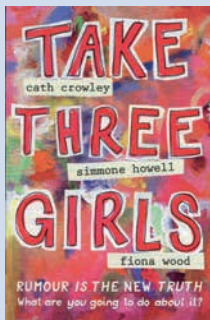
34



Bunting, Philip (text/illus.)
Mopoke
Gosford, N.S.W.: An Omnibus Book from
Scholastic Australia, 2017. – [48] p.
ISBN 978-1-74299-165-8

Australia | Owl | Wordplay | Picture book

Readers who expect an educational book about the mopoke, mainland Australia's smallest owl species, may be confused. However, Philip Bunting's debut picture book is infinitely more fun than any fact-filled tome. It is an amusing study of a quiet bird who gets grumpier and grumpier thanks to all kinds of disturbances; it is also a book of witty opposites, such as highpoke/lowpoke or poshpoke/poorpoke; and most of all, it is an ingenious play on the word »mopoke« and its many versions, distortions, and corruptions (both existing and made-up). The matt full-page pictures, reminiscent of Jon Klassen, show the avian protagonist crouched on its branch against a stark black background. Minimal details and adaptations to the illustration, such as a raised eye brow or a moustache, interpret the sparse text to achieve maximum effect. Every turn of the page holds another hilarious surprise for readers and will inspire them to add their own creations to the flock of (imaginary) bird-creatures. (Age: 4+)



35

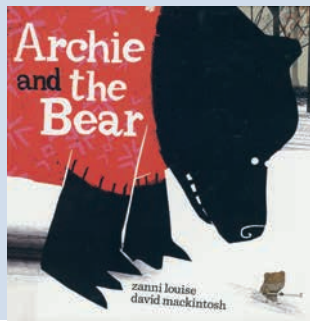
Crowley, Cath / Howell, Simone /
Wood, Fiona (text)

Take three girls

Sydney, N.S.W.: PAN Pan Macmillan Australia,
2017. – 439 p.
ISBN 978-1-74261-274-4

Cyberbullying | Femininity | Friendship

Young adult novels that explore femininity and the significance of female friendships are hardly new. Yet »Take Three Girls«, co-written by Cath Crowley, Simone Howell, and Fiona Wood, manages to inject a substantial amount of freshness into this familiar theme through its use of innovative narrative techniques, engagement with contemporary feminist ideas, and unflinching take on what it means to come of age in a digital world where cyberbullying is rampant. The novel is told from the perspective of three female characters (each taking turns to narrate), but their voices are interspersed with assignments from the »wellness« subject they are taking at school (which focuses on building self-esteem and thus enables the novel to foreground its examination of identity). Added to the mix are entries from each of the girls in her »Wellness Diary«, which serve as a reminder of the multiplicity and fragmentation of individual subjectivity. A beautifully written and thoughtful examination of adolescent femininity. (Age: 13+)



36

Louise, Zanni (text)
Mackintosh, David (illus.)

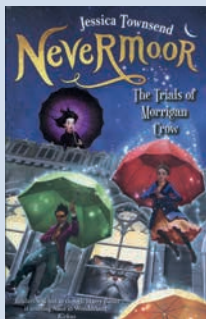
Archie and the bear

Richmond, Victoria: Little Hare / Hardie Grant
Egmont, 2017. – [32] p.
ISBN 978-1-760127-51-0

Imagination | Identity | Listening | Friendship |
Picture book

Archie is a ferocious bear – or so he claims. Fed up with all the people who »like [his] bear suit«, he packs his bear sack and stomps into the nearby forest, where he meets a boy who clearly is a huge bear in a boy suit. Boy-bear and bear-boy quickly realise that they have finally found their soul mate. Clad in the disguise of an entertaining tale about two imaginative protagonists and their unusual friendship, Zanni Louise's story soon reveals its deeper meaning. Without even the slightest hint of preachiness, »Archie and the Bear« challenges readers to ponder the importance of being open-minded, of carefully listening to others, and of accepting people – and other creatures – for what they (say they) are. In his vigorous illustrations, renowned artist David Mackintosh plays with different media, contrasting sizes, and varying perspectives to highlight the story's peculiar rhythm. Pictures, text, and overall design create a seamless unity that easily draws readers into the tale. (Age: 3+)

37



Townsend, Jessica (text)

The trials of Morrigan Crow

Sydney, NSW: Lothian, 2017. – IX p. + 451 p.

(Series: Nevermoor; 1)

ISBN 978-0-7344-1807-4

Curse | Trial | Apprenticeship |
Parallel world | Loneliness | Family |
Friendship | Fantasy fiction

Jessica Townsend worked on the first volume in this planned trilogy for several years, and after all this time, the young writer clearly knows the particulars of her fantasy world inside and out. Brimming with original characters, crazy adventures, and unexpected plot twists, this inventive debut novel has raked in lots of praise and awards, among them the 2018 Australian Book Industry Award. Morrigan Crow, the black-eyed protagonist, is cursed. Despised by her family and made to feel responsible for any catastrophe that occurs in her home country, Morrigan knows that she will die on the eve of her eleventh birthday. Literally last minute, a weird Willy-Wonka-eske stranger materialises and whisks her away to the magical city of Nevermoor, where she finds faithful friends and a home where she finally belongs. Yet in order to win her right to stay, the girl has to compete in four frightful trials with hundreds of Nevermoor children for a place in the mysterious, exclusive Wondrous Society. (Age: 9+)

38



Fleming, Anne (text)

The goat

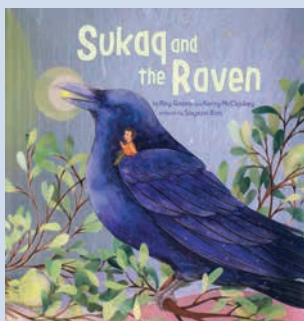
Toronto [et al.]: Groundwood Books / House of Anansi Press, [2017]. – 155 p.

ISBN 978-155498916-4

New York City | Social anxiety | 9/11

This quirky, heart-warming novel is probably the only book written from a mountain goat's point of view – at least in part. Readers also experience New York City through the bashful eyes of girl protagonist Kid, who suffers from social anxiety; through the ears of blind but skateboarding fantasy writer Joff Vanderlinden; through the thoughts of Jonathan, who suffered a stroke and is struggling to adapt to living with his disability; and through the skewed perception of Kenneth P. Gill, who lives up on the tenth floor and seems to be hiding a secret. Rumour has it that a white goat is living on the roof of the building, and seeing it will bring seven years of good luck. So Kid, together with her new friend Will, who lost his parents in the Twin Towers, sets out to find out more about this unlikely bearer of good fortune. The novel perfectly combines literary skill with human warmth. Fleming masters the art of perspectival writing, drawing readers into the very different worlds of the residents of the Manhattan building and their attempts to make sense of their lives. (Age: 10+)

39



Goose, Roy / McCluskey, Kerry (text)
Kim, Soyeon (illus.)

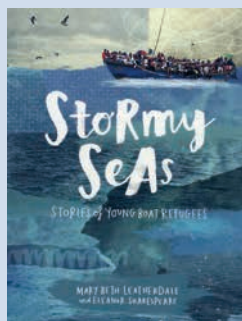
Sukaq and the raven

Iqaluit, Nunavut: Inhabit Media Inc., [2017]. – 25 p.
ISBN 978-1-77227139-3

Raven | Dream | Creation myth | Picture book

There is nothing that little Sukaq enjoys more as he snuggles into his bed than listening to his mother tell him his favourite story about the raven creating the world. Hovering in this middle realm between waking and sleeping, Sukaq soars through the night sky with the huge black bird. For this picture book, Inuit storyteller Roy Goose and journalist-cum-writer Kerry McCluskey (who lives in Iqaluit/Nunavut) have taken a traditional Inuit creation myth and woven a young boy's imaginary dream adventure into it. Elements of oral storytelling permeate the quiet third-person narration. Korean-born artist Soyeon Kim has collaged and crafted atmospheric three-dimensional dioramas in rich colours from a variety of materials to match the organic flow of the text. While the enormous raven frequently dominates the scenes, the friendship between the large mythological animal and the tiny boy is clearly expressed in every double-spread page. (Age: 4+)

40



Leatherdale, Mary Beth (text)
Shakespeare, Eleanor (illus.)

Stormy seas. Stories of young boat refugees

Toronto: Annick Press, [2017]. – VI p. + 56 p.
ISBN 978-1-55451-895-1

Refugee | History 1930-2010 | Survival |
Rejection | Prejudice | Non-fiction

Wars, famines, religious persecution, and the like – there are lots of different reasons that force people to leave their home countries. Most refugees undertake perilous journeys, often in overfilled boats, in search of a safe place where they can build a new life with (or without) their families. In this slender non-fiction book, Mary Beth Leatherdale has collected the memorable tales of five young refugees from different decades – from Ruth and her Jewish family, who boarded a ship to Cuba in 1939 in order to flee Nazi Germany, to thirteen-year-old Mohamed's four-year trek running from Civil War in Ivory Coast to Italy (2006-2010). The author delivers touching retellings of each of the young people's stories and combines these personal accounts with concise historical information, statistics, and upsetting quotes. Eleanor Shakespeare's bold digital collages and the careful overall design make this a visually attractive and well-structured book, important for readers of all ages. (Age: 12+)

41



Smith, Heather (text)

The agony of Bun O'Keefe

Toronto: Penguin Teen Canada / Penguin Random House, 2017. – 216 p.

ISBN 978-0-14-319865-9

Neglect | Running away | Friendship | Family | Homophobia | Racism

Set in Newfoundland in 1986, this remarkable YA novel follows the journey of fourteen-year-old Bun O'Keefe. Driven away by her dangerously obese mother, who is also an obsessive hoarder, the malnourished, neglected girl hitchhikes to the city, despite the fact that she has hardly left her home all her life. Luckily enough for her, Busker Boy, a young Indigenous street musician, comes to her rescue. In the house he shares with a variety of other young adults – including Chef, a talented culinary student, Big Eyes, an ex-Catholic girl recovering from an abusive past, and Cher/Chris, a drag queen and former med student – Bun finally finds a loving »foster family«, who help her heal. Although this book deals with a number of serious topics, such as suicide, sexual abuse, AIDS, homophobia, and racism, the story does never feel forced or preachy. Bun's first-person narrative stands out for its mixture of child-like innocence and bookish smartness that makes her a unique and endearing character. (Age: 13+)

42



Williamson, Emily [et al.] (text/illus.)

Gizo-Gizo! A tale from the Zongo Lagoon

Legon-Accra: Sub-Saharan Publishers, 2016. – [35] p.

(The Zongo Story project)

ISBN 978-9988-8603-2-5

(Parallel Hausa edition also published by Sub-Saharan Publishers)

Water | Pollution | Greed | Social behaviour | Quality of life | Picture book

Crab, Tortoise, and Spider are best friends who live on the shores of the beautiful Zongo Lagoon. Yet while Crab and Tortoise are hard-working, wise, and generous creatures, Gizo-Gizo – as the spider is called in the Hausa language – grows lazier and greedier every day. His gold-mining factory starts polluting the whole lagoon and poisoning all its animals. He, however, acts as if he couldn't care less, until one day, he himself falls victim to his criminal deeds. This topical environmental story and the accompanying witty digital illustrations evolved from a number of educational workshops at the Hassaniyya Quranic School (Cape Coast, Ghana), which Emily Williamson directed between 2012 and 2014 within the larger-scale »The Zongo Story Project«. Although the tale reads like a traditional fable and opens with the phrase that Hausa storytellers use to start a story (»Ga ta nan ga ta nanku!«), the issues tackled are challenges that the community faces today. Winner of the 2017 Children's Africana Book Awards. (Age: 5+)

43



Barter, Catherine (text)

Troublemakers

London: Andersen Press, 2017. – 373 p.

ISBN 978-1-78344-524-0

Siblings | LGBTQ | Homosexuality |
Political activist | Danger | Secret

Fifteen-year-old Alena's mother died when she was a toddler. Therefore, her older brother Danny and his boyfriend Nick are the only »real« parents she knows, and they have been providing a loving environment for her in which to grow up. Yet when a series of supermarket bombings shakes their East-London neighbourhood and Danny starts working for a seedy politician, tension rises and her family's peace is shattered. Alena gets increasingly curious about her past as well as current politics, and starts questioning why Danny refuses to discuss anything to do with their political activist mother. Catherine Barter has crafted a nuanced YA novel peopled with believably flawed characters who work hard to solve their various problems. Big issues such as political activism, poverty, a non-traditional family setup, violence, and terrorism are dealt with in an original way that evolves organically from the story and allows the protagonists to grow into fully-rounded, relatable characters. (Age: 14+)

44



Campbell, Jen (text)

Harnett, Katie (illus.)

Franklin's flying bookshop

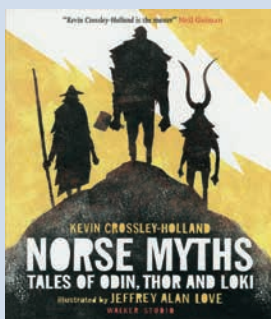
London: Thames & Hudson, 2017. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-0-500-65109-4

Dragon | Reading | Prejudice | Fear |
Friendship | Picture book

In fantasy tales and legends, dragons are usually ferocious and bloodthirsty beasts. Franklin may be huge, green, and scaly, but a fierce monster he is not. On the contrary: The solitary reptile is a true book-worm, who enjoys snuggling up in his cave with reading material ranging from King Arthur and roller skating, to baking and the Vikings. His heart's desire is to share these treasures with everyone, but whenever he tries to approach the people in the nearby village, they run off terrified. Until, one day, he meets fellow book-devourer Luna. Together they set up a flying bookshop and challenge people's prejudices. This touching magical tale about a tea-drinking, erudite dragon and an adventurous kind-hearted girl, brought together by their love for reading, is further enriched by the colourful, matt illustrations in different sizes. Executed in warm shades of red and green, the pictures perfectly capture both the mix of modern and fairy-tale setting and the amiable, headstrong protagonists. (Age: 4+)

45



Crossley-Holland, Kevin (retelling)
 Love, Jeffrey Alan (illus.)
Norse myths. Tales of Odin, Thor and Loki
 London: Walker Studio, an imprint of Walker Books, 2017. – 239 p.
 ISBN 978-1-4063-6184-1

Norse mythology

Kevin Crossley-Holland, highly renowned writer and storyteller, is hailed as a master of Norse mythology. For this weighty volume, he teams up with award-winning artist Jeffrey Alan Love to create a captivating and visually stunning introduction to the gods, dwarves, and giants from the nine worlds of Norse mythology. His twenty retellings for a younger audience based on the »Prose Edda« span the creation of the Norse world, its destruction, and everything in between: ferocious battles between the gods and the giants, ingenious trickery, and treacherous journeys through the gods' home of Asgard, the human (and dwarf) world of Midgard, the giants' realm of Jotunheim, and Niflheim, the world of the dead. Each tale is complemented by spooky silhouette-like pictures dominated by large planes of black. The introduction and presentation of the main figures at the beginning, as well as the glossary at the end makes navigation easier for newcomers to the complex world of Norse mythology. (Age: 10+)

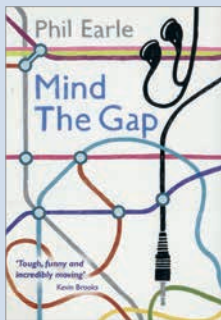
46



Daykin, Chloe (text)
 Jones, Richard (illus.)
Fish Boy
 London: Faber & Faber, 2018. – 304 p.
 ISBN 978-0-571-32676-1

Bullying | Illness | Escape | Danger | Hope | Friendship

In her debut novel, Chloe Daykin tackles issues fairly common in today's children's literature. Her young protagonist, however, seems anything but »common«. An outsider at school for his obsession with David Attenborough documentaries and his love for swimming in the sea, quiet Billy is regularly at the receiving end of school bully Jamie Watts's pranks and torments. What is more worrying though is that his mother has been suffering some mysterious illness that leaves her constantly tired. Yet just when his loneliness and fears threaten to get too overwhelming, Billy encounters a talking mackerel and its shoal, who entice him to escape his problems by joining them in their soothing underwater realm; luckily enough, his new school friend stands by him. This imaginative story successfully combines serious real-life issues and a smidgen of magical realism. In turns funny, mysterious, and suspenseful, the book provides an unusual view of the dark as well as the light corners of a person's mind. (Age: 9+)



47

Earle, Phil (text)

Mind the gap

Edinburgh: Barrington Stoke, 2017. – 99 p.

ISBN 978-1-78112-589-2

Father | Death | Friend | Coping with grief |
Violence | Alcohol

Set in a run-down housing estate in London, this gritty novella is a heart-wrenching study in grief, friendship, and healing. In just under a hundred pages, renowned author Phil Earle skilfully plays out a human drama, having readers witness how a teenage boy's determination to save his best mate almost ends in disaster. Tough, surprising, and at times funny, the story – which was sparked by a true incident – has an authentic feel to it and reads quickly, not only for bibliophiles, but also for those less inclined to read – not least due to its dyslexia-friendly typeface. The two protagonists have been friends for ages, but since his Dad died, Mikey has been falling to pieces. An alcohol- and violence-induced dead-end seems inevitable. Yet his best mate will move heaven and earth to help. Not matter how impossible it may seem at first, the first-person narrator sets off on a quest to retrieve something of Mikey's dad for him, and, accidentally, he happens upon a goldmine of a memory. (Age: 14+)



48

Evans, Lissa (text)

Tomić, Tomislav (illus.)

Wed wabbit

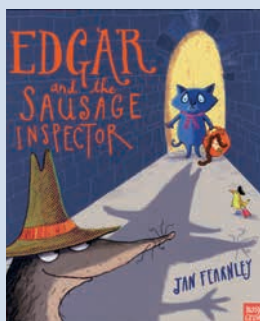
Oxford: David Fickling Books, 2017. – 242 p. + 3 p.

ISBN 978-1-910989-43-2

Sisters | Grief | Toy | Fantasy fiction

Eleven-year-old Fidge is trying to deal with the death of her father by helping her mother take care of her four-year-old sister Minnie. In a whirlwind of events, little Minnie ends up in hospital and Fidge is left to fend for herself with the help of her less than friendly cousin Graham, a therapist/car called Dr. Carrot, and Ella, a toy elephant with a fondness for proper diction. Together they find themselves in the world of the Wimbley Woos, characters from Minnie's favorite picture book, which is ruled by another of Minnie's stuffed animals: the angry Wed Wabbit. »Don't laugh. He's dangerous,« readers are told at the start of the novel. Although he certainly proves to be dangerous, it is outright impossible not to laugh while reading this wildly funny book. Lissa Evans mixes a few creepy but cuddly toys, many hilarious rhymes, and an annoying relative, and cooks up a bewitching adventure about being brave, overcoming tragedy, and the power of sisterly love. (Age: 6+)

49



Fearnley, Jan (text/illus.)

Edgar and the sausage inspector

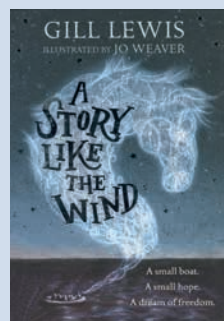
London: Nosy Crow, 2017. – [32] p.

ISBN 978-0-85763-822-9

Siblings | Food | Villain | Trick | Punishment |
Picture book

Two hungry cats and a villainous rat in a hat – what a scrumptious recipe for an exciting story! Feline siblings Edith and Edgar own a colourful little house in a French town, and while Edith works up quite a hunger by repainting the walls, repairing furniture, and doing all kinds of handiwork in an amusing gender-role-reversal, her loving brother Edgar plans to spoil her with delicious treats. Yet every night, on his way home, he is stopped by the same (self-proclaimed) food-inspector rat with a shout of »Hold it right there!«. The insolent rodent bully confiscates the tomcat's delicacies and vanishes. This action-filled tale is told in engaging prose interspersed with witty dialogue that lends itself to being read aloud in different voices. The comical matt illustrations are brimming with funny details and feature a cast of energetic characters. The surprising twist at the end will have readers cheering for the courageous cat hero, who eventually gets to have the last laugh. (Age: 4+)

50



Lewis, Gill (text)

Weaver, Jo (illus.)

A story like the wind

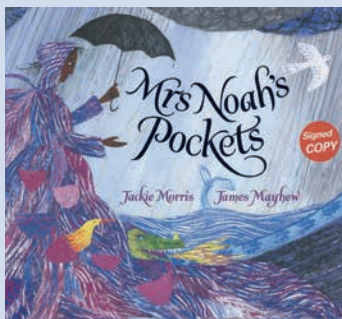
Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017. – 71 p.

ISBN 978-0-19-275895-8

Refugee | Music | Storytelling | Memories |
Hope

Whereas other refugee books, such as the heart-breaking graphic novel »Illegal« (Hodder Children's Books, 2017), often offer a harsh and gritty realistic tale, this small square gem opts for a more poetic voice. Inspired by a photograph of a refugee boy and his violin, the book does not make light of the perils that people face who are forced to leave their homeland; nevertheless, it is ultimately a story of hope and the healing powers of music and storytelling. Adrift in a little boat in the middle of the vast ocean, a small group of strangers are awaiting their fate. Despite their despair and hunger, they share whatever morsels they have. Thirteen-year-old Rami has nothing left to contribute, except for his violin. Playing for his companions, Rami whisks them into a moving story that has them remember their homes, dreams, and intense craving for freedom. Atmospheric, monochrome pictures tightly weave the two stories together and create a quiet urgency that makes this book special. (Age: 10+)

51



Morris, Jackie (text)
Mayhew, James (illus.)

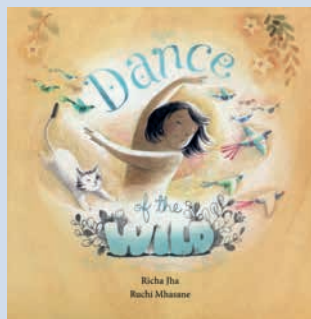
Mrs Noah's pockets

Burley Gate, Herefordshire: Otter-Barry Books,
2017. – [34] p.
ISBN 978-1-91095-909-1

Noah's Ark | Mythological creature |
Discrimination | Rescue | Storytelling |
Imagination | Picture book

In the Bible story about Noah and the ark, the eponymous hero usually gets all the credit for saving the creatures of the Earth. Not so in this witty and thought-provoking feminist take on the widely-known tale, which was inspired by an opera production called »Noah's Flood«, for which prolific artist James Mayhew had designed some artwork. In this picture-book version, author Jackie Morris introduces readers to a more fallible Noah: a prejudiced and self-satisfied fellow. He sees the big flood as his chance to get rid of all the »more troublesome creatures«. His wife, however, is intent on thwarting his abominable plans. Secretly sewing up a colourful coat with lots of deep pockets, Mrs Noah comes to the rescue of the mythical creatures her husband had planned to abandon; and in turn, she also saves the world of imagination and the ancient tradition of storytelling. Jackie Morris's quiet, poetic text with a twist is transformed into vivid mixed-media and collage illustrations. (Age: 4+)

52



Jha, Richa (text)
Mhasane, Ruchi (illus.)

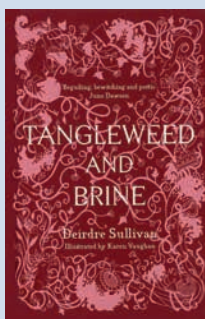
Dance of the wild

Noida: Pickle Yolk Books, 2017. – [32] p.
ISBN 978-93-5279-432-4

Freedom | Self-esteem | Nudity | Curiosity |
Family | Picture book

Little Shilu loves to dance and twirl around in her birthday suit. Despite her grandma's protests, she delights in jumping around as free as her pet cat Pirate and all the other animals. When Nannu tries to reason with her that, as a big girl, she now must follow the adults' rules and wear some clothes, the small protagonist challenges her to remember her own childhood. Shilu's enthusiasm and disarming curiosity ensure that Nannu and Mamma treat her with lenience and love, and even join in her romp around the garden (though fully clothed). Richa Jha's playful, gently flowing text is paired with vibrant colour pencil illustrations in soft hues that portray Shilu's healthy self-esteem and pride in her body still unencumbered by embarrassment or societal norms. Told entirely from the young girl's point of view, the book delivers an enchanting tale of family love, curiosity, and freedom of expression. (Age: 4+)

53



Sullivan, Deirdre (text)
Vaughan, Karen (illus.)
Tangleweed and brine

Dublin: Little Island Books, 2017. – 155 p.
ISBN 978-1-910411-92-6

Woman | Strength | Fairy tale | Retelling

In her highly praised YA novel »Needlework« (Little Island, 2016), Deirdre Sullivan already displayed her remarkable talent for combining sinister subject matter and poetic prose. In her latest offering, winner of the Children's Books Ireland Book of the Year Award 2018, she brings haunting lyrical narration to a new level. Her collection of thirteen dark fairy tale retellings, perfectly complemented by Karen Vaughan's black-and-white illustrations, provides a fascinatingly subversive and feminist look at classical tales such as Cinderella, Rumpelstiltskin, and A Little Mermaid. Sullivan's texts are told in intense voices ranging from first- and third-person accounts to the more unusual form of second-person narration. Often they don't retell the whole story, but rather depict a certain moment in time – set before, during, or after the actual fairy tale – which serves to highlight the courage and fears, as well as the hidden powers and innermost thoughts of her female protagonists. (Age: 14+)

54



Webb, Sarah (ed.)
McCarthy, Steve (illus.)
A Sailor went to sea, sea, sea. Favourite rhymes from an Irish childhood

Dublin: The O'Brien Press, 2017. – 64 p.
ISBN 978-1-84717-794-0

Nursery rhyme | Poetry | Song | Anthology

Six years after their first collaboration on the entertaining anthology »Sally Go Round the Stars« (The O'Brien Press 2011, with Claire Ranson), Sarah Webb and Steve McCarthy are having a go at another compilation of Irish nursery rhymes, songs, and poetry. As Sarah Webb states in her introductory note, her intention is to offer a distinctly Irish flavour to her audience with traditional Irish songs, such as »Molly Malone«, street rhymes and silly verses as mouth-watering as »On Top of Spaghetti« and »Jelly on a Plate«, as well as (shortened versions for younger readers of) classic poems from famous Irish writers including James Joyce, Oscar Wilde, and W.B. Yeats. Put together, they create a kaleidoscope of the editor's favourite verses from her childhood. Steve McCarthy's colourful, matt double-spread illustrations are brimming with humorous, witty, and ridiculous details that make the rhymes and songs dance on the pages. A treasure trove for child and adult readers alike. (Age: 5+)

55



[Kang], Woo-hyon (Kang, U Hyeon) (text/illus.)
Mello, Roger (text/illus.)

Magma Boy

Seoul: Namibooks, 2017. – [44] p.
ISBN 979-11-88191-01-7

Jeju Island | Volcano | Sea | Mermaid |
Haenyeo (female sea diver) | Creation myth |
Picture book

This picture book tells the story of the birth of Jeju Island, one of the most beautiful places in Korea, designated as »UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site«. The island is also home to the culture of »Haenyeo« (female sea divers), which recently made the »Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity« list. Distinguished Korean writer and illustrator Woo-hyon Kang and multiple award-winning Brazilian writer and illustrator Roger Mello collaborated in creating an original narrative that breaks away from the traditional origin myth of Jeju. The book is illustrated using both East Asian and Western art techniques. In the story of love and friendship between Magma Boy and Mermaid, personified magma acts as the narrator, who explains how he created the island. Illustrations in vivid colours contrast with delicate watercolour pictures, creating a mysterious atmosphere, as one reads this powerful and imaginative story about Magma deep in the sea. (Age: 4+)

56



Beavis, Paul (text/illus.)

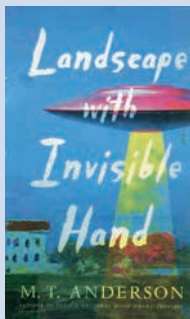
What are you supposed to be?

Auckland [et al.]: Scholastic, 2017. – [32] p.
ISBN 978-1-77543-405-4

Prejudice | Differentness | Self-confidence |
Picture book

A proper wolf needs to be a scary, sharp-toothed, sheep-devouring, growling monster – EVERYONE knows this. So when the bossy girl in this story meets a scraggly, violin-playing, salad-munching something, she doesn't quite know what to make of it. She is absolutely set on helping the well-mannered fellow change into a beast that fulfills her expectations. The only problem is: Wolf isn't interested. He feels just fine the way he is. The cartoon-like illustrations, created in pencil and Photoshop, make clever use of the entire double-page spreads and highlight the contrast between the stubborn, pink-clad know-it-all and the laid-back, hyper-polite wolf. Paul Beavis of »Mrs Mo's Monster«-fame (Gecko Press, 2014) has fashioned an inimitable set of quirky characters starring in a highly entertaining tale. Written entirely in dialogue, the story shows that remaining true to oneself is the key, despite of what others might wish. (Age: 4+)

57



Anderson, M.T. (text)

Landscape with invisible hand

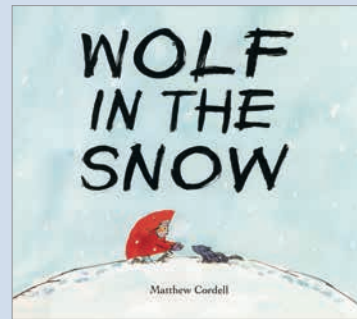
Somerville, Massachusetts: Candlewick Press, 2017. – 149 p.

ISBN 978-0-7636-8789-2

Extraterrestrial being | Survival | Technology |
Science fiction | Satire

When the vuvv landed, they promised alien tech, prosperity, and cures for all diseases. Years into this peaceful invasion, Adam and his family, like most humans, struggle to survive after the vuvv's advanced technologies have rendered most jobs unnecessary and destroyed the middle class. While his mom searches daily for work, Adam paints the new American landscape, devalued and shadowed by mansions that float in the sky and block the sun. But then Chloe moves into town, and Adam falls for her instantly. The young couple devises a plan to make money by broadcasting their dates online to the asexual but curious vuvv. However, as time progresses, it becomes clear that their exploited teenage romance could never end well. M.T. Anderson has crafted a rare piece of young adult literature that seamlessly blends art, science fiction, and satire. The book shines a harsh, clear light on dark realities in the world today, while at the same time never letting go of the hope for a better future. (Age: 14+)

58



Cordell, Matthew (text/illus.)

Wolf in the snow

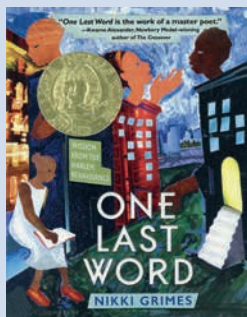
New York: Feiwel and Friends, 2017. – [48] p.

ISBN 978-1-250-07636-6

Blizzard | Getting lost | Rescue | Kindness |
Textless book | Picture book

A young girl in a hooded red coat and a wolf – does this look familiar? Yet this (almost) wordless new picture book defies readers' fairy-tale expectations of bad wolf vs. helpless girl. Instead, the artist masterfully executes a contemporary story of a resourceful girl who takes pity on a tiny wolf cub. After both are engulfed in a howling blizzard, the girl reunites the wolf with its mother, who repays the kindness by later rescuing the exhausted girl in return. Initially, the vivid ink-and-watercolour illustrations follow girl and wolves separately, creating a sense of imminent danger at their inevitable encounter. Cordell deftly mixes cartoon-like, stylized drawings for the people and a realistic depiction of the wolves. With viewpoints varying from birds' eye view to close-ups, and sound effects such as the wolves' howls as the only »text« to guide readers along, Cordell has composed a tale that perfectly captures happiness, exhaustion, and relief. (Caldecott Medal winner 2018) (Age: 4+)

59



Grimes, Nikki (text/ed.)

Various artists (illus.)

One last word. Wisdom from the Harlem Renaissance

New York: Bloomsbury, 2017. – 120 p.

ISBN 978-1-61963-554-8

African Americans | Harlem Renaissance |
Inspiration | Poetry

2017 has seen the publication of two highly acclaimed anthologies celebrating the work of important poets. Similar as they may appear at first glance, they go about it in slightly different ways: For »Out of Wonder. Poems Celebrating Poets«, which is adorned by Ekua Holmes's stunning illustrations (Candlewick, 2017), Kwame Alexander and his two co-authors have chosen twenty of their favourite poets – both from the US and abroad, both classic and contemporary – and written new poems honouring each of them. Nikki Grimes, in her collection »One Last Word« focuses exclusively on African-American poets from the Harlem Renaissance. What makes this anthology stand out is that she takes one or two particular texts from each writer and pairs these original poems with new creations of her own, composed in the challenging poetic form of the Golden Shovel. The anthology is complemented by artwork of fifteen renowned illustrators and comes with an informative foreword and short biographies of the poets. (Age: 12+)

60



Luyken, Corinna (text/illus.)

The book of mistakes

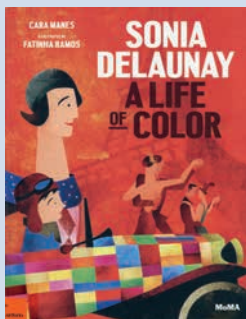
New York, NY: Dial Books for Young Readers, [2017]. – [52] p.

ISBN 978-0-7352-2792-7

Illustration | Mistake | Creativity | Metafiction |
Picture book

People tend to think that artists deliver nothing but perfection. Yet both Suzy Lee's ingenious wordless picture book »Lines« (Chronicle Books, 2017) and Corinna Luyken's »The Book of Mistakes« play with the fact that this is a myth. In this witty metafictional debut, Luyken takes a series of drawing slip-ups and transforms them into imaginative fantastical scenes, thus revealing that flaws are just a part of the process. Instead of having the artist feel frustrated or making her give up, »mistakes« can spark a new idea or change a point of view and grow into something miraculous – even if (or especially because) the resulting image differs from the original plan: an ink blot becomes a black hat, a weird cat-frog-cow creature is turned into a bush, etc. Luyken's concise colloquial text and her delicate illustrations rendered in black ink, pencil, and watercolours deliver an eye-opening, tongue-in-cheek celebration of fallibility and creativity that implores young would-be-artists to embrace their imperfection. (Age: 4+)

61



Manes, Cara (text)
Ramos, Fatinha (illus.)

Sonia Delaunay. A life of color

New York: The Museum of Modern Art, New York, [2017]. – [36] p.

ISBN 978-1-63345-024-0

Delaunay-Terk, Sonia | Female artist | Art | Colour | Picture book

Like many other museums, the Museum of Modern Art in New York regularly publishes books for children, often using material from its large archival collections and the expertise of its staff to introduce children to particular artists, certain topics, or art in general. This colourful offering's unique feature is that it does not simply sketch the life and art of Ukrainian-born artist and designer Sonia Delaunay. Instead, assistant curator Cara Manes and visual artist Fatinha Ramos create an entertaining frame story involving Sonia's young son, Charles. It takes the boy and readers on an imaginary car ride through Europe to open their eyes to the sensuality of colours as Delaunay experienced it. The digital illustrations, rendered in a style to fit in with Delaunay's artwork, are paired with reproductions of original works by her. The story stresses the connection Delaunay felt between art and life and makes the artist's ideas of »Simultanism« palpable for young readers. (Age: 5+)

62



Napoli, Donna Jo (text)
Wiesner, David (text/illus.)

Fish Girl

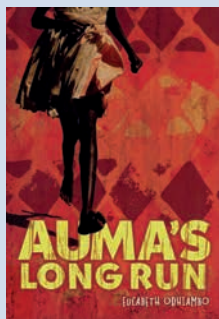
New York: Clarion Books, [2017]. – 182 p.

ISBN 978-0-544-81512-4

Greed | Aquarium | Mermaid | Prisoner | Freedom | Self-actualisation

Award-winning artist David Wiesner's surreal and witty picture books are lauded the world over. This time, he invests his creative energy into a much longer literary form: a graphic novel with fairy-tale overtones. Teaming up with equally renowned author Donna Jo Napoli, he has crafted hundreds of detailed pictures in hues of green and blue to create an unnerving multi-layered story of deceit, exploitation, friendship, and the quest for freedom. Its eponymous hero is the star attraction of a maritime boardwalk show. The huge aquarium's owner, purportedly god Neptune himself, keeps the mute teenage mermaid, who has never experienced the outside world, an obedient prisoner by alternately pampering and threatening her. Once she befriends regular visitor Livia, she finally starts questioning Neptune's version of the world as well as his intentions. With the help of her friend Octopus, mermaid Mira manages to destroy their prison, rescue her sea friends, and escape her captor. (Age: 12+)

63



Odhiambo, Eucabeth (text)

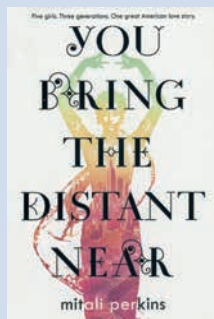
Auma's long run

Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, [2017]. – 298 p.
ISBN 978-1-5124-2784-4

Kenya | History 1985-1990 | AIDS | Family | Running

Auma has always known she is destined to accomplish great things. Growing up in a small Kenyan village in the 1980s, most girls her age plan to leave school and get married. But Auma has ambitions to become a track star, earn a scholarship, and one day become a doctor. However, an unnamed deadly sickness has been ravaging her small village. When her father becomes ill, she begins to investigate what is happening to him and tries to discover the truth about AIDS, the new disease no one seems to want to talk about. In this compelling work of historical fiction, believably narrated by a tenacious thirteen-year-old girl, author Eucabeth Odhiambo candidly shows the devastation AIDS inflicts on families and communities. The story was influenced by Odhiambo's own experiences growing up in Kenya during the 1980s and 90s and by research she conducted in Africa later as an adult. At the end of the novel, an author's note provides readers with information on AIDS in Africa from the 1980s until today. (Age: 11+)

64



Perkins, Mitali (text)

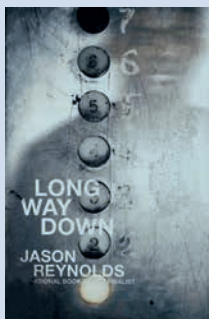
You bring the distant near

New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2017. – 303 p.
ISBN 978-0-374-30490-4

Immigration | Family | Bengali tradition | Assimilation | Cultural identity

Renowned author Mitali Perkins's tenth novel for young (and not so young) readers is a captivating family saga that spans several decades. It follows the lives of sisters Tara and Sonia, their daughters Anna and Chantal, and the family matriarch Ranee – five women from the Das family, who immigrated to the US from India in the 1960s/1970s. When the family first arrives in New York in 1973, actress-in-waiting Tara and bookish Sonia work hard to fit into their new school and neighbourhood; their mother, Ranee, on the other hand, strives to uphold Bengali traditions and control her daughters' every move – which eventually leads to a big rift between them. Twenty-five years later, the next generation of Das girls struggle with their own set of problems. Tackling timeless issues such as racism, cultural identity, social equality, and activism, and balancing these serious challenges with humour and romance, the author skilfully explores the experiences of five exceptional women. (Age: 12+)

65



Reynolds, Jason (text)

Long way down

New York: Atheneum, [2017]. – 306 p.

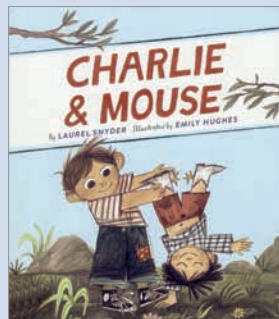
(A Caitlyn Dlouhy Book)

ISBN 978-1-4814-3825-4

Murder | Revenge | Gang violence |
Conscience | Code of conduct

Jason Reynolds is one of the most renowned authors for children and teenagers in the US. Within the past five years, he has published more than ten award-winning books. »Long Way Down« is a breath-taking verse novel about a young boy facing a terrifying dilemma: When his older brother Shawn is shot in the street due to gang violence, fifteen-year-old Will knows what is expected of him. The rules are: No crying. No snitching. And always seek revenge. Gun tucked into his belt and scared to death, Will steps on the elevator. In the sixty-second ride to the ground floor, he is joined by the ghosts friends and family members who were all killed following these rules and are now voicing their opinion – still, the decision is his to make. In Reynolds's intense verses not a single word is out of place. The rhythm, blank spaces, every turn of the page, even the page background and overall book design – everything is meticulously crafted to create an oppressive and suspenseful atmosphere that draws readers in without offering an easy solution. (Age: 14+)

66



Snyder, Laurel (text)

Hughes, Emily (illus.)

Charlie & Mouse

San Francisco: Chronicle Books, [2017]. – 36 p.

(Series: Charlie & Mouse; 1)

ISBN 978-1-4521-3153-5

Siblings | Everyday life | Imagination |
First reader

This first volume in an entertaining new series for emerging readers offers four short tales about clever brothers Charlie and Mouse. The two boys share everything, sleep in the same bed, and go on adventures together – whether it be an impromptu neighbourhood party at the playground or a quirky attempt at earning some pocket money by selling rocks. Written in simple, authentic language with affirming repetitions, the tales flow naturally and include enough of a funny twist to coax out giggles from youngsters and their (grand-)parents. The witty expressive illustrations present a diverse bunch of kids having fun together, a loving family atmosphere, and plenty of amusing details to make this Geisel Award winner 2018 a favourite bedtime (or daytime) read for families. Another four endearing adventures with the two brothers and their grandpa are available in the second volume called »Charlie & Mouse & Grumpy« (Chronicle Books, 2017). (Age: 5+)

67



Twain, Mark (original idea/text)
 Stead, Philip Christian (text/ed.)
 Stead, Erin E. (illus.)

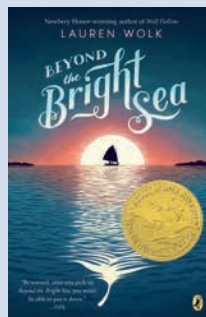
The purloining of Prince Oleomargarine

New York: Doubleday Books for Young Readers,
 [2017]. – 151 p.
 ISBN 978-0-553-52322-5

Poverty | Luck | Animals | Kidnapping | Quest |
 Storytelling | Folk tale

In this engaging mixture of folk tale and social satire, young Johnny and his mean grandfather just about scrape by on the bare necessities. When food runs out completely, the boy is sent to town to sell his pet chicken called Pestilence and Famine, which proves to be the start to a wondrous quest trying to free an allegedly abducted prince from a horde of giants with the help of a talkative skunk and various other animals. The book's unusual creation story is clearly reflected in the end product: Fragmented notes for a bedtime story that Mark Twain told his two young daughters served as a story prompt for award-winning husband-and-wife team Philip and Erin Stead. Weaving their own whimsical ideas seamlessly into the original wild tale, adding metafictional discussions by both authors, and adorning the resulting story with a wealth of Erin's delicate, magical illustrations, they have composed an idiosyncratic family treasure that plays with the mechanisms of storytelling. (Age: 5+)

68



Wolk, Lauren (text)

Beyond the bright sea

New York: Dutton Books for Young Readers,
 2017 – 304 p.
 ISBN 978-1-101-99485-6

Adoption | Outsider | Search for identity |
 Leprosy | Isolation | Greed

As a new-born baby, Crow washed up on the small island of Cuttyhunk (Massachusetts), where taciturn fisherman Osh took her in. At the age of twelve, the girl's growing curiosity triggers her resolve to search for some clues about her birth family on neighbouring Penikese and its abandoned leprosy hospital. Yet her foster father, himself an outsider with well-kept secrets, tries to dissuade her from disturbing the ghosts of the past. Lauren Wolk's lyrical prose paints an atmospheric picture of their quiet island life and the emotional bonds between Crow, Osh, and their neighbour Maggie. The touching novel is filled with suspense, mystery, family love, and a girl's quest for her place in the world. At the same time it also sheds light on the practice of ostracizing and isolating leprosy patients on remote islands in the 1920s – a rarely discussed topic that is also at the core of »The Island at the End of Everything« (Chicken House, 2017) by British writer Kiran Millwood Hargrave. (Age: 11+)

69



Niit, Ellen (text)

Pärn, Priit (illus.)

Onu Ööbik öösorri tänavast

(Mr. Nightingale from Nightjar Street)

[Tallinn]: Tammerraamat, [2017]. – 47 p.

ISBN 978-9949-565-86-3

Misfit | Eccentricity

He's a strange old coot, that Mr. Nightingale! Made up in the 1970s by the great Ellen Niit (1928-2016), that ungainly bean-pole of a man sped through the children's magazine »Täheke« on his scooter and became one of the best loved figures in Estonian children's literature. No wonder! Mr. Nightingale's unconventional lifestyle makes him exceedingly sympathetic. He always uses his wages to buy sweets, lemonade, and ice cream and often ends up being his own foil. The absurdity and comedy of Niit's stories, which are collected here in book-form for the first time, are perfectly captured by the spindly, surreal scenes of animator and cartoonist Priit Pärn (b. 1946). As with his equally wonderful illustrations for the »Gothamites« (2016) – the Estonian simpletons – Pärn imbues the classic material with a good dose of freshness and verve. These two books are rightly counted among the most important publications in recent Estonian children's literature. (Age: 6+)

70



Reinaus, Reeli (text)

Plats, Marja-Liisa (illus.)

Maarius, maagia ja libahunt Liisi

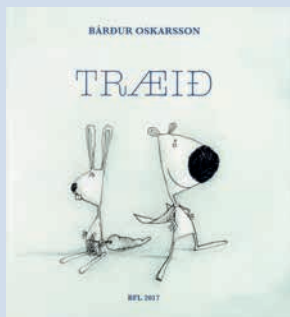
(Marius, magic, and Lisa the werewolf)

[Tallinn]: Päike ja Pilv, 2017. – 220 p.

ISBN 978-9949-9862-5-5

Forest | Metamorphosis | Mysticism | Outsider | Friendship | First love | Fantasy fiction

Reeli Reinaus (b. 1977) is known in Estonia as an author of over twenty children's and young adult books. A touch of her YA novels' usual mysticism is also present in this excellent 2017 children's book »Maarius, maagia ja libahunt Liisi«. Magical and mysterious things are afoot in the story about twelve-year-old Marius. New in town, he befriends Lisa, a fellow outsider. She spends a lot of time in the forest and takes Marius on her outings. Strange events occur in the forest that Marius cannot explain. Villagers say that Lisa and her family are witches and werewolves, who make people disappear in the forest. What is actually going on with Lisa remains unclear for quite a while, even as Marius develops a crush. The creepy tone Reinaus adopts for this story connects wonderfully with Marja-Liisa Plats' whole-page illustrations, which are kept to the colours yellow and teal. A great children's book! (Age: 10+)



71

Oskarsson, Bárður (text/illus.)

Træið

(The tree)

[Tórshavn]: BFL, 2017. – [34] p.

ISBN 978-99972-0-167-6

Truth | Lie | Rabbit | Dog | Picture book

There's a tree on the horizon, but Bob the rabbit has never been there. What could be over there? Just as he's pondering this, Hilbert arrives. Hilbert is a dog and knows what is going on over there. He has been there before. Bob is amazed. Hilbert was over there – so far away? Yes, certainly. He's been everywhere. He's even flown places, after all. WHAAAT?! Since when can Hilbert fly? How does he do it? Bob is so flabbergasted that he drops his carrot. Yes, Hilbert could show Bob how flying works sometime, but... now's not the best time. With that, Hilbert takes off, leaving Bob abashed. As with his earlier books, Bárður Oskarsson reveals himself to be a master of laconic text and pictures. Sparse dialogue and cartoon-like drawings are used to craft a story worth chuckling at and reflecting on. Can Hilbert really fly – or is he just pulling Bob's leg? (Age: 4+)



72

Cahiles, Weng D. (text) / Aguirre, Aldy C. (illus.)

dela Cruz, Kimberly B. (research)

Si Kian

(Kian)

Quezon City, Metro Manila: The Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, 2017. – [32] p.

(Series: The PCIJ Story Project)

ISBN 978-971-868-648-5

Philippines | History 2016-2017 | Human rights | Drugs | Violence | Murder | Picture book

Kian Loyd delos Santos, a seventeen-year old student, was killed in an »antidrug operation« by policemen in Caloocan City, Manila, on August 16, 2017. His death sparked public outrage, and his funeral turned into a protest against the »Drug War« of the Philippine government, which by 2018 had resulted in an estimated death toll of 20,000 persons. When police and state-controlled media claimed he was killed in self-defence, it needed an unconventional way of defending the truth against fake news. Prize-winning children's book author Weng Cahiles, renowned illustrator Aldy Aguirre, and journalist Kimberly dela Cruz collaborated in this first story project of the Philippine Centre for Investigative Journalism. It aims at exploring new ways of reporting stories that matter and at exposing wrongdoing in society. Its first picture book about Kian's short life and the truth about his death was released on Facebook and Instagram on September 5, 2017. (Age: 12+)

FAROESE
FILIPINO

Faroe Islands
Philippines

73



Rope, Jenni (text/illus.)

Pallen & Monkon kumma päivä*(Palle & Monko's strange day)*

Helsinki: Etana Editions, [2017]. – [28] p.

ISBN 978-952-7105-17-7

Forest | Mushroom | Friendship |
Adventure | Art | Picture book

Finnish publisher Etana Editions has made a name for itself in recent years with a small but sweet picture book production of consistently high artistic and graphic quality. »Pallen & Monkon kumma päivä« adds to this reputation. The picture book is about two friends named Monko and Palle. The two mushrooms live in the forest; one of them is blue, the other yellow. Today, they are very bored. Fortunately, they find colours and brushes and start to get creative. Boredom is replaced by action and adventure! Jenni Rope is known as a designer, cartoonist, and object artist. With Palle and Monko, she creates two lovable characters and shows that water colour technique need neither be stuffy nor antiquated. On the contrary: »Pallen & Monko« is fresh, modern, and lots of fun. (Age: 3+)

74



Lavachery, Thomas (text/illus.)

Roussel, Denis (colouring)

Ma famille verte*(My green family)*

[Bruxelles]: Pastel, [2017]. – [52] p.

ISBN 978-2-211-23194-7

Adoption | Orphan |
Extra-terrestrial being | Foreignness

A little girl (from planet Earth) has lost her family and travels to a new, unknown adoptive family on another planet. To her amazement, the extra-terrestrial inhabitants may be green-skinned, four-armed, and (by her standards) very odd, but they prove very lovable. After initial difficulties, Gugule (her new name) finds her place and finishes school so successfully that she can go on to study at university. Later she falls in love with a charming »greenie«. Even though this picture book throws a (sometimes too) positive look on adoption problems, it also thematises important issues, including the impressive cultural and linguistic adaptiveness of adopted children. This modern fairy tale is a semi-autobiographical book of successful Belgian author Thomas Lavachery. He dedicates it to his South Korean stepsister, Mee Kyong, who felt like she was »living on another planet« when she initially arrived in Belgium. (Age: 8+)



75

Oshka, Jane (text)
de Narváez, Paola (illus.)

Bien fait!

(Well done!)

Bruxelles: Versant Sud, [2017]. – [36] p.

(Series: Les pétaches)

ISBN 978-2-930358-79-6

Bird | Rage | Revenge | Self-control |
Picture book

Little Nils is pushed to the ground by a schoolmate in the schoolyard. He is hurt, but no one helps him; in fact, some schoolmates nearby even snigger. Nils feels an explosive mix of sadness and rage rise in him. Suddenly a swarm of dark birds appear in the sky, and a red bird separates itself off and divebombs Nils's attacker, injuring the boy's cheek. Later, a similar situation unfolds at Nils's house. Nils feels himself unjustly treated yet again, and again »his« birds appear and frighten Nils's family. Do these birds really exist or are they just an expression of the boy's overwhelming emotions? Author Jane Oshka adeptly leaves this question open. The large-format water colour paintings of Paola de Narváez expressively portray how difficult it is to learn to control dangerous emotional cocktails of frustration, sadness, and aggression. (Age: 6+)



76

Berton, Matteo (adapt./illus.)

Dassas, Véronique (transl.)

Voyage au centre de la terre, d'après l'oeuvre de Jules Verne

(Journey to the center of the Earth, after a work by Jules Verne)

Montréal (Québec): La Pastèque, [2017]. – 111 p.

ISBN 978-2-89777-021-1

Voyage of discovery | Island | Adventure |
Scientist | Science fiction | Graphic novel

Jules Verne's second novel, written in 1864, is one of his most well-known, and its success encouraged him to become a professional author. Verne cleverly combines elements of the adventure novel and travelogue genres with early science fiction formulae. He »supplemented« the scientific knowledge still lacking during his time (and in some cases even today!) with unhampered inventiveness and bold hypotheses. The story's protagonist, eccentric researcher Lidenbrock, heads out in search of the core of the Earth, passing prehistoric creatures and remnants of prehistoric ages along the way. Illustrator Matteo Berton has created an exceptional graphic novel, bravely relying on a personal yet persuasive expressive language. The book is composed using grey, brown, and white tones, only occasionally punctuated by turquoise. With wit, a love of detail, and powerful embellishing, Berton pictorializes the essential features of Verne's story in impressive ways. (Age: 11+)

FRENCH

Belgium
Canada

77



Perreault, Mélanie (text)
Arbona, Marion (illus.)

Dans la jungle amazonienne, il y a ...

(In the Amazon rain forest there is...)

Montréal (Québec): Les 400 coups, [2018]. – [22] p.

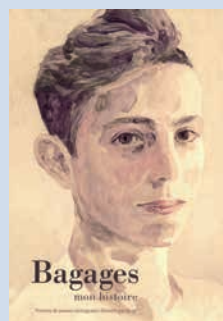
(Series: Hop là!)

ISBN 978-2-89540-715-7

Brazil | Amazon | Jungle | Animals |
Picture book | Leporello

The Amazon rain forest is the habitat of many fascinating and unfamiliar animals. This colourful, double-side printed fanfold book invites children to explore a section of the tropical rain forest – more precisely: to explore four tree giants from top to bottom. Looking very closely, one can identify their well-camouflaged denizens. All the way at the top, close to the treetops, loud parrots and monkeys dwell. Beneath them, sloths lie slumbering, seemingly unperturbed by a giant anaconda. Unusual butterflies and insects sway amidst the canopy, on whose branches the shy jaguar slinks. On the ground, frogs hop in a pond, and armadillos search out termites between the tree trunks. Marion Arbona captures the diversity of the tropical fauna with a fireworks display of colour. Her pictures are accompanied by a humorous poem by Mélanie Perreault, which introduces the jungle beasts – along with their unusual names. (Age: 5+)

78



Various authors (text)
Rogé (illus.)

Bagages, mon histoire. Poèmes de jeunes immigrants

(Baggage, my story. Poems from young immigrants)

Montréal (Québec): Éditions de la Bagnole,

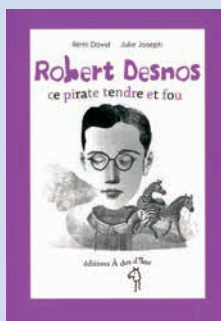
[2018]. – [36] p.

ISBN 978-2-89714-293-3

Migration | Escape | Refugee | Integration |
Poetry

Well-known Quebec author Simon Boulerice regularly leads writing workshops with young migrants and refugees in so-called »classes de nouveaux arrivants« at the high school Paul-Gérin-Lajoie-d'Outremont« (Montréal). Some of these students (from Algeria, Russia, Iran, China, Uruguay, and Venezuela) composed poetic miniatures published in this volume, which Canadian illustrator Rogé has illustrated. The poems tell of the hopes or illusions of a new beginning, the longing for home, and expectations directed at the »host society«. The texts also portray the difficulties, insecurities, and fears of the young people, which result from the total disruption of their lives and displacements into foreign, unknown environments. The book conveys personal moments and valuable perspectives on how contradictory and tedious it can be to »arrive« in a new country. (Age: 10+)

79



David, Rémi (text)

Joseph, Julie (illus.)

Robert Desnos, ce pirate tendre et fou*(Robert Desnos, that tender and crazy pirate)*

[Paris]: Éditions À dos d'âne, [2018]. – 45 p.

(Series: Des graines et des guides: 8-12 ans et +)

ISBN 978-2-37606-065-9

Desnos, Robert | Writing | Surrealism |
World War II | Résistance | Biography

Robert Desnos still remains one of the hidden greats of French 20th-century poetry, especially for readers outside of France. »A dos d'âne« publishing house honours the poet in this excellent, artful, precise short biography, which one can read in less than two hours. Author Rémi David expertly describes Desnos develop from a surrealist language wizard to a politically engaged poet and journalist, who warned early on of war and fascism and who was one of the first to join the Résistance in the Second World War. After his arrest in 1944 in France, his path of torment began as he was sent to various German concentration camps, where he wrote his last poems in 1945. David's book is no hagiography, but leaves room to see the contradictions and ruptures, as well as the zest for life of the man described by his poet friend Paul Éluard as »the bravest of all«. (Age: 10+)

80



Dupont, Clémence (text/illus.)

La grande expédition*(The great journey of discovery)*

Paris: L' Agrume, [2017]. – [74] p.

ISBN 979-10-90743-68-7

Earth | Geology | Evolution | History |
Non-fiction | Picture book | Leporello

The history of the Earth and evolution are not stale fields of research that appeal only to eggheads. In this eight-metre long fanfold book, young illustrator Clémence Dupont quite playfully manages to give young readers an artistic and entertaining glimpse into complex research areas such as geology, pre-historic periods, and planetary history. She combines two artistic modes, which show the sequence of historical epochs and the chronology of evolution in contrasting ways. Along one side of the leporello, Dupont lines up terrestrial epochs in a colourful frieze, accompanied by short explanatory texts. On the reverse side, she represents the Earth's history by means of a graphic timeline, which ends with the development of the human species. Dupont leaves readers on a reflective note, since it is precisely the youngest planetary inhabitants who pose the greatest threat to collective survival on the planet. (Age: 9+)

81



Gentil, Mélanie (text)

Femmes artistes*(Women artists)*

[Paris]: Editions Palette, [2017]. – 93 p.

ISBN 978-2-35832-215-7

Visual arts | Female artist | History

Female artists have created great art through the centuries. And yet it seems that even today (in most countries), living as a female artist is only possible by making great sacrifices. Famous women artists have had to overcome many societal obstacles along the way. Their fathers, friends, or teachers have often sought to benefit from these women's exceptional artistic talents, while at the same time not supporting them to develop self-directed careers. In art history, too, the work of women artists is still today not sufficiently recognized. Mélanie Gentil's book offers young readers a helpful counter-narrative to a male-dominated history of art. On opulently coloured double pages illustrated with self-portraits or photographs, extraordinary women are introduced, from the Italian painter Artemisia Gentileschi to the Iranian artist Shirin Neshat. This selection could inspire young women to pursue creative paths themselves. (Age: 14+)

82



Gravel, Elise (text)

Le Huche, Magali (illus.)

La tribu qui pue*(The smelly gang of children)*

[Montreuil]: Les Fourmis rouges, 2017. – [28] p.

ISBN 978-2-36902-084-4

Gang of children | Freedom | Self-determination | Hygiene | Dirt | Picture book

For years, something has been driving Madame Carré up the wall. Right in front of »her« orphanage, a clan of happy kids live in a kind of self-determined children's republic: without any supervision, in the middle of the forest, and naked! These children cleverly escape all of Madame Carré's encroaching attempts to civilize them, and also consistently ignore all rules of »hygiene«. This means that the children almost never wash themselves and »stink« from every pore of their little bodies. But then Madame Carré figures out a fail-safe trick to get the anarchic brats into her orphanage once and for all and to employ her installed »whole body wash machines«. The lively French-Canadian duo Magali le Huche and Elise Gravel have created a funny fable with much attention to detail. Here children not only successfully resist the dressage of adults, but also deal adults a lesson that »comes out in the wash«. (Age: 5+)



83

Hamdane, Halima (text)
Fronty, Aurélia (illus.)

Yassir la Chance et autres contes marocains

(*Yassir the Happy and other Moroccan fairy tales*)

Paris: Didier jeunesse, 2017. – 38 p. + 1 CD

(Series: Contes et voix du monde)

ISBN 978-2-278-08922-2

Morocco | Fairy tale

Using fairy tales for early foreign language learning is a current educational trend in France. An example of this are these three Moroccan fairy tales, sumptuously illustrated by Aurélia Fronty, from the series »Contes et voix du monde« from Didier jeunesse publishing house. French and Moroccan texts are interwoven, rather than being printed on opposing pages. The sentences express simple, concise, and bilingual dialogue or events from everyday life, which experienced storyteller Halima Hamdane cleverly stitches into her story. With the help of the text and accompanying CD, children learn words in a playful way, can dive into the text, even compare the two languages with each other. The titular fairy tale »Yassir la Chance« is a Moroccan counterpart to »Hans in Luck«. The animal fable »Fara la souris et le serpent« (Fara the mouse and the serpent) is about pride that is punished. The magical fairy tale »Chiche le petit pois« (The chickpea), reminiscent of the German tale »Daumesdick« or the English »Tom Thumb«, closes out the book. (Age: 6+)



84

Kobel, Pierre / Doucey, Bruno (ed.)

Passagers d'exil

(*Travellers through exile*)

[Paris]: Éditions Bruno Doucey, [2017]. – 125 p.

(Series: Poés'idéal)

ISBN 978-2-36229-161-6

Escape | Migration | Exile | Identity | Poetry | Anthology

This fabulous anthology on the topic of escape and exile, edited by Pierre Kobel and Bruno Doucey, is explicitly (also) addressed to young readers. For millennia, poets have described experiences of suddenly having to leave their homelands for political, religious, cultural, and other reasons. The five sections of this volume of poetry are focused on the different stages that characterize experiences of fleeing and life in exile: From the forced, abrupt farewell to home and journeying into the unknown, to treading across borders and often painful experiences in the host country, to hope as a philosophy of life. This excellent collection awakens interest in exceptional poems, mostly hailing from the 20th and 21st centuries. They represent the work of well-known authors such as Nelly Sachs, Mahmoud Darwish, Antonio Machado, Yannis Ritsos, Nazim Hikmet, René Dépestre and other »travellers in exile«. (Age: 14+)

85



Moreau, Jérémie (text)

La saga de Grimr

(*The saga of Grimr*)

[Paris]: Delcourt, [2017]. – 230 p.

ISBN 978-2-7560-8064-2

Iceland | History 1783 | Poverty | Orphan |
Perseverance | Volcanic eruption |
Graphic novel

Iceland in the 18th century: An Icelandic orphan named Grimr resists the rigid rules of a society in which people with »no ancestry« (those who do not belong to a powerful family clan) have no future. He also fights against Norwegian foreign rule. He is sentenced to death for these acts, but the rebel makes his own destiny. When a volcano erupts, he saves the woman he loves but isn't allowed to marry – as well as her family, which hates him. By saving their lives, the virtuous outsider becomes an exceptional heroic figure. The last living skald (the name given to court poets) decides to write a saga about Grimr. This exciting graphic novel draws readers in through its wondrous landscapes. The volcanic island with its epic size, breadth and volatile temperament is a character in the story in its own right. Jérémie Moreau was justly awarded the »Fauve d'or« at the Angoulême International Comics Festival for this book. (Age: 12+)

86



Panafieu, Jean-Baptiste de (text)

L'éveil. Stade 2

(*The awakening. Second stage*)

Nantes: Gulf Stream éditeur, [2017]. – 230 p.

ISBN 978-2-35488-457-4

Animals | Humans | Intelligence | Power |
Freedom | Virus | Dystopia | Science fiction

Young biologist Laura Goupil cultivates a virus that escapes her laboratory one day, spreads at an unbelievable pace, and crosses into other countries. Infected animals, especially mammals and birds, »awaken« – their intelligence is stimulated by the virus. »Awakened« pets and domesticated animals, as well as wild animals, develop »self-awareness«, articulate their rights, and organize collectively. Conflicts ensue – not only between beasts and men, but also between animal species. Laura is ordered to create an antidote. »L'éveil. Stade 2« is the second volume in the suspenseful novel trilogy by natural scientist Jean-Baptiste de Panafieu. »Disguised« as science fiction, these books deal with very timely questions: What is intelligence? Can animals think? How should human beings treat their fellow creatures? What must change in the relationship of humans to other animals, and what would a »respectful« form of animal husbandry be like? (Age: 12+)



87

Perna, Patrice (script)

Otero, Nicolas (illus.)

Morts par la France. Thiaroye 1944

(*Death by France. Thiaroye 1944*)

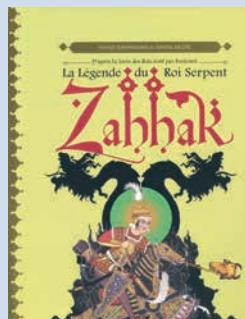
Paris: Les Arènes, [2018]. – 131 p. + [13] p.

(Series: Les Arènes BD XXL)

ISBN 978-2-35204-739-1

Senegal | History 1944 | Massacre |
Colonialism | Racism | Graphic novel

Without the millions of soldiers from Africa, Asia, and Oceania and their proverbial bravery, the fight against fascism and the Second World War would have scarcely been won. But how and when were they thanked for this? A taboo subject in France for more than seventy years, an especially bitter chapter in French colonial history occurred at the end of 1944 in the military camp of Thiaroye near Dakar in Senegal. Unarmed Senegalese soldiers demanded their service wages, which had been withheld for months, and were consequently murdered by members of the French army. In their graphic novel, Patrice Perna and Nicolas Otero describe the horrendous abuses of the French colonial army: racism, white supremacist ideology, and violence, all the way to murder. They also show how one can defend the side of the victims and combat the distortion of history. Historian Armelle Mabon, one of the protagonists in this book, stands as an example of this revision. (Age: 15+)



88

Rahmanian, Hamid (adapt./illus.)

Arizpe, Simon (paper engineering) / Voliner, Marc (transl.)

La légende du Roi Serpent Zakhak d'après »Le livre des Rois« écrit par Ferdowsi

(*The legend of the snake king Zakhak, following the »Book of Kings« by Firdausi*)

Montreuil: Les Rêveurs, [2017]. – [20] p.

ISBN 979-10-91476-76-8

Demon | King | Devil's pact | Heroic epic |
Picture book | Pop-up book

How does evil infect an internally conflicted human being and make him into a compliant tool? This question is answered by this segment of the Iranian national epic »Book of Kings« (Šāhnāma) by the poet Firdausi. Desert prince Zakhak meets Iblis the demon, who immediately recognizes the prince's weaknesses. Iblis tempts him three times until Zakhak is finally totally under his control. Their pact secures Zakhak a long-lasting rule of terror. How will Fereydoun, the hero of the tale, aided by the blacksmith Kaveh and his rebel army, subdue Zakhak after a thousand years' time? Iranian artist Hamid Rahmanian created this wondrous work of pop-up art, intentionally referencing ancient Persian miniature painting. Its astounding effects were constructed by paper engineer Simon Arizpe. The book was published by the committed Parisian publishing house Les Rêveurs. (Age: 10+)

89



Solminihac, Olivier de (text)
Poulin, Stéphane (illus.)

Les mûres

(*The blackberries*)

Paris: Sarbacane, [2017]. – [27] p.
ISBN 978-2-84-865949-7

Holidays | Farewell | Memory | Picture book

An obviously non-traditional animal family consisting of Michao the bear, Marguerite the goat, and the little fox Jim enjoy the last day of their vacation in the mountains. At first they tidy their vacation house, then they pack the car, and then the three head to the most beautiful spots to say good-bye to their vacation paradise. They take a walk in the mountains together, enjoy the peace of a beautiful summer field, and pick one last bowl of blackberries. They do everything right – after all, the very last day of a vacation can strongly shape its later recollection. Well-known Canadian illustrator Stéphane Poulin and author Olivier de Solminihac offer up a touching book about a satisfying farewell free of melancholy. Using a mix of hyper-realism and alienation, they artfully re-situate the protagonists of their joint picture book »Le bateau de fortune« (2015), which was about the start of their vacation. (Age: 5+)

90



Bernard à Mangily (retelling)

Ravaloson, Johary (text/transl.) / Various artists (illus.)

Le tamarinier tsikinainay. Un conte masikoro = Ilay kily tsikinainay

(*The tamarind tree Tsikinainay. A Masikoro folk tale*)

[Antananarivo]: Éditions Dodo vole, [2017]. – [32] p.

(Series: Collection Dodo bonimenteur)

ISBN 979-10-90103-37-5 | Text French and Malagasy

Tree | Magic | Luck | Wealth | Folk tale | Bilingual book

A tamarind tree saves a farmer and his wife from great poverty. When the couple doesn't cut down the tree – tamarinds are considered sacred in Madagascar –, it bestows three magical gifts upon them: a basket, a sheep, and a cudgel. The magic will only work as long as it stays secret. The wife forgets this, and those who hunger after power – including the king – seize the magical gifts for themselves. After the cudgel is used, the gifts must be given back to the farmers, who finally receive good fortune and wealth. Madagascan author and artist Johary Ravaloson created this book in collaboration with school classes in Madagascar and Réunion. It is told bilingually, in French and Malagasy, a Madagascan language. The book was published by Dodo publishing house, which supports literature and culture in Madagascar and the Indian Ocean. (Age: 6+)

91



Giustozzi, Francesco

Changeons!*(Let's change this!)*

Genève: La Joie de lire, [2017]. – [36] p.

ISBN 978-2-88908-377-0

Nature | Ecology | City | Ecological crisis |
Textless book | Picture book

How can one educate children about the fragile balance of nature, its ongoing harm, and the limits of growth? How to show the human species as the greatest disruption, the greatest threat to life on the planet? Francesco Giustozzi achieves these feats in his wordless picture book. His expressive chalk drawings and collages form an environmental parable without being alarmist. He courageously focuses on the essential. In the story, a water-side habitation develops into a city whose steady growth, pollution, and exploitation of its environment gradually poison the water, the air, and the land. A filthy Moloch is created, causing the humans and animals to flee. Nature inconspicuously wins back its territory after that. Even without words, the author makes a compelling case for change and utopian thinking. Instead of passively complaining, he calls for self-empowerment. After all, the world, as the title suggests, is made to be changed, not to make do. (Age: 5+)

92



Dykstra, Lida (text)

Stenvert, Nataschja (illus.)

De huodsjes fan Mata Hari*(The hats of Mata Hari)*

[Leeuwarden]: Wijdemeer, 2017. – [32] p.

(Series: Aksjeboek foar bern)

ISBN 978-94-920-5237-7

(Parallel Dutch ed.: De hoedjes van Mata Hari)

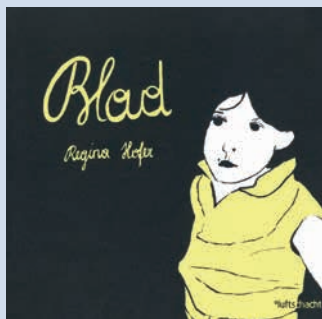
Mata Hari | Spying | Biography | Non-fiction

In this children's book the hats of Mata Hari recount their life stories. »Breidswale« thinks about the time his owner was in love with an officer nearly twenty years her senior and married him. »Reishoed« went with his mistress when she emigrated to the Dutch East Indies and had children. »Stripperswan« remembers how she caused a stir as an exotic dancer in all the big cities in Europe, and »Steek-meikûgelgat« tells the story of suspected spy Mata Hari (1876-1917), who was executed on a damp morning sometime in October. »Bernehuodsje« only knew little »Greetje« as a girl growing up in her father's hat-shop – her father's little princess. These stories shed light on the life of Mata Hari in an interesting way. She was a secretive person, and the real history of her spying for the enemy remains unclear. In the book, which was concurrently published in Dutch, we find illuminating photos and documents, and also beautiful illustrations. The Frisian edition was published as »Berne-aksjeboek« (i.e. a special book for the Frisian Children's Book Week). (Age: 10+)

FRENCH
FRISIAN

Switzerland
Netherlands

93



Hofer, Regina (text/illus.)

Blad

(Chubby)

Wien: Luftschacht, 2018. – 117 p.

ISBN 978-3-903081-22-2

Eating disorder | Art studies | Graphic novel

Regina Hofer's autobiographical graphic novel uses unsettling pictures to describe psychic and physical torment. Born into a family that eschews love and comfort in favour of hidden and open aggressions, she flees to Vienna as a young woman to study art. But she can't run away from her worries and fears. Since her fifteenth year of life, Regina Hofer is trapped in self-destructive processes. She stuffs herself, vomits, starves. It's a life on the edge. The black-and-white pictures make her agonies visible: One sees bodies with enormous eyes, gaunt and bony, or a face that splitters across multiple panels. The narrative style is equally harsh – not that it exaggerates, rather the opposite: the text maintains its distance, remains sober, terse, and absolutely unsentimental. »Chubby« is a disturbing, honest book. (Age: 16+)

94



Roher, Michael (text/illus.)

Frosch und die abenteuerliche Jagd nach Matzke Messer

(Frog and the thrilling hunt for Matzke the Knife)

Innsbruck [et al.]: Tyrolia, 2018. – 187 p.

ISBN 978-3-7022-3666-3

School holidays | Journey | Adventure | Universe

Frog – whose real name is Lupinie Anneliese Meltzer – is a risk-taker. She's curious and clever. Too bad the upcoming vacation on a cucumber farm promises few thrills. Never say never, though! Right after her arrival, Frog hears that Matzke the Knife is up to no good in the nearby forest. Of course Frog plans to get to the bottom of things! And in the process she not only meets all manner of odd characters – including rapping pickles, grumpy witches, and mummies with flapping bandages – , she also heads to the moon and back. Michael Roher has proven his talent for an inexhaustible imagination many times. His newest caper is a wildly illustrated and crazily invented story. It's full of references to classics of children's literature and world literature as well as popular culture, and it offers a proper dose of word play and dialogue fun by featuring various dialects and slang expressions. An intergalactic fireworks show! (Age: 8+)



95

Bach, Tamara (text)

Mausmeer

(Mouse sea)

Hamburg: Carlsen, [2018]. – 142 p.

ISBN 978-3-551-58380-2

Siblings | Family life | Future | Self-discovery

Big sister, little brother – some things never change. Siblings love each other, hate each other, fight, get along. They are allies and competitors, and their place in the familial structure is cemented and all their behaviour supposedly predictable. But sometimes things fluctuate. In »Mausmeer«, Tamara Bach has Annika and Ben alternate in telling their story – big sister, little brother. They spend time together in Grandpa's abandoned house out in the wasteland. It smells musty yet comforting, and there's little to do. Childhood memories and anxiety over the future push them to focus on the here and now. Big sister, little brother talk and keep quiet. Some things are talked through, some things not. Tamara Bach doesn't need many words to develop moods, characters, and relationships. Her style is unpretentious and precise, sometimes coarse, often ironic, and sometimes melancholic. (Age: 14+)



96

Braun, Dieter (text/illus.)

Die Welt der Berge

(The world of mountains)

München: Knesebeck, [2018]. – 93 p.

ISBN 978-3-95728-130-2

Mountains | Animals | Plants | Non-fiction

Following Polish author Piotr Karski's lead with his »Mountains« activity book, German author Dieter Braun presents a book about mountains. The multiple award-winning illustrator lives near the North Sea Coast in Hamburg, but has already explored other terrain in previous books »The world of wild animals. The South« and »The world of wild animals. The North«. He heads into new territory yet again with his latest non-fiction book. In »Die Welt der Berge«, he brings together established factual knowledge on mountain formations, animals and plants, and provides illustrations that stay true to his typical geometrically inspired, computer-edited pictures, which play out in nuanced, powerful colours. The fact that the illustrations don't capture the flora and fauna in precise, naturalistic detail make the book even more appealing because they create an exciting contrast to the realistically natural. (Age: 6+)

97



Frie, Ewald (text)
 Martineck, Sophia (illus.)
 Palm, Peter (maps and charts)
Die Geschichte der Welt
(The history of the world)
 München: C.H. Beck, [2017]. – 463 p.
 ISBN 978-3-406-71169-5

World history | Non-fiction

How does one tell »the history of the world«? Isn't this an overly ambitious, perhaps even a megalomaniacal project? Not so for Ewald Frie. He describes that »history« as »a carpet woven by everyone without any instructions and thus chaotic, with thick and thin spots, with short and long threads, with thousands of mismatched colours«, to which different people from many cultures have contributed. Frie unrolls the carpet, beginning with the home of the »first humans« in Africa. Next come the advanced South American and Asian civilizations, and North America and Europe follow. This geographically and temporally broad perspective lets one's view sweep further than accustomed and also shows that centres of power rarely stay on »forever«. The book elegantly combines the long lines of history with vivid details, so that it remains readable despite its nearly 500 pages and its enormous informational density. (Age: 14+)

98



Gathen, Katharina von der (text)
 Kuhl, Anke (illus.)
Das Liebesleben der Tiere
(The love life of animals)
 Leipzig: Klett Kinderbuch, [2017]. – 143 p.
 ISBN 978-3-95470-169-8

Animals | Sexual behaviour | Seduction |
 Animal young | Non-fiction

Following her bestseller »Alles Familie« (2010; text by Alexandra Maxeiner), in 2014 Anke Kuhl published »Klär mich auf« (Tell me about sex!), as amusing as it is instructional, with Katharina von der Gathen. It seems only right that the two now expand their portfolio with »The love life of animals«. »How do animals do it?« is the central question that the book answers. Elephants, seahorses, and silver fish differ in courtship rituals, copulation techniques, and reproduction as they do in their appearance and body build. Whether monogamous or promiscuous, with bodily contact or without, using sophisticated tricks, tender approach attempts, or going at it no holds barred – it's all there. This non-fiction book for children is neither written in a dry instructional tone or an inhibited one, but is instead refreshing and surprising with all manner of curious facts. Anke Kuhl's pictures in her characteristic comic style are cheeky and funny, while Katharina von der Gathen's texts are short, punchy, and informative. (Age: 8+)



99

Gorelik, Lena (text)

Mehr Schwarz als Lila

(More black than purple)

Berlin: Rowohlt Berlin, 2017. – 250 p.

ISBN 978-3-87134-175-5

[Friendship](#) | [First love](#) | [Auschwitz](#) | [Internet](#)

Alex remembers: »To escape boredom, we sometimes played games, Rat, Paul and I. We played games, to feel and to flee, but we called it flying. We played, to fly. That's how it was before you got here. And before we knew who we were.« You – that's the new German teacher, unconventional, open, approachable. Alex is over the moon and quickly lands on a carousel of whirling emotions that keeps spinning faster. Alex flies, then lands hard on the ground. Earnestness takes the place of thought experiments and hypothetical ways of being. Hurt feelings and headless action bear unforeseen consequences, changing everything. The one-time stability of the threesome deteriorates; everyone discovers a new side to themselves and to the others on a school trip to Auschwitz. Alex narrates what happens with radical openness – her falling in love, her pain and loss of control. The novel possesses narrative intensity, which Alex imminently conveys to readers. (Age: 14+)



100

Krug, Nora (text/illus.)

Heimat. Ein deutsches Familienalbum

(Belonging. A German reckons with history and home)

München: Penguin, [2018]. – [286] p.

ISBN 978-3-328-60005-3

[Germany](#) | [History 1902-1980](#) | [World War II](#) | [Genealogy](#) | [National socialism](#) | [Coming to terms with the past](#) | [Graphic novel](#)

Nora Krug, born 1977 in Karlsruhe, has lived and worked in New York City for many years. With »Heimat«, she draws and writes a very personal graphic novel full of recollections, associations, and questions, reflecting on her origins. With photos, letters, diary entries, school notebooks, and conversations, she traces out her home and familiar roots, which are closely tied to the march of German history – with the Great Depression of the 1920s, the rise to power of the national socialists in 1933, the Holocaust, the Second World War and the Cold War. This multi-faceted book is a thought-inspiring read, though its complexity does not necessarily make it easy to digest. This »German family album« brilliantly brings subjective memory and family history into dialogue with collective knowledge. Suddenly, history hits close to home. (Age: 16+)

101



Lambeck, Silke (text)
Jung, Barbara (illus.)
Mein Freund Otto, das wilde Leben und ich
(*My friend Otto, living wild, and I*)
Hildesheim: Gerstenberg, 2018. – 179 p.
ISBN 978-3-8369-5625-3

Berlin | Friendship | Speculator | Rap

Yo! Music class goes from deathly dull to suddenly hip: It's time to rap. »Brudah Berlin« from Berlin-Neukölln inspires with a rap video that makes him out to be 100% gangsta despite being only thirteen. Otto and Matti, on the other hand, realize there's not much »gangsta« about the yoga and piano lesson routines in their middle-class neighbourhood of Mitte. What or whom could they cook up an edgy rap about? The grouchy guy from the kiosk seems the obvious candidate: Horst Zimmermann aka Hotte aka »kid hater«. But just when Otto and Matti are ready to launch their mean lines, events take a turn. Silke Lambeck has created a fast-paced, funny, metropolitan novel for children that ironically considers many clichés and endorses leaving one's comfort zone from time to time to expand one's horizon, especially when doing so only requires driving from »Mitte« to Neukölln. (Age: 8+)

102



Mett, Christoph (text/illus.)
König der Lüfte. Ein Märchen
(*King of the skies. A fairy tale*)
Münster: Bohem, 2017. – [46] p.
ISBN 978-3-95939-039-2

King | Greed | Freedom | Fairy tale |
Picture book

Material greed is rarely a good quality. Nor are hubris and narcissism. King Ambrosius – called »King Bling« by the people – combines all of those characteristics, making him into a royally unsympathetic regent. Being a fairy tale, though, his moral transformation is not long off. At first the king is a laughing stock, then he bottoms out, and in the end new insight gradually seeps in. In »König der Lüfte« (King of the skies), Christoph Mett generates an amusing interplay of text and image. He draws on motifs from fairy tales, legends, and perhaps even reality – with satirizing intentions. Readers espy Icarus from the Greek legend flying by, Hans Christian Andersen's naked emperor gets a cameo, and the king's love of pomp and swagger seems all too familiar – in view of present-day presidents. This is a multi-faceted, profound picture book whose complexity invites many revisits. (Age: 6+)



103

Mühle, Jörg (text/illus.)

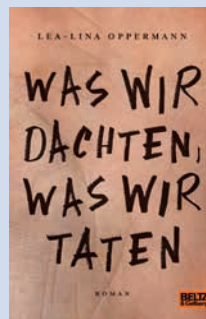
Zwei für mich, einer für dich

(Two for me, one for you)

Frankfurt am Main: Moritz Verlag, 2018. – [25] p.
ISBN 978-3-89565-357-5

Sharing | Quarrel | Fairness | Bear | Weasel |
Picture book

Three mushrooms, two animals: There's the rub. Who gets two, and who gets just one? The bear found the mushrooms, so naturally he's entitled to two. However, the weasel cleaned and roasted them, which surely should be rewarded with two mushrooms? That just seems fair. Or not: the bear is much larger and hungrier than the weasel. The argument heats up, forks are used to gesticulate, and a triumphant grin one moment cedes to bald outrage in the next. Yielding is not an option, but neither is sharing. So, with the two fighting, a clever third seizes his opportunity. A fox saunters by, gobbles up a mushroom, and thereby solves the problem. Bear and weasel feel dejected until they realize they still have three strawberries. Jörg Mühle creates a great success with »Zwei für mich, einer für dich«: He tells the tale trenchantly, using keen observations, clever illustrations, and much sense for the dramedy of everyday life. (Age: 3+)



104

Oppermann, Lea-Lina (text)

Was wir dachten, was wir taten

(What we thought, what we did)

Weinheim [et al.]: Beltz & Gelberg, [2017]. – 177 p.
ISBN 978-3-407-82298-7

School | Rampage | Group dynamic |
Group psychology

Is it revenge? Or a wish for justice? In her debut novel »Was wir dachten, was wir taten«, young author Lea-Lina Oppermann (b. 1998) tells of a student running amok, where the school classroom becomes a trap. Teacher and students are tested to their utmost by ten demands they are to fulfil. Some of them grow to meet the challenges, others break. Their community, which was formerly regulated through clear role distributions, becomes unpredictable, authorities lose influence, and ethical standards disappear. »It was very important to me to write a book that teenagers would enjoy reading«, the author says. Written to have the feel of a gripping intimate play and told from the alternating perspective of three protagonists, the novel portrays an existentially threatening extreme situation that forces readers to draw lines in the sand. (Age 14+)

105



Pope, Dirk (text)

Abgefahren*(Departed)*

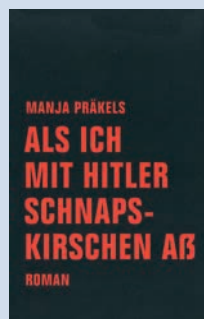
München: Hanser, 2018. – 229 p.

ISBN 978-3-446-25875-4

Death | Grief | Journey |
Search for identity | Coming of age

Dirk Pope's novel somewhat recalls »Apostoloff«, the novel by well-known German author Sibylle Lewitscharoff. »Abgefahren« also features a corpse being transported eastwards in the trunk of a car. Viroel finds his mother dead in the kitchen one day, and he decides to take her body to the Danube delta, back to her Romanian native land – in a beat-up compact car and without a driver's license. Viroel is seventeen, very chubby, very lonely, and very unhappy. Over the course of the endless drive, during which he has plenty of time to think, he encounters various characters, some odd, some loveable, and some disturbing, such as one resembling a certain Dracula. The boundaries between memory, experience, and dream blur. This a Coming of age road movie and spooky tale feels draped by a melancholic mourning crape. Dirk Pope genre-crashes to tell a story in an honest yet respectful voice about an unlikely hero. (Age: 14+)

106



Präkels, Manja (text)

Als ich mit Hitler Schnapskirschen aß*(When I ate brandied cherries with Hitler)*

Berlin: Verbrecher Verlag, 2017. – 230 p.

ISBN 978-3-95732-272-2

GDR | History 1989 | Germany |
History 1990s | Right-wing radicalism

What was it like to grow up in the GDR? How were the transition years and the time afterwards? Mimi, the first-person narrator describes the collapse of the GDR in »When I ate brandied cherries with Hitler« as a fundamental watershed that happened to coincide with her coming of age. The old order no longer counted; for many, material temptations and the promise of freedom were inextricably coupled with existential insecurity and the feeling that they'd been betrayed, as individuals and as a people. While Mimi becomes a leftist punk and tries her hand at journalism, her childhood friends call themselves »Goebbels« and »Hitler«. The zeal to provoke is often born out of frustration; raw violence is in the air. Rarely has anyone written so honestly and unsentimentally about life in the backwoods of former East Germany as Manja Präkels does in her partly autobiographical novel. It's disturbing, but she makes comprehensible what the end of the GDR meant – for not only for history but also for individual life stories. (Age: 14+)



107

Prinz, Alois (text)

Bonhoeffer. Wege zur Freiheit

(*Bonhoeffer. Paths to freedom*)

Stuttgart: Gabriel, [2017]. – 270 p.

ISBN 978-3-522-30455-9

Germany | History 1906-1945 |
National socialism | Resistance | Biography |
Non-fiction

On April 9, 1945, Protestant theologian and resistance fighter Dietrich Bonhoeffer was executed in the concentration camp Flossenbürg. He was thirty-nine years old. Alois Prinz retraces Bonhoeffer's life and reveals him to be a questioner, a searcher, and a man of action, despite – or perhaps exactly because of – a moral compass set early in life. While Bonhoeffer approaches his faith from an intellectual vantage point during his studies, he soon seeks to know what it means to be a Christian and act in a Christian manner in »real« life – in a world marked by hatred and exclusion. Prinz has not written a hagiography. Instead, Bonhoeffer appears human and approachable – a musical, athletic boy who enjoys testing himself in competitions; a highly intelligent man who is close to his siblings and best friend, who is open and curious, but who only allows affection and love into his life at a late hour. (Age: 14+)



108

Stavarič, Michael (text)

Wolfsgruber, Linda (illus.)

Als der Elsternkönig sein Weiß verlor

(*When the magpie king lost his white*)

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

ISBN 978-3-942795-47-0

Search for identity | Silence | Mistrust | Magpie |
Fable | Picture book

When the king of the magpies wakes up one day, he's shocked by what he sees in the mirror: his white feathers have disappeared, leaving him totally black! What happened? He becomes angry and senses a conspiracy. But the other magpies are also rattled: Is this really their king? He looks like a good-for-nothing crow! No one dares to express these doubts out loud. This makes the rumour mill churn all the quicker, which in turn makes the king even angrier: »Why do people care so much about external appearances, if he remains the same person now as ever?« Michael Stavarič's story is about a fundamental crisis of identity, mistrust, being cast out, and the power of language. Instead of helpful, honest words, muddled gossip poisons communal life. Linda Wolfsgruber's illustrations portray the inner and outer turmoil. Her black brush strokes and red accents are powerfully composed yet also airy and delicate. (Age: 6+)

109



Tienti, Benjamin (text)

Jung, Barbara (illus.)

Salon Salami

Hamburg: Dressler, 2017. – 158 p.

ISBN 978-3-7915-0047-8

Mother | Prison | Social worker | Support

Crooked deals are rarely a good idea. They bring a slew of problems in their wake that often cause innocent people to suffer. They can lead to a twelve-year-old girl with a paring knife bellowing »This is a hold-up!« at a bank teller. Benjamin Tienti tells the story of Hani, her family and their salon Salami, which is a local hang-out for haircuts, tea-sipping and chit chat. Things are going well until Hani's mother suddenly disappears – because she's paying for some trouble her brother-in-law got into. Nothing is as it was. Suddenly Hani is responsible for everything. Even though she is ultra-capable, it's too much to take on for someone who's only twelve. Enter the paring knife. In his debut novel, Benjamin Tienti takes on hefty themes and in the process locates a refreshing and warm-hearted voice that stays loyal to his heroine. (Age: 8+)

110



Danowski, Sonja (text/illus.)

Smon Smon

Zürich: NordSüd, 2018. – [42] p.

ISBN 978-3-314-10415-2

Fantasy world | Fantasy creatures | Misfortune | Help | Picture book

Sonja Danowski's nuanced palette in muted browns, reds, and greys and her precise painting style always seem to call forth an earlier age. One is tempted to say that there's a special aura that permeates her picture books for that very reason. Her newest picture book is no exception. Here Sonja Danowski tells the story of a little creature named Smon Smon from the planet Gon Gon. Smon Smon has a friendly face, wears a red hat and blue pants and can grow lengthwise, when needed. This is how Smon Smon can pick ron rons, a kind of red berry. When Smon Smon falls into a deep zon zon, the situation becomes dire. Fortunately, helpful klon klons are there to save him. The suggestive word repetitions, along with the lovingly crafted, detailed fantasy world, make Sonja Danowski's well-structured story a real treat for the eyes and ears. It has what it takes to be read again and again. (Age: 3+)

111



Pauli, Lorenz (text)
Schärer, Kathrin (illus.)

Fell und Feder

(*Fur and feather*)

Zürich: Atlantis, 2017. – [38] p.

ISBN 978-3-7152-0737-7

Difference | Friendship | Theatre |
Metareflection | Picture book

A fearless chicken longs for adventure and dreams of finding a pirate's bounty. A shy dog wishes for a best friend whose name is Marulan. Or Taluros. He just hasn't shown up yet. So the dog and the chicken – »fur and feather« – band together and gradually realize they work well together, despite their differences! Lorenz Pauli and Kathrin Schärer work well together, too. The Swiss pair are a long-running, playful picture book dream team. Kathrin Schärer's talent for drawing animals and Lorenz Pauli's linguistic and dialogical wit make for entertaining books. The successful interplay of text and image and a dramaturgy that makes the story-telling transparent – chicken and dog act out their own story – leave room for reflection and imagination and create a multi-layered narrative. The picture book is based on the children's opera by the same name, which was written by Lorenz Pauli (libretto) and Rodolphe Schacher / Charlotte Perrey (music). (Age: 4+)

112



Christophoru, Christophoros
(Christophorou, Christophoros) (text)
Stamatiadē, Ntaniela (Stamatadi, Daniela) (illus.)

Ē barka pu den buliaze

(*The boat that never sank*)

Leukōsia (Nicosia): Parga, 2017. – [22] p.

ISBN 978-9963-714-66-7

Sea | Escape | Migration | Picture book

A line of people, including a little girl with her family, moves quietly and secretly through the night to find the sea. Her mother says that the boat they are boarding for their escape is magical and hence will never sink. This gives the girl confidence and forms her only anchor on the grim, days-long journey. Even in the most violent storm, she finds courage and the power to stand by her siblings. The red boat doesn't sink. Now it sits on a beach and is a peaceful place for the girl, and the children of her new home to play together. Told from the child's perspective, Christophoros Christophorou employs simple yet animated sentences to gently convey readers along on a moving story of escape. Daniela Stamatadi's expressive pictures cast light on the protagonists' emotional states. Tense plot moments are revealed through contrasts of colour and light. The book received an honourable mention for the Greek graphic and illustration award EBTE (EVGE). (Age: 5+)

GERMAN
GREEK

Switzerland
Cyprus

113



Gerokōsta, Evē (Gerokosta, Evi) (text)
 Markopulos, Kōstas (Markopoulos, Kostas) (illus.)
Asfountylitēs (Asfondilitis)
 Athēna: Kaleidoskopio (Kaleidoscope),
 [2017]. – 43 p.
 ISBN 978-960-471-144-4

Roussos, Michalis | Disability | Art |
 Stone carving

Asfondilitis, a village on the Greek island of Amor-gos, is known and loved for Michalis Roussos's naïve drawings, which are carved into the island's rocks. Roussos was a physically disabled inhabitant of the island, who lived there in the 20th century. In this book, Evi Gerokosta retells his story in her unmis-takeably gentle and generous way. Manthos grows up being loved by his parents, spending peaceful hours in his father's fishing boat and attending lively village festivals. A severe illness at a young age then leaves him unable to walk. He finds meaning in his changed life by carving drawings into the island's cliffs. He thereby expresses his will to live and gives voice to his innermost wishes. His stone carvings depict village musicians, beloved girls and dances, among other things, and his love for his fellow human beings also shines through. Kostas Markopoulos's brightly coloured illustrations focus on the emotions of the protagonists while allegorical elements and simple forms reflect the harmony of the island's natures and its inhabitants. (Age: 11+)

114



Panagiōtakēs, Giōrgos K. (text)
 Delēboria, Myrtō (Delivoria, Myrto) (illus.)
Leschē allokotōn plasmātōn. Otan ērthan gia emena
 (The special beings club. When they came for me)
 Athēna: Patakēs (Patakis), [2017]. – 166 p.
 (Series: Leschē allokotōn plasmātōn / Panagiōtakēs, Giōrgos K.; 2)
 ISBN 978-960-16-7743-9

Racism | Media | Disinformation | Blackmail

Students and teachers at the »Krakatoa« school speak with plants, move like cats, are fluorescent, clone themselves, shrink, lift off when they are happy, and bring rain when they are angry. One day, their lives become visible to everyone on the Internet. Kruger, the chairman of a political party, tries to blackmail them, demanding they use their special powers to do his bidding. Or else, he threatens, he will blame them for the social and economic woes of society in his party's publications, as he has done with other outsiders. The children resist; Kruger himself is in the process revealed to be a »special being«. Told with wit and suspense, with subversive allusions to reality and accompanied by Myrto Delivoria's poetic-allegorical illustrations, Giorgos Panagiotakis's book sensitizes readers against racism, fake news, and Internet obsession and promotes respect and integration. The novel received the youth literature award from the magazine »O Anagnostis« in 2018. (Age: 12+)



Pappa, Rodula (Pappa, Rodoula) (text)
Ratanavanh, Seng Soun (illus.)

Stē mytē tu kutabiu mia akridula ...

Chaïku gia tis tesseris epoches

(On the puppy's nose a grasshopper...

Haiku for the four seasons)

Athēna: Nephelē (Nefeli), 2017. – [54] p.

ISBN 978-960-504-207-3

Season | Nature | Sense perception | Haiku | Poetry

In this outstanding book, evocative haikus gently float through coloured, seasonal dream landscapes. Rodoula Pappa's poems vividly describe the connection children have to nature, promoting their ability to experience it openly and observe even the simplest things as magical. In the process, leisure time is shown to be a crucial part of children's cognitive and personal development. Seng Soun Ratanavanh's pictures show the special way that children sense the world around them and internalize it to make it part of themselves. In bright colours, the illustrator animates what children care about, big like a strawberry that gives hugs, little like a lamb at the centre of a daisy and soft like snow falling as icing on a cake. The high-quality, eco-friendly paper that the book is printed on completes the aesthetic design of the book, which won the picture book award given out by the magazine »O Anagnostis« in 2018. (Age: 3+)



Potamianos, Nikos (text)

Christulias, Petros (Christoulis, Petros) (illus.)

Giati oi prōtōgonoi den ēieran tipota kai alles istories apo tēn proīstoria opōs tis eipa stēn korē mu

(Why prehistoric people knew nothing, and other stories from prehistory, as I told them to my daughter)

Athēna: Kedros, [2017]. – 85 p.

ISB N 978-960-04-4844-3

Prehistory and early history | Humans | Non-fiction

Why did human beings leave the trees? It's fun to live in trees, after all! And what about the animals in the cave paintings? Are they art? Were they created out of boredom? Or are they just grocery lists? Was the development of language important? Myrto has so many questions, and after a spat at school she wants to know why the word »Neanderthal« counts as an insult. Her father's initial answer starts a thrilling dialogue between the two, which morphs the route from school to grandma's house into a prehistoric timeline. Historian Nikos Potamianos's first children's book is an original and informative non-fiction book. The long path humans had to travel to get from the production of stone tools to agriculture to the invention of writing, are conveyed in a straightforward, witty, and entertaining way. Petros Christoulis's caricature-like, funny illustrations fit the text's casual style very well. (Age: 8+)

117



Schina, Katerina (Shina, Katerina) (text)
Various artists (illus.)

Istories gia atromēta koritsia.

40 monadikes Ellēnides

(Stories about bold girls. 40 unique Greek women)

Athēna: Papadopoulos (Papadopoulos), 2017. – 92 p.
ISBN 978-960-569-753-2

Greece | History | Woman | Emancipation |

Biography | Non-fiction

This book presents portraits of forty Greek women. The entries span the centuries, moving from Sappho the poetess and Hypatia the philosopher and mathematician, to photographer Nelly's, singer Maria Callas, and Professor Eleni Glykatzi-Arverel. What they all have in common is that they led emancipated, fulfilled lives. Role models to many women, they moved equality forward in the spheres of culture, politics, social life, pedagogy, and science, both in Greece and internationally. In her first book for young readers, renowned author, critic, editor, and translator Katerina Shina introduces readers to these women. The texts, which are to be praised for their factual yet elegant narrative tone, offer both female and male readers many possibilities for identification. The short biographies are kept to one page each and are accompanied by an artistic portrait created by sixteen renowned Greek illustrators. (Age: 7+)

118



Péczely, Dóra (ed.)
András, Dániel (illus.)

Szívlakát. Kortárs versek

(Heart shovel. Contemporary poems)

[Budapest]: Tilos az Á Könyvek, [2017]. – 253 p.
ISBN 978-963-410-289-2

Poetry | Anthology

When a book is heralded as the most innovative young adult book of 2017, it must have something special to it. And »Szívlakát«, Hungarian IBBY section award-winner, is indeed special! Editor Dóra Péczely and illustrator Dániel András have put together a contemporary poetry collection for adolescents and young adults, which offers an interesting, clear-eyed, and many-voiced view on what life is about these days and what challenges, corners, edges, and surprises it holds. Thematically divided into sections such as »I love you, but this is not a love poem...« or »You are the city, Dad...«, the volume collects 150 poems from 85 poets who are among the most well-known lyrical voices of Hungary, including notables such as Krisztina Tóth (b. 1967) and János Lackfi (b. 1971). The anthology truly beckons: Read more poetry, it's worth it! (Age: 14+)

119



Tóth, Krisztina (text)

Bíbor, Timkó (illus.)

Felhőmesék*(Cloud stories)*

Budapest: Magvető, 2017. – [58] p.

ISBN 978-963-14-3516-0

Identity | Empathy | Self-esteem |
Self-awareness | Picture book

Lili is a clever, curious, and empathic girl with a heart for everything and everyone. She is the connecting thread between these five little stories, which bring her into contact with bats and fish, with soap bubbles and elderly people. These »cloud stories« thoughtfully talk of wanting to be someone else while in fact just wanting to be oneself, of whether and when something is beautiful (always!), and of the fact that life is not infinite, but not for that reason less worth living. Krisztina Tóth's (b. 1967) novels and poetry are known far beyond Hungary. What few of her international fans realize is that she is also very active and successful in the realm of children's literature. In »Felhőmesék«, which was chosen in 2017 as one of the twenty-five best Hungarian children's books, she shows her storytelling and poetic know-how. Illustrator Timkó Bíbor (b. 1977) lends the texts a further poetic note and a touch of reflectiveness with her pictures. (Age: 4+)

120



Borando, Silvia (text)

Scalcione, Marco (illus.)

Gabbiano più gabbiano meno*(Seagull more, seagull less)*

Reggio Emilia: Minibombo, [2018]. – [34] p.

ISBN 978-88-98177-40-0

Community | Tedium | Loner | Egoism |
Picture book

This seemingly simple picture book in fact offers a subtle, unpredictable, and surprising story. It is about a very irritated seagull who finds life on an especially densely populated island unbearable. The bird has absolutely no interest in maintaining good social relations. One day it resolves to leave the other seagulls and to fly to a nearby, unpopulated, quiet island. Far from noise, clamor, and community, it seeks to enjoy peace and a sought after solitude. But the island turns out not to be the oasis of peace initially assumed; the new and unfamiliar place hides many unexpected traps. Soon enough the seagull bitterly misses what it left behind. Ironically and appealingly, the book invites readers to reflect on the little and the big decisions in life. (Age: 4+)

HUNGARIAN
ITALIANHungary
Italy

121



Carminati, Chiara (text)
Valentinis, Pia (illus.)

Viaggia verso. Poesie nelle tasche dei jeans

(Travel verse. Poems for jeans pockets)

Milano: Bompiani, 2018. – 131 p.

(Series: AsSaggi di narrativa)

ISBN 978-88-452-9313-9

Youth | Friendship | Everyday life | First love |
Emotion | Poetry

Chiara Carminati is one of the most interesting authors in Italian youth literature, and an accomplished and ingenious lyricist. The book presents a valuable collection of poems dedicated to adolescence – a time without clear boundaries, a time of wishing, abrupt changes, and long waiting spells. In her verses, loneliness is set next to friendship, the search for one's own place in the world next to music and Facebook. Beyond this, the poems consider love, everyday life, and the geography of constantly shifting feelings, one's inner voice, and silence as a companion. The poems brim with strong emotion and inspire reflection. They are accompanied by Pia Valentinis's black-and-white illustrations, delicate yet expressive drawings that offer a particular visual treat. (Age: 11+)

122



D'Adamo, Francesco (text)

Oh, Harriet!

Firenze [et al.]: Giunti, 2018. – 155 p.

(Series: Biblioteca Junior)

ISBN 978-88-09-86512-9

Tubman, Harriet | USA | History 1849-1860 |
Slavery | Freedom | Abolitionism |
Women's liberation | Biography

Francesco D'Adamo often thematizes rights violations in his books. At the center of this novel stands the story of Harriet Tubman, a petite, delicate woman, an ex-slave who freed herself from slavery and then brought other men and women to safety and liberty via the Underground Railroad. The narrative voice is Bill Bishop's – a young reporter for the »Herald Tribune« – who is sent by his paper to a remote location, where no headlines are being made, and he doesn't want to be. His job is to interview a woman who lives in a seniors' residence, is well over ninety and whom he doesn't know. This woman reports to him a world of pain, abuse of power, suffered indignities, and death. She speaks emphatically and relives the journeys of hope that brought one-time slaves to American states that had abolished slavery. A story of courage and determination, altruism and liberty. (Age: 11+)

123



Fehr, Daniel (text)
 Quarello, Maurizio A. C. (illus.)
Come si legge un libro?
(How do you read a book?)
 Roma: orecchio acerbo, [2018]. – [28] p.
 ISBN 978-88-9906476-1

Reading | Fairy-tale character | Picture book

This book speaks to potential readers who have it in hand and think they know how to look at and read it. Readers are addressed directly and given advice, directions and suggestions on how to go about the reading process. The book introduces books, to make them companions and important everyday objects for readers. An amusing picture book, it plays with the text, which requires careful attention and actions, involving turning the book around or changing one's angle of view. The protagonists are two children with well-known names from classic fairy tales, who interact with creatures from famous stories. A fearful white whale is set next to an odd house built on chicken feet, three little pigs inhabit a barn used for threshing, while a prowling wolf lies in wait, and a king – naked, oddly enough – is thrown out of a saddle and peddles his legs. At the end of the book, all fairy tales alluded to are identified and recommended for further reading. (Age: 5+)

124



Keller, Alice (text)
 Truttero, Veronica (illus.)
Contro corrente
(Against the current)
 Roma: Sinnos, [2017]. – 95 p.
 ISBN 978-88-7609-362-3

Ederle, Gertrude | History 1922 |
 Women's liberation | Swimming |
 Perseverance | Graphic novel

Artfully linking words, signs, drawings, and speech bubbles, this book tells the story of Gertrude Ederle, an extraordinary American swimmer, who in 1922 took part in the Olympic Games in Paris at the age of seventeen. Her life devoted to sports is chronicled in the first person from the perspective of a younger cousin named Emily. This literary device allows readers to dive deeply into Gertrude's world. It is a world defined by engagement, strength, and endurance. These aptitudes lead Gertrude to celebrate victory, surmount challenges, and defeat stereotypes. Gertrude is different; she rejects the athletic fashions of her time by wearing a sensible, functional bathing suit. Swimming is her life and remains so even when she must give up competition due to profound hearing loss – she opens a school, to teach deaf children the much-loved sport. (Age: 8+)

125



Murgia, Daniela Iride (text/illus.)

Marcel. Il bambino con la scatola verde

(*Marcel. The child with the green box*)

Milano: Topipittori, [2018]. – [36] p.

ISBN 978-88-98523-91-7

Duchamp, Marcel | Childhood | Artist |
Biography | Picture book

Author-illustrator Daniela Iride Murgia constructs a portrait of Marcel Duchamp's (1887-1968) childhood with great compositional finesse. Duchamp spends his childhood in a house with a large garden, his attentive gaze examining everything that surrounds him. He possesses a great vivacity of spirit and a constant urge to move. An idea leads him to wondrous inventions that stem from a montage of what he finds on the street. New, unusual life animates everyday objects, inspiring new perspectives. Then there is his passion for chocolate, and his fascination for the machine that produces the chewy, aromatic, decorated, enticing morsels on display in the show window of the candy shop. The passions, intuitions, and ideas that later mark Marcel Duchamp as an unusual artist are here introduced in tandem; from the start, he was captivated by multifaceted forms of expression and the exploration of various styles and techniques. (Age: 5+)

126



Rigoni Stern, Mario (text)

Stella, Gaia (illus.)

Il libro degli animali

(*The book of animals*)

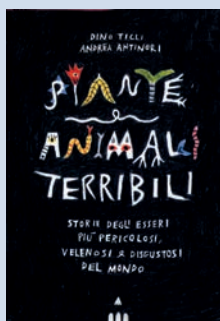
San Dorligo della Valle (Trieste): Einaudi Ragazzi, [2018]. – 150 p.

ISBN 978-88-6656-447-8

Animals | Humans | Short story |
Anthology

Mario Rigoni Stern was one of the great Italian authors of the second half of the twentieth century. »Il libro degli animali« is given new life in this especially carefully edited volume with succinct black-and-white illustrations by Gaia Stella, which faithfully portray the author's so familiar world. The nineteen stories concern the forest that he loves so well, along with the animals who live in it. The protagonists in this beautiful anthology include deer, rabbits, dormice, Mars the dog, snowy owls, bees, and many others. These animals and their ordinary and extraordinary experiences shed light on a mountainous world, as well as a natural world that we humans care about, but which we often damage, disrupting its millenia-long equilibrium. Rigoni Stern pens exceptionally poetic stories, interwoven with the great, inexorable flow of history. (Age: 10+)

127



Ticli, Dino (text)

Antinori, Andrea (illus.)

Piante e animali terribili. Storie degli esseri più pericolosi, velenosi e disgustosi del mondo

(*Terrible plants and animals. Tales of the most dangerous, poisonous and disgusting creatures on Earth*)

Roma: Lapis, [2017]. – 207 p.

ISBN 978-88-7874-542-1

Animals | Danger | Poisonous plants |
Non-fiction

This small-format book is packed with facts, oddities, and revelations. Author Dino Ticli is a biologist, high school science teacher, and a capable author in disseminating these fields of knowledge. This book introduces plants and animals selected for their dangerous and disgust-inducing qualities. The result is an unusual compendium of ingenious creatures from the plant and animal realms, including the spitting spider and Bombardier beetle, strangler figs, strangleweed, and the terrible castor bean, along with many others. The volume contains these creatures' scientific and familiar names, their habitat ranges, exact descriptions, interesting information, stories – including tales regarding their origins – and is accompanied by pictures expressing the precise, meticulous, and visually beautiful illustrations of Andrea Antinori. He is an illustrator passionately dedicated to the world of nature. (Age: 9+)

128



Hirata, Toshiyuki (text/illus.)

Jitensha noreru kana

(*Can I ride a bicycle?*)

Tōkyō: Akane Shobō, 2018. – [36] p.

ISBN 978-4-251-09907-5

Bicycle | Practice | Frustration | Imagination |
Picture book

This visually attractive picture book is told from a child's believable point of view. The child feels uneasy when he practices riding a bicycle. The bicycle is hopelessly difficult to handle for him. As he fails and his frustration grows, the bicycle becomes an elephant on a ball, rhythmic musical notes, or a balancing toy. Within the child's boundless imagination, a dinosaur eating musical notes disturbs the harmonies being played by his bicycle and a boy, who looks like the protagonist, helps him. His alter ego invites him to get on a swing. As he enjoys the swinging, the boy realizes that he is at last riding his bicycle. The plot is simple but narrated with much sympathy. The boy's expressions brilliantly capture the memorable learning experience of a child who is gaining confidence. Using a limited colour palette and dynamic layout, the bold design calls to mind poster art, which is nostalgic but at the same time modern and appealing. (Age: 4+)

ITALIAN
JAPANESE

Italy
Japan

129



Ishimure, Michiko (text)

Yamafuku, Akemi (illus.)

Mizu wa midoro no miya*(The mountain spirit and a girl)*

Tōkyō: Fukuinkan Shoten, 2016. – 258 p.

(Series: Fukuinkan bunko; S-72)

ISBN 978-4-8340-8251-7

Natural disaster | Mountain | Spirit | Cat | Dog

Michiko Ishimure (1927-2018) was an author world-renowned for her powerful writings on the Minamata mercury poisoning, a catastrophic case of industrial pollution in Japan that began around the 1950s. Sharing the suffering of poison victims, who were ostracized by society, she voiced doubt regarding the value of a modern society which develops on the basis of people's sacrifice and suffering. Most of her works were written for adults, but this novel has been newly illustrated and published for young readers. It is a story of mountain village people living in veneration of nature, which brings bountiful blessings but also disasters, such as flash floods and volcanic eruptions. Oyō, a village girl, sees the mountain spirit and, with her white fox companion, visits the bottom of a lake. The poetic and spell-binding text written in dialect invites readers into a world where the boundaries between real and fantastic, alive and dead, present and past, are not evident. The powerful illustrations made using wood-block prints help create a vivid image of a time when all lives were respected. (Age: 11+)

130



Ito, Miku (text)

Sakai, Komako (illus.)

Kānēshon*(Carnations)*

Tōkyō: Kumon Shuppan, 2017. – 197 p.

(Series: Kumon no jidō bungaku)

ISBN 978-4-7743-2690-0

Mother | Daughter | Love | Lovelessness | Family conflict

While Japanese novels thematising child abuse are not uncommon today, few, especially among those written for children, deal with abuse-free relationships where a parent or child simply does not love another family member. This novel is unique in that it depicts a mother who has no affection for her older daughter, though she does for her younger one. The older girl, Hiyori, hopes to be loved by her mother, but she knows it is unlikely no matter how good a daughter she is. She is supported by her friend, Togo, who feels ostracized at home and moves out after his stepmother becomes pregnant. Each chapter is told in turn by different characters, first Hiyori, then her mother and father, their agonizing inner conflicts sensitively delineated. The decision reached by the family at the end suggests that broken relationships might be healed with temporary distance and courage to confront the problem. The novel's affirmation that there are different paths toward familial bonding will surely encourage teen readers. (Age: 13+)

131



Kadono, Eiko (text)

Mori, Tamaki (illus.)

Kutsuya no Tasuke-san*(Tasuke the shoemaker)*

Tōkyō: Kaiseisha, 2017. – 72 p.

ISBN 978-4-03-528520-5

Japan | History 1942-1950 | War | Friendship | Girl | Shoemaker

2018 Hans Christian Andersen Award winner Eiko Kadono has created a new masterpiece, the poignant story of a girl growing up during wartime, as the author herself did. The vivid, memorable and fully fleshed-out characters seem to jump off the page. The protagonist is a girl intrigued by a young shoemaker's craft. She visits him every day, and their friendship grows. But the shoemaker, initially exempted from military service because of his extreme near-sightedness, is eventually drafted. The lyrical writing conveys the girl's feelings – for instance, her excitement over his craftsmanship and her gratification upon receiving red shoes made with calfskin, a scarce and valuable material during wartime. The illustrations are in dark tones of black-and-white or sepia, except for the red shoes that shine like a light, even in the darkest times. From front page to endpapers, the book's sophisticated design steers the heart-wrenching story clear of sentimentality and toward beauty. (Age: 9+)

132



Murakami, Shiiko (text)

Konton jīchan no uraniwa*(The backyard garden of comatose Grandpa)*

Tōkyō: Shōgakukan, 2017. – 252 p.

ISBN 978-4-09-289757-1

Violence | Justice | Investigation | Grandfather | Grandson | Garden

Adolescence, the transitional stage from childhood to adulthood, is full of challenges. Some teens cannot deal with the frustration and lose self-control. The protagonist, Yū, is one of those teens. The novel begins with the shocking scene of the boy kicking an employee only because she is blocking his way in the store. When Yū's dementing grandfather falls into a coma after a traffic accident and is sued for damages by the driver, Yū doubts his culpability. During his determined solo investigation, Yū encounters obstacles but also receives some adult support – including from the forgiving store manager whose daughter he injured. Yū's one-sided, self-centred perspective leads him to judge people at first glance, leaving him confused and feeling cheated when he sees another side to their character. Still, the boy gradually realizes that human beings cannot be judged as straightforwardly good or bad, right or wrong. Moments of realization coupled with a new sensitivity reveal his unsteady steps toward maturity and finding his place in the world. (Age: 13+)

133



Murakami, Shiiko (text)

Seishun wa moeru gomi de wa arimasen

(Youth is not trash to burn)

Tōkyō: Kōdansha, 2017. – 301 p.

ISBN 978-4-06-220605-1

Poetry | Tanka | Club activities | Competition |
Social disparity | Old age

Shiiko Murakami deals with bullying and transgender people in her acclaimed series of stories about a tanka (short Japanese poem) club at a school. Her latest novel, following »Utau to wa chiisana inochi hiroiage« and »Sora wa ima bokura futari wo chūshin ni«, explores the topic of economic disparity, which has recently become a social problem in Japan. The protagonist, Momoko, wants to attend confectionery school after she graduates from high school, but her family cannot afford it. When she writes tankas with residents of a retirement home, she comes to know an old man who no longer perceives colour because of cerebral infarction. He asks her to go to the sea he remembers so well to experience its colour. After she visits the sea and expresses her impressions in a tanka competition, she finds new resolve to make her way through difficulties. Murakami's narrative and tankas masterfully capture her complicated feelings of frustration, helplessness in the face of economic hardship and anxiety about the future. (Age: 16+)

134



Nagakura, Hiromi (text/photos)

Sekai wa hiroku utsukushii. Chikyu wo tsunagu iro: Aka

(The world is wide and beautiful. Colours that connect people on Earth: Red)

Tōkyō: Shin Nihon Shuppansha, 2016. – 47 p.

(Series: Sekai wa hiroku utsukushii / Nagakura, Hiromi; [1]) | ISBN 978-4-406-06022-6

World | People | Life | Nature | Photo book |
Picture book

A variety of reds are found in this unique photo book. In a Tibetan temple, a boy wearing a vermilion habit waits for his mother. A hunter's face is lit up by fire in the Brazilian forest. In the mountains of Afghanistan, children wash a crimson carpet under the open sky. According to the author, renowned photojournalist Hiromi Nagakura, red is the colour of life, promising tomorrow will come after today, and today we live with all our hearts. Each place he visits is filled with the energy of people – where they work, pray, dance and play music, living day to day. People live their lives with joy and sorrow everywhere in the world, even in regions of severe cold or heat, in refugee camps, and in lands destroyed by war. In this picture book series, each volume features a different colour (red, blue, green, white, black and yellow), which resonates with the wide-ranging yet also universal aspects of human life. The moments captured in the book's breath-taking photos celebrate the diversity and beauty of our world. (Age: 11+)



135

Tokuda, Yukihi (text)
Tanemura, Yukiko (illus.)
Kyō otomodachi ga dekita no
(Today I've made friends)
Tōkyō: Dōshinsha, 2018. – [28] p.
(Series: Dōshinsha no ohanashi ehon)
ISBN 978-4-494-01627-3

Friendship | Worry | Picture book

Yūna has no friends because she is so shy, but today a girl, Rina, wants to play with her. She tells her mother, father, and even a grocer she sees on her way home about her new friend, sharing her joy with them. She cannot wait to see Rina the next day. However, she gradually begins to worry – would Rina play with her tomorrow? The illustrations match the simple plot very well. Drawn with a gentle line and light, delicate colours, each character's expressions and movements ingeniously represent their personality, as with Rina's cheerful spirit or Yūna's introversion. In the last scene, as Yūna gains confidence and discovers a new side to herself through her friendship with Rina, the children around her are now colourful, rather than monochromatic as they appear at the start of the book, suggesting Yūna's world will continue to broaden as she makes more friends. A story full of heart and emotion, this captivating picture book has universal appeal. (Age: 4+)



136

Baek, Heena (Baeg, Hui Na) (text/illus.)
Isanghan sonnim
(A strange guest)
Seoul: Chaek ingneum gom (Bear Books Publishing), 2018. – [44] p.
(Series: Geurim chaegi cham joa; 47)
ISBN 979-11-5836-080-1

Siblings | Stranger | Helpfulness | Fairy tale | Picture book

A little boy who is rejected by his big sister wishes he had a little brother. His wish instantly comes true, as a strange, famished creature clings to his leg and begs »Big brother« for food. Feeding their guest Allog, who is more capricious than spring weather, turns out to be a real challenge for the siblings. When offered bread, he produces horrendous farts, ice cream results in heavy snowfall in the kitchen, pink fog comes from cotton candy ... and still he wants more. Allog desperately wants to go home but has lost the cloud by which he came down to Earth. His wails produce a flooding of the living room, and, fortunately, a rainbow. Allog's big brother comes walking down on it and takes him back home to their world. This story by well-known picture book writer Baek Heena is based on a traditional Korean fairy tale about children who try to help a complete stranger by showing trust and courage, and are rewarded with the gift of self-confidence. (Age: 3+)

JAPANESE
KOREAN

Japan
Republic of Korea

137



Hong, Jongeui (Hong, Jong Ui) (text)
Jo, Seungyun (Jo, Seung Yeon) (illus.)
Naneun Buk Mangilida
(I'm Mangil from North Korea)
Paju: Parangsae (Bluebird), 2018. – 96 p.
(Series: Jeohangnyeon sagwa mungo; 7)
ISBN 978-89-6155-739-9

Refugee | Culture gap | Bullying |
Coming of age | Self-esteem

Mangil, the protagonist of this children's novel, is the son of a refugee family who have escaped from North Korea and settled in South Korea. Mangil hates his name, meaning »Ten thousand fortunes« because it is considered too rustic here, and his classmates make fun of it. He fears that his situation will get even worse, when his parents start a food truck business with »North Korean style« rice dumplings and tofu rice. However, it becomes very popular among his classmates, and they don't make fun of him anymore. Many refugees from North Korea struggle to settle in their new communities, given a lack of understanding and cultural barriers between North and South Koreans. While trying to overcome the culture gap and build his identity in this new environment, Mangil grows up and finally learns to love himself. Multiple award-winning author Hong Jongeui has published more than sixty fairy tales. Illustrator Jo Seungyun majored in art at Hongik University and studied illustration in France. (Age: 6+)

138



Kim, Jung-Mi (Gim, Jung Mi) (text)
Han, Ji-Sun (Han, Ji Seon) (illus.)
Haenguni wa Oboki
(Haengun and Obok)
Seoul: Chaek ingneum gom (Bear Books Publishing), 2018. – 256 p.
(Series: Keungom jari; 37)
ISBN 979-11-5836-077-1

Good luck | Blessing | Happiness | Sharing

Haengun (»Good Luck«) and Obok (»Five Blessings«) are both living a life that is the complete opposite of their names' meaning. Haengun's family is unhappy because of his father's continuous failure in business. The situation is no better for Obok, when his grandfather passes away and his grandmother starts to develop dementia. In these circumstances the kids find hope in each other. The story is based on the Korean folk tale »The Story of Chabok«, in which a woodcutter borrows the good fortune of others to help those in need. The idea of living upon the blessings of others and passing them down when the time comes makes young readers reconsider what it means to be fortunate and happy. In her books for children and young adults, Kim Jung-Mi takes an interest in the injustice of South Korean society. Her first novel won the grand prize in the Changbi Good Children's Book Contest 2000. Han Ji-sun studied Oriental painting at Ewha Womans University and at Kingston University, London. (Age: 10+)



139

Kim, Tae-gyeong (Gim, Tae Gyeong) (text)
Hong, Seong-ji (Hong, Seong Ji) (illus.)
Eomma neun wae danggeun an meongneunde?

(Why don't you eat carrots, Mom?)

Seoul: Hyeonamsa, 2017. – 68 p.

ISBN 978-89-323-7450-5

Food | Eating habits | Picky eater | Humour |
Family roles

Can you imagine, the Disciplinarian Mr. Carrot came to our house to punish a picky eater in our family for removing the carrots from her meals! The accused turns out to be Mom, who is usually the one admonishing her kid to not dodge the foods he dislikes. She was lucky not to be arrested by Mr. Carrot! The story intrigues young readers by engaging them in an exciting search to learn why Mom avoids eating carrots. It invites them to partake in a little journey of discovering the tastes of unknown food. They explore the yet-to-be-known taste of carrots alongside the lively characters of this story, which offers an amusing reversal of normal family roles. At the end of the story, readers find tempting carrot recipes. This children's novel is author Kim Tae's debut. Hong Seong-ji, who is the illustrator of several children's books, majored in Western painting at Kyonggi University and studied illustration in England. (Age: 7+)



140

Gundars, Lauris (text)
Melece, Anete (illus.)
Sveiks, Vali!

(Hello, whale!)

[Rīga]: Liels un mazs, [2017]. – 91 p.

ISBN 978-9934-533-85-3

Granddaughter | Grandfather |
Communication | Interaction | Greeting

Little girl Buzzfly is very lucky: She has an awesome grandpa, whom she calls Whale and who is her best friend. Only: Grandpa is not that great at greeting people, even though he meets people daily. Buzzfly wastes no time and practices greeting with Whale, to the point that he starts to say »Hello« to cars, and even ends up in a police check. After a big fight and a dangerous run-away attempt in the park, Buzzfly and Whale make up. The marker-based pictures of Anete Melece (b. 1983) in an inimitable way show how happy this makes the protagonists. They portray the special and somewhat cranky relationship between grandpa and granddaughter with just the right amount of comedy and warmth. Lauris Gundars's (b. 1958) little story with Melece's illustrations about being young and old, about life experience, and mental flexibility is a splendid discovery. (Age: 5+)

KOREAN
LATVIAN

Republic of Korea
Latvia

141



Zvirgzdiņš, Juris (text)

Brasliņa, Elīna (illus.)

Tobiass, Čārlis un neredzamais spoks*(Toby, Charlie, and the invisible ghost dog)*

Rīga: Pētergailis, [2017]. – 43 p.

ISBN 978-9984-33-441-7

Teddybear | Adventure | Ghost

Tobias the teddybear is a prominent personage in recent Latvian children's literature. His creator, Juris Zvirgzdiņš, sets him off on one adventure after the other, captured pictorially by a different illustrator each time. In Tobias's latest adventure, the fantastic Elīna Brasliņa (b. 1988) takes up this task. In energetic black-and-white pictures, created on the computer yet seemingly drawn by hand, she chronicles the hero's experiences; for this effort she was rewarded with the 2017 International Baltic Sea Region Jānis Baltvilks Prize. Tobias is accompanied by his best friend, another teddy named Charlie. Together they experience strange, scary, and exciting things. For instance, they encounter a ghost – an invisible ghost dog, in fact – who becomes a dear playmate after events transpire involving an odd family, a mean cat, and the greedy marketing manager of a grocery. (Age: 7+)

142



Vilė, Jurga (text)

Itagaki, Lina (illus.)

Sibiro haiku*(Siberian haiku)*

Vilnius: Aukso Žuvys, 2017. – [240] p.

ISBN 978-609-8120-31-8

Lithuania | Soviet Union | History 1941 |
Exile | Siberia | Graphic novel

This impressive and graphically very unusual children's book published in Lithuania in 2017 is about the deportation of a Lithuanian family to Siberia at the start of the Soviet occupation (1941). The multiple award-winning debut of comic artist Lina Itagaki and author Jurga Vilė, this wonderful book alternates between comic and picture book. It offers an intense, touching and beautifully told glimpse into life in exile. Individual family members are introduced one after the other from the perspective of thirteen-year-old Algiukas. Interspersed with these are scenes that describe the time in Siberia. This »Siberian haiku«, at times referencing Japanese culture and possessing the concreteness reminiscent of that poetic form, exhibits narrative poetry and attentiveness, showing that even life in adverse circumstances can be bright and very much worth living. (Age: 8+)

143



Dekko, Espen (text)
Johnsen, Mari Kanstad (illus.)

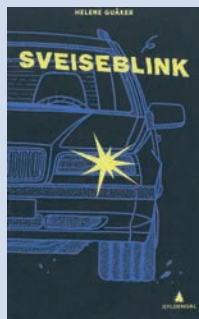
P + E

Kolbotn: Magikon forlag, 2017. – [36] p.
ISBN 978-82-92863-73-2

Dog | Friendship | Memory | Death |
Picture book

Edvard's best friend is his big and sweet-tempered dog Poff, who has soft fur, floppy ears, and loyal eyes. Poff is old, very old. There's no more need for running and jumping about. He's content to lie on the sofa and dream of doing those things. Poff goes out with Edvard every day and trots around contentedly. It's nice to feel the grass and hear the birds sing. But Poff is tired. Very tired. After licking Edvard's hand one last time, he falls asleep forever. Now Edvard is the one who dreams – of Poff barking and playing fetch. Poff's death is sad, but it is good that he left after living a full and contented dog life. »P+E« touches on big issues – friendship, the good life, death, and memory. It does so using spacious, vividly coloured and organically connected pictures and a clear, calmly flowing language. (Age: 4+)

144



Guåker, Helene (text)

Sveiseblink

(The harsh light that shines when welding)
[Oslo]: Gyldendal, [2017]. – 223 p.
ISBN 978-82-05-49958-4

Search for identity | Village | Rural life |
Transformation

Kristoffer is eighteen and lives in a village. He hangs out with his friends, girls adore him, and he even has his own ride. Not bad. Still, Kristoffer feels increasingly alienated by his own life. Cruising the roundabout every night? Having meaningless conversations with his father? There has to be more to life than this. Kristoffer is also nursing a guilty conscience: One of his friends is in a coma after he had an accident while high – and Kristoffer feels responsible. He also almost never visits his grandfather, who means the world to him, because he finds it so hard to see him living with dementia in an old people's home. And there is also that mysterious girl with the skateboard. Clearly, there's quite a lot going on in Kristoffer's head and heart, even if only a little makes its way into the open. The honest tone of Helene Guåker's novel is touching, however. The protagonist's remarks reveal the stark divide between external banalities and internal turmoil. (Age: 14+)

145



Heivoll, Gaute (text)
Mortensen, John Kenn (illus.)
Rottefangeren fra Sorø
(*The rat catcher of Sorø*)
Bergen: Vigmostad & Bjørke, 2018. – 71 p.
(Series: Estragons historier; 1)
ISBN 978-82-419-1566-6

Greed | Money | Undertaker

In the first volume of »Estragons historier« (Estragon's stories), Estragon the rat describes working as a rat catcher in the house of Glamбек the undertaker. Glamбек is a highly unsympathetic money-grubber. Estragon loves coins and bills, too, since money is the purported rat catcher's favourite food. Using cunning, trickery, and luck, Estragon eventually finds himself basking in Glamбек's money depot. A Norwegian-Danish collaboration, the story guides readers into the damp and cold Copenhagen of the 19th century. Despite the rather sober voice that Gaute Heivoll gives Estragon, still one can't help but smell the mould on the rotten wood beams, be disgusted by Glamбек's appearance, and hear the pitter patter of rats' feet. The black-and-white illustrations depict eerie settings and grotesque figures, enhancing the tale's gothic atmosphere. A tale to send several cold shivers down the spine! (Age: 10+)

146



Parr, Maria (text)
Keeperen og havet
(*The goalie and the sea*)
Oslo: Samlaget, 2017. – 234 p.
ISBN 978-82-521-8886-8

Friendship | Crisis | Childhood | Youth

Finally, more news of Lena and Trille from Knert-Mathilde, best friends in »Vaffelhjarte«, Maria Parr's 2005 children's book success! Shy Trille gets butterflies in his tummy when he thinks of Birgitte, the new girl in class. Though wonderful and exciting, it's overshadowed by Trille's worry over his Grandpa, who is becoming old. Lena, on the other hand, has very different worries: She must defend her honour as a goalkeeper. Clever and ambitious as she is, she manages to show everyone what she's made of – especially those big-mouthed boys. Slowly Lena and Trille leave childhood behind and also drift apart at times, which confuses and saddens them. Still, they don't lose one another. Maria Parr describes a delicate time of turmoil in »Keeperen og havet«. She finds just the right words, as the novel adeptly balances seriousness and humour. (Age 10+)

147



Torseter, Øyvind (text/illus.)

Mulysses. Muleguttan drar til sjøs

(*Mulysses. Muleguttan goes to sea*)

Oslo: Cappelen Damm, 2017. – [156] p.

ISBN 978-82-02-55304-3

Ship voyage | Adventure | Mythical beast |
Fantasy fiction | Graphic novel

In Øyvind Torseter's newest lark, Muleguttan suddenly finds himself homeless and takes up as a sailor on a ship. Aside from himself, the ship's crew consists of the captain, whose self-confidence makes up for what he lacks in experience (which is why he takes off at the first hairy situation). After they equip themselves for their expedition with all manner of useful and more often useless stuff, they head out to sea. Like Ulysses, Muleguttan ends up in peril more than once. Thanks to his courage and chutzpah, though, he survives not only a hurricane and »Man overboard!«, but also the hungry giant who wants to cook him in a cauldron. Øyvind Torseter's epic graphic novel entertains with numerous allusions, two narrative levels – Muleguttan steps in as the narrator and as a character – and naturally the multi-faceted, varied, dynamic visual design in typical Torseter style. (Age: 10+)

148



Winsnes, Magnhild (text/illus.)

Hysj

(*Psst*)

Oslo: Aschehoug, 2017. – [360] p.

ISBN 978-82-03-26194-7

Summer | Coming of age | Puberty |
Search for identity | Graphic novel

What does it mean to grow up? That one drinks beer, fools around, wears bras and lipstick? That one doctors the truth, since one doesn't want to tell parents everything? Hanna visits Siv and her older sister Mette every summer, but this time everything feels different. Mette has grown up, and Siv envies her. Hanna, on the other hand, wants to keep fishing for crabs, run around in shorts and scream at the top of her lungs. Most of all, she often starts to babble and has a hard time lying or hushing up about uncomfortable things. Siv is annoyed by Hanna's childlike innocence, and tension and fights erupt between the girls. As many books that take up the topic of the end of childhood do, Magnhild Winsnes dedicates her debut, the graphic novel »Hysj«, to this fragile time of upheaval. With virtuously illustrated pictures, and with much humour, honesty, and thoughtfulness, she captures a confusing and challenging period in life. (Age: 10+)

149



Akrami, Ğamāl-ad-Din (Akrami, Jamal al-din) (text)
Šab bi-Ĥair, Turnā (Shab Be-kheir Torna)
 (Good night Torna)

Tihṛān: Kānūn-i Parwariš-i Fikrī Kūdākān wa
 Nūġawānān (Kanoon), [2017] (=1395 h.sh.). –
 158 p.

ISBN 978-600-01-0437-5

Migration | Foreignness | Siblings |
 Coming of age

Torna and Sina have immigrated to Canada with their father, in spite of their mother's unwillingness to leave Iran. They hope she will join them soon, but things seem headed in another direction. In fact, the siblings are victims of their father's ambitions: Once in Canada, he abandons them to their own devices in a large, unfamiliar city. Sina takes responsibility for his older sister as she is sick and hospitalized. Torna gets worse when she hears that her father wants to marry another woman, since this would end any chance of her family reuniting. Torna gradually gets better under Sina's care, and they set off to return to Turkey and to their mother. Nowadays, asylum seeking and migration are timely themes in children's books all over the world. Jamal al-din Akrami considers many aspects of these issues for young Iranian readers. The novel's script won the »Blue Children« prize in 2016 in Iran; this award is given to works that are about children who face difficult circumstances. (Age: 12+)

150



Āriyan, Ārmān (Arian, Arman) (text)
Patašhūārgar. Bar bunyād-hāy-i hasti
 (Patashkhuargar. Bar bonyadhaue hasti)

(Patash Khoargar. On the Foundations of the
 Universe)

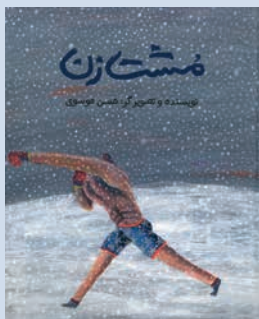
Tihṛān: Ufuq (Ofoq), [2017] (=1396 h.sh.). – 460 p.

(Series: Patašhūārgar; 3. Romān-i Nawġawan; 194)
 ISBN 978-600-353-290-8

Zoroastrianism | Avesta | Gathas | Adaptation |
 Fantasy fiction

The adaptation and retelling of classical stories are very common practices in Iranian children's literature. Arman Aryan is one of the best retellers and has written many stories based on Persian classic works. One of his latest is the »Patash Khoargar« trilogy. The story and its characters are based on and inspired by the Zoroastrian holy books »Avesta« and »Gathas«. Prince Patash Khoargar is a mythical superman, with powers from both sides: Ahoora (Good) and Ahriman (Evil). His evil side is just like Zahhak, another famous character in Persian literature. The third volume in this trilogy continues Farreh's fight against demonic minions seeking to conquer the Earth. Farreh orders everyone to gather as many allied forces as possible. Farreh is eventually captured by Mahdad and his magical powers begin to deteriorate. His forces must see the mission through to save the day. Patash Khoargar is called upon to lead them. (Age: 14+)

151



Mūsawī, Ḥasan (Musavi, Hasan) (text/illus.)

Mušt-zan (Mosht-zan)

(The boxer)

Tihrān: Tūti Kitābi Kūdak wa Nawgawan-i Fāṭimī (Fatemi, Touti), [2017] (=1396 h.sh.). – [36] p. ISBN 978-964-318-958-7

Boxing | Self-reflection | Picture book

There is a professional boxer who loves to box because it makes him feel powerful. But the day comes when there is nothing left for him to box, so no one applauds him or praises him, or comes to watch him anymore. He begins to think about his loneliness and his worn-out gloves, and he wonders why his boxing no longer makes people or even himself happy. It's time to start reflecting – about his father, his mother, his background –, and to find a new goal for his life as a boxer. This story has an interesting message: readers see that acting without thinking can be useless and harmful. The illustrations present a technique and style in Iranian children's books which have not been seen before. Hasan Musavi, the writer and illustrator of this book, is better known as an illustrator than as a writer. His illustrations have been exhibited in Germany, Denmark, Japan, Italy, and Slovakia. This picture book is one of his first works as a writer. (Age: 6+)

152



Tawalāī, Ḥusain (Tavalaie, Hussain) (text)

Ḥā'ifi Aškīdārī, Nūšin (Kha'efi Ashkzari, Nooshin) (illus.)

Ihtiat kunid paranda-hā pāy-i sufrāh-i ṣubḥāna-and (Ehtiat konid parandeha paye sofrēhye sobhaneh-and)

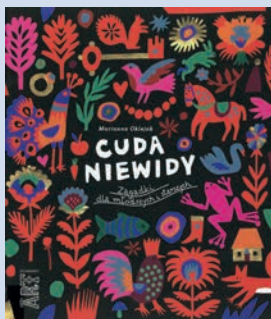
(Watch out, the birds are at the breakfast table!)

Tihrān: Širkat-i Intiṣārāt-i 'Ilmī-Farhangī, Kitābhāy-i Parandah-i Ābī, (Sherkate Entesharate Elmi wa Farhangi, Ketabhaye Parandeh-ye Abi), [2017] (=1396 h.sh.). – 52 p. | ISBN 978-600-436-445-4

Nature | Youth | Poetry

It is not an easy job to write poems for young adults. However, Hossein Tavaiaie is an Iranian poet who knows the young adult world and portrays it well in his poems. In his new book of twenty-four short poems, he touches teenage hearts with his usual themes: birds, rain, scarecrows, love, trees, and other natural elements. The language is simple and informal, but at the same time metaphorical and figurative. The poems resemble brief explanations of ephemeral events in nature. Hossein Tavaiaie works with children and young adults and has won many prizes at poetry festivals. Nooshin Kha'efi Ashkzari, the young, talented illustrator of this volume, is drawn to a cooler palette in her works. This preference enhances the poetic atmosphere of these texts. (Age: 12+)

153



Oklejak, Marianna (text/illus.)

Cuda-niewidy. Zagadki dla młodszych i starszych

(The weird and the wonderful.

Riddles for young and old)

Warszawa: Egmont Polska, 2017. – 62 p. + [2] p.

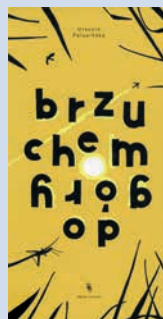
(Series: Art Egmont)

ISBN 978-83-281-2191-1

[Folklorism](#) | [Ornament](#) | [Search-and-find picture](#) | [Puzzle](#) | [Picture book](#)

Marianna Oklejak (b. 1981) is a fascinating and especially multi-faceted illustrator. One need only consider her picture book series about little Basia, or her brilliant and impressive search-and-find picture book about Poland's capital city, Warsaw, and its history, or, in this case, her two ornamental »Cuda« (Wonder) books. While »Cuda-wianki« focuses on traditional Polish patterns and folkloric ornaments and their use, »Cuda-niewidy« is about puzzles for young and old. Here, too, Oklejak references folkloric art and invites readers to scrutinize the large double-pages decorated with detailed ornaments, and to hit upon unusual and unconventional things in one's search. It is great fun to dive into these search-and-find pictures, and one always craves another. The »Cuda« books add to Egmont Press' »Art Egmont« series, which offers elaborately illustrated, unusual picture books and topics. (Age: 3+)

154



Palusińska, Urszula (text/illus.)

Brzuchem do góry

(Belly up)

Warszawa: Dwie Siostry, 2017. – [59] p.

ISBN 978-83-65341-23-5

[Seeing](#) | [Perspective](#) | [Verticality](#) | [Lying down](#) | [Idleness](#) | [Picture book](#)

A simple idea makes this book so fascinating: all scenes are shown twice, but from contrasting perspectives. Illustrator Urszula Palusińska (b. 1984), past recipient of the Bologna Ragazzi Award, shows protagonists lying on their backs, gazing upwards, in the grass, in the forest, in bed, and in many other places. At first, readers look down at the characters from a bird's eye view. As they turn the page, the perspective changes: now they see the same scene from the viewpoint of the character lying down, looking upward into the sky, the tree canopy, or the rafters. The short, wonderful text reveals that each protagonist is busy with something: the carpenter is repairing the roof, the neighbour is going shopping, the aunt is cooking lunch. But in that moment, they are all looking up, enjoying an idle spell. »Brzuchem do góry« was picture book of the year in Poland in 2017. (Age: 4+)



155

Strękowska-Zaremba, Małgorzata (text)
Latour, Daniel de (illus.)

Dom nie z tej ziemi

(The house not of this world)

Warszawa: Wydawnictwo »Nasza Księgarnia«,
2017. – 236 p. + [4] p.
ISBN 978-83-10-13080-8

Domestic violence | Repression | Imagination |
Fantasy

The real nature of the titular »house not of this world« remains elusive to readers for a full 230 pages. Hiding behind a bush, young Marysia surveils a strange house. It casts no shadow, everything in it is made of ice, and it changes the people who enter it. Daniel meets Marysia and initially assumes she is making it all up, but he, too, gradually comes to believe in the malice and magic of the house. Marysia and Daniel both want to save the family living in the house. And then something unexpected happens. Very unexpected. In her novel, Małgorzata Strękowska-Zaremba brilliantly and in a very unsettling way gradually reveals the true nature of the house: it is in fact Marysia's house, which is no longer a home to her because she experienced domestic violence. In a drastic act of repression, the girl invents the magical story, which allows her to live with what she experienced while also crying for help. (Age: 10+)



156

Tokarczuk, Olga (text)
Concejo, Joanna (illus.)

Zgubiona dusza

(The lost soul)

Wrocław: Format, 2017. – 52 p.
ISBN 978-83-61488-74-3

Soul | Search | Memory | Search for identity |
Picture book

Jan is searching for himself. He works, he functions, but his soul has seemingly gone lost. He receives help and advice from a doctor on how to recover it. He is to go to a peaceful place and wait as long as it takes for his soul to return. Jan waits. And waits. He recalls his life up until now, remembering his childhood, and eventually recovers himself, after years have passed, it seems. A marvelous duo came together to create this poetic story. The short text by Olga Tokarczuk – one of the most important contemporary Polish writers – initiates the soul searching. The recovery of self, on the other hand, is captured by the lavish and melancholic coloured pencil illustrations of Joanna Concejo, which, as always, are extraordinary. On the yellowed paper of a notebook she lets more and more plants sprout, gradually adding animals and pictures of dancing human beings and children at the beach and in the snow. It is Jan's soul, presumed lost. (Age: 8+)

157



Alphen, Jean-Claude (text/illus.)

Super

São Paulo: Pulo do Gato, 2017. – [56] p.
ISBN 978-85-64974-98-2

Parents | Gender role | Picture book

Papa flies like Superman to work every morning (Mama also goes to work, but first she brings me to school). Sometimes Papa goes to parent-teacher night at the school (when Mama has no time). One time he even picked me up from school (Mama does that every day). And one time he read to me at bedtime (Mama reads to me every night). Papa is a real superhero – until one day he wakes up with a fever and stays in bed (Can superheroes get sick?). With a quick, dynamic line, Jean-Claude Alphen's picture book describes the everyday lives of a boy and his parents. Tongue-in-cheek and with subtle humour, the sympathetic story debunks traditional parental roles and stubborn gender stereotypes. The paternal superhero is demoted back to a normal human model in a friendly way. Papa is great, sure, but Mama is a real superhero, too! (Age: 5+)

158



Colasanti, Marina (text)

Guazzelli (illus.)

Um amigo para sempre

(A friend for always)

São Paulo: FTD, 2017. – [48] p.
ISBN 978-85-96-01042-9

(Text first published by Quinteto Editorial, 1988)

Imprisonment | Freedom | Friendship | Bird

Publishers should be praised for finding older children's literary jewels and giving them a fresh take, as happens in this book, which reworks a story by Marina Colasanti first published in 1988. The great Brazilian children's book author describes an episode from the life of Portuguese-Angolan author José »Luandino« Vieira (b. 1935), who was imprisoned for eleven years in his fight for Angolan independence. In a calm rhythm, and a poetic, melancholic language full of symbolism, she writes of how Vieira wins the trust of a bird in the prison yard, befriends him, shares bread crumbs and has »conversations, without words« with him. The man sees himself reflected in the free bird. The green of the prison yard and the view upward to the open sky also stand for that which he longs for. Guazzelli's colourful illustrations depict only a few metaphorically important elements such as the bird, a leaf, or the barbed wire, humbly serving the touching text. (Age: 8+)

159



Moraes, Odilon (text/illus.)

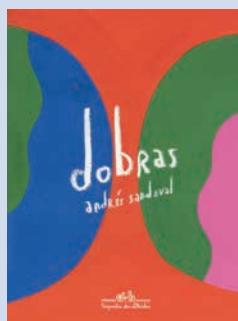
Rosa

Curitiba: Olho de Vidro, [2017]. – [48] p.
ISBN 978-85-93234-01-9

Father | Disappearance | Son | Longing |
Picture book

A child is born. Shortly thereafter, the father leaves the family and never comes back. Odilon Moraes doesn't even try to explain the unexplainable in his picture book, and instead simply tells the story using few words. These words unfold in a forceful torrent, though, expressing the forlornness of both father and son, as well as the child's longing to hear his father call out to him one day. Sketch-like chalk drawings in brown and beige tones show a wide river landscape, from which the father sails forth in a boat toward the unknown. The humans, whose faces are indiscernible, seem like shadows in the nearly empty, anchorless landscape, where loneliness and abandonment are palpable. Odilon Moraes is apparently working through his own experiences in this moving book: The book is dedicated to his father, who »gave him silence«, and to his son, for »newly settling« that silence. (Age: 8+)

160



Sandoval, Andrés (illus.)

Dobras

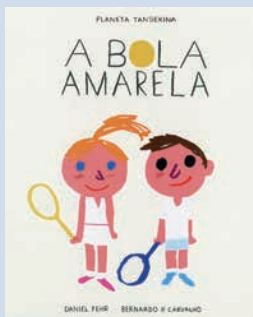
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São Paulo: Companhia das Letrinhas, 2017. – [64] p.
ISBN 978-85-7406-767-4

Colour | Shape | Textless book | Activity book |
Picture book

When one first opens this wordless book, it's easy to be a little confused. Is this a picture book? An art book? A short explanation on the inside flap leads one to the right answer: »Fold the pages on the lines and make new shapes«. Fold the book pages? Is one allowed to do that? Yes, here it's allowed. The book is filled with monochromatic planes and lines from first page to last, which form abstract, organic shapes. They incite the imagination to create new shapes by folding the pages. About as simple as possible in its concept, »Dobras« is at the same time a complex, multi-faceted book-artwork that inspires contemplative observation, precise looking, thinking and asking, playing, and hands-on action. It's astonishing what Andrés Sandoval fits between two book covers. And it's just as remarkable that his publishing house got behind the project, fully trusting in the creativity, curiosity, and play instinct of readers. (Age: 4+)

161



Fehr, Daniel (text/idea)
Carvalho, Bernardo P. (text/illus.)

A bola amarela

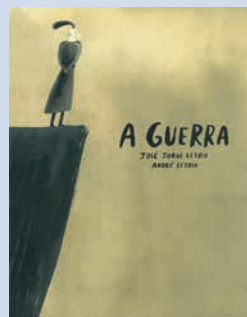
(The yellow ball)

Carcavelos: Planeta Tangerina, 2017. – 37 p.
ISBN 978-989-8145-78-9

Book | Ball | Search | Metafiction |
Picture book

»A bola amarela« is an original interactive picture book that is transformed into a three-dimensional space in the readers's mind. The book's pages not only provide the paper on which the story is printed, but they literally stage the story. Each double-page spread is a distinct location visited by the protagonists. A girl and a boy play tennis on the first double-page spread, and then set off to look for their yellow ball on the subsequent ones, as it mysteriously disappears into the book fold. They quickly crawl after it and suddenly find themselves (on the next double-spread) in a bar. From there they head into the sky, onto a meadow with donkeys, into a digital book, and onto white, empty pages. The multitude of characters and settings, as well as the many ways to move through the book, are also emphasized by the varying aesthetic of the lively illustrations. This intelligently conceived book is simply fun and inspires one to join the characters as they discover this amazing book-world. (Age: 5+)

162



Letria, José Jorge (text)
Letria, André (illus.)

A guerra

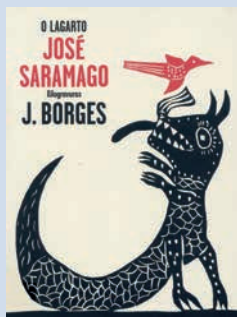
(War)

[Lisboa]: Pato Lógico, 2018. – [60] p.
ISBN 978-989-99658-8-1

War | Picture book

The text and illustrations in this book could be read independently of one another. Yet both are literally and figuratively dark. The two realms touch and mingle at several points, however, forming a magnificent whole. José Jorge Letria's text is a sequence of individual aphoristic sentences, which all begin formulaically with the words »The war...« and each of which stands alone on a double-page spread. These sentences reflect timeless, profound, compelling, and powerful thoughts and images about the causes of war, its character, its power, its ramifications, and its close ties to human beings. André Letria has wisely not tried to illustrate each sentence. Instead, he uses brush and watercolour to create sombre, breath-taking, unsettling pictures in foggy grey tones, which all on their own can be read as a wordless book. They tell of a shadowy world, which war penetrates like smoke and permeates all, a world that is ultimately destroyed by a human-made machinery of war. (Age: 9+)

163



Saramago, José (text)
Borges, J. (Borges, José Francisco) (illus.)
García Schnetzer, Alejandro (ed.)

O lagarto

(The lizard)

Lisboa: Porto Editora [et al.], 2016. – [24] p.
ISBN 978-972-0-04881-3

Lizard | Fear | Metamorphosis | Picture book

This short story by José Saramago (1922-2010), Portuguese Nobel laureate in literature, first appeared in 1973 in the volume »A bagagem do viajante«. The author's characteristic narrative style is allegorical, slightly fairy-tale-like and shifts fluidly between realism and fantasy. It is employed here to tell the story of a big, green lizard who appears in the middle of Chiado, a busy Lisbon neighbourhood. Impressed by the imposing figure of the wondrous creature, people are nonetheless unsure, fearful, and hostile toward it. Embattled by so much ignorance and animosity, the animal transforms itself into a rose and then into a dove, who flies away. Renowned Brazilian illustrator J. Borges (José Francisco Borges; b. 1935) supplies wonderful coloured wood carvings to accompany Saramago's enigmatic text. Aesthetically influenced by the graphic tradition of Cordel literature from the northeast of Brazil, the images radiate great power, directness and immediacy. (Age: 9+)

164



Vancu, Radu (text)
Dobrescu, Irina (illus.)

Regele Piticuț

(King Dwarf)

Chișinău: Cartier codobelc, 2017. – [32] p.
ISBN 978-9975-86-233-2

Beauty | Concealment | Longing |
Literary fairy tale | Picture book

»Regele Piticuț« is Radu Vancu's (b. 1978) first children's book. In Romania he is known as a poet. It thus comes as no surprise that this story is very poetic. Linked with the multilayered illustrations of Irina Dobrescu (b. 1980), the story is about a melancholic king who would love to be a dwarf. He grows up in an ugly and malicious world, whose beauty has been covered over by an impenetrable layer of mashed peas. The entirety of his young life, the king has searched for something beautiful. He believes that as a dwarf he will be able to see it in little things. Then he discovers the sketchbook of his mother, who died young but hugged the world close to her soul and was a beautiful being. »King Dwarf« now recognizes that beauty lies concealed, and that he in his own soul embodies the beauty of the world. (Age: 5+)

PORTUGUESE
ROMANIAN

Portugal
Moldova

165



Ungureanu, Dan (text/illus.)

Becoming Eli

Timișoara: »Something to Say« Association,
2017. – [128] p.

ISBN 978-973-0-25533-1

Orphanage | Schooling | Trauma |
Graphic novel

»We tell them everything! The beatings, the cold showers, the sedatives, the food ... everything«. This is what Eli and a group of other orphans decide, as they escape their orphanage to tell the authorities in Bucharest of the daily horrors going on at the institution. Their plan fails, however, and becomes but another installment of the seemingly endless suffering of those who grow up as orphans. The powerful comic book is based on a real story and follows the life of Eli Moldovan, who with the help of a volunteer successfully escapes the cycle of fear and adversities. Dan Ungureanu gives a voice to a thousand fates, first and foremost the real Eli Moldovan. She is now an activist and a representative of the »Something to say« association, which supports the abolition of prison-like housing institutions in Romania in favour of alternative, protected housing options that enable orphans to grow up trauma-free. (Age: 12+)

166



Amraeva, Adelija [Amraeva, Adeliya] (text)

Ja choču žit'! (Ya khochu zhit!)

(I want to live)

Moskva: Akvilegija-M, [2018]. – 381 p.

(Series: Sovremennaja proza)

ISBN 978-5-906950-14-7

Suicide | Domestic violence | Resilience

Little is going well in Ratmir's life, who grows up in Kazakhstan. His father beats his wife – Ratmir's mother – and barely holds himself back from Ratmir and his half-sister Belka. Ratmir has acquired some self-protective mechanisms, but he is not sure he wants to continue living. When the boy witnesses a tragic accident, a lot changes: He meets Saida, as quirky as she is unhappy. Saida is valued less than her brother at home and is bullied at school. The two children are joined by Ivo, a restless ghost of a young man who died by his own hand, who comes to stand by them in their misery. Ivo knows all too well what it is like to not be able to bear the burden of life any further. Adeliya Amraeva has written an intensive, intricate story about deeply insecure and fragile adolescents who must relearn how to say: »Ya khochu zhit!« – »I want to live«. This novel's manuscript was awarded the Krapivin International Children's Literature Award. (Age: 12+)

167



Boteva, Marija (Boteva, Mariya) (text)
 Gavrilov, Sergej (Gavrilov, Sergey) (illus.)
Majak – smotri! (Mayak – smotri!)
 (A lighthouse – Look!)
 Moskva: KompasGid, [2017]. – 90 p.
 ISBN 978-5-00083-393-3

Lighthouse | Life | Sea | Family | Reunion

Little Elsa and red Edwin live in a lighthouse far north, where the sea smells of pine needles because the forest reaches to the water. Elsa must learn to live by her own lights – joined by the grey wolf »Oyster-catcher« – while her father Edwin heads out to sea. Both encounter wayward characters, including a ship that talks to itself or a pernickety lighthouse inspector. Readers sense that something special and ephemeral surrounds Elsa and Edwin. In the end, the two are reunited – along with Elsa's mother and Edwin's son. Mariya Boteva writes serenely and artfully as she transitions from one scene to the next or introduces new characters. She then braids all this into a wonderfully atmospheric narrative of humans, experiences, and maritime settings. Every word is carefully chosen and perfectly timed. (Age: 7+)

168



Daševskaja, Nina (Dashevskaya, Nina) (text)
 Sidneva, Julija (Sidneva, Yulia) (illus.)
Teo – teatral'nyj kapitan (Teo – teatralny kapitan)
 (Teo the theatre captain)
 Moskva: Samokat, [2018]. – 97 p.
 ISBN 978-5-91759-541-2

Mouse | Opera house | Longing | Dream | Realization

In the children's books of Nina Dashevskaya (b. 1979), music is always present – be it in the musicality of the language, the topic, or the setting. So, too, with »Teo«. Teo is a clever mouse boy who lives with his siblings and mother in an opera house. It's a grand life: There is an endless supply of music, food left by the musicians and audience members (at least during the season) that's usually tasty, and stage sets that let one dream of far-away places such as the sea. Teo wants to go to the sea to become a captain. Thanks to his friend Kostya the percussionist, Teo travels along as a stowaway on the orchestra's concert tour headed for the sea. Told from the little mouse's perspective, this tale is about longing and the realization of dreams that are even worth risking one's (mouse)life. The text as well as the pictures of Yulia Sidneva are touching and full of imagination, providing many details about orchestral music along the way. A wonderful children's book! (Age: 5+)

169



Kovalenkova, Nastja (Kovalenkova, Nastya)
(text/illus.)

Polosatyy. Skazka dlja bol'shikh i malen'kikh

(Polosatyy. Skazka dlya bolshikh i malenkikh)

(Striped. A fairy tale for young and old)

Moskva: Art Volchonka (Art Volkhonka),

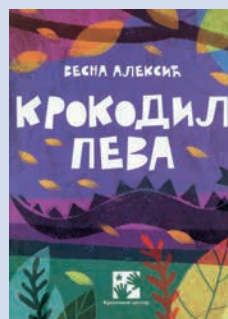
[2017]. – 79 p.

ISBN 978-5-906848-50-5

Stuffed toy | Search for identity | Picture book

As nearly always with illustrator and author Nastya Kovalenkova (b. 1968), this story also is in rhymed form and has fantastic rhythm and energy, basically begging to be read out loud. After Kovalenkova's lyrical stories in »Tapki« (Slippers) and »Krasny dom« (The red house), in which the main characters enter fantastical worlds, »Polosatyy« stays in the here and now – and at an IKEA store. Mishka the striped teddy asks himself whether he might belong at IKEA, since there are such lovely striped mattresses there. He can no longer stay with Sasha, his owner, because her jealous dachshund has come to make him think that there are no such things as striped bears. Mishka is a no one. Sad and doubtful, the teddy wanders through the city, asking all the striped things and creatures he encounters whether he might belong to them. In the end, Sasha and her dog find the bear again and assure him that he is not a no one, but instead unique. (Age: 7+)

170



Aleksić, Vesna (text)

Veselinović, Maja (illus.)

Krokodil peva

(The crocodile sings)

Beograd: Kreativni Centar, 2017. – 141 p.

ISBN 978-86-529-0430-3

Siblings | Newborn | Disease | Family make-up | Attention

All of a sudden, Danica's parents Sajmon and Natasha are acting differently. It's because of Danica's new brother Viktor, who was oxygen-deprived for a few minutes during birth and may now be ill his whole life. While Natasha is demoralized by the uncertainty of Viktor's health, Sajmon wants to come to terms with the difficult situation with the help of grandparents, uncles, and aunts. Danica, from whose perspective the story is told, suspects that something is not right, and feels the easy relationship her parents and she once enjoyed is now slipping. In diary-like entries, the girl talks with her little brother, whom she calls the crocodile. One day, this crocodile starts singing, and readers may surmise a positive outcome is on the horizon. Vesna Aleksić mixes her warm narrative style evocative of a happy childhood with undertones that reference the increasing tension in Danica's family. This is another reason why her children's book has received multiple awards in Serbia. (Age: 10+)

171



Gregušová, Andrea (text)
Sleptsova, Nastia (illus.)

Gréta

Bratislava: Egres, 2018. – [48] p.
ISBN 978-80-972134-3-5

Marine pollution | Marine life |
Environmental protection | Picture book

Gréta is the biggest star of the reef! The whale gives concerts every Sunday, which feature her hit about the sound of the sea. Then Gréta's voice disappears and she must see the veterinarian. There's a long queue at the clinic; many marine citizens seem to be ailing. The dolphin needs freeing from fishing nets, sea turtles have to have their stomachs pumped, because they are too full of plastic, and the electric eel complains of insomnia caused by the constant droning of echo sounding in his waters. Things can't go on like this! Together, the animals gather the garbage from the sea and deposit it on the beach – to the »great joy« of the humans vacationing there. This important picture book about marine pollution balances seriousness with humour. It also gives readers tips on how to support marine animals and protect the environment. And what of Gréta? She eventually gets her voice back and gives a concert. Even the veterinarian can afford to attend, since she has more free time now. (Age: 3+)

172



Wild, Jana B. (text)

Mámenia a preliezačky (nie tak – ale tak)

(Tricks and monkey bars [like this – not that])
Bratislava: Vydavateľstvo Európa, 2017. – 64 p.
ISBN 978-80-89666-38-6

Poetry | Wordplay | Pun | Nonsense

This book requires paying attention! Otherwise one will miss a pun, a funny verbal twist, or the malapropism of conventional definitions. As one of the most renowned Shakespeare researchers and literary theorists in Slovakia, Jana B. Wild (b.1962) reveals in her first book for children the great fascination that can emanate from literary play with language, which transforms it and places it in unusual textual or (typo-)graphical contexts. Starting with cheerful nonsense rhymes, in which for instance (and surely only for the sake of the rhyme) Nokia from Tokio and Aunt Ago from Chicago are invited to the carnival, Wild effectively inspires readers to continue rhyming and to meaningfully divide up long sequences of words. In the process, one learns what fun it is to turn the »little prince« into »Prittle Lince« or to welcome new children's book heroes »Asertix & elibox« or »Ccinopio«. (Age: 6+)

173



Arnuš Pupis, Tina (text)
Komadina, Tanja (illus.)

Za devetimi drevesi

(In a faraway forest)

Dob pri Domžalah: Miš, 2017. – 93 p.

(Series: Zbirka Miškolinke)

ISBN 978-961-272-230-2

Forest | Animals | Community | Helpfulness

A debut book to cuddle up to – Tina Arnuš Pupis (b. 1982) has created a kind of literary stuffed toy. She here offers ten stories about an eminently likeable forest community made up of a fox and a hedgehog, a bear and a rabbit, a mouse and an owl as well as a human child named »Lucky One«. Readers will want to press the book to themselves, an impulse further fed by Tanja Komadina's (b. 1976) cute tongue-in-cheek illustrations. That said, the animals in the forest aren't idle: the one doesn't like the other, and little advantages are often secured for oneself and not for others. But on the whole, in the case of big, important matters, everyone aims to help each other out or to have some fun together and joke around. The wonderful mix of fun, adventure, and child-like playfulness in both text and image make these beastly stories utterly worth reading, especially out loud. (Age: 8+)

174



Štefan, Anja (text)

Sottler, Alenka (illus.)

drobtine iz miške doline

(Crumbs from mouse valley)

Ljubljana: Mladinska knjiga, 2017. – [34] p.

(Series: Zbirka Velike slikanice)

ISBN 978-961-01-4991-0

Poetry | Mouse | Picture book

We've had to wait a little for a picture book from Slovenia's great illustrator Alenka Sottler (b.1958), but the wait is over. The result of a collaboration between Sottler and author and children's poet Anja Štefan (b. 1969), »Drobtine iz miške doline« (Crumbs from mouse valley) has arrived. This collection of children's verse received the 2017 Slovenian Book Design Award. Sottler stamped a multitude of colourful fingerprints onto paper to masterfully and cleverly illustrate texts about the culinary joys (hazelnuts, beans, cheese!) and seasonal routines of the mice, with snow in winter and swinging in summer. Animals, houses, paths, grasses... she dabs all these things mouse-like onto the pages with her fingers. In this way she creates a world in harmony with the simple poems, which are often only one stanza and ideally suited for younger children. (Age: 3+)



175

Blasco, Martín / Ferrari, Andrea (text)

Quizás en el tren*(Maybe in the train)*

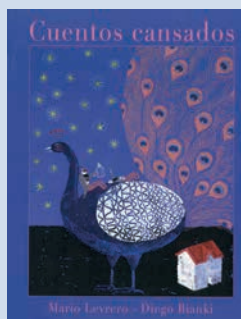
Buenos Aires: Santillana, 2018. – 141 p.

(Series: Loqueleo)

ISBN 978-950-46-5505-3

City | Train | Theft | Communication

The two high-profile Argentinian authors Martín Blasco and Andrea Ferrari have let themselves in on an adventure. Each one thought up a protagonist: Ferrari, a young woman from the Chinese community of the Argentinian capital city, Blasco, a young man, a self-assured »professional« pickpocket. Their paths cross twice: once in a suburban train, where Jorge steals the cell phone of Alma (whose real name is Jiang Li), and on the last pages of the open-ended story. In alternating chapters, the two characters tell of their lives, their everyday encounters, which reveal their hopes, possibilities, life plans, and (missed) opportunities. The stories of the two strangers are woven together through the authors' literary »ping pong« game. They wrote the twenty-five chapters in »hand-off« fashion, each time picking up from where their co-author's last chapter left off and continuing the story. A well-rounded, read-worthy book arises from this unusual, collaborative writing process. (Age: 14+)



176

Levrero, Mario (text)

Bianki, Diego (illus.)

Cuentos cansados*(Sleepy stories)*

Buenos Aires: Pequeño Editor, 2018. – 32 p.

(Series: Incluso los grandes)

ISBN 978-987-1374-90-8

Sleepiness | Storytelling | Picture book

Several unpublished stories were found in the estate of Uruguayan author Mario Levrero (1940-2004). They are presented in this book, accompanied by wonderful illustrations by Diego Bianki. The stories are dialogues between a relentlessly sleepy »I« and »Nicolás«, who presses him to tell »just ONE more« story. Punctuated by continuous yawns and snores, one dialogue follows upon the next: »I« tells quite strange, »sleepy« stories – for instance, about someone whose limbs keep growing longer because he all of a sudden can't walk anymore, or about someone who inadvertently ends up in a monkey cage at a zoo because he can't see anymore. It's absurd, and the repetitive yawning and insisting also make it comical. Diego Bianki's stencilled illustrations are marvellous. He brushed patterns cut from acetate with tempera paint and pressed them onto paper. They create standalone, fantastical scenes in intensely shining colours – dreamscapes that fit Levrero's texts perfectly. (Age: 6+)

177



Cruz, Valentina (text/illus.)

Uribe, Verónica (text)

La maleta mágica*(The magical suitcase)*

Santiago de Chile: Ediciones Ekaré Sur, 2017. – 53 p.

ISBN 978-956-8868-61-1

Art | Painting | Cruz, Valentina | Female artist |
Picture book | Non-fiction

In this cleverly conceived book one discovers the artistic universe of Chilean painter Valentina Cruz (b. 1940). Ten of her pictures, completed using different techniques, are each presented on two double-page spreads. The first set shows a detail or a section of the picture, connected with a simple question like: »Where is this little skiff rowing?« or »Who needs an umbrella?«. The next pair of pages reveals the whole picture, as well as a short (possible) answer to the question posed on the pages before, which is playful, associative, half descriptive, half interpretative. In this way, »La maleta mágica« not only offers insight into the artist's work, but also educates readers' vision, inspiring them to both look carefully and broaden their imaginations. The last pages provide information about each image, when and how it was created and which memories and feelings Valentina Cruz links to it. (Age: 9+)

178



Valdivia, Paloma (text/illus.)

Nosotros*(We)*

Santiago: Amanuta, 2017. – [36] p.

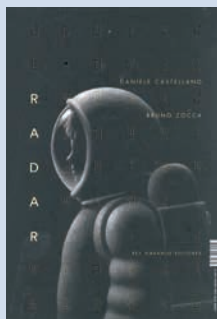
(Series: Sin límites)

ISBN 978-965-364-042-7

Mother | Child | Personal development |
Individuality | Independence | Picture book

This picture book by renowned Chilean illustrator Paloma Valdivia is about the close mother-child relation. At the same time, it describes the process of breaking away to develop one's individual personality and to find one's path. The »we« of the title are a sheep and a lamb, a mare and a foal, a big and a little rabbit, connected closely to one another. But at some point the child will »hop away«. Both will continue to grow, perhaps in very different ways and directions. Still, when they will see each other again – in this case, as a deer and a bird –, their bond will remain unmistakable. They are, and will always remain, »we«. Paloma Valdivia's charming illustrations are reminiscent of ink stamps and are characterized by clear lines and simple, organic shapes. The little, square book's design is also marvellous: its thick book covers, slender, red spine, matte, textured paper and high-quality print make »Nosotros« a pleasurable aesthetic experience. (Age: 3+)

179



Castellano, Daniele / Zocca, Bruno (illus.)

Radar

(Radar)

Bogotá: Rey Naranjo Editores, 2018. – [74] p.
ISBN 978-958-8969-45-9

Outer space | Deep sea | Expedition |
Encounter | Communication | Textless book |
Picture book

This wordless book plays out in the infinitely wide spaces of a world where individual artefacts point towards a seemingly lost civilisation. Only two people are seen, and whether they are survivors or pioneers on a risky expedition remains unclear. Equipped with radar devices, the two unwittingly move closer to each other – the one from outer space, the other from the ocean's depths –, until they meet on a lonesome coast. Neither understands the other's language, so they communicate using pictures that they draw into a notebook they find on the beach. The journeys of both begin on the first and last pages, respectively (or is it the other way around?) and end exactly in the middle of the book. Illustrators Daniele Castellano and Bruno Zocca each draw half of the story. Their pictures show a colourless world dimly lit in the sea's twilight and the blackness of outer space, wherein the protective-suit-wearing protagonists nearly get lost. Only once in direct communication with each other are they (re?)humanized. (Age: 8+)

180



Sanín, Carolina (text)

Guevara, Santiago (illus.)

La gata sola

(The lonesome cat)

Bogotá: Loqueleo, 2018. – 45 p.

(Series: Nidos para la lectura)

ISBN 978-958-5403-19-2

Cat | Prejudice | Mistrust | Outsider | Identity

One day the inhabitants of a village see an unidentified animal slink through the alleys. But »instead of asking where it comes from and finding out what kind of animal it is, they ask themselves what it will do to them and what it is capable of«. Even when they become aware that the animal is a cat, mistrust, fear, and hostility continue to develop, and people begin to accuse the cat of all kinds of possible and impossible things. The cat for her part heads off to look for a lioness who supposedly lives in the jungle. The cat fears the lioness but also feels drawn to her; on the one hand she doesn't know her, on the other hand she recognizes herself in the wild animal. Carolina Sanín employs vivid, melodious language to weave this unusual story about the foreign and unfamiliar, which ultimately is always in us and which we ourselves are. Santiago Guevara presents powerful, partly abstract pictures to go along with the story. Aggression, violence, and strife are expressed with torn paper and photo fragments crossed over by lines and thick brush strokes. (Age: 10+)

181



Álvarez, David (illus.)

Noche antigua

(Ancient night)

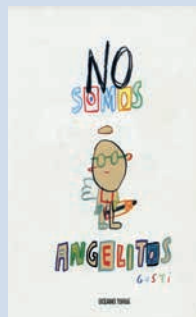
México: Fondo de Cultura Económica,
2017. – [36] p.

(Series: Los Especiales de A la Orilla del Viento)
ISBN 978-607-16-5314-7

Night | Moon | Theft | Agave | Rabbit |
Opossum | Textless book | Picture book

This story centres around the moon. It lights up the night sky and, upon closer inspection, turns out to be a spherical ceramic vessel. A rabbit regularly fills it with the milky juice of the agave, which creates its white light. When the rabbit once again heads off to gather more, an opossum makes a hole in the »moon vessel« and steals the highly prized juice. Later the audacious thief makes up for his misdeed by hanging a red, flaming sun-jug in the sky in place of the pale moon. In his wordless book, David Álvarez combines various characters and elements from ancient myths of several central American cultures. So, for instance, the rabbit is associated with the moon, the opossum with the pulque, the fermented juice of the agave, and with fire, which it supposedly stole from the gods. The breath-takingly beautiful, atmospheric pictures radiate an uncanny power and calm and keep drawing the readers back in, even after multiple viewings. (Age: 7+)

182



Gusti (text/illus.)

No somos angelitos

(We are no angels)

Ciudad de México: Océano Travesía,
2017. – [64] p.

ISBN 978-607-527-327-3

Down syndrome | Otherness | Inclusion |
Picture book

In his highly unusual book that garnered international attention, »Mallko y papá« (Mallko and Papa; 2014), Gusti describes his relation to his son Mallko, who has Down syndrome, in a personal, honest and moving way. He now has a further book out on the topic. This very humorous picture book is once more about a boy with Down syndrome. Because he is »special«, some adults consider him a »treasure«, »sunshine«, a »gift from God«. Sure, he is wonderful and loveable – just maybe not all the time. He can be mean, too, and fray his parents' nerves to the utmost. »No somos angelitos« zeroes in on and pokes fun at the often idealized, unsure, inhibited contact taken up with people with Down syndrome. The pictures seem as if drawn by a child's hand, employing few lines and colours. They are amazingly simple and reduced. The book's comedy is created by dissonances between text and image, between wishful thinking and reality. (Age: 6+)



183

Ruiz Islas, Alfredo (text)

El viaje a la nada

(The journey into nothing)

México: Norma Ediciones, 2017. – 127 p.

(Series: Zona libre)

ISBN 978-607-230676-0

Central America | Poverty | Migration |
Son | Father | Search

Being en route and waiting – both experiences of having not yet arrived – are two constants in this novella, which takes on one of the most burning political and social issues of our time. Though still a child, Olván, like countless other people, makes his way from Honduras northwards – like his father before him, who left the family to find a better life, and whom Olván is now searching for. The story begins in a registration and detention center for migrants in the northernmost part of Mexico. The following chapters alternately portray what befalls the boy in that inhospitable place and – through flashbacks – what he already experienced on his long, dangerous journey there. Though the book ends on a hopeful note, misery, mundane violence, and hopelessness stand at the centre. Using sober language, Alfredo Ruiz Islas casts an unsparing yet still empathic look on a desperate world, in which only the humanity of individuals offers small glimpses of light. (Age: 11+)



184

González Vilar, Catalina (text)

Las lágrimas de Naraguyá

(The tears of Naraguyá)

Boadilla del Monte (Madrid): Ediciones SM, [2017]. – 221 p.

(Series: Gran Angular; 331)

ISBN 978-84-675-9209-2

Amazon | Expedition | Plant life |
Meteorite | Adventure novel

In a godforsaken town in the Amazon, Spanish botanist Florencio Méndez (nicknamed Floren) happens upon Prussian researcher Antoninus Kürst (nicknamed Meteo). One is searching for a rare plant, the other for legendary meteorites called »the tears of Naraguyá«. The two young men band together and become friends. Their path leads them into a dangerous world, with remarkable characters and magical moments. Author and cultural anthropologist Catalina González Vilar adds a noteworthy title to the genre of adventure literature. The novel, which also borrows from magical realism, distinguishes itself with language that is both image-rich and multi-faceted, as well as with its individually developed characters. Nature is excellently described and plays an important role, rather than remaining a mere backdrop. Finally, the book is also an homage to the cultures of indigenous peoples, whose diversity and existence are threatened by the colonial and post-colonial expansion. (Age: 13+)

SPANISH

Mexico
Spain

185



Gramsci, Antonio (text)
 Editorial Milrazones (adapt./transl.)
 Domènech, Laia (illus.)
El ratón y la montaña
(The mouse and the mountain)
 Santander: Milrazones, 2017. – [44] p.
 (Series: Milratones)
 ISBN 978-84-944294-2-2

Poverty | Scarcity | Solidarity | Literary fairy tale |
 Picture book

Italian author, philosopher, and politician Antonio Gramsci (1891-1937) was imprisoned for eleven years during the fascist regime. In 1931, he wrote a letter to his wife from prison, in which he summarized the plot of a fairy tale from his Sardinian homeland. Milrazones publishing house developed that sketch into the text for this picture book. Adopting the form of a chain tale, the story is about a world in which everything is scarce: the child has no milk, the goat no grass to give milk, the meadow no water to let grass grow, the well destroyed, the mountain bare and deforested. A little mouse becomes the saviour when she convinces the mountain to give stones to the mason so he can repair the well. Many years later, the grown-up child reforests the land out of gratitude for the milk. Laia Domènech illustrates this parable-like fairy tale about a society bound in fairness and solidarity with low-key pictures held to semi-transparent grey tones except for a few hopeful green highlights at the end of the story. (Age: 6+)

186



Iglesias, Gracia (text)
 Abadía, Ximo (illus.)
No puedo dormir
(I can't sleep)
 [Barcelona]: Flamboyant, 2018. – [28] p.
 ISBN 978-84-946815-9-2

Bedtime | Falling asleep | Sheep | Counting |
 Poetry | Picture book

A classic in the life of every child. It's time to go to bed, but: »I can't sleep!« Everyone knows what it's like. Tossing and turning with increased frustration. Counting sheep couldn't possibly help... or could it? May as well try it. The first sheep gobbles up all the flowers in the carpet; the second sheep falls soot-covered from the chimney; the third floats like a cloud in the sky through the window and plops directly onto the bed. Things continue in this lively vein, until the tenth sheep, when it's shut-eye. »No puedo dormir« is a bedtime book and a counting book, where author and illustrator playfully and creatively approach the matter at hand. Every double-page spread promises new wit. Gracia Iglesias's short texts are rhymed miniature poems, which are wonderful to read aloud. Ximo Abadía has »translated« the words into original pictures, which capture the dreamy transition from wakefulness to sleep. (Age: 3+)



187

Mañas, Pedro (text)

Rivas, Víctor (illus.)

Apestoso tío Muffin*(Stinky uncle Muffin)*

Madrid: Anaya, 2018. – 141 p.

ISBN 978-84-698-3601-9

Shyness | Social anxiety | Body odour |
Joy of living

Life's hard for Mr. Muffin. He does not like being around people, he's fearful, eccentric, awkward, and also a bit of a neat-freak. Concerning the last point, though, he seems cursed: Like a magnet, Muffin attracts all manner of dirt. He leaves his house sparkling clean in the morning, but by evening he always looks – and smells – like something pulled from a trash can. As if life weren't already difficult enough, one day his »niece« Emma unexpectedly appears on his doorstep – even though Muffin doesn't have a niece, not even a sister! Still, he doesn't send the girl away, since she supposedly only wants to live with him for a few days. Even though Muffin's well-organized life is put in a tailspin, the two become friends. He opens up to her, overcomes his fears and in the process gets rid of the annoying smell. Funny, ironic, and a little hyper, this children's novel describes a person who's his own obstacle and who finally opens up thanks to a child's imagination, openness, and carefree nature. (Age: 9+)



188

Various authors (text)

Aurora o nunca*(Aurora or never)*

[Zaragoza]: Edelvives, [2018]. – 243 p.

(Series: Alandar; 163)

ISBN 978-84-140-1138-6

Guilt | Curse | Gothic novel

Dark, spooky, and full of suspense, this book follows the best gothic novel tradition. The inhabitants of the town of Aurora on the coast of northern Spain are marked: An event that occurred generations ago hovers over them as an insoluble curse. Their ancestors plundered a ship that had been destroyed in a storm, and their unatoned guilt still haunts both those who leave Aurora and those who return. Every chapter introduces a new character and reveals their entanglement in the old story, which no one speaks openly about. Twenty-four glimpses are offered into twenty-four lives that at first seem unconnected, but which gradually come together until an overall picture emerges. Ten renowned Spanish writers of young adult books, including Ana Alcolea, Alfredo Gómez Cerdá, Gonzalo Moure, and Mónica Rodríguez, co-wrote the book. Apart from their narrative mastery, their achievement lies in creating a coherent, gripping novel from so many different voices and perspectives. (Age: 12+)

189



Chavarría González, Mario (text)
Calderón, Marcela (illus.)

Y de postre ... una esdrújula

(And for dessert... a word whose antepenultimate syllable is stressed)

[Colonia del Sacramento]: Amanuense,
2018. – [32] p.
ISBN 978-9974-8632-0-0

[Book](#) | [Vermin](#) | [Picture book](#)

Books create their own worlds. This is not only true for the innumerable stories sandwiched between the book covers at home. The book covers themselves, the pages, and the book shelves are literally full of life: bookworms, silverfish, termites, fungi, and spores make their homes there. Books give them protection and fodder – precious leather bindings, delicate parchment! And much to the chagrin of humans, books ultimately succumb to decay. This entertaining book vividly introduces the light-shy creatures housed in our books, which have led countless bibliophiles to frustration. Mario Chavarría González and Marcela Calderón use humorous ideas to present the despicable facts in text and image by awarding the tiny beasts a certain sense of style. Silverfish supposedly prefer alphabet soup, while moth larvae are always on the look-out for quotes from great authors. (Age: 7+)

190



Granero, Nono (text/illus.)

El día que Baldomero robó el sol

(The day that Baldomero stole the sun)

Caracas [et al.]: Ediciones Ekaré, 2018. – [30] p.
ISBN 978-84-947431-5-3

[Sun](#) | [Theft](#) | [Solidarity](#) | [Picture book](#)

Baldomero is a little man with a devil's tail impossible to ignore. One day, he commits his greatest misdeed yet: He stuffs the sun into a sack and locks it in a cage under his dining table. Then he observes with satisfaction how the plants begin to wilt, people hunger and despair, the world collapses. Only María, who has never owned anything, is as happy as always. Baldomero at first is very amused watching her beat an egg long enough to cook something good for her siblings. But his laughter fades as the egg foam, thanks to the neighbours' support, keeps getting bigger, until it floats in the sky as an airy ball that replaces the sun. Nono Granero's pictures wonderfully capture the Rumpelstiltskin-like malice and the picaresque cunning of the diabolical Baldomero. The original story could certainly be read as a utopian political parable, since people coming together in times of need can ruin the mood of all the Baldomeros of this world. (Age: 7+)

191



Bjärbo, Lisa (text)

Adbåge, Emma (illus.)

Samtidigt i min låtsasvärld*(At the same time in my do-as-if world)*

Stockholm: Rabén & Sjögren, [2018]. – [28] p.

ISBN 978-91-29-70553-9

Family | Everyday life | Imagination |
Daydream | Reality | Picture book

Who hasn't experienced it? When everyday life is draining and chaotic, constrained by routines and garnished with marmalade toast on the kitchen floor, there's only one solution: turn on the mind's movie theatre and daydream away. At least, this is what the mother in Lisa Bjärbo's and Emma Adbåge's picture book »Samtidigt i min låtsasvärld« does. Instead of noodles and sausages, she sees plump cream cakes sitting on the table; instead of a snowed-in and rather drab back courtyard, her gaze alights on a sparkling sea. In fantasy worlds, the children are happy and mother is relaxed; in everyday life things can be quite different, the cleft between dream and reality daunting. Despite the book's humour, this is not an uplifting realization to come to. Remarkably, the story is told from the perspective of the mother rather than from the child's, as is conventional. This book thus might be especially appealing to any stressed parents out there. (Age: 6+)

192



Holmer, Anders (text/illus.)

Regn*(Rain)*

Stockholm: Natur & Kultur, [2018]. – [28] p.

ISBN 978-91-27-15360-8

Rain | Everyday life | Poetry

A horse draws a plough across a field, and ravens pick at kernels on the ground. Boys, girls, and animals can be seen on a hanging bridge that spans a ravine. A newspaper floats down. A car is being repaired underneath palm trees, while a radio sings about sunshine, despite the rain falling. The titular rain is the leitmotif in this contemplative picture book, in which Anders Holmer paints everyday scenes from all over the world and adorns these with short, compact, lyrical texts. The pictures as well as the texts radiate a great peace, even as the rain pores down from the sky. Sometimes it's only a sprinkle. At one point, a sand storm swirls by instead of rain, as a boy herds goats. The text reads: »Solen skym av sand / fraser lätt när den lander / en mjölkttand är lös« (Behind the sand, the sun shimmers / it rustles lightly as it falls / a baby tooth is loose). (Age: 4+)

193



Karinsdotter, Emma (text)
Gustavsson, Hanna (illus.)
Lisbet och Sambakungen
(*Lisbet and the Samba King*)
Stockholm: Bonnier Carlsen, [2017]. – 186 p.
ISBN 978-91-638-9417-6

[Difference](#) | [Independence](#) | [Individuality](#) |
[Group pressure](#) | [Homosexuality](#)

Had Pippi Longstocking never taken the kruma-lura pills, she would have grown up to be »Sambakungen« (Samba King), aka Lisbet's Grandma. Sambakungen despises anything that smacks of convention: She eats jelly raspberries for breakfast, drinks cranberry marmalade, and kisses Agatha Fox. Lisbet loves Sambakungen's crazy games, but her very favourite pastime is drawing and colouring by herself. Soon she will be old enough to go to school, but Sambakungen keeps trying to put her off school. She's afraid that Lisbet will make friends there and become just like all the other kids. But Lisbet wants to be »lagom speciell« (just right special): a little different from but also a little like everyone else. This children's novel, brimming with ideas and linguistic wit, thematises the fluid border between group pressure and group belonging and between egoism and individuality. (Age: 6+)

194



Lindberg, Maja (text/illus.)
Lilla sifferboken
(*The little book of numbers*)
Stockholm: Hippo Bokförlag, [2017]. – [28] p.
ISBN 978-91-87033-75-9

[Number](#) | [Animals](#) | [Poetry](#) | [Picture book](#)

Maja Lindberg devoted one rhymed couplet and one whole-page illustration to each letter of the alphabet in her 2016 »Lilla bokstavs-boken« (The little book of letters). It's time for numbers to have their turn – in particular, the numbers one to twelve. Lindberg links these appropriately enough to the months of the year and brings them to life with animal poems. In January, for instance, a fox is seen training alone in the forest for the legendary Vasaloppet cross country skiing race. In August, eight rabbits pull carrots from the ground – or more precisely, seven of them harvest carrots, while the eighth sunbathes lazily under a tree. The pictures are kept to muted tones and form a fascinating contrast to the tongue-in-cheek verses. At the same time, they occasionally bring out a touch of the melancholy inhabiting some of the couplets. (Age: 4+)

195

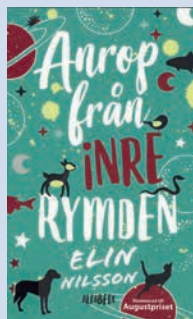


Lundberg, Sara (text/illus.)
 Sundqvist, Alexandra (postface)
Fågeln i mig flyger vart den vill
(The bird in me flies wherever it wants)
 Stockholm: Mirando Bok, [2017]. – [124] p.
 ISBN 978-91-983303-3-5

Hansson, Berta | History 1910-1994 | Painting |
 Female artist | Emancipation | Biography

»Husmor. Husmördrar. Pappa vil att vi blir det – Julia, Gunna och jag – för så har det alltid varit och så är det bestämt.« (Housewife. Housewives. Papa wants us – Julia, Gunna and me – to become that, because that's how it's always been, and that's how things are planned out). Berta lets the pea soup burn, as she dreams of another life. She draws and makes clay models, but what use is that – on a farmhouse in northern Sweden? The family doctor recognizes Berta's talent and encourages her to tell her father she wants to be something other than a housewife. Sara Lundberg's book is a homage to Swedish artist Berta Hansson (1910-1994), known for her tapestries and glass windows. Using direct language and colourful, vivid pictures echoing Berta Hansson's art, she portrays a young woman who, born at the start of the 20th century, breaks with societal convention, and trusts herself to go her own way – a way that was no more than a vague outline at the start. (Age: 10+)

196



Nilsson, Elin (text)
Anrop från inre rymden. Noveller
(Call from inner (outer)space. Short stories)
 Stockholm: Alfabeta, [2017]. – 159 p.
 ISBN 978-91-501-1935-0

Coming of age | Strength | Courage |
 Self-confidence | Short story

Sometimes everything can change in an instant. Sometimes things may sit and steep a long time, but then a sudden realization comes that things can't go on like this. Sometimes the situation spontaneously tips, or sometimes something unexpected occurs, and nothing is the same as before. The eight stories by Elin Nilsson collected in this volume are geared toward such »unheard-of events«. In the titular story, the first-person narrator is alone at home when a snow storm cuts the power and her cat Doris disappears. After an initial panic, the girl trusts that she can master the difficult situation. The self-confidence she gains strengthens her resolve to stop chasing after her former best friend. Elin Nilsson's compact texts array a subtle symbolism of missteps, doubts, and fears, but also strengths, courage, and self-confidence. They stand as evidence that the short story genre is unfairly disdained in children's and young adult literature. (Age: 12+)

197



Sertbarut, Miyase (text)

Demirağ, Mavisu (illus.)

Ünsüz youtuberın günlüğü

(Diary of an unknown YouTuber)

İstanbul: Altın Kitaplar Yayınevi, 2018. – 182 p.

ISBN 978-975-21-2377-9

Social media | YouTube | Advertisement |
Food industry | Ethics | Coming of age |
Fictitious diary

Written by 2016 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award nominee Miyase Sertbarut, this book conveys the diary of Ezgi, a girl who is eager to become a YouTube personality. On her parents' recommendation, she instead writes her scenarios in a notebook to publish as a book at a later point. Ezgi dreams of being famous, and one day an advertiser asks her to act in commercials. Ezgi's friend Pars discourages her to take part, calling ads unethical because they lure customers to buy products without informing them fully about manufacturing facts or ingredients. Pars mocks advertisements on his YouTube Channel, The Last Ad Twister, later attempting to make a documentary about the inept management at a dairy that Ezgi agrees to act for. This book reflects adolescents' interest in commercials, leading them on an adventure to discover the shocking production secret of the secretive dairy factory. The story touches upon everyday life, peer relations (including with a Syrian classmate), and teens' involvement with technology. (Age: 14+)

198



Taş, Şiirsel (text)

Demir, Oğuz (illus.)

Sekoyana'nın kapıları. Bir orman öyküsü

(The gates of Sequoiamom. A forest tale)

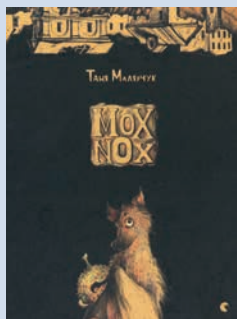
İstanbul: Doğan Egmont, 2017. – 179 p.

ISBN 978-605-09-4401-3

Forest | Nature | Ecology | Nature |
Self-assurance | Search for identity

This is a tale of a young girl's transformation: Left by her parents to live with Sequoiamom in a cottage for twelve days, without access to technology, the protagonist has little to distract her from observing the forest and its networks. Sequoiamom's life and habits – basket making, gathering plants, writing – are different than the girl's. She not only experiences a less hectic lifestyle but also learns about the forest. Each day leads to greater involvement and a deeper insight into nature as well as into herself. Thus, these interactions help her to unearth her true self and fulfil the task that Sequoiamom assigns her, namely to choose a special name for herself: Ahimsa. This word refers to the principle of not harming or hurting others. Şiirsel Taş was inspired by many authors in the development of her story, such as Henry David Thoreau, Robin Wall Kimmerer, Peter Wohlleben, and Aldo Leopold. The reader is exposed to philosophical inquiry regarding our understanding of ecology. (Age: 9+)

199



Maljarčuk, Tanja (Malyarchuk, Tanya) (text)
Slonova, Katja (Slonova, Katya) (illus.)

Mox Nox

L'viv: Vydavynctvo Staroho Leva, 2018. – 116 p.
ISBN 978-617-679-501-8

Hierarchy | Faith | Doubt | Truth |
Self-confidence | Dystopia

Ukrainian born, Vienna-based author Tanya Malyarchuk (b. 1983) has received accolades for her novels as well as short stories, and »Mox Nox« is her first children's book. It's sombre, mysterious, bizarre, and marvellously creepy. Humans have disappeared from the Earth, and the abandoned ruins of cities are now populated by nocturnal winged civilisations akin to bats and flying foxes. Young Tereza is one of these creatures, who is raised believing in a man-grove forest paradise and the words of the mighty »Night-seer«. Yet she begins to doubt these givens and wants to find out what the world is really like and why the humans left it. Tereza overcomes challenges set by her group's aggressive matriarch and looks to discover the truth. Together with illustrator Katya Slonova, Malyarchuk creates a spine-tingling story about faith and trust, hierarchies and, above all, staying true to oneself. (Age: 10+)

200



Trần, Thế Pháp (text)
Tạ, Huy Long (illus.)
inh, Gia Khánh / Nguyễn, Ngọc San (transl.)

Lĩnh Nam chích quái

(Strange tales plucked from the dust of Lĩnh Nam)
Hà Nội: Nhà xuất bản Kim Đồng, 2017. – 256 p.

Vietnam | Fairy tale | Folk tale | Myth | Legend |
Anthology

»Lĩnh Nam chích quái« is a compendium of myths, legends, traditional folktales and semi-historical records attributed to 14th-century Vietnamese scholar Trần Thế Pháp. Although it is written in Classical Chinese and rather reflects a Chinese perspective, since it was probably compiled under Ming occupation, it is considered a masterpiece of Vietnamese literature, representing traditions at the core of Vietnamese identity. And although it is aimed at adults and a literate elite, it has been compared to the Grimm's fairy tales and termed »the foundation of Vietnamese children's bedtime stories«. Hanoi-based publishing house Kim Đồng compiled this new Vietnamese edition from extant versions of the text to celebrate its 60th anniversary. Tạ Huy Long, one of the leading comic illustrators in Vietnam, contributed some 200 illustrations, citing traditional Vietnamese wood block prints, Daoist paintings from Northern minorities, and Buddhist mandalas from central Vietnam. (Age: 10+)

UKRAINIAN
VIETNAMESE

Ukraine
Vietnam

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