

IBBY Collection for Young People with Disabilities
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INTERNATIONAL BOARD ON BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

2017 IBBY SELECTION OF OUTSTANDING BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



OUTSTANDING BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES 2017

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IBBY Collection for Young People with Disabilities
North York Central Library, Children's Department
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La Casa Di Riposo Dei Supereroi (cat. no. 2)



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Kossas minna wa 3anna (cat. no. 46)

2017 OUTSTANDING BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES





Sneeuwitje brei een monster (cat. no. 8)

WELCOME!

Welcome to our annotated catalogue of selected international examples of books for and about children and teens with disabilities. This project of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) was initiated in 1981 to celebrate the UN International Year of Disabled Persons. The aim of the project was and remains identifying and encouraging the publication of books specifically designed for young people with disabilities.

This permanent collection of over 4,000 items in more than 40 languages is located in the North York Central Library branch of Toronto Public Library (TPL) in Canada. Its highlights include:

- special formats such as Braille, Picture Communication Symbols, Sign Language
- one-of-a-kind tactile and textile books
- extensive collection of picture books and novels that promote inclusion and disability awareness

These items are kept as reference for research or

reading in the library. Since 2015, whenever possible, TPL has bought copies of specific outstanding titles for circulation or for inter-library loans. All are welcome to:

- view annotated catalogue: www.ibby.org or www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/ibby
- ask for reference help by email: ibby@torontopubliclibrary.ca
- phone +1-416-395-5630 or visit at 5120 Yonge St. Toronto ON Canada

Building this biennial selection list is the work, often a labour of love, of many people. We thank the members of the IBBY National Sections who helped us identify some of the best examples from their countries. They discovered the books, read and evaluated them, and then submitted their recommendations for inclusion in this biennial selection. We would also like to thank the many publishers who have generously provided copies of these books for the collection.

Our deepest appreciation goes to the volunteer readers here in Toronto, who received the books with delight, and then proceeded to read and report on each one. Many are librarians for children and teens at Toronto Public Library, as well as the librarians in schools and public libraries who are involved in the Ontario Library Association's Forest of Reading project.

We reserve special thanks for Debora Pearson and Sharon Moynes and the many staff of Toronto Public Library who assisted in the creation of this 2017 catalogue.

Toronto and Basel, January 2017

Leigh Turina
Lead Librarian
IBBY Collection for Young People with Disabilities

Elizabeth Page, IBBY Executive Director

Kossas minna wa 3anna (cat. no. 46)



WAYS TO USE THESE BOOKS

How can we use these books?

As readers, we can use them to learn that we are not alone; that others have experiences, feelings and needs just like we do, and that there is a whole world out there that we know nothing about. As therapists, teachers and parents, we can use these titles to generate ideas and discussion.

How to grab a teen's attention?

We all want fast-paced novels that we can dive into and explore other worlds. Teens, in particular, enjoy alternate realities or imagining survival through war or physical challenges. What better way to discover your real self?

31 One
32 Dépourvu

New ideas for making tactile books

Tactile books, whether in cloth or texturized plastic, are favourites of children and adults using the IBBY Collection. We all have this universal yearning to

reach out with our fingers and explore a surface. For children who are blind or have low vision, tactile illustrations allow them to experience the book beyond the text. Tactile books are also beneficial for young people with developmental delays because they can make the story more real to them. The Special Formats section provide some ingenious ideas that spark creativity. Teachers who work with special populations often customize books for their readers' needs.

4 Kon-Kon Kushan no Uta
7 Morgh-e Sorkh-e Pa Kootah

Without a visual vocabulary children who are blind from birth need books that speak to their experience of the world through listening, smelling, tasting or touching. So while it is easy enough to create a book about animals made from textured fabric, consider some additional ways to relate experiences to their lives.

10 Un livre

My community

It is essential for children and teens to see themselves as important characters in books. To recognize oneself in a book is to find a community with kindred spirits, and by doing so, to build identity.

- 43 Hest, hest, tiger, tiger
- 46 Kossas minna wa 3anna
- 50 Nej!

Reluctant readers

Graphic novels appeal to those looking for the visual development of a story to be as important as the text. Not only do young people with learning and language disabilities, as well as those learning a second language, enjoy these adaptations, but this format is also often easier to decode for everyone.

- 2 La Casa Di Riposo Dei Supereroi
- 28 El Deafo

No text here!

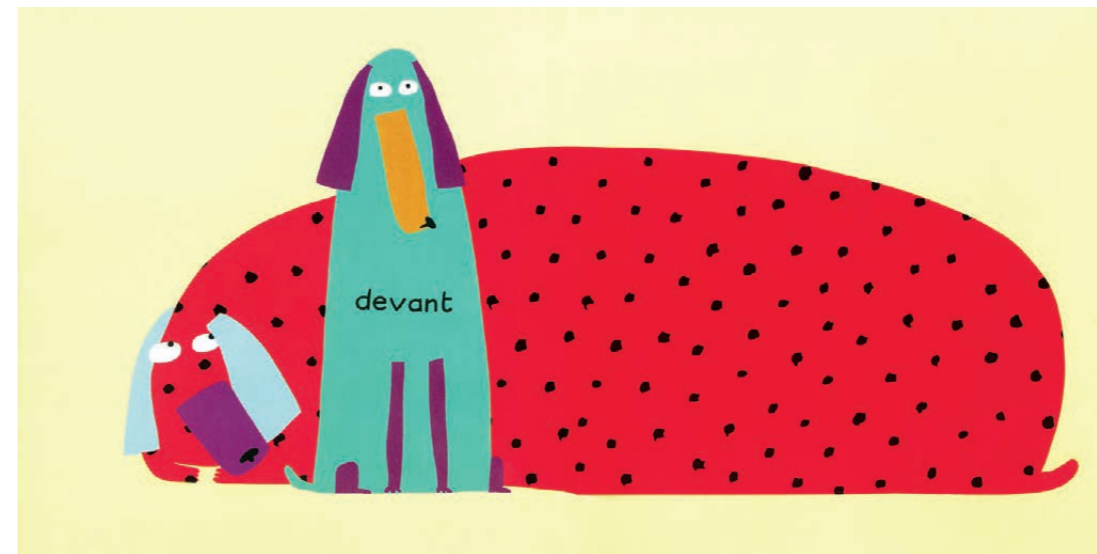
For people who have difficulty with language and need to create their own story from illustrations, wordless picture books make reading accessible to anyone who can 'read' pictures. Consider using other books highlighted in the IBBY Silent Book Collection. (www.ibby.org)

- 19 Sidewalk Flowers
- 24 Aurretik ondoren

Approaching difficult topics

Children's picture books that have little text, particularly nonfiction, allow the reader to step into the story or discussion as a character and see how they might relate to the situation. Presentations of challenging topics give parents and teachers an opportunity for exploring issues with young people that might otherwise be awkward to bring into conversation.

- 18 Ren-chan hajimete no mitori: Obaachan no shi to mukiau



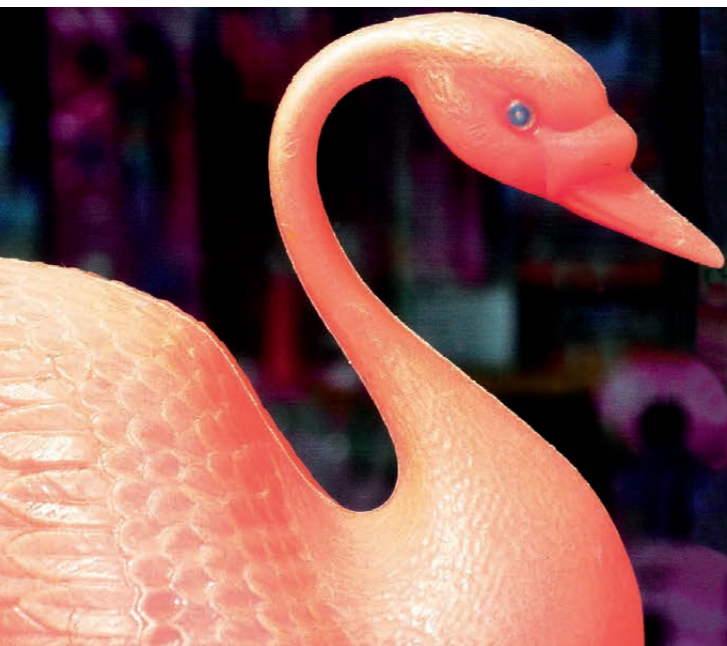
Les chiens (cat. no. 13)

Inclusion and disability awareness

In the North York Central Library Children's Department, where the IBBY Collection is located, we find many teachers and parents browsing the collection who are concerned about disability awareness. They want books to read with their pre-schoolers, children and teens that offer a window into a world different from their own.

Books that use positive images of children with disabilities in their photographs or plots, demonstrate that we all have differing abilities. The more we focus on similarities and inclusion, the less we focus on differences, judgments and bullying.

- 22 Mankoushit Mariam
- 34 Pojken och havet
- 38 Wireul bwayo!



Des signes et moi (cat. no. 1)

CATEGORY 1: SPECIALIZED FORMATS

Books using different systems and designs can help to make reading accessible to everyone. These specialized formats include Braille, Sign Language and non-verbal communication systems.

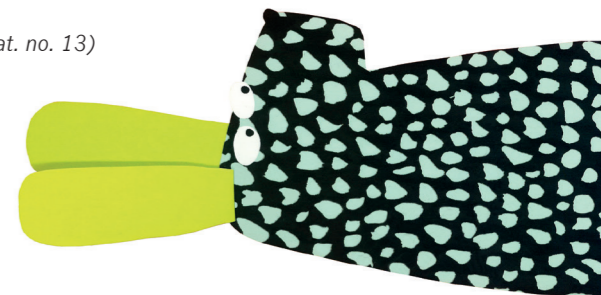
Sign Language

- 1 Genin, Cendrine (text) Thévenet, Séverine (ill.)
Des signes et moi
(*Signs and me*)
Dijon, France: Âne bâté, 2015
[84pp.] ISBN 978-2-918-68962-1

French sign language, demonstrated by deaf children who live in France, receives an inventive treatment in this photographic picture book. On the right side of each double-page spread there is a black-and-white photograph of a child signing basic words such as bird, drink and heart; the words are also in uppercase and lowercase print. The left side of each spread has another photograph (often, but not always in colour) of an object, drawing or creature that is associated

with the word. The pairings are appealing thanks to the unexpected interpretations of the signed words. The sign for “bike”, for instance, is accompanied by an overhead view of a chalk drawing of a bicycle done on pavement – a girl who is positioned on the drawing ‘rides’ the bike. Adding to the book’s engaging qualities are the range of the children’s facial expressions and the direct eye contact they often make with the reader. The group of children is culturally diverse and sharp-eyed readers will notice that some of them wear hearing aids. This book provides an imaginative introduction to sign language for readers of all ages and abilities.

Les chiens (cat. no. 13)



Dyslexic Font

2 Calli, Davide (text and ill.)

La Casa Di Riposo Dei Supereroi

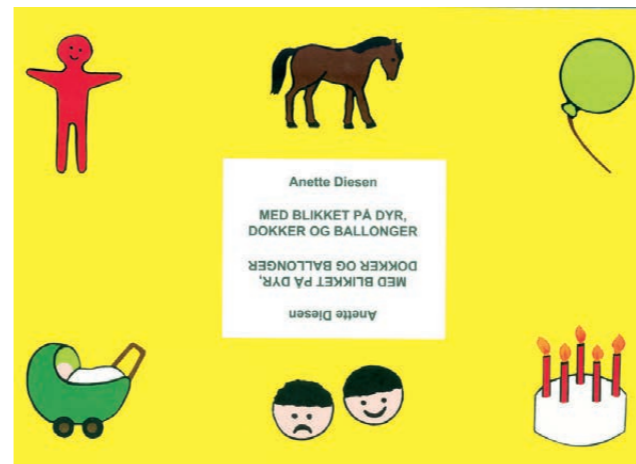
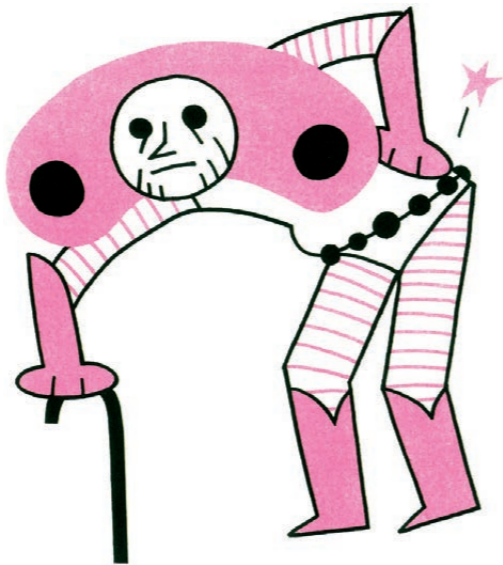
(Superheroes' rest home)

Rome, Italy: Biancoenero Edizioni, 2016
[48pp.] ISBN 978-88-99010-36-2

Can a group of slow-moving, elderly superheroes defeat a fierce villain who is younger than they are? When they put their heads together and work as a team, these heroic characters always save the day! This short story, which is part of a series for children who are beginning to read, has a fast-moving and action-filled plot, as well as being of particular interest to struggling, reluctant or dyslexic readers. It incorporates specific features that enhance its readability including cream-coloured paper, a specially designed font, as well as generous character, line and paragraph spacing. A colour palette of pink and black, along with contrasting white, is effective in capturing the upbeat, often silly mood of the

story. The superheroes are depicted with strong black outlines; their expressive faces and not-so-super moves and poses are sure to make readers smile.

La Casa Di Riposo Dei Supereroi (cat. no. 2)



Augmentative & Alternative Communication

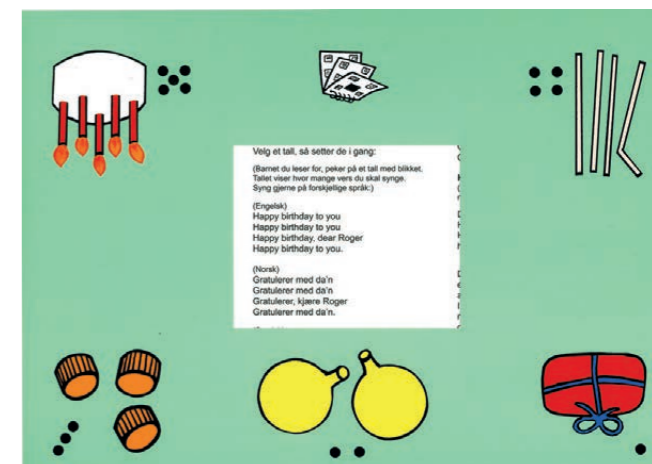
3 Diesen, Anette (text and ill.)

Med Blikket på dyr, dokker og ballonger

(Looking at animals, dolls and balloons)

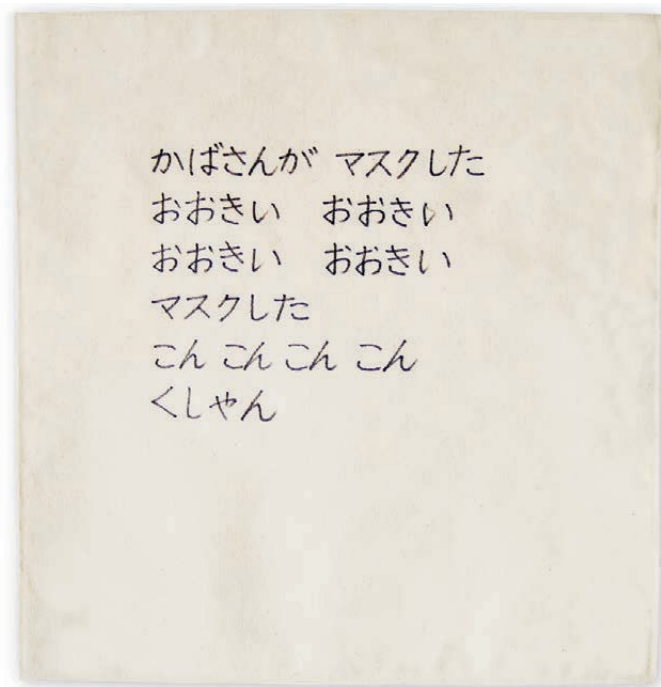
Oslo, Norway: Solum forlag AS, 2015
[6pp.] ISBN 978-82-560-1814-7

This read-aloud book of rhymes, songs and stories is designed for children with severe or multiple disabilities who cannot talk or use their hands but who are able to communicate using their eyes. It has thick, sturdy



Med Blikket på dyr, dokker og ballonger (cat. no. 3)

pages and comes with eye gaze boards that are placed between the child and the person who is reading to them. The child selects the chapter or topic they would like to have read to them by looking at the illustration that represents it on the eye gaze board. The illustrations are bright and well defined and the subjects, such as pets and toys, are ones that children will be familiar with. An additional eye gaze board with Yes, No, Don't Know responses to choose from is also included and can be used with other stories or to answer questions that are unrelated to the book.



Kon-Kon Kushan no Uta (cat. no. 4)

Tactile

- 4 Mokomoko Group
Noguchi, Mitsuyo (design)
Kon-Kon Kushan no Uta (*Cough-cough, sneeze!*)
Kanagawa, Japan: Mokomoko Group, 2016
[12pp.] [not for sale]

In Japan, when the cold season arrives many children and adults wear masks while out in public to either limit their exposure to viruses or reduce the spread of their own colds. This beautifully-made cloth book features a well-known song about the masks. It includes a playful assortment of animals – ranging from a squirrel to a red-crowned crane and a hippo – along with the masks that would be worn by each of them. These masks, which come in a variety of shapes and sizes, are stored in a pocket at the front of the book for safekeeping. As children turn the pages, revealing a different touchable creature, they must select the appropriate mask from the storage pocket and place the mask on the

animal. The hands-on matching activity requires some finger dexterity and fine motor skills; children with developmental delays will be able to practice those skills while using this book.

Tactile and Braille

- 5 Dorling Kindersley (text and ill.)
Counting (Braille)
London, UK: Dorling Kindersley, 2016
[32pp.] ISBN 978-0-2412-2834-0

Designed in cooperation with The Royal National Institute of Blind People, this board book provides a touchable introduction to numeracy and counting from one to ten. It is intended for use by pre-school children with vision loss, whether partial or complete, and their parents or caregivers. Each of the ten numerals is shown with a corresponding number of objects that are both brightly coloured and tactile; there are cut out shapes as well. A variety of textures are used throughout, which include soft, smooth balls, birds with flocked

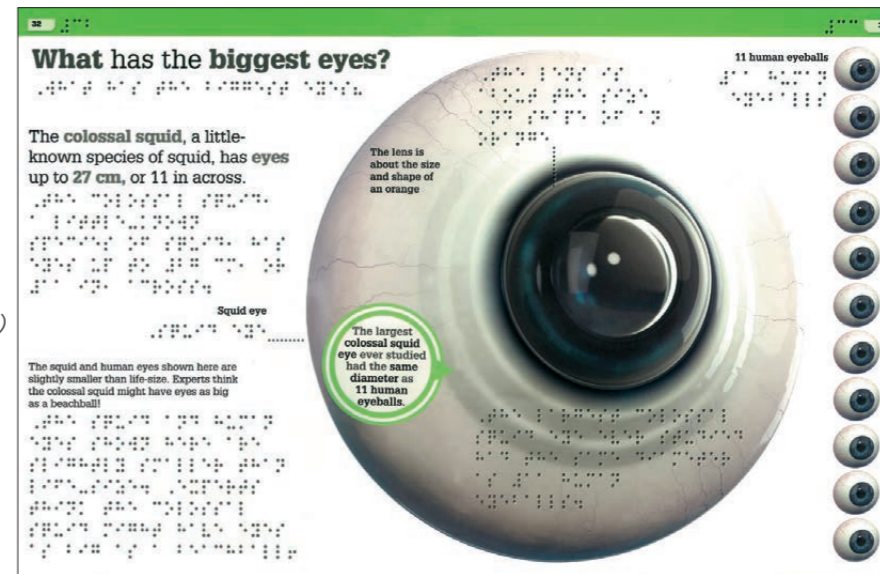


Counting
(cat. no. 5)

bodies and wings, and trees that have rough bark. The nine worms are sure to be the most popular texture in the book – they are surprisingly sticky to the touch! The short, rhyming text in both Braille and easy-to-read, sans-serif print describes the objects and helps readers move from one page to the next; each numeral is also provided in Braille. The final pages offer a simple review of the concepts covered in the book – as in the main part of the book, the emphasis is on engaging the reader and having fun.

6 Dorling Kindersley (text and ill.)
It Can't Be True
London, UK: Dorling Kindersley, 2016
[72pp.] ISBN 978-0-2412-2840-1

This entertaining collection of facts and trivia will be of particular interest to those who can read independently. As it uses both Braille and print, readers with vision loss will be able to enjoy it alongside those who are sighted. Colour photographs with embossed surfaces



It Can't Be True (cat. no. 6)

and raised borders accompany the information, which covers animals, the human body, outer space and other subjects. Some images, such as the world's largest hailstone, are shown at actual size. Comparisons between objects – the text notes, for instance, that the largest hailstone is three times bigger than a tennis ball – emphasize the spectacular nature of the information. To aid readers with vision

loss, lines of Braille connect the Braille caption to the image it describes. Readers looking for shorter segments of text and flexibility in terms of where to start reading on a page will make use of the multiple entry points found throughout. *It Can't Be True* was designed in cooperation with The Royal National Institute of Blind People in the United Kingdom.



Morgh-e Sorkh-e Pa Kootah (cat. no. 7)

- 7 Eghtedari, Setareh and Dowlatabadi, Parvin (text)
Badbadak Tactile Group (tactile adaptation)
Morgh-e Sorkh-e Pa Kootah (*The Little Red Hen*)
Tehran, Iran: Badbadak
Visual Arts Institute, 2016 [14pp.]

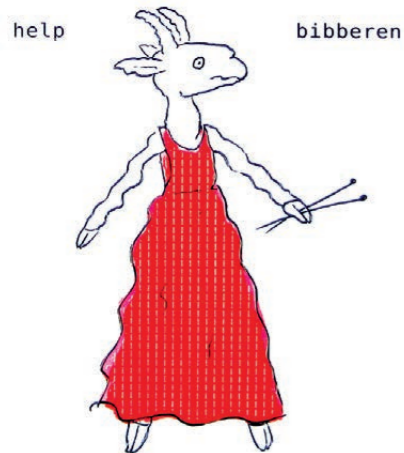
An adaptation of a classic tale is given new life in this charming cloth book. It opens up in four directions and contains a smaller book-within-a-book in the centre. Versions of the story will be familiar to readers everywhere: a hen finds a wheat seed and asks her animal friends to help her as she plants and waters the seed, then harvests the wheat and grinds it, and finally makes bread with the flour. After the other animals refuse to assist her, the hen decides to share the bread with her own chicks. A variety of textures – including leather, felt and netting that is used with particular effectiveness – offer a tactile experience for children who are blind or have low vision. There is also Braille on each page, providing additional support. The unusual design of the book features the main characters on each of

the four fold-out flaps and the bread-making process on the smaller book in the middle. Together, these elements provide a variety of ways to experience the story and learn more about the making of Iranian bread. A small rigid box accompanies the book; it contains some real-life elements, including a stalk of wheat, which children will enjoy touching.

- 8 Haeringen, Annemarie van (text and ill.)
Sneeuwitje breit een monster
(*Snow White knits a monster*)
Terheijden, Netherlands: Stichting Prenten
boekenPlus, 2016
[15pp.] ISBN 978-94-92652-00-3

Snow White, a goat with a talent for knitting, shows off her creative side and demonstrates some unusual problem-solving skills in this story with fairy tale elements. At first, Snow White knits woolly socks. Then she knits some goat kids that come alive. But when one of Snow White's other creations – a hungry wolf – starts eating the animals, she must

Help! De tijger ligt likkebaardend voor de kast: 'Ik ruik een mals geitje...' Sneeuwvitje kijkt bibberend om zich heen. Hoeveel wol is er nog? 'Wat moet ik nu breien?' Iets groots... Iets gevaarlijks!



Sneeuwvitje brei een monster (cat. no. 8)

find a way to stop the wolf and restore order. The story is easy to follow and told in Braille and large print. Specific words, also in Braille and print, are placed close to the illustrations to strengthen the connection between a particular word and its

image. Each creature has a characteristic textured pattern to help readers identify it by touch. Two small items accompany this tactile book: a hairy goat and a pair of knitting needles with a small, partially knitted monster attached. These manipulatives can be used to retell the story and may also inspire children to create new versions. A reading guide provides advice on how to use all the elements with children. Designed for children with vision loss, this tactile book can also be used by children with developmental challenges.

- 9 Lee, Seow Ser (text) Tan, Ai Khim (ill.)
Si Ma Guang and the Giant Jar
 Singapore: Helang Books, 2016
 [32pp.] ISBN 978-981-09-9667-3

This concise retelling of an Asian folktale about a boy whose quick thinking saves his friend from drowning is recounted two different ways: in Braille and in print using a special font for readers with dyslexia. Tactile elements in the illustrations augment the story for young children with vision loss. The simple plot and the textures in the artwork will be

Si Ma Guang and the Giant Jar (cat. no. 9)

The children were
 good friends.
 They played and
 laughed together.



of interest to those with intellectual disabilities and can also be enjoyed by those without special needs. A short glossary in both print and Braille is included in the back of the book along with a discussion question that invites reflection and response.

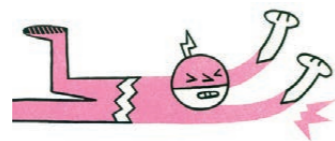
Other added information includes the alphabet and the numbers from one to ten in Braille, which will be of interest to children who want to learn more about Braille. With its sturdy plasticized pages and spiral binding, this book will withstand plenty of use.



Un livre (cat. no. 10)

One basic shape – a circle – along with three colours and textures and some simple words are all that is needed to make this book come alive in any child's hands. The conversational text, in both Braille and print, addresses readers and encourages them to touch and interact with the book in a variety of ways. As a result of the readers' actions, the circles appear to move to new places on the page, change their arrangements and increase or decrease in number and size. This book can be enjoyed by those with complete vision loss as well as those with developmental delays. Its cream-coloured, non-glare pages provide an effective contrast for the vivid colours of the circles, which will be of particular benefit to children with low vision. The yellow fuzzy texture is a memorable one, especially when the circles with this texture 'grow' in size and dominate the page.

- 10** Tullet, Hervé (text)
Un livre (A book)
 Talant, France: Les Doigts Qui Rêvent
 [42pp.] ISBN 978-2-36593-061-1



La Casa Di Riposo Dei
 Supereroi (cat. no. 2)

- 11** Verhelst, Marlies (text) Faas, Linde (ill.)
Feestmaal voor de koning
 (Festive meal for the king)
 Rotterdam, Netherlands: Lemniscaat, 2015
 [27pp.] ISBN 978-90-477-0464-5

Who has stolen the top of the delicious, multi-layered cake? It is a mystery – and one that children will enjoy solving while they explore the textures in this tactile book. As readers follow the spider who baked the cake on his quest to find the thief, they meet an assortment of animals, each with its own distinctive texture. They include a leathery elephant, a hairy gorilla and a smooth-billed toucan. The story is recounted in both Braille and print; a CD that accompanies the book provides a spoken version of the text. With its large format and appealing textures set on neutral backgrounds, this book will be appreciated by a variety of youthful readers, including children with visual impairment, those who have low vision and children without any vision loss.



Feestmaal voor de koning (cat. no. 11)



Asa ni nattanode mado o akemasuyo (cat. no. 12)

CATEGORY 2: UNIVERSAL ACCESS

The books in this section are from the mainstream production. They are understandable to all individuals, in particular to young people with learning, intellectual or developmental disabilities.

12 Arai, Ryoji (text and ill.)

Asa ni nattanode mado o akemasuyo

(It's morning, so I'll open the window)

Tokyo, Japan: Kaisei-Sha Publishing Co., 2011

[32pp.] ISBN 978-4-03-232380-1

The simple act of opening one's window each morning, then looking out, is repeated to great effect in this absorbing picture book that is accessible to a wide range of readers. Double-page painterly illustrations show spectacular views of mountains, the ocean and other landscapes. As readers gaze at these sun-drenched panoramas, they will gain an appreciation for the bigness of the world and its natural beauty. Repeated viewing of the artwork will reveal other details, such as the tiny child-like figures that appear in some of the settings. The brief text consists of short, poem-

like phrases that complement the gentle mood of the artwork. Together, they remind readers of the pleasures and possibilities to be found in the world, many of them just outside one's window.

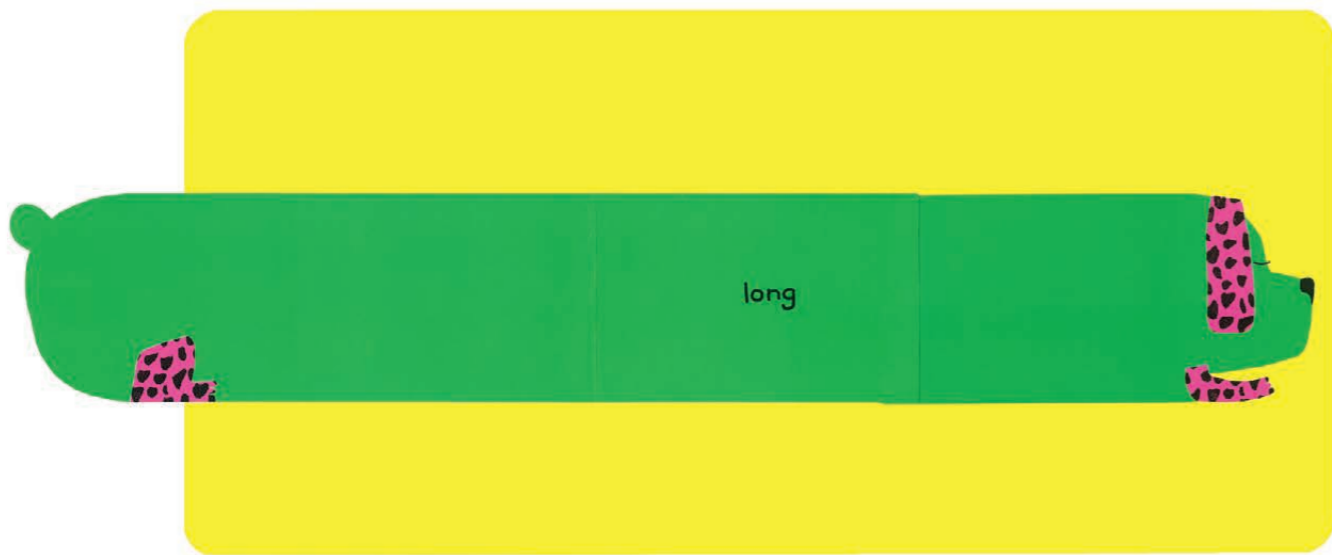
13 Élo (text)

Les chiens (contraires) *(The dogs [opposites])*

Paris, France: Éditions Sarbacane, 2016

[18pp.] ISBN 978-2-84865-854-4

Wide-eyed dogs in vivid, saturated colours stare out at the reader and at each other as they demonstrate pairs of opposites, such as outside and inside, and fat and thin. Flaps artfully hide and then reveal certain aspects of the dogs, which can sometimes appear to alter their position or size. The artwork's bold graphic style, the minimal text in the form of identifying labels and the interactive features of this book make it accessible to a wide range of readers, including children who have developmental or learning disabilities. They, like other readers, will enjoy watching these droll dogs put on a good show.



Les chiens (cat. no. 13)

14 Félix, Lucie (text)

Prendre & donner

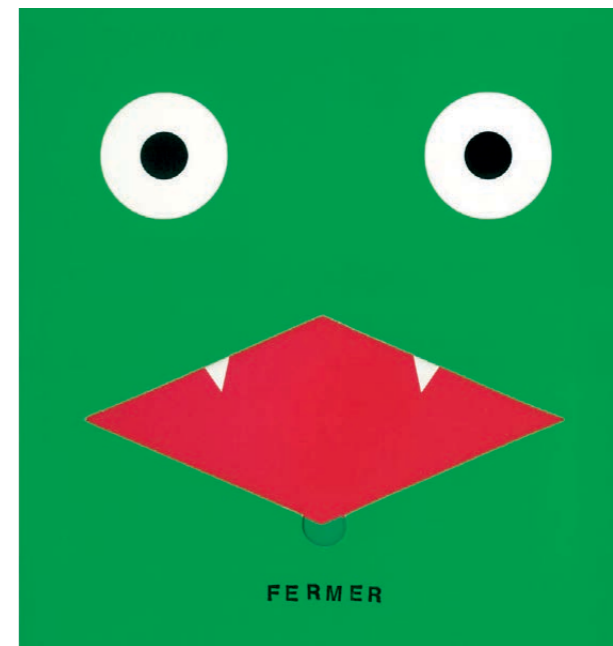
(To take and to give)

Paris, France: Éditions des Grandes Personnes,
2014 [16pp.] ISBN 978-2-36193-336-4

Children will gain a hands-on understanding of circles, squares and other shapes while they practice their finger dexterity with this clever book. One- and two-word captions prompt readers to remove the sturdy die-cut shapes that fit into position on one page and place them where they belong on the next page. As readers follow the shapes through the book, unexpected transformations take place and new visual possibilities are revealed. This book's playful approach will be of benefit to those who need easy-to-understand concepts. Children with vision loss will appreciate the bright, high contrast artwork.



*Kossas minna wa 3anna
(cat. no. 46)*



Prendre & donner (cat. no. 14)



Con la cabeza en las nubes (cat. no. 15)

- 15** Franco, Raquel; Bianchi, Diego; Kaufman, Ruth (text) Bianchi, Diego and other collaborators (ill.) **Con la cabeza en las nubes** (*Head in the clouds*) Buenos Aires, Argentina: Pequeño editor, 2015 [64pp.] ISBN 978-987-1374-70-0

This innovative book, created in collaboration with

artists from all over the world, will help children gain an appreciation of clouds as sources of both creative inspiration and scientific wonders. Inside the sturdy covers, readers will encounter a wide-ranging assortment of material, including photographs of animal-shaped clouds that they can draw or paint on and otherwise use to launch their own artistic efforts. The short sections of informative text will help readers view clouds through the eyes of a scientist, as they learn what clouds are made of, how much they weigh, how they are formed and why they do not fall down. This book's unique mix of inspiration and information will appeal to a wide range of youthful readers – there is something here for almost everyone.

- 16** Franco, Reyva (text) Espinoza, Gerald (ill.) **Imaginario** (*Imaginary*) Buenos Aires, Argentina: Pequeño editor, 2015 [44pp.] ISBN 978-987-1374-64-9

At first glance, this story is simply about a friend-



Imaginario (cat. no. 16)

ship between two children who are inseparable – as comfortable together as a pair of old shoes. But readers who look more closely will also see the important role of imagination in this relationship. In ways that are both affirming and fanciful, this book shows that it is possible for someone who feels different and alone to find companionship and have

fun if they put their mind to it. Primitive-style artwork captures the friends at play just the same way a child might illustrate them, with a generous application of colour and thick, black outlines. With its positive message about overcoming differences and its portrayal of a close-knit friendship, this book will be read and re-read by young children.



Un hueco (cat. no. 17)

- 17** Frankel, Yael (text and ill.)
Un hueco (*A hole*)
 Buenos Aires, Argentina: Calibrosco pio Ediciones, 2015
 [32pp.] ISBN 978-987-3967-06-1

This striking picture book explores the feelings of grief that accompany the death of a loved one. The bold, graphic images feature wistful-looking people with oversized bodies; the large holes in their chests represent the voids left after the loss of those they cared about. The short, but eloquent text is set in a large easy-to-read font. With tenderness and sensitivity, it acknowledges the feelings of emptiness that are bound up with loss. This book does not attempt to provide easy or perfect solutions in dealing with death and sorrow. Instead, it quietly lets readers know that everyone has holes of one kind or another. A person's holes can remain with them wherever they go

in life and that is all right. With its appealing artwork and uncomplicated look at a difficult topic, this book will be of interest to a wide range of readers, especially those with developmental challenges.

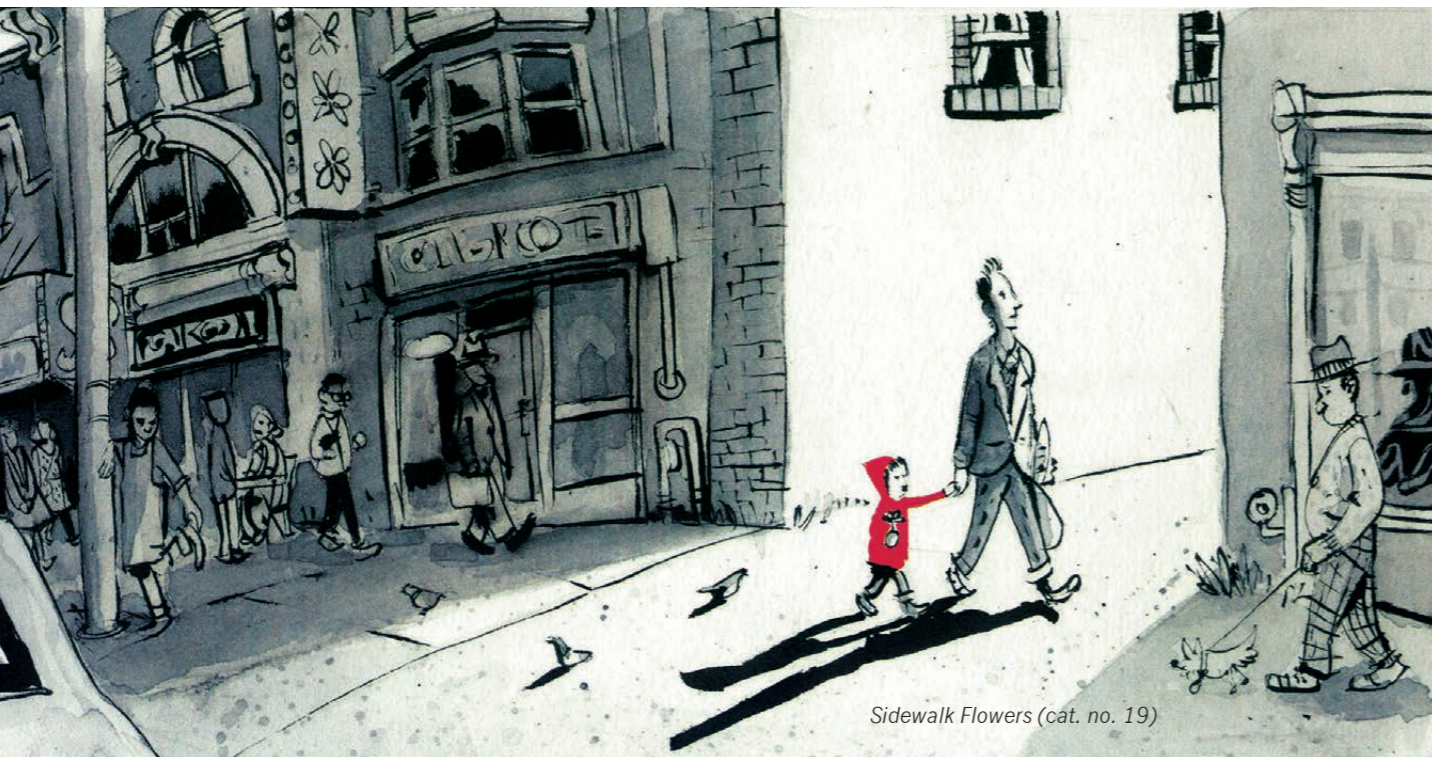
- 18** Kunimori, Yasuhiro (text and photography)
Ren-chan hajimete no mitori: Obaachan no shi to mukiau
 (*Good-bye great grand-ma: A young girl's first encounter with end-of-life care-giving*)
 Tokyo, Japan: Nosan Gyoson Bunka Kyokai, 2012 [32pp.] ISBN 978-4-540-11265-2

This photographic picture book, part of the *Relay of Life* series, chronicles the experience of fifth-grader Ren-chan as she deals with the death of her beloved 92-year-old great grandmother, Takeko. Ren-chan's simple, plain-spoken words about her first experience with death are complemented by the candid, realistic photos. The images do not shy away from showing Takeko as she is dying, at home and surrounded by her family. With a forthrightness not often seen in

Ren-chan hajimete no mitori (cat. no. 18)



works for young children, this book offers a close-up, respectful look at the transition from life to death. Its matter-of-fact coverage of a challenging subject and its surprisingly tranquil, reassuring tone will find a place with a variety of young readers, whether they have a disability or do not.



Sidewalk Flowers (cat. no. 19)

19 Lawson, JonArno (text) Smith, Sydney (ill.)
Sidewalk Flowers
 Toronto, Canada: Groundwood Books, 2015
 [32pp.] ISBN 978-1-55498-431-2

In this wordless picture book set in an urban landscape, a girl collects wildflowers while out walking with her father. Each flower becomes a gift that she bestows on someone else: a friendly dog, a homeless man on

a bench and even a dead bird she finds on the sidewalk. Thanks to her efforts, the world becomes a more beautiful place as both the giver and the recipients are transformed by their encounters. Colour is used with great effect in the illustrations: the girl's red hooded jacket, along with the vibrant flowers she picks, are often the only hints of brightness in the mostly grey cityscape, making it easy for readers to understand their significance. The colours increase until by the end of the walk the world is full of colour. The ability of a child to effect change, even in the most fleeting of ways, and the importance of little things will speak to a wide variety of readers. The captivating artwork and text-free format make this book universally accessible.

20 Lee, Gab Gyu (text and ill.)
Jinjja Ko Paneun Iyagi
 (A real story of picking one's nose)
 Seoul, Korea: Bear Books, 2014
 [40pp.] ISBN 979-11-85564-14-2

An activity that many people engage in but few admit to receives a close-up look in this hilarious book.



Jinjja Ko Paneun Iyagi (cat. no. 20)

A range of creatures, including a panda, a water buffalo and a giraffe, demonstrate how ridiculous and revolting nose-picking looks as they excavate



El soldadito de plomo (cat. no. 21)

mucus from their nostrils. However, there is a specific reason for their determined and vigorous actions – these animals are auditioning to appear in a movie! The unusual subject matter, combined with the parody of making a movie and the animals themselves, will pique the reader's curiosity and demand a response from them as they turn the pages. This is a book that will elicit smiles and more from children of all ages and abilities.

21 Luna, Clara (text and ill.)

El soldadito de plomo

(The Steadfast Tin Soldier)

Barcelona, Spain: Ediciones La Topera, 2016

[30pp.] ISBN 978-84-606-8063-5

This wordless retelling of the well-known Hans Christian Andersen tale is designed to meet the needs of children with developmental challenges and communication disorders; it will be enjoyed by many other children as well. The story is recounted in panels of mixed-media artwork that are simple to

'read'. Each panel covers one main idea in the story. The title character appears in almost every scene and serves as a familiar element for children to follow. The progression from one panel to the next is clearly established with directional arrows that guide the reader's eye across the page. The arrows are also used to highlight the unspoken communication taking place between characters. The characters have expressive faces and their reactions add to the emotional depth and drama of this story.

22 Mheidly, Nabiha (text) Merhej, Lena (ill.)

Mankoushit Mariam

(The mankoushit 'Lebanese pizza' of Mariam)

Beirut, Lebanon: Dar al-Hadaek, 2013

[32pp.] ISBN 978-9953-496-82-5

Mariam demonstrates how to make a Lebanese pizza in this simple how-to book. The step-by-step process is covered in mixed-media artwork that combines illustrations with photographs on each spread, including pictures of Mariam's hands. It is



Mankoushit Mariam (cat. no. 22)

only on the last spread that readers see more of Mariam, who is revealed to be a child with Down syndrome. Objects such as a mixing bowl, rolling pin and baking pan are well defined with strong black outlines and set on uncluttered backgrounds. These visual aspects will be especially effective



when sharing this book with children who have low vision. While the accompanying text is brief and easy-to-understand, the visuals can be understood on their own, making the book also enjoyable for those with developmental delays. This book's sturdy, plasticized cover and pages will stand up to use in the kitchen when children make Lebanese pizza, just like Mariam.

- 23** NPO Re~love (text editing)
 Kodera, Takuya (photography)
Chotto fushigina ehon no jikan: Otonaga yomiau katariau
(An unusual time with picture books: Adults read together, talk together)
 Kyoto, Japan: Kamogawa Shuppan, 2015
 [132pp.] ISBN 978-4-7803-0775-7

Can reading children's picture books and talking about them help people with higher brain dysfunction? The answer is "yes" according to this guide, and it provides an inspiring model of ways to choose and discuss

books with children and adults with disabilities. Over a period of ten years, Japanese adults with brain-related issues who struggled to maintain their memory and control their emotions, met weekly to read and discuss a picture book as a group. This guide considers the ways participants found acceptance, encouragement and a connection with the world at large as they shared their unique perspectives with others. The participants' opinions are recorded under graphic symbols that are used to represent each of them. Since a list of picture books is also included, this book will be of practical use to those interested in starting their own picture book groups.

- 24** Ramstein, Anne-margot (text) Aregui, Matthias (ill.)
Aurretik ondoren (*Before after*)
 Donostia-San Sebastian, Spain: Ttarttalo, 2014
 [Avant Après / Paris, France: Albin Michel Jeunesse, 2013]
 [160pp.] ISBN 978-84-9843-462-0

This deceptively simple-looking book considers the

changes that occur over time, especially ones that happen in the natural world. Before-and-after pairings are depicted in finely-detailed artwork on double-page spreads. Other images are linked together over multiple spreads and highlight some of the unexpected relationships that exist between various things over time. On one spread, for instance, a nest in an apple tree holds eggs, then baby birds. When readers turn the page, the sequence continues with a look at the apple tree. Its fruit ripens then rots, becoming a home for worms – food for the birds. This wordless book will appeal to a wide range of readers, including those who are developmentally delayed. Readers of all ages will enjoy poring over the arresting illustrations and looking for the hidden narratives that link the spreads. New connections will be discovered with each viewing that are sure to spark discussion. The book, now available in many languages, was originally published by French publisher Albin Michel Jeunesse in 2013 as *Avant Après*.

25 Tisell, Anneli (text) Schubert, Ola (ill.)
Babola Salabim!
Danderyd, Sweden: Hatten Forlag, 2016
[40pp.] ISBN 978-91-87465-43-7

The Babblarna speak a language that is based on the sounds of their names. By listening to Babblarna speak, then imitating the way they talk, toddlers and young children can practice their own speech and intonation, boosting their language development. Books that feature these appealing characters have been developed for children with language and learning disabilities. However, all children in the early stages of language development will enjoy interacting with Babblarna and joining them on their adventures. The word “*Salabim*” in the title of this particular book hints at the magical transformations that take place in the story. A specially designed page at the back of the book can be cut out and fashioned into a small wand that children can wave as they follow the actions – *Salabim!*



Babola Salabim! (cat. no. 25)



Pojken och havet (cat. no.34)

CATEGORY 3: PORTRAYALS OF DISABILITY

This section includes general books that depict people with disabilities in picture books, fiction and nonfiction titles.

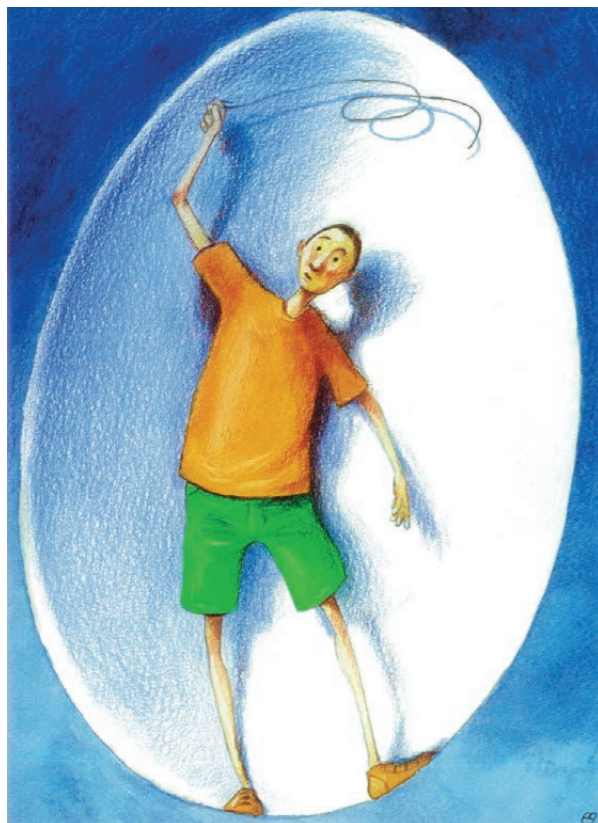
- 26** Anisimova, Anna (text) Lapshina, Diana (ill.)
Nevidimyj slon
(*The invisible elephant*)
Moscow, Russia: Foma, 2013
[24pp.] ISBN 978-5-91786-110-4

The carefree life of a young girl is the focus of this picture book. The main character's vivid imagination and her sense of wonder at all she experiences – including an elephant she encounters at the zoo – imbue her world with elements that are both fantastical and grounded in reality. The whimsical pictures she sees in her mind are captured in the delicate, airy illustrations. As readers learn more about the girl, they gradually become aware that she is blind. No special attention is paid to her disability by other characters and the author suggests that this should be the response that readers have as well. This character is at ease

in the world, able to navigate it independently and confidently. She is capable of finding ways to experience everything that sparks her curiosity. Her cheerful demeanour and affectionate relationships with others remind readers that people with vision loss are able to experience life fully, especially when they have the loving support of those around them.



Nevidimyj slon (cat. no. 26)



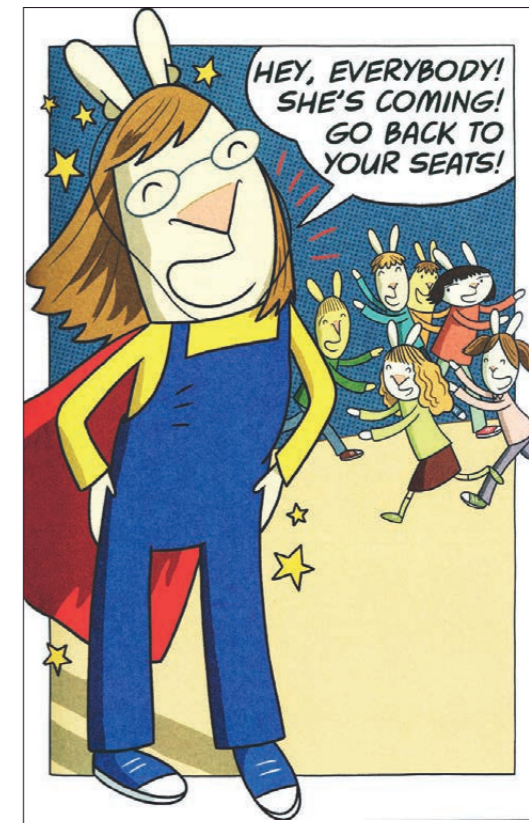
To auyó (cat. no. 27)

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- 27** Bakirtzi, Eva (text) Andrikopoulos, Nikolas (ill.)
To auyó (*The egg*)
Athens, Greece: Patakis Publications, 2014
[32pp.] ISBN 978-960-16-5496-6

"I feel like I live inside a bizarre place ... inside a big white egg with the hardest shell." Told from the point of view of Viktor, a boy with autism, this informative picture book uses the image of an egg to explain what it is like to be someone with autism. Like others who have this disorder, Viktor behaves in ways that cause him to be regarded as odd and set him apart from others: he avoids eye contact, makes strange sounds and likes to play with a piece of string for hours at a time. But inside his safe and familiar 'egg', Viktor can do other things, including assembling a 100-piece puzzle with ease, playing games without many instructions and composing music on the piano. Viktor's plain-spoken words are effective in explaining how autism affects him. Affirming of those children who live with this disorder, this book will also be of benefit to those who do not have autism, but want to learn more about it.

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- 28** Bell, Cece (text and ill.)
El Deafo
New York, USA: Amulet Books, Imprint of
Abrams, 2014
[233pp.] ISBN 978-1-4197-1217-3

Loosely based on the author's own childhood, this graphic novel features a main character who goes deaf after she contracts meningitis. Author Cece Bell uses the graphic novel format, along with some fantastical elements, to full advantage. The human characters who inhabit the world of *El Deafo* have prominent rabbit ears, underscoring the focus on hearing as well as a lack of hearing and the need to wear hearing aids. Speech balloons are used very effectively. After Cece's hearing begins to fade as a result of her illness, the words in the speech balloons fade, too. When her hearing loss is at its most extreme, the speech balloons are empty. Children with hearing loss will find Cece a particularly relatable character, especially in her efforts to view herself not as the odd one out but as someone who might be an



El Deafo (cat. no. 28)

admirable and heroic figure – *El Deafo* – thanks to her special, mechanically-amplified hearing. With its appealing format, gentle humour and main character who has to rise above uncomfortable, even mortifying childhood moments, this novel will be of interest to all readers.

- 29** Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker (text)
The War that Saved my Life
New York, USA: Dial books (Penguin), 2015
[316pp.] ISBN 978-0-8037-4081-5

Ten-year-old Ada lives in a one-room flat in London. She was born with a clubfoot and faces wars on three separate fronts. First of all, World War II is raging. Then there are the attacks that Ada must fend off at home. Her abusive mother is deeply ashamed of Ada and expresses her hatred of her daughter and her frustration at the world by beating Ada at the slightest provocation. And finally, there is the battle taking place inside Ada's head between her longing for a better life and her belief that she

is unworthy of affection. After Ada and her younger brother are evacuated from London she begins to slowly recover from the damage that has been inflicted on her. Her passage from shame and rejection to physical and mental well-being is aided by others she meets. This is more than a well-told story of life with a disability during an era when it was considered acceptable to ostracize those, like Ada, who had a 'deficiency'. This novel is also a tale about resilience and the restorative power of kindness.

- 30** Clima, Gabriele (text)
Il sole fra le dita
(The sun between fingers)
Milan, Italy: Edizioni San Paolo, 2016
[180pp.] ISBN 978-88-215-9876-0

In this engaging story, two teenage boys, each with their own struggles, discover they have much to offer each other after circumstances bring them together. Readers will be drawn to the realistic dialogue and portrayals of Dario, who deals with his difficult

family situation by being a troublemaker, and Andy, a boy with spastic paraplegia who is in a wheelchair. An unexpected road trip that the boys take to the beach offers challenges for each of them. At the same time, this journey consolidates their relationship, forcing them to rely on one another as best they can. Readers who accompany Dario and Andy on their trek will reach the same important realizations that the boys do – that one's past does not define one's future, and that a person need not be limited by the expectations of others.

- 31** Crossan, Sarah (text)
One
London, UK: Bloomsbury, 2016
[434pp.] ISBN 978-1-4088-2721-5

Grace and Tippi are conjoined twins who are connected at the waist. Together, the sisters have two heads, two hearts, four arms and one pair of fully functioning legs. Although the girls attract attention wherever they go, they are mostly happy with their shared life.



Il sole fra le dita (cat. no. 30)

The eventful period during the twin's sixteenth year when their safe, sheltered existence ends is chronicled by Grace in short free-verse vignettes. Previously home-schooled, the girls begin attending classes with others at a private school where they make the first friends they have ever had. But their growing confidence is overshadowed by a serious health crisis. Grace's heart is failing and that means the sisters must now consider the unthinkable: separation surgery that will improve the lot of one twin and likely cause the death of the other. By the end of the novel, readers will be inspired to re-examine their own

assumptions of what it means to be an individual and what it takes to live a full life. A note by the author provides additional information about conjoined twins, rounding out this memorable and gripping account of a little known or discussed disability.

32 Grondin, Victoria (text)
Dépourvu (*Deprived*)
Montreal, Canada: Éditions Hurtubise, 2016
[173pp.] ISBN 978-2-89723-745-5

This novel challenges the reader's view of what it means to be a person with a disability and what it means to be a 'normal' person. In the unusual society where this story takes place, perspectives have been reversed – everyone has Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) except Guillaume, the narrator. Guillaume is an oddity in this ASD-centred world because compared to everyone else he is the one with a disability. This novel's innovative storyline, along with strong writing and a well-researched

portrayal of autism, will help readers without ASD to better understand what it means to live with autism. They will also gain important insight into what it means to be excluded and regarded as abnormal, as Guillaume is, because of one's differences.

33 Havel, Geoff (text)
Dropping In
Fremantle, Australia: Fremantle Press, 2015
[144pp.] ISBN 978-1-92-516221-9

Sticks and Ranga are two almost-teen boys who live on the same street, go to the same school and love the same things, including skateboarding and video games. When new kid James arrives in his wheelchair, Sticks is not sure he and Ranga can be friends with him; after all, what will they have in common? But Sticks quickly discovers there is more to the newcomer than he and Ranga assumed. Cerebral palsy keeps James from doing some things, but it has not dulled his sense of humour and he is pretty brainy, too. It seems that the only thing James cannot do is join

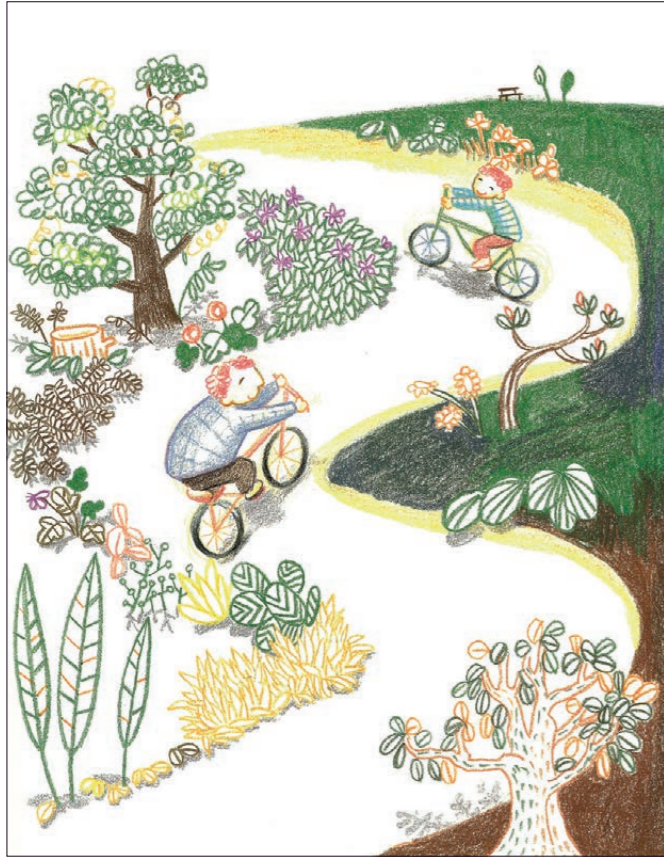


Pojken och havet (cat. no.34)

Sticks and Ranga when they go skateboarding. That means he cannot experience motion and speed as they do – or can he? Readers, especially those who are looking for a fast-paced book, will enjoy this tale of three close friends. The satisfying ending, involving a giant skateboard that Sticks and Ranga create out of a beat-up old couch and the heart-stopping ride James has with it, will stay with readers after they have reached the last page of this well-told story.

34 Hedman, Sofia (text) Gårdeler, Emelie (ill.)
Pojken och havet (*The boy and the ocean*)
Trollhättan, Sweden: Kikkuli Förlag, 2016
[28pp.] ISBN 978-91-88195-18-0

A curious boy who has never seen the ocean – and who is not able to because he is blind – asks his father what the word “ocean” means. The answers that the father provides focus on the boy's senses of



Appa, Mianhaehaji Maseyo! (cat. no.36)

taste and touch; they also make comparisons to things that are familiar to the boy. Thanks to these imaginative descriptions, the boy learns that the ocean is as wet as the water he drinks at home and much, much larger than the house he lives in. Dreamy, atmospheric artwork with wavy patterns and shades of blue and green evoke the sea, a place that the father and son finally visit together. The dog that accompanies them on this outing is revealed to be, not a family pet, but a seeing-eye dog there to assist the boy. This sensitive picture book will help readers without vision loss to better understand what it means to be blind; it will also give them ideas on how to relate to those who cannot see.

35 Helgason, Gunnar (text) Flygenring, Rán (ill.)
Mamma Klikk! (*My crazy mom*)
 Reykjavik, Iceland: Forlagið Publishing, 2015
 [192pp.] ISBN 978-9979-3-3586-3

In this lively and light-hearted novel, Stella, who is about to turn 13, reconsiders her beliefs about what

is normal and what is not, especially with regard to her 'crazy' mother. Stella's assumptions are not the only ones that change over the course of the story she narrates. As readers learn more about Stella and her desire to fit in, their view of Stella will be altered, too. They will see her in a new light as they realize she is someone leading a full and interesting life, who also happens to use a wheelchair.

36 Hong, Na Ri (text and ill.)
Appa, Mianhaehaji Maseyo!
 (*Don't be sorry, Dad!*)
 Seoul, Korea: Hanulimkids Publishing Co., 2015
 [40pp.] ISBN 978-89-93143-46-1

In this heart-warming book for young children, a father who uses a wheelchair because he cannot walk expresses regret for the things he is unable to do with his daughter. The story, narrated by the daughter and based on the author's own experiences, revolves around an on-going conversation the two have about the father's concerns that he is falling

short as a parent. At every point along the way, the narrator makes it clear that her father should not feel badly: she points out the two of them have found many enjoyable activities to do together. Cosy, warm-hued artwork depicts the interesting life the father and daughter share as well as their obvious affection for each other. The father is almost always shown without his wheelchair – for instance, seated on a park bench or on a picnic blanket close to his daughter – and this quietly reinforces the central idea that what a person can do, rather than what they are unable to do, is what matters the most. Caring relationships are important, too. As the daughter reminds her father, "*Sometimes you seem to worry about me, but I'm just happy to be with you every day.*"

37 Hunt, Lynda Mullaly (text)
Fish in a Tree
 New York, USA: Nancy Paulsen Books, 2015
 [276pp.] ISBN 978-0-399-16259-6

For Ally reading "*is like trying to make sense of a can*

of alphabet soup that's been dumped on a plate." Ally has dyslexia and her inability to read has affected her life in ways that are both big and small. Her teacher thinks she is not trying hard enough, she is bullied and Ally herself believes that she must be stupid. When an unconventional substitute teacher arrives, her situation slowly begins to improve. He understands that different students have different learning styles. In addition to playing a key role in teaching Ally how to read, he also helps Ally and her classmates learn about dyslexia and the famous people with this learning disability. Older children and teens with dyslexia will relate to Ally's emotions and the classroom dilemmas she faces. They will also benefit from the dyslexic-friendly features of the book including very short chapters, generous margins on the page, and non-glare paper. To paraphrase Einstein, Ally's teacher explains: "Everybody is smart in different ways. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its life believing it is stupid."

38 Jung, Jin Ho (text and ill.)
Wireul bwayo! (Look up!)
Seoul, Korea: Hyeonamsa Publishing Co., Ltd., 2014
[46pp.] ISBN 978-89-323-7370-6

Suji, a girl who lost the use of her legs in a car accident, sits on the side lines of life. She spends her time in a wheelchair out on the balcony of the building where she lives, watching the people below as they scurry back and forth. Suji longs to be seen and acknowledged by the strangers that she watches from afar. Finally, a boy on the ground sees her and begins talking to her; that small act is enough to bridge the gap between Suji's world high up and the busy one below. Lives on the ground change, too, as other strangers see her and stop to interact with her and with each other. The spare artwork with its sketchy, loose black lines on white backgrounds is effective in capturing the overhead view of a streetscape as seen by a child. Readers will enjoy poring over the details in the illustrations as they follow the mostly text-free narrative that unfolds before them. After Suji and the boy make

contact, the delighted smile on Suji's upturned face, along with sudden splashes of colour in the artwork, confirm that things look brighter for everyone.

39 Karakiya, Yildiray (text) Günaçan, Başak (ill.)
Şuşu, Can ve Dörtteker
(Shushu, Can and the fourcycle)
Istanbul, Turkey: SEV Yayıncılık Eğitim ve Ticaret A.S., 2014
[32pp.] ISBN 978-605-4119-70-7

Shushu likes to ride her tricycle in the park. One day she spots a boy using a set of wheels that are unlike any she has seen before. Shushu decides that the boy's wheeled device, which has one more wheel than her tricycle, means it must be a 'fourcycle'. Eager to see the fourcycle up close, Shushu speeds through the park, scattering raked-up leaves, knocking over trashcans and leaving a mess behind. Shushu ultimately discovers that the boy is using a wheelchair.

Wireul bwayo! (cat. no.38)

2017 OUTSTANDING BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES





Şuşu, *Can ve Dörtteker* (cat. no.39)

His wheels may be different than Shushu’s, but he can do the same things she can, including playing, having fun – and cleaning up a mess, too! This story

introduces people with disabilities to children who may not have encountered them in their daily lives. The book also contains a note for parents and teachers that mentions the treatment of people with disabilities in Turkey. The note emphasizes that individuals with disabilities should not be pitied or singled out for their differences and that it is important for children to treat them just as they would anyone else.

40 Leavitt, Martine (text)

Calvin

Toronto, Canada: Groundwood Books, 2016
[224pp.] ISBN 978-1-55498-720-7

This is the engrossing story of seventeen-year-old Calvin as he recounts what happens after he experiences a schizophrenic episode. Plagued by hallucinations, Calvin decides he must go on a trip to find the well-known cartoonist who created a character also named Calvin. Readers will be caught up in this teen’s dangerous, impulsive journey. In order to reach

the cartoonist, Calvin must walk across a vast, frozen lake in the dead of winter. Calvin’s narrative is effective in blurring the fine line between his vivid, distorted thoughts and reality. He is frightened by the fact that he cannot control his thoughts, while at the same time, he is also fascinated by the idea that his brain has a ‘mind’ and will of its own. With the help of a devoted friend who accompanies him across the ice, Calvin ultimately comes to the realization that he needs to control his illness, not be controlled by it. The end of his strange trek marks the start of a more promising journey with new goals – achieving mental well-being and resuming his place in the world.

41 Martin, Ann M. (text)

Rain Reign

New York, USA: Feiwel and Friends (Macmillan), 2014 [226pp.] ISBN 978-0-312-64300-3

Rose is an eleven-year old girl with Asperger syndrome (AS) who loves prime numbers and homonyms and has difficulty ‘reading’ people. Although her life is

not an easy one – she struggles to make connections with both her classmates and her distant, troubled father – Rose copes by taking care of her cherished dog, Rain, and finding calm in the small, familiar routines that make up her days. But all of that changes when a hurricane blows into the community where Rose lives, and Rain suddenly goes missing. Driven by the uncomfortable sensations of loss, sadness and worry over what Rain might be facing, Rose is forced to step outside her comfort zone as she looks for her dog. Although her search does not end the way Rose wishes, its poignant conclusion is tempered with hope for the future. Rose’s insistence on following the rules and doing what is right – no



Sidewalk Flowers (cat. no. 19)

matter what – is coupled with her unusual and often insightful view of things around her. These are not simply traits that she has as a person with AS, they are also the means by which she navigates the world and wins the respect and appreciation of others including the readers of this moving novel.

42 Murashova, Ekaterina (text)

Klass Korrekcii

(The correctional class)

Moscow, Russia: Samokat, 2014

[192pp.] ISBN 978-5-91759-329-6

In this novel, which is set in a school in modern-day Russia, author Ekaterina Murashova tackles the difficult topic of rejection and abandonment of children with mental and physical disabilities. The students of Class 7E have already been written off by their teachers and families because of their various physical, emotional and mental challenges. Many of the 7E children are in their last year of formal education and they all face bleak futures. However,

when a new boy in a wheelchair joins their class, hope enters their small, isolated community for the first time. The new student, Yura, has advantages that his classmates do not have, as well as an optimistic outlook on life. His presence helps the other students realize that they do not have to be passive recipients of what life doles out to them – rather, they have the power to change their lives in sometimes small but significant ways. Themes of justice, compassion and cooperation are woven through this realistic yet positive portrayal of life on the outskirts of Russian society.

43 Neerlin, Mette Eike (text)

Hest, hest, tiger, tiger

(Horse, horse, tiger, tiger)

Copenhagen, Denmark: Høst & Søn,

Rosinante & Co, 2015

[128pp.] ISBN 978-87-638-4043-9

Honey's life may seem constrained and even bleak by many people's standards. Her father is a petty



La lezione degli alberi
(cat. no.44)

criminal who only comes around when he needs money. Her mother is busy with her job and Honey's older sister, who was born with brain damage, has her own struggles. But Honey, a girl with a cleft lip and palate, is a survivor. She does the best she can with her complicated situation by trying to be helpful and keep others happy. A chance encounter,

brought about by the lies that Honey often tells without meaning to, opens up new possibilities for her. She meets and befriends Marcel, a man who is terminally ill and in a hospice. In this most unlikely of circumstances, Honey finally receives life-affirming support and encouragement from the one adult who is able to provide it.

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- 44** Parmeggiani, Roberto (text) Palumbo, Attilio (ill.)
La lezione degli alberi (*The lessons of the tree*)
Bologna, Italy: Massimiliano
Piretti Editore, 2016
[44pp.] ISBN 978-8864-760-513

In the classroom where young Enrico is a student there is one girl who stands out. Her name is Paola and she never speaks. Some of the other children tease her because of this, but not Enrico. He likes Paola. He draws colourful butterflies for her that she accepts silently. He asks her questions that she does not answer. Puzzled by Paola and her lack of speech, Enrico asks his teacher whether she is the same as he is or different. Enrico's teacher does not address Paola's silence or the possible reasons for it. Instead, he responds by using imagery that will be understandable to the young readers of this picture book. Children, he tells Enrico, are like trees. Some trees may be different from others but all of them are living things; each one is important in its own way. This gentle, reflective story about acceptance and understanding,

especially when it comes to things that are beyond easy comprehension, is accompanied by artwork in earthy, tree-inspired shades of brown and green.

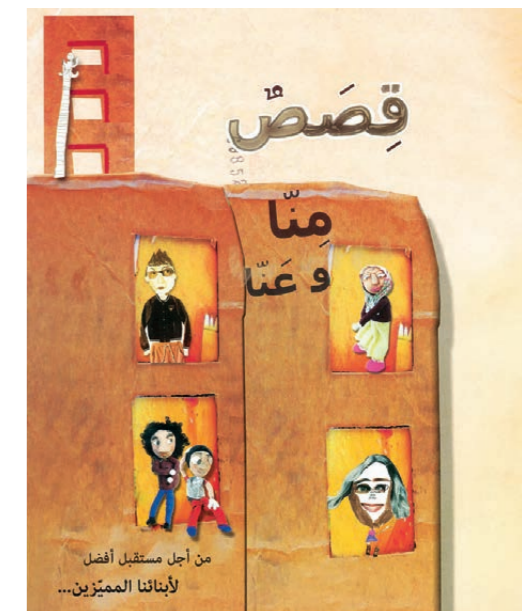
- 45** Robin, Mathieu (text)
Pensée assise (*Sitting thought*)
Arles, France: Actes Sud junior, 2015
[84pp.] ISBN 978-2-330-05361-1

This 'boy-meets-girl' story has a noteworthy complication: Theo, the young man in this tale, has lost the use of his legs as the result of a car accident. He is on a quest to kiss the girl he loves while standing up – easy for someone without a physical disability to accomplish, but seemingly impossible for a person who is paraplegic like Theo. The author, a scriptwriter, has created an engaging, easy-to-read story that reads like a series of short, fast-paced movie scenes. Theo's first-person conversational narrative helps readers understand his emotions, especially his mood swings, as he adjusts to life after the accident and comes to terms with his disability. Theo has a dark sense of

humour that many teen readers will relate to, they will also appreciate his candour with regard to his sexual desires and his longing to be accepted as normal.

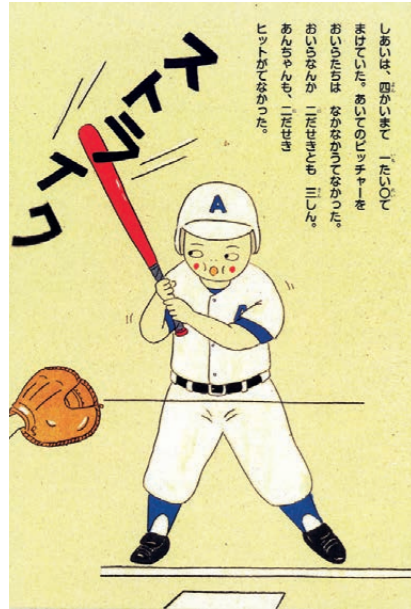
- 46** Step Together Association (text), transcribed by Sharafeddine, Fatima and Barraaj, Samar Mahfouz Step Together Association (ill.) and Yakzan, Mona
Kossas minna wa 3anna
(*Stories by us and about us*)
Mansourieh-Daishounieh, Lebanon: Step Together Association, 2015
[35pp.] ISBN 978-9953-0-3332-7 (Arabic)
ISBN 978-9953-0-3456-0 (English)

This book is the result of a collaborative project organized by Nada Barakat Khawaja, an educator working in special education who wanted students in Lebanon with learning disabilities to share their concerns, experiences and aspirations with others. She conceived the idea of a creative expression workshop and in 2015 the workshop took place over the course of three days. A dozen young people



Kossas minna wa 3anna (cat. no. 46)

between the ages of 12 and 16 years worked with authors Fatima Sharafeddine and Samar Mahfouz Barraaj and artist Mona Yakzan. Each of the participants contributed a story that was then transcribed by the authors; the students, under the direction of the artist, also created the artwork. The choice of off-white paper to minimize glare along with the



An-chan (cat. no.47)

easy-to-decode font make this collection accessible to dyslexic readers and others who have difficulties with reading. Each heartfelt story is as unique as the fingerprint of the creator that accompanies his or her contribution.

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- 47 Takabe, Seiichi (text and ill.)
An-chan (*An-chan: My big brother*)
Tokyo, Japan: Doshinsha Publishing Co., 2013
[32pp.] ISBN 978-4-494-00269-6

An-chan (a nickname that means ‘older brother’) is an elementary school student who is big and strong. As his adoring younger brother points out, An-chan is good at sumo, loves to eat and can beat everyone else at pretend pro-wrestling. An-chan is also a powerful hitter on the local softball team. However, his younger brother becomes worried when he notices An-chan struggling to locate the ball and find the bases while playing softball. Then one day the reason for An-chan’s persistent difficulties is discovered: he has retinitis pigmentosa, which is a degenerative eye disease that causes blindness. This short illustrated story is suitable for children who are beginning to read and is based on the real life of a boy on a football team. Told from the perspective of the younger brother, this tale emphasizes hope in the midst of loss and constancy in the face of

change. An-chan may have become a person with a disability, but he will always be a source of pride for his brother and the object of his affections.

- 48 Thompson, Laurie Ann (text) Qualls, Sean (ill.)
Emmanuel’s Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofose Yeboah
New York, USA: Schwartz & Wade (Penguin), 2015
[32pp.] ISBN 978-0-449-81744-5

The real-life story of Emmanuel, a boy from Ghana who was born with a deformed leg and grew up to lead a remarkable life, is described simply and clearly in this inspiring picture book. The mixed-media illustrations, with their sandy, sun-bleached backgrounds, evoke the tropical West African setting where Emmanuel grew up. They also depict the prejudice he faced and his struggles as he tried to accomplish with one leg what others around him could easily do with two legs. Encouraged by his mother, who told him that “*he could have anything, but he would have to get it for himself,*” Emmanuel hopped



Emmanuel’s Dream (cat. no.48)

all the way to school and back each day, learned to play soccer and ultimately mastered riding a bicycle. After he grew up, he made it his mission to cycle across Ghana – a distance of four hundred miles that he covered in just 10 days – so he could let others know that being a person with a disability “*does not mean being unable.*” Emmanuel received attention

wherever he rode in Ghana; the author points out that other people with disabilities, who faced the same prejudice and rejection as Emmanuel, left their homes – in some cases for the first time – so they could see him for themselves. Notes at the back of the book provide additional details about Emmanuel’s work today on behalf of those with disabilities.

49 Walters, Eric (text)

Rebound

Markham, Canada: Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2014
[234pp.] ISBN 978-1-55455-309-9

A friendship between two quick-tempered teenage boys starts off in the most forceful of ways: with a brawl on the first day of school, in front of teachers and other students. The fight between Sean and David, who uses a wheelchair, turns out to have long lasting consequences. Sean, who is returning to school after being in trouble the previous year, is ordered to help David, a newcomer, find his bearings and settle in at school. Reluctant companions at first, the

two boys slowly warm up to each other and bond over their shared love of basketball. As Sean gets to know David, he begins to understand there is more to his newfound friend than meets the eye. While David feels at ease exploiting his disability to gain favoured and preferential treatment, he also hates to be pitied and patronized simply because he looks different. David is a refreshingly honest character and his bitterness and frustration ring true for someone in his situation. A scene in which David invites Sean to spend time out in public in a wheelchair in order to experience the world as David does, unfolds in a way that readers will find both plausible and compelling to read. This episode is based on the author’s own experience using a wheelchair, undertaken as part of his research for this book.

La Casa Di Riposo Dei Supereroi
(cat. no. 2)



50 Wirsén, Stina (text and ill.)

Nej! (No!)

Stockholm, Sweden: Bonnier Carlsen, 2015
[18pp.] ISBN 978-91-638-8420-7

Two words – “no” and “yes” – and the transition from the first word, with its power to hurt, to the second word, an affirming one, are at the heart of this simple tale. Aimed at very young children and presented in a board book format, this tiny adventure features a spunky character Lucia, who uses a wheelchair and wears a crown of lights like her legendary namesake. After Lucia and a playmate disagree over who will get to play with some toys – an experience that all young children can relate to – the two are forced to overcome their differences and help out a mutual friend who is in a difficult spot. Readers will note that Lucia’s wheelchair is put to good use when rescuing their friend. The loose-lined drawings with splashes of colour and pattern on clean white backgrounds are visually appealing. Children will enjoy the expressive faces of the characters as they



Nej!
(cat. no.50)

react to the words “No!” and “Yes!” at various points in the story. Noteworthy for its portrayal of a character in a wheelchair – a still relatively uncommon element in books for babies and toddlers – this story will find a place with young children and the grownups who read to them.

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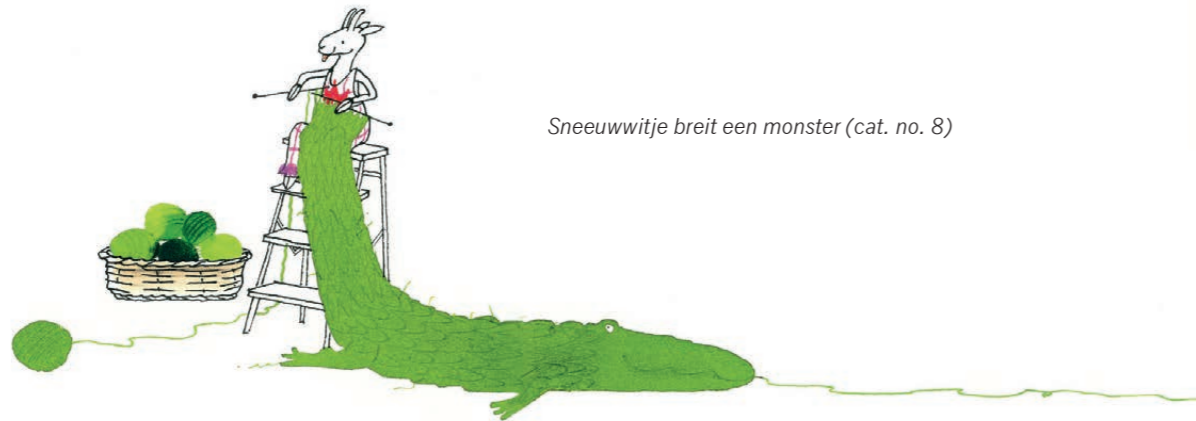
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Babola Salabim!
(cat. no. 25)



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Sneeuwitje brei een monster (cat. no. 8)



Sidewalk Flowers (cat. no. 19)