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Focus IBBY

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by LIZ PAGE

International Children's Book Day 2020

The 2020 International Children's Book Day is sponsored by IBBY Slovenia. The poster is designed by Damijan Stepančič and the message to the children of the world is written by Peter Svetina. Both creators are the Slovenian 2020 Hans Christian Andersen Award nominees. Visit www.ibby.org > ICBD for more information.

A Hunger for Words

Where I live, bushes turn green in late April or early May, and are soon populated by butterfly cocoons. These look like wads of cotton or candy floss, and the pupae devour leaf after leaf until the bushes are stripped bare. When developed, the butterflies fly away; however, the bushes have not been destroyed. As summer comes around, they turn green again, each and every time.

This is a picture of a writer, a picture of a poet. They're eaten away, bled dry by their stories and poetry, which, when they're finished, fly away, retire into books and find their audience. This happens again and again.

And what happens with these poems and stories?

I know a boy who had to have eye surgery. For two weeks after the operation, he was only allowed to lie on his right side, and after that was not permitted to read anything for a month. As he finally got hold of a book after a month and a half, he felt as if he was scooping up words from a bowl with a spoon. As if he was eating them.

Actually eating them.

And I know a girl who grew up to be a teacher. She has told me: Children who haven't been read to by their parents are impoverished.

Words in poetry and in stories are food. Not food for the body, not food that can fill up your stomach. But food for the spirit and food for the soul.

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When one is hungry or thirsty, their stomach contracts and their mouth turns dry. They look for anything to eat, a piece of bread, a bowl of rice or corn, a fish or a banana. The hungrier they grow, the narrower becomes their focus; they become blind to everything but the food that could sate them.

The hunger for words manifests itself differently: as gloominess, obliviousness, arrogance. People suffering from this sort of hunger don't realize their souls are shivering cold, that they're walking past themselves without noticing. A part of their world is running away from them without them being aware of it.

This type of hunger is sated by poetry and stories.

But is there hope for those who have never indulged in words to ever satisfy this hunger?

There is. The boy reads, almost every day. The girl who grew up to be a teacher reads stories to her pupils. Every Friday. Every week. If she ever forgets, the children are sure to remind her.

And what about the writer and the poet? As summer comes, they'll turn green again. And again, they'll be eaten away by their stories and their poems that will then fly away in all directions. Again and again.

Peter Svetina

Translation: Jernej Županič

IBBY Honour List 2018 Visits Australia

In 2018 the then IBBY Australia president, Robin Morrow, approached IBBY with a request to host the 2018 IBBY Honour List traveling exhibition. Belle Alderman AM, the Director of the National Centre for Australian Children's Literature Inc., became the organizer and incorporated the IBBY exhibition with a bigger project she was coordinating called *Sharing Stories*. This was the first time that the exhibition has traveled to Australia, and it was a very exciting development.

On August 22, 2019, a national exhibition of Australian children's literature opened at the National Library of Australia, closing on February 9,

2020. It features 270 objects, fifty of which come from the collection of the National Centre for Australian Children's Literature. This exhibition, *Story Time: Australian Children's Literature*, was three years in the making. Simultaneously, the 2018 IBBY Honour List was shipped to Australia from Basel and joined the *Story Time* events.

Lost in Books is not only a multilingual children's bookstore but also a creative space and a social enterprise project of the Think + Do Tank Foundation, a not-for-profit foundation.

The multilingual bookstore Lost in Books in Fairfield, Sydney, carries children's books in

translation, along with many associated programs. They borrowed the two IBBY book exhibitions for three weeks in May 2019. Lost in Books is not only a multilingual children's bookstore but also a creative space and a social enterprise project of the Think + Do Tank Foundation, a not-for-profit foundation.

To celebrate the IBBY collection of books and excellence in world children's literature, Lost in Books displayed the books in the shop and staged three events to welcome different audiences to experience the exhibition. It was a great joy that the books could be held, read, and enjoyed by a very multilingual audience.

Robin Morrow AM, and the IBBY Honour Books Coordinator, gave the first address at the opening night. Robin's reflections on the bridges created by children's books were inspiring and interesting.

Lost in Books has also taken great inspiration from the IBBY Children in Crisis Fund's work, including the Silent Books list, which the bookstore has used as a starting point for a collection of Wordless Picture Books in their stock (shop.lostinbooks.com.au/wordless-picture-books-c1532).

Robin finished her speech urging the audience to make three resolutions:

- Spend time reading and sharing books with the young people in your life.
- Support independent bookshops.
- Support libraries.

Another activity was Family Day, when children and their families were invited for a fun day at the bookstore. There was a scavenger hunt through the book collection to encourage a deeper connection to the books as objects, two Forked Tongues multilingual storytellers read books from the collection in Arabic and Spanish, and there was a craft session inspired by the French Higher Level (HL) book *Le Ruban* (*The Ribbon*) by Adrien Parlangue, where children were given found objects to incorporate into new illustrations of their own.

The HL books then went to the Thebarton Senior College (in Adelaide, South Australia), where refugee teenagers had just arrived. The young people were very moved to see the IBBY books in their own language. The books were included in the New Arrivals Program (NAP) of the college.

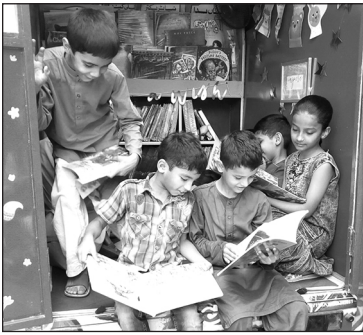
Students read aloud from picturebooks in their first language. This was highly valued by the college visitors as the students also explained how important it was to them to be reading books in their own language.

Below is a description from one of the college teachers, Shoma Roy, of her experiences when her NAP class attended the exhibition:

Recently, the Library hosted the IBBY (International Board on Books for Young People) display, which was a travelling exhibition of about 191 books, chosen by the IBBY member countries, to showcase representative books from these respective countries.

NAP class 314 attended this exhibition, not fully comprehending the significance of the exhibition until it was explained further by Linda Guthrie, the Library Coordinator. The students walked slowly around the well-arranged display of the exhibited books. They came to gradually appreciate the quality of the books as they perused the beautiful illustrations of the picture books. Their pleasure increased when they discovered amongst the display, an Afghani folk story in Dari—familiar to all of them. A young male student encouraged by his older peers volunteered to read aloud the story in Dari to the class. Peals of delighted laughter punctuated the air, as the reading unfolded the story. Faces lit up and smiles appeared as they warmed to the joy of reading. Needless to say, the English translation for the benefit of the teachers, took place thereafter.

The HL books...went to the Thebarton Senior College (in Adelaide, South Australia), where refugee teenagers had just arrived. The young people were very moved to see the IBBY books in their own language.



This is a heartwarming account of the power of books and the magic of the IBBY Honour List collections. With many thanks to IBBY Australia and the NCACL for making this happen.

IBBY Pakistan and Its Rickshaw Library

IBBY Pakistan / Alif Laila's history with rickshaws goes back to 2010, when we started using them in a campaign to promote reading in Pakistan. We ran simultaneous ads for reading and took books on rickshaws to communities where the narrow lanes were not accessible to our larger mobile library.

Alif Laila also used rickshaws to create excitement about reading both at the launch of our Living Library in Sheikhpura in 2013 and at the Children's Literature Festival in Lahore in 2015. We had to rent the rickshaws, and found them to be both cost-effective and easily maneuverable. This year, a grant from the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan allowed us to buy a rickshaw of our own, and Pakistan's first rickshaw library was launched on July 13, 2019.

The library has been greatly appreciated by adults and children both as it takes its cheeriness to schools and communities. Children flock to it, and adults come too, excited by the novelty!

We hope to find the funds to make this a nationwide project in which we will collaborate with organizations working in education in all the provinces of Pakistan. Dotting the map of the country with colorful children's libraries remains IBBY Pakistan's dream.

*Basarat Midhat Kazim
President of IBBY Pakistan*

International Awards for Children's Book Illustration

2019 was a year for international awards. It began with the **Nami Concours** in May. The Nami Concours was established to encourage artists' creativity and contribute to the advancement of the quality of picturebook illustrations. It is organized every two years by Nami Island, the official sponsor of the IBBY Hans Christian Andersen Awards.

The 2019 Nami Concours winners are:

Grand Prix: André Letria (Portugal) for *War*

Golden Island:

Hiroyuki Kato (Japan) for *Mist'ery Train*

Urzula Palusińska (Poland) for *Brzuchem do gory*

Green Island:

Dale Blankenaar (South Africa) for *Copycat*

Marcoa Guardiola (Spain) for *15 Occasions to Request Desires in the Street*

Jiyoung Kim (Rep. of Korea) for *A Willow Boy Who Travels to the Moon*

Romana Romanyshyn (Ukraine) for *A Farewell to Arms*

Sol Undurraga (Chile) for *La Plaque*

Purple Island:

Jorge Bustos (Mexico) for *The Monkey and the Snake*
 Anne Crausaz (Switzerland) for *L'une et l'autre*
 Victoria Fomina (Russia) for *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*
 Vincent Godeau (France) for *Cache-cache Ville*
 Harsingh Hamir (India) for *Painting Everything in the World*
 Andriy Lesiv (Ukraine) for *Superheroes*
 Veronica Neacsu (Romania) for *2250BC*
 Nooshin Safakhoo (Iran) for *Seven Horses, Seven Colours*
 Kiyotaka Tanaka (Japan) for *The Black Thing*
 Ana Zavadiav (Slovenia) for *The Healing of the Cricket*



The 2019 jury comprised five international members under the leadership of Jury President Roger Mello (Brazil), Piet Grobler (South Africa), Sung-ok Han (Rep. of Korea), Yukiko Hiromatsu (Japan), Klaas Verplanke (Belgium), and Junko Yokota (USA).

The **BIB'19** also produced some fine winners.

Grand Prix: Hassan Moosavi (Iran) for *Boxer*

BIB Golden Apple:

Jānis Blanks (Latvia) for *Mole Cricket*
 Soojung Myung (South Korea) for *The Skirt That Spreads to the End of the World*
 Anton Lomaev (Russia) for *Lullaby for a Small Pirate*
 Wen Dee Tan (Malaysia) for *Lili, Circus of Monsters*
 Chengliang Zhu (China) for *Don't Let the Sun Fall*

BIB Plaque:

Guilherme Karsten (Brazil) for *Aaahhh!*
 Maja Kastelic (Slovenia) for *Koozil*
 Chiki Kikuchi (Japan) for *Letter of the Scarlet Maple Leaves*
 André Letria (Portugal) for *War*
 Anat Warshavski (Israel) for *The Restaurant at the Edge of the Pool—The Cooking Penguins*



The 2019 jury comprised the following members: Ali Boozari (Iran), Graça Lima (Brazil), Akoss Ofori-Mensah (Ghana), Nor Emila Mohd Yusof (Malaysia), Igor Olejnikov (Russia), Daniela Olejníková (Slovakia), Tatjana Pregl Kobe (Slovenia), Yuval Saar (Israel), Zhigeng Wang (China), and Alexejs Naumovs (Latvia) as Jury Chair.

And finally, the 2019 Golden Pinwheel Award for Young Illustrators.

Grand Award (China): Gui Tuzi for *Big Boat*

Grand Award (International):

Guilherme Karsten (Brazil) for *Aahh!*

Special Mentions:

Rômolo Eduardo D'Hipólito (Brazil) for *Postcards*
 Li Jingxin (China) for *A Forest Party*



Miguel Pang Ly (Spain) for *Mister Black*
 Zhao Niaoer (China) for *Monster on the Move*
 People's Choice Award: Stefano Di Cristofaro (Venezuela) for
Conejo y Conejo

The international jury comprises Kiyoko Matsuoka (Japan), Yang Zhong (China), Ivan Canu (Italy), André Letria (Portugal), and Zhou Xiang (China).



Liz Page was born in Britain and moved with her family to Heidelberg, Germany, in 1983. After nearly two years they left Germany and settled in Basel, Switzerland. Through her interest in children and books Liz helped to establish the Intercultural Children's Library in Basel-JUKIBU, which opened in 1990. She was a member of the managing board with responsibility for the day-to-day running of the library for the first years and was elected President of the Intercultural Children's Libraries Association of Switzerland, now called INTERBIBLIO. She joined IBBY as Assistant to the Executive Director in 1997 and in 2009 was appointed Executive Director.

This postmodern picturebook best represents the combination of visual and textual narratives intended to exhibit a panorama of rural setting and scholastic life for elementary-grade children in Albania. Challenge, curiosity, eagerness, concerns of this age, and the strength to progress feature in the human, animal, and object characters created.

The fairy-tale and tall-tale style of this collection guides readers with the experiences of Lura, Donkey Zilko, King Laps, Dani, witch Lulu, and her sisters Lulu and Lulu, and provides a narrative source for developing literacy skills. Living Publishing House should be complimented, and the author and illustrator both get credit for equally unique accomplishments on this title.

Enkelena Shockett



Dhëmbët e mëdhenj të gomarit Zilko
(Big Teeth of Donkey Zilko)

Edi Gogu
 Illustrated by Jetmir Veipi
 Tirana, Albania: Living, 2018. 60 pp.
 ISBN: 0 789928 216359
 (Picturebook; ages 6-9)