



Report for IBBY on IBBY Silent Book Exhibition at St Mary's College and the University of Waikato

The IBBY Silent book exhibition was on show for a week at St Mary's College in Auckland and then for four weeks at the University of Waikato Library in Hamilton in October and November 2020

The exhibition was officially opened at the University of Waikato by Dr. Libby Limbrick and Frances Plumpton of IBBY New Zealand on November 3rd 2020.



The exhibition attracted a range of visitors including publishers, teachers, lecturers, university students and children from early childhood to secondary. Some stopped briefly; others stayed for hours; some returned multiple times.



Another feature of our exhibition was our team of booksitters. Friends, colleagues and family all pitched in to sit with the books and engage with the visitors. A community was built along the way.



One thing we noticed as we engaged with the books and spent time with them and visitors to the exhibition, was that not having words allowed us to slow down and spend time noticing details in the illustrations. We also learned how much language is generated when collaborating to make a story from the pictures; quite an irony for a supposedly 'silent' picturebook. From our experiences we now understand even more clearly how powerful these books will be for generating stories and language from children and adults arriving in Lampedusa with multiple languages.

Thank you to IBBY New Zealand and the Faculty of Education at the University of Waikato for supporting this exhibition. Thanks also to Worlds of Words Center at the University of Arizona who generously allowed us to use their signage for the exhibition. Lastly, many thanks to IBBY for creating and supporting this wonderful collection of books as they journey around the world.

Dr Nicola Daly
University of Waikato, Hamilton, Aotearoa New Zealand
15 December 2020