

iBbY

INTERNATIONAL
BOARD ON
BOOKS FOR
YOUNG PEOPLE

HONOUR LIST 2026



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for Young People (IBBY), 2026

IBBY Secretariat
Nonnenweg 12
4055 Basel, Switzerland
Tel. +41 61 272 29 17
E-mail: ibby@ibby.org
Website: www.ibby.org

Book selection and documentation:
IBBY Sections
Editors: Carolina Ballester and Alessandra Leopardi
Cover Design: bom! communication ag, Basel
Catalogue Design: Adriana Gonzalez
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HONOUR
LIST
2026



The IBBY Honour List is a biennial selection of outstanding, recently published children's books, honouring writers, illustrators and translators from IBBY member countries. All IBBY Sections are invited to nominate books characteristic of their country that they would like to recommend for publication in different languages. For countries with more than one official national language, multiple entries in the categories of writing and translation are warmly accepted. For illustration, IBBY currently continues to accept only one title from each Section.

The **2026 IBBY Honour List** includes **191 nominations** in **52 different languages** from **59 countries**. Selected for the 2026 list are **76 entries** in the category of Writing; **58** in the category of Illustration; and **57** in the category of Translation, making it the largest list ever compiled since the creation of the programme seventy years ago. The 2026 selection continues to showcase an extraordinary variety of languages, building on the trends seen in previous years. Included are first-time representations of Indigenous and minority languages such as Cabécar from Costa Rica, Komi from Russia, Quechua from Peru, Frisian from the Netherlands, and Welsh from the United Kingdom. The Honour List has become an enduring favourite in the children's book community and has established itself as a truly fascinating mirror of global children's book production.

The IBBY Honour List has been published every two years since 1956, with the inaugural selection containing only 15 entries from 12 countries. Originally it was called 'The Hans Christian Andersen Honour List' because the same jury that selected the recipients of the Hans Christian Andersen Award identified the books selected for the Honour List. Until 1974, the Honour List was structured around a single category of books distinguished for their overall quality. That year, the category for Illustration was added, soon followed by Translation in 1978. Thus, the base was widened for the IBBY Sections, who have now taken on the role of the selection jury for the titles from their corresponding countries. It was not until 1980 that the name IBBY Honour List was first formally used, and thus the annotated catalogue that we see today was published.

The Honour List has become one of the most effective IBBY programmes to champion bibliodiversity and sustain our mission: to encourage international understanding and cooperation through children's literature. For many Sections, the selection process of featured titles presents a welcome opportunity to study and review the newly published children's literature in their country. Moreover, it offers a unique opportunity to the member countries, especially those with less well-known languages, to present their best books to an international audience. To ensure the highest level of diversity and representation within the catalogue, participation in the Honour List is free for our Sections in lower-tier categories.

The selected books form a collection that is exhibited at conferences and fairs around the world and the catalogue is translated into different languages, with the aim to reach as many people as possible. Each Honour List catalogue from 1980 onwards is also available online in the IBBY Archives, making it accessible to publishers and researchers worldwide. Hard copies can likewise be ordered from the IBBY Secretariat via the IBBY website.

We are excited to introduce a new design for the book annotations contained in this catalogue, while preserving its rich bibliographical content and maintaining the iconic collage of visual motifs from selected books, which has ornamented the catalogue cover since 1992.

Great care has been taken to provide up-to-date information about the authors, illustrators, translators and their publishers. Throughout the catalogue, we have respected the way in which the nominees themselves spell their names in Latin script. Generally, we have, whenever possible, added the original script and English translation in brackets. There are some exceptions when information is not available.

We wish to sincerely thank our colleagues at the International Youth Library in Munich, Germany for their long-standing cooperation and support in preparing this catalogue. They have once again studied and classified the books, given valuable advice concerning bibliographical practice, as well as compiled the useful subject index. We are pleased to be able to share their knowledge of the books during our preparation of the annotations in this catalogue.

The 2026 IBBY Honour List will be introduced, and diplomas presented to the nominees, at the Honour List ceremony scheduled on 8 August as part of the 40th IBBY World Congress in Ottawa, Canada. The books will also be featured at the Frankfurt Book Fair in October 2026 and the Bologna Children's Book Fair in April 2027. Other showcases are already scheduled around the world. Please visit the IBBY website for all updates.

The 2026 IBBY Honour List is the result of excellent cooperation between the IBBY Secretariat; the participating Sections who selected the entries and prepared the nominations; and the writers, illustrators, translators, and publishers of the nominated books who have donated seven copies of each title for exhibitions and the permanent collections. We sincerely express our gratitude to all of them. I would also like to acknowledge the meticulous work of Alessandra Leopardi in the preparation of this catalogue. Finally, we gratefully acknowledge the support of the China Children's Press and Publications Group (CCPPG) for the printing of this catalogue.

Wishing you wonderful literary discoveries within these pages,

Carolina Ballester
IBBY Executive Director

Basel, June 2026





001



ARGENTINA (Spanish)

Bombara, Paula Andrea

La sombra del jacarandá

[The shadow of the jacaranda]

Buenos Aires: Norma, 2023

21x14cm, 146pp

ISBN 978-9-87807-080-3, age: 13+

Argentina 1976–1983, dictatorship, disappearance, missing persons

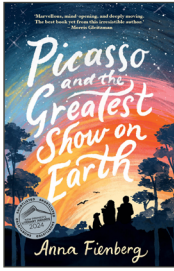
Two intertwined narratives explore the legacy of Argentina's last dictatorship: Roberto, a man haunted by his involvement in clandestine burials in 1976, and Mateo and Agustín, two brothers searching for their disappeared grandparents. The novel focuses on the work of the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team, weaving together personal trauma and historical memory. The author, known for *El mar y la serpiente*, returns to examine this painful period with sensitivity and rigour.

Paula Bombara is an Argentine writer, human rights activist, biochemist and scientific communicator. Her work is widely read in Latin America, France and Spain. Among her awarded novels are *El mar y la serpiente*, *Una casa de secretos* and *La chica pájaro*. In 2003, she created and has since directed the scientific communication series *¿Querés saber?* for EUDEBA. She is a member of the 'Discursos e infancias' research group at the University of Buenos Aires, where she is completing her doctorate.

Paula Andrea Bombara paulabombara@gmail.com

Norma www.normainfantiljuvenil.com/ar • llinzuin@edicionesnorma.com

002



AUSTRALIA (English)

Fienberg, Anna

Picasso and the Greatest Show on Earth

Sydney: Allen & Unwin, 2023

12.7x19.5cm, 373pp

ISBN 978-1-76029-698-8, age: 10–14

Loss, trauma, grief, guilt, artist, friendship

Set in the Australian bush, this novel explores how two children process trauma through creativity. Frances channels her grief into obsessive drawings of medical dangers, while Kit finds refuge in painting away from his troubled home. The narrative tenderly addresses mental illness, grief and budding friendship, balancing heavy themes with lyrical sensory descriptions and a quiet wisdom. Ultimately, the story affirms the healing power of nature and art.

Anna Fienberg has written over forty books for children and young adults. Her career began at *School Magazine*, and she has since won numerous awards, including the CBCA Award for *The Magnificent Nose and Other Marvels* and the Victorian Premier's Prize for *Ariel, Zed and the Secret of Life*. Her popular *Tashi* series, illustrated by Kim Gamble, inspired an animated television show. Her work has been published internationally.

Anna Fienberg afienberg@bigpond.com

Allen & Unwin www.allenandunwin.com • jennifert@allenandunwin.com

003



AUSTRIA (German)

Steinberger, Kathrin

Der Rosengarten. Rosa, der Krieg und das Niemandsland

[The rose garden. Rosa, the war and no man's land]

Innsbruck: Tyrolia Verlag, 2024

21x14.5cm, 286pp

ISBN 978-3-7022-4195-7, age: 14+

WWI, orphan, emancipation

In autumn 1916 Vienna, orphaned Rosa works as a servant for a widowed former tavern owner, experiencing the stark class divisions of wartime scarcity. She finds solace in the abandoned Rose Garden, where she encounters Simon, a wounded deserter from the Isonzo front. This historical novel portrays a young woman's journey towards emancipation and self-determination amidst the hardships of the First World War.

Kathrin Steinberger studied comparative literature, German literature, and media studies in Vienna. She has published several award-winning novels for young readers.

Kathrin Steinberger buch@kathrinsteinberger.at

Tyrolia Verlag www.tyroliaverlag.at • buchverlag@tyrolia.at

004



BELGIUM (Dutch)

Sax, Aline

Wat ons nog rest

[What we have left]

Antwerpen: Salto, 2023

13.9x20.8cm, 239pp

ISBN 978-90-02-27861-7, age: 15+

WWII, Berlin 1945, survival, refugees

In April 1945 Berlin, seventeen-year-old Henrike and her family survive in a cellar as the Russian army approaches. After witnessing the humiliation and violence inflicted upon German women, Henrike makes the desperate decision to flee. Written in short, rhythmic sentences, this verse novel captures the moral ambiguity and resilience of civilians caught in the collapse of the Third Reich.

Aline Sax published her first book at age fifteen and later earned a PhD in history. She is a renowned historical novelist in Flanders and coordinates the Geheugen Collectief, a centre for historical research. She teaches at the University of Antwerp, bringing her academic rigour to narratives that vividly reconstruct the past. Her work has been translated into Arabic, Danish, English, German and Korean.

Aline Sax mail@alinesax.be

Salto www.standaarduitgeverij.be • info@standaarduitgeverij.be

005



BELGIUM (French)

Manço, Aylin

Les Éblouis

[The dazzled]

Paris: Sarbacane, 2022

13.5x21.5cm, 381 pp

ISBN 978-2-37731-853-7, age: 14+

Boarding school, coming of age, ghost, fantasy

Luce, a rebellious new student, arrives at a boarding school determined to uncover its haunted secrets. As she plans to form a rebel gang, her classmates begin manifesting supernatural powers, plunging the school into magical chaos. Following her acclaimed novel *Ogresse*, Manço delivers an ambitious fantasy exploring first love and the disruption of order.

Aylin Manço, born in 1991, lives in Brussels. After studying engineering, she pursued creative writing at Le Havre University. Her short story 'Les noms d'oiseaux' won the Prix du Jeune Ecrivain in 2018. Her novels *La dernière marée* and *Ogresse* have received critical acclaim, with the latter currently being adapted for television. She works as a writer, translator and scriptwriter.

Aylin Manço aylinmanco@gmail.com

Sarbacane www.editions-sarbacane.com • anais.malherbe@sarbacane.net

006



CANADA (English)

Bow, Erin

Simon Sort of Says

Toronto: Scholastic Canada, 2023

12.7x19.685cm, 308pp

ISBN 978-1-0397-0877-8, age: 9–12

Moving house, school shooting, trauma, secret, communication, friendship

Simon O’Keeffe hides his true past: he is the sole survivor of a school shooting. His family moves to the National Quiet Zone, a remote area where internet use is banned, offering Simon a chance to reinvent himself. When he meets a fellow student with a shared interest in radio astronomy, Simon finds the courage to tell his own story. This novel balances humour and heartbreak in its exploration of trauma, friendship and healing.

Erin Bow, born in the US midwest, studied particle physics and worked at CERN before turning to writing. Her debut novel, *Plain Kate*, won the TD Canadian Children’s Literature Award, and *Stand on the Sky* received the Governor General’s Award. She lives in Kitchener, Ontario.

Erin Bow erin.n.bow@gmail.comScholastic Canada www.scholastic.ca • mmaclagan@scholastic.ca

007



CANADA (French)

Meunier, Stéfani

Une bulle en dehors du temps

[The secret nook]

Montréal: Leméac jeunesse, 2024

11x18cm, 85pp

ISBN 978-2-7609-4265-3, age: 12+

Self-esteem, drugs, friendship, coming of age

Océane, struggling with self-esteem, and Roch, battling drug addiction, form an unlikely friendship in this coming-of-age novel. Together, they discover a secluded hideaway in the woods where they share dreams and find solace in nature. The story highlights the healing power of connection and the resilience of teenagers facing isolation.

Stéfani Meunier was born in 1971 and raised in Montreal. She studied creative writing at McGill University and published her debut collection, *Au bout du chemin*, in 1999. Her novel *Une carte postale de l’océan* was nominated for a Governor General’s Award in 2023, and she won the award for French-language children’s literature in 2024 for *Une bulle en dehors du temps*.

Stéfani Meunier malangueaucht@gcogable.caLeméac Éditeur www.lemeac.com • assistanat2@lemeac.com

WRITING

6

008



CHILE (Spanish)
 Ferrada, María José
Siete apariciones
 [Seven appearances]
 Ill. Renee Hao
 Santiago: Libros del Escuinle, 2025
 19x25cm, 20pp
 ISBN 978-956-365-292-5, age: 5+
Poetry

In seven poetic vignettes, Ferrada conjures fantastic images—a flying pig the size of an almond, a day outside the calendar when words detach themselves from things, a secret forest inside the body—and turns them into windows through which to view everyday life from another perspective, raising questions about the ways in which children perceive their environment. Renee Hao's minimalist illustrations, influenced by Asian art, interact subtly with the verses to amplify the book's ethereal atmosphere. The collection encourages young readers to question their perceptions of everyday life.

María José Ferrada, born in Temuco, studied Journalism and holds a master's degree in Asian and Pacific Studies from the University of Barcelona. She has received numerous awards, including the Cervantes Chico Prize and the New Horizons Award from the Bologna Children's Book Fair. Her work has been translated into over twenty languages. She was a finalist for the Hans Christian Andersen Award in 2026.

María José Ferrada mariajose.ferrada@gmail.com

Libros del escuinle www.librosdelescuinle.com • manglesquinteros@gmail.com

009



CHINA (Chinese)
 Li, Shanshan
Qi cheng qian nian 器成千年
 [The legend of Chinese pottery]
 Ill. Wu Run & Huameng Illustration Studio
 Hefei: Anhui Children's Publishing House, 2023
 15x21.1cm, 202pp
 ISBN 978-7-5707-1589-3, age: 7–12
China, Sanxingdui, bronze age, archaeology, ceramics

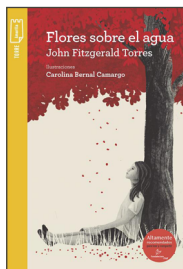
This novel follows Mound, a lump of clay from the ancient Shu Kingdom, on a 3,000-year journey to become a vessel. Watching his friends transform into vessels, he yearned to become a useful artifact himself. Yet the path to becoming a vessel was long and winding. Mound lost contact with his owner, endured floods, and was eventually rammed into the city walls. Upon awakening, he discovered everything had changed. The narrative intertwines the clay's transformation with themes of growth, destiny and the preservation of cultural heritage through modern science.

Shanshan Li is a prominent children's writer and member of the Chinese Writers Association. She has published over 60 books, with works selected twice for *The White Ravens* catalogue. Her awards include the China Publishing Government Award and the Bingxin Children's Book Award. Her books have been translated into English, Korean and Persian.

Shanshan Li 13301213@qq.com

Anhui Children's Publishing House ahserui@foxmail.com

010



COLOMBIA (Spanish)
 Fitzgerald Torres, John
Flores sobre el agua
 [Flowers on the water]
 Ill. Carolina Bernal Camargo
 Bogotá: Norma, 2024
 13x20cm, 182pp
 ISBN 978-958-00-2574-0, age: 12+
Colombia 2016, violence, reconciliation, peace

Clarita lives with her parents, teachers Gonzalo and Rosa, in a village where tensions rise as the 2016 FARC peace agreement approaches. When violence erupts and Gonzalo disappears, Clarita must confront the limits of forgiveness and the values her family has instilled in her. This poetic narrative transcends its historical setting to offer a moving plea for peace and reconciliation.

John Fitzgerald Torres is a Colombian writer dedicated to children's and young adult literature. He studied Literature and Linguistics at Universidad Distrital and holds a master's degree in Literature from Universidad Javeriana. He has published several poetry books and coordinated anthologies. His novel *El vértigo de los pájaros* was a finalist for the Norma Award in 2018, which he won in 2019 with *Lo que una vez hicieron los alienígenas*. He also received the El Barco de Vapor Prize in 2013 with *Por favor, ¡no leas este libro!*.

John Fitzgerald Torres j.torres@hotmail.com

Norma www.normainfantiljuvenil.com • mzapata@clb.edicionesnorma.com

011



COSTA RICA (Spanish)
 Gamboa Goldenberg, Héctor
¡Hora de comer!
 [Time to eat]
 Heredia: EUNA Editorial Universidad Nacional, 2025
 14.7x20.8cm, 39pp
 ISBN 978-9977-65-907-7, age: 9–12
Hunger, gluttony, social disparity

Presented as a darkly humorous parable, this picture book exposes the contradictions of unbridled consumerism and scarcity. It confronts the urgent need for solidarity, asserting that hunger is not a game but a fundamental necessity. The story illustrates the tragic consequences of selfishness in the face of life's essential requirements.

Héctor Gamboa Goldenberg has a solid publishing career reflected in the design of around two hundred books and the illustration of nearly fifty. A promoter of illustration, he has participated in the GAMA Forum and other initiatives. Twenty years ago, he published *Acuantá*, his first picture book, marking the beginning of a body of work that now includes twelve titles. With forty years of experience in illustration and editorial design, he is currently the Graphic Director of the publishing house La jirafa y yo.

Héctor Gamboa Goldenberg grafimapas@gmail.com

EUNA Editorial Universidad Nacional www.euna.una.cr • euna@una.cr

WRITING

8

012



CROATIA (Croatian)

Banićević, Morea

Izgubljeni gospodin Kovač

[Lost Mr Kovac]

Ill. Petra Brnardić

Zagreb: Ljevak, 2024

15x22cm, 343pp

ISBN 978-953-355-750-2, age: 13–16

Family, secret, past, fantasy

City boy Gaspar visits his grandmother in Hederville and uncovers a mystery lurking in his ancestors' past. He must decide whether to surrender to fate or fight alongside his great-great-grandmother, who possesses arcane powers. This horror adventure intertwines family roots with plant life, featuring evil spirits, automatons and a saga about protecting the living from the dead.

Morea Banićević writes novels for children and young adults. Her first novel, *Demon školske knjižnice*, won the Sfera Award in 2016. *Dvojnici iz tame* won the Sfera Award in 2020 and the Grigor Vitez Ptičica Award, while *Mjesečari Monteriera* won the Anto Gardaš Award in 2022. *Izgubljeni gospodin Kovač* won the Sfera Award and both Grigor Vitez awards in 2024. Besides writing, she enjoys reading, video games and hiking with her dogs.

Morea Banićević morea.wega@gmail.com

Ljevak www.ljevak.hr • ivana.ljevak@naklada-ljevak.hr

013



CYPRUS (Greek)

Perikleous, Elena

Ta Katafera! Ta Κατάφερα!

[I made it!]

Ill. Nikos Kyriakopoulos

Athens: Kaleidoscope, 2024

14x20.5cm, 99pp

ISBN 978-960-471-287-8, age: 11+

Autism, self-realisation, self-empowerment

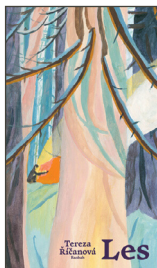
This story follows a boy on the autism spectrum who counts the days through foreign lands and silence, caring for his bedridden father. After a chain of anger and hatred builds over 5,478 days, a series of colourful encounters helps him break through. Through the loss of his mother, he finds his voice in writing and claims his place in the world.

Elena Perikleous was born with an itch for searching, gathering words and listening to stories since childhood. She studied Education and pursued postgraduate studies in Environmental Education. Today, as the Commissioner for the Protection of Children's Rights in Cyprus, she serves the vision of a society that respects every child's voice. She has published twenty-eight books, many honoured with State Literature Awards and distinctions from literary organizations in Cyprus and Greece. In 2026, her poem was selected as the official message for International Children's Book Day.

Elena Perikleous elena_perikleous@yahoo.com

Kaleidoscope www.kaleidoscope.gr • info@kaleidoscope.gr

014



CZECH REP (Czech)

Řičanová, Tereza

Les

[The forest]

Prague: Baobab, 2023

19x33cm, 69pp

ISBN 978-80-7515-162-9 , age: 6+

Forest, experience

Conceived as a tribute to a vanished spruce forest, this dreamlike story follows Zbyšek on a journey through frost and snow. He finds temporary peace in the forest until a metallic force destroys the trees overnight. However, forest spirits reveal to him that the power of nature is far greater than human destruction. The narrative plays with the music of words to create a unique artistic experience.

Tereza Řičanová, born in 1974 in Prague, is an illustrator, writer and artist whose work is rooted in rural life. A graduate of the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague, she has lived on a farm in Mezná since 1998, combining art with farming and animal care. Her award-winning works, such as *Zlatá stuha* and *Magnesia Litera*, blend painting, storytelling and a personal view of nature and rural existence. She publishes mainly with Baobab.

Tereza Řičanová terez.ricanova@seznam.cz

Baobab www.baobab-books.net • info@baobab-books.net

015



DENMARK (Danish)

Raaberg, Hanne Dagmar

Papirhjerter

[Paper hearts]

Copenhagen: Gyldendal, 2023

15.4x18cm, 246pp

ISBN 978-87-434-0629-7, age: 9–11

Coming of age, first love, holiday

Alva expects a tedious summer vacation with her father, far from her blossoming romance with Pedro. However, the trip becomes a journey of self-discovery as she learns the joy of being present and letting go. This emotional and coming-of-age novel captures the turbulence of puberty with a poetic and exploratory approach to language and form.

Hanne Dagmar Raaberg, born in 1969, is educated in rhetoric and from the Authors' School for Children's Literature in Copenhagen. Known for her sensitivity in capturing big emotions from a child's perspective, she explores deep emotional experiences in books like *Hils far* and *Papirhjerter*. With the latter, she received the Danish Ministry of Culture's Author's Prize for Children and Young People's Literature in 2024. She also teaches courses in writing and creative processes.

Hanne Dagmar Raaberg info@hannedagmarraaberg.dk

Gyldendal www.gyldendal.dk • LHJ@gyldendal.dk

016



DOMINICAN REP. (Spanish)

de Santis, Geraldine

La temible banda de los atracadores de sueños

[The terrifying gang of dream robbers]

Ill. Wi-Hen Fung

Santo Domingo: Editora Nacional, 2024

12.5x20x5cm, 182pp

ISBN 978-9945-510-67-6, age: 10–12

Dream, community, teamwork, detective story, child detective

In *Bohío Alegre*, a mysterious gang attempts to snuff out the townspeople's hopes. Lucho, a young detective, follows clues to uncover the conspiracy, aided by a sensitive pianist, a determined athlete and an imaginative storyteller. The novel blends intrigue and social critique with a playful tone, highlighting how community support can confront the shadows that steal dreams.

Geraldine de Santis is a Dominican children's and YA author, researcher and cultural promoter with over 30 published titles. Her books, including *Nela la revoltosa* and *Dominicanas*, blend Dominican history and emotional literacy. She has received major honors such as the Barco de Vapor (2016) and the Aurora Tavárez Belliard National Literature Prize (2020, 2023). Beyond writing, she partners with schools and NGOs to design reading and community-engagement programmes

Geraldine de Santis geraldinedesantis@hotmail.com

Editora Nacional www.editorialedpuniversity.com • editoranacionalcultura@gmail.com

017



ECUADOR (Spanish)

De la Torre Guarderas, Sandra

La vuelta del paraguas

[The turn of the umbrella]

Ill. Pepa Ilustradora

Quito: Eufonía Ediciones, 2023

22.5x22.5cm, 43pp

ISBN 978-9942-45-091-3, age: 8+

Umbrella, adventure, language, word play

Red, an umbrella, leaves his companions in Don Epulone's wardrobe to explore the world, transforming into a cane, a fountain and a staff along the way. This tale, described as a game that is both adventure and poem, plays with language and breaks fixed structures. The illustrations, created with textures and inks, engage in a dialogue with the story to expand its meaning.

Sandra De la Torre Guarderas writes poems, stories and film scripts. Her work has received awards such as the 2018 Libresa International Prize and the 2024 Fundación Cuatrogatos Award. She is currently the director and screenwriter of her animated feature film *Tormenta de arroz*, based on her short story of the same name, which was Ecuador's nominee for the 2020 IBBY Honour List.

Sandra De la Torre Guarderas sandra.delator@gmail.com

Eufonía Ediciones www.eufoniaediciones.com • eufoniaediciones@gmail.com

018



EGYPT (Arabic)

Shendy, Riham

El Fara Lara wa Geranha fi el-Omara الفارة لارا وجيرانها في العمارة

[Lara the mouse and her neighbours in the building]

Ill. Basma Hossam

Cairo: Dar Asfoura, 2023

21x26cm, 34pp

ISBN 978-977-86173-3-7 , age: 4–8

Community, aging, neighbourliness, diversity

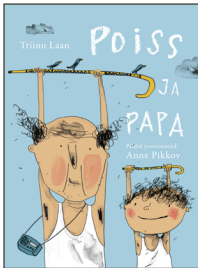
Grandma Lara is old and forgetful, but she is lucky to have neighbours who compete to help her. This story highlights the importance of offering help to others and appreciating those who assist us. It celebrates a community where everyone loves and supports Grandma Lara, even competing to help her.

Riham Shendy is passionate about children's literature and early education, particularly in creating stories in spoken Egyptian Arabic. With her initiative Tuta Tuta, she spearheaded the movement of publishing in the Egyptian dialect to support literacy and identity. She holds a PhD in Economics and has published academic studies on Arabic diglossia and child literacy. She lives in New York with her husband and twins.

Riham Shendy riham.shendy@gmail.com

Dar Asfoura www.asfourabooks.com • info@asfourabooks.com

019



ESTONIA (Estonian)

Laan, Triinu

Poiss ja papa

[The boy and the papa]

Ill. Anne Pikkov

Saue: Päike ja Pilv, 2024

19.7x25.7cm, 62pp

ISBN 978-9916-630-59-4, age: 7–11

Father/son, loss

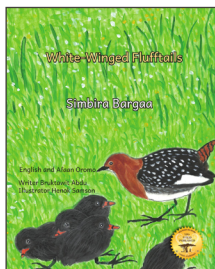
After his great-grandmother passes away, a little boy continues his daily routine with his great-grandfather, Papa. Being with the child helps the old man cope with his grief, and together they discover new activities while sharing wisdom. This multi-layered storybook uses humor to guide readers through painful topics like death and loss, ultimately rediscovering the joy of life.

Triinu Laan, born in 1975, is a manager of cultural activities and a children's writer. She graduated in law from the Tallinn School of Economics and holds a master's degree in cultural management from the University of Tartu. Her work is dedicated to preserving cultural traditions and strengthening local identity, often exploring the border areas between life and death. Her books, which skillfully use the Voro dialect, have received various literary awards and been translated into many languages.

Triinu Laan triinulaan8@gmail.com

Päike ja Pilv www.paikejapilv.ee • paikejapilv@paikejapilv.ee

020



ETHIOPIA (Afaan Oromo & English)

Abdu, Bruktawit

Simbira Bargaa = White-Winged Flufftails

Ill. Henok Samson

Seattle: Open Hearts Big Dreams, 2024

20x25.5cm, 36pp

ISBN 979-8321-18-080-8, age: 6–7

Ethiopia, birds, migration, endangered species, protection, bilingual book

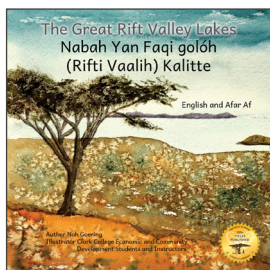
This book introduces the rare White-winged Flufftail, of which fewer than 250 adults remain, mostly in the wetlands of Adda Berga, Ethiopia. It explains how ground-nesting makes their eggs vulnerable to livestock and highlights the work of a new generation of conservationists protecting these fragile nests. The story encourages readers to support both the protection of endangered birds and literacy in African languages.

Bruktawit Abdu was born and raised in Addis Ababa, where she developed an early passion for wildlife. She earned a PhD in the UK with a dissertation on the Liben Lark, an endemic Ethiopian bird. Currently based at Kotebe University of Education, she lectures on wildlife ecology and conducts Environmental Education programmes across Ethiopia. Her work on the White-winged Flufftail was part of her EDGE fellowship with the Zoological Society of London.

Bruktawit Abdu tabdu6021@gmail.com

Open Hearts Big Dreams www.openheartbigdreams.org • info@openheartbigdreams.org

021



ETHIOPIA (Afar Af & English)

Noh, Goering

**Nabah Yan Faqi goloh (Rifti Vaalih) Kalitte =
The Great Rift Valley Lakes**

Ill. Clark College Economic and Community Development students
and instructors, Vancouver

Seattle: Open Hearts Big Dreams, 2024

21.5x21.5cm, 36pp

ISBN 979-8324-93-516-0, age: 6–9

Ethiopia, rift valley lakes, national park, birds, mammals, bilingual book

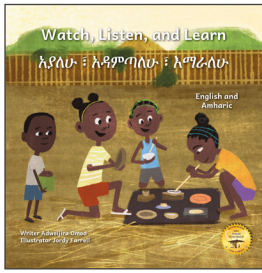
Home to over 300 bird species, Ethiopia's Rift Valley supports a diverse ecosystem including Nechisar National Park. The lakes attract rare wildlife and sustain the people who raise livestock along their shores. Beautiful watercolour illustrations by art students bring the region's birds and animals to life, while bilingual text in English and Afar Af supports fluency and vocabulary building.

Noh Goering was born in Kansas but travelled to Ethiopia as an infant to meet his mother's family. At age eleven, while visiting his grandmother in Portland, he selected paintings by Clark College students depicting the Rift Valley to include in this book. He conducted research to write this informational story, blending art and facts to showcase the land, people and animals of the region.

Goering Noh info@openheartbigdreams.org

Open Hearts Big Dreams www.openheartbigdreams.org • info@openheartbigdreams.org

022



ETHIOPIA (Amharic & English)

Omod, Adwejjira

'äyalähu, 'ädameጠalähu, 'əmaralähu አያሌሁ፣ አዳምጣሊሁ፣ አማራሊሁ = **Watch, Listen, and Learn**

Ill. Jordy Farrell

Transl. Bete Yilma

Seattle: Open Hearts Big Dreams, 2025

21.5x21.5cm, 40pp

ISBN 979-8301-37-946-8, age: 6–9

Ethiopia, family, everyday life, learning, culture, Anuak, bilingual book

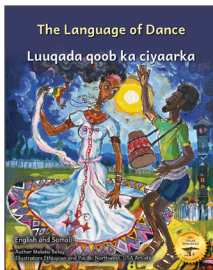
A young girl living along the Openo River in Gambela spends her day fishing, cooking, playing, and visiting the market. Through these everyday activities, she learns about her culture, history and family, from coffee ceremonies to jewelry making. The story celebrates the continuous process of watching, listening and learning valuable lessons that will be carried forward to future generations.

Adwejjira Omod was born and raised in Gambella, Ethiopia, before moving to the United States in 2014. She visited Ethiopia for the first time since leaving in 2021. Currently an undergraduate psychology student at the University of Minnesota, she wrote this book to give the younger generation a fun way to learn about their Anuak culture and language.

Adwejjira Omod adwue2004@gmail.com

Open Hearts Big Dreams www.openheartbigdreams.org • info@openheartbigdreams.org

023



ETHIOPIA (Somali & English)

Belay, Melaku

Luuqada qoob ka ciyaarka = The Language of Dance

Ill. Vv. Aa from Ethiopia and the USA Pacific Northwest

Seattle: Open Hearts Big Dreams, 2025

20x25.5cm, 54pp

ISBN 979-8314-37-755-0, age: 7–9

Ethiopia, dance, communication, tradition, bilingual book

This book explores the universal language of dance through the life of Melaku Belay, who grew up as a street child in Addis Ababa learning regional dances. It highlights his mastery of *eskista*, a traditional dance with intense shoulder movements, and his work to promote Ethiopian dance globally. The narrative emphasises that while culture changes, it must also honour its roots.

Melaku Belay is a contemporary interpreter of *eskista* and founder of the Ethiopian Dance Association. He grew up on the streets of Addis Ababa, learning dances at religious festivals and folk ceremonies. In 2011, the *New York Times* dance critic praised his 'rhythmic virtuosity'. He works tirelessly for his cultural centre, Fendika Azmari Bet, to protect the rights of dancers in Ethiopia.

Melaku Belay melaku81@yahoo.com

Open Hearts Big Dreams www.openheartbigdreams.org

info@openheartbigdreams.org

024



ETHIOPIA (Tigrinya & English)

Kurtz, Jane

ā'edāwe አእዳው = Hands

Ill. Children of Gondar, Ethiopia and Corvallis, USA

Seattle: Open Hearts Big Dreams, 2025

20x25.5cm, 55pp

ISBN 979-8282-77-369-9, age: 6–8

Hand, everyday life, bilingual book

This early reader explores the many capabilities of human hands, from making music and feeding ourselves to planting seeds and creating life. Through a young child's perspective, the book invites readers to study the small, interesting things around them and appreciate these powerful natural tools. It celebrates the curious possibilities of using hands to learn, create and care for the world.

Jane Kurtz learned to read in Maji, Ethiopia. Years later, she co-founded the non-profit Ethiopia Reads to share book love with young readers in Ethiopia and her own grandchildren. She has published almost forty books for young readers and serves on the faculty of the Vermont College of Fine Arts MFA in Children's and Young Adult Literature.

Jane Kurtz kurtzjane@gmail.com

Open Hearts Big Dreams www.openheartbigdreams.org • info@openheartbigdreams.org

025



FINLAND (Finnish)

Sillanpää, Silja

Ouroboros: Sateenkaarikäärme

[Ouroboros 1: The rainbow snake]

Ill. Pasi Pitkänen

Helsinki: Werner Söderström Osakeyhtiö (WSOY), 2024

17x22cm, 256pp

ISBN 978-951-0-50471-0, age: 9+

Fantasy, adventure, underworld

In this fantasy series opener, young Rune searches for his missing mother, aided by his pet snake Niji. They board a mysterious serpent-like train at an underground station, where Rune meets Dia, a headstrong teenager who becomes his guide. As they encounter strange passengers in carriages that only Niji can open, Rune must decide whom to trust and uncover the truth about his mother's disappearance.

Silja Sillanpää, born in 1975, is an author and screenwriter who has written for children for 20 years. She has scripted various children's programmes, including dramas and animations, and performed at children's events across Finland. Her work has received awards such as the Valtakunnallinen Lasten LukuVarkaus.

Silja Sillanpää essi.kytohonka@wsoy.fi

WSOY www.wsoy.fi • essi.kytohonka@wsoy.fi

026



FINLAND (Swedish & Finnish)

Hurme, Maija

Var kommer alla dagar ifrån?

[Where do all the days come from?]

Helsinki: Schildts & Söderströms, 2025

21x23.6cm, 36pp

ISBN 978-951-52-6482-4, age: 3–6

Philosophy, questions, siblings, grandparents

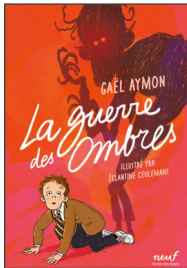
Jalmari, Eevi and their Grandma explore big and small questions, from why babies smell like popcorn to where music goes after listening. This philosophical picture book compiles children's curious inquiries into an insightful and gently humorous work. It is designed for shared reading, inspiring conversation between children and adults about their unique view of the world.

Maija Hurme, born in 1976, is an illustrator, author and news graphic designer based in Helsinki. She has illustrated numerous children's books and poems, with several works published simultaneously in Finnish and Swedish.

Maija Hurme majahurmeillustrations@gmail.com

Schildts & Söderströms kustantamo.sets.fi • karin.berglund@sets.fi

027



FRANCE (French)

Aymon, Gaël

La guerre des ombres

[The war of the shadows]

Ill. Églantine Ceulemans

Paris: L'École des loisirs, 2025

14x21cm, 176pp

ISBN 978-2-211-34875-1, age: 8+

Shadow, dystopia, stigmatization

In this dystopia, a government-issued lamp reveals a person's 'nebulous shadow', leading to the ostracization of those with twisted shadows like 11-year-old Damien. The novel tackles political issues of stigmatization and normalisation, warning readers to "be wary of the shadow within". It is a crafted adventure that challenges stereotypes and encourages free will.

Gaël Aymon has worked as an actor, screenwriter, director and producer, and has taught theatre to teenagers. His novels, inspired by humanist values, explore themes like equality, identity and ecology across genres including science fiction and fantasy. He values complexity and nuance in children's literature, and his books have received numerous awards and translations worldwide.

Gaël Aymon ecire@gaelaymon.com

L'École des loisirs www.ecoledesloisirs.fr • edl@ecoledesloisirs.com

028



GERMANY (German)

Niemöller, Leslie

Die Gurkentruppe

[A bunch of bunglers]

Ill. Lilliane Oser

Frankfurt am Main: Moritz Verlag, 2024

15.3x21.5cm, 61pp

ISBN 978-3-89565-454-1, age: 5+

Diversity, animals

Hans the pig lives alone in a forest house until various housemates move in: a shy bear, a tidy rabbit, a homesick zebra and a restless beaver. Together they form a diverse flat-sharing community that navigates strengths and weaknesses with humour and sensitivity. The story serves as an artful metaphor for successful inclusion, enhanced by tongue-in-cheek illustrations.

Leslie Niemöller, born in Tübingen, is a freelance photographer based in Cologne with five children and one grandson. *Die Gurkentruppe* was her debut as an author, earning nominations for the German Children's Literature Award and the Paul-Maar-Award. Specialised in wedding photography, one of her passion projects was the photographic portrait of the Irish Travellers.

Leslie Niemöller leslie.nie@web.de

Moritz Verlag www.moritzverlag.de • d.lang@moritz.verlag

029



GREECE (Greek)

Panagiotakis, Giorgos

Amfibibia Αμφίβια

[Amphibians]

Ill. Villie Karabatzia

Athens: Patakis Publishers, 2024

14x21cm, 222pp

ISBN 978-618-07-0705-2, age: 15–18

Coming of Age, love, sexual identity, bullying

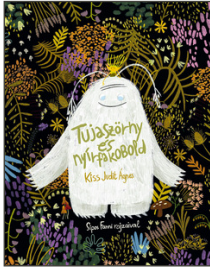
Set in Athens, this novel follows Alexandra, who declares herself aromantic while haunted by a secret trauma, and Max, who finds calm only in the videos of a famous YouTuber. Their stories intersect in a narrative exploring love, sexual identity and the isolation of adolescence. The book addresses complex emotional landscapes with sensitivity and realism.

Giorgos Panagiotakis was born in Athens in 1968. Initially aspiring to be an explorer or writer, he worked in film and television before becoming a full-time writer, columnist and translator. His books include *Microcosm* and the *Weird Creatures Club* series. He has received the National Award for a Work of Children's Literature twice and has been honoured by the Greek section of IBBY. Four of his books have been included in the *White Ravens* catalogue.

Giorgos Panagiotakis giorgospanagiotakis@gmail.com

Patakis Publishers www.patakis.gr • info@patakis.gr

030



HUNGARY (Hungarian)

Kiss, Judit Ágnes

Tujaszörny és Nyírfakobold

[Cedar monster and birch goblin]

Ill. Fanni Sipos

Budapest: Pagony, 2024

16.5x21cm, 93pp

ISBN 978-963-587-543-6, age: 5–10

Stranger, integration, diversity

A tiny birch goblin meets a crying cedar monster in the forest and invites him to stay after learning he has lost his home. Although Tutu the monster initially finds life in the birch grove strange, he eventually befriends the goblins, despite some resistance. This heartwarming tale explores friendship, inclusion and being different through elegant, non-didactic storytelling and vibrant illustrations.

Judit Ágnes Kiss is an awarded poet and author of adult literary fiction. She holds degrees in Hungarian Literature, drama teaching and oboe performance. Since her debut in 2006, she has become a successful author for both adults and children, notably with the *Babyfox* series. A committed liberal and equality activist, she tackles sensitive issues like integration with poetic elegance and directness.

Judit Ágnes Kiss kissjuditagnes@gmail.com

Pagony www.pagony.hu • szerkesztoseg@pagony.hu

031



ICELAND (Icelandic)

Knútsdóttir, Hildur

Hrím

[Rime]

Reykjavík: JPV útgáfa, 2023

13.7x21.1cm, 338pp

ISBN 978-9935-29-336-7, age: 13–17

Fantasy, adventure, coming of age, animals, monsters

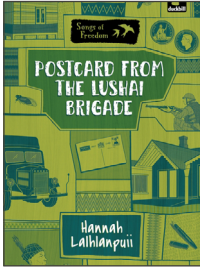
Set in a harsh version of Iceland where humans coexist with giant animals, this fantasy follows Jófríður, whose life is bound to the seasons. When her father falls ill, the well-being of her people rests on her shoulders, forcing her to choose between a childhood friend and a newcomer while facing the legendary *hrímsvelgur* beast. The story blends everyday life with the uncanny in a spine-chilling adventure.

Hildur Knútsdóttir, born in Reykjavík in 1984, holds a BA in Literature and Creative Writing from the University of Iceland. She is one of Iceland's most prominent authors, writing fiction, plays and screenplays for both children and adults. Known for evocative fantasy and horror, she has received numerous awards including the Icelandic Literary Prize and the Fjöruverðlaunin. She has also been nominated for the Nordic Council Children and Young People's Literature Prize.

Hildur Knútsdóttir hildurk@gmail.com

Forlagið www.forlagid.is • forlagid@forlagid.is

032



INDIA (English)

Lalhlanpui, Hannah

Songs of Freedom. Postcard from the Lushai Brigade

Gurugram: Duckbill (Penguin Random House), 2023

12.7x20.3cm, 105pp

ISBN 978-0-143-45938-5, age: 10+

British India, Lushai Hills (Mizo Hills), WW II, army, independence

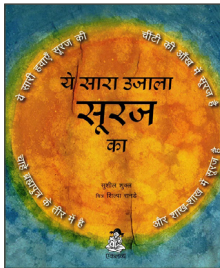
Set in Aizawl in 1942, this story follows a young boy whose simple life is disrupted when the Japanese military prepares to invade and his brother Kima joins the British Indian Army. Part of the *Songs of Freedom* series, the novel explores the lives of children in India during the struggle for independence. It portrays the shift from innocent joy to the harsh realities of war in the Lushai Hills.

Hannah Lalhlanpui is from Aizawl, Mizoram, with interests in postcolonial studies and North East writings. Her short story *A Bird Called Freedom* was published in the anthology *Big Mistakes* (2021), and her poems appeared in *Lockdown Literature from Mizoram* (2021). She also published the historical fiction *When Blackbirds Fly* (2022). She currently teaches at the Department of English in Mizoram Christian College.

Hannah Lalhlanpui hannah11sept@gmail.com

Duckbill www.penguin.co.in • sayoni@duckbill.in

033



INDIA (Hindi)

Shukla, Sushil

Ye Sara Ujala Suraj Ka ये सारा उजाला सूरज का

[All the light of the sun]

Ill. Shilpa Ranade

Bhopal: Eklavya, 2023

22x24cm, 16pp

ISBN 978-93-91132-58-3, age: 6+

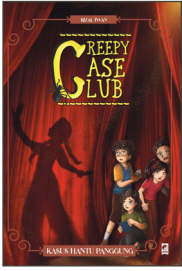
Sun, light, nature, poetry

This captivating poem portrays the sun's presence in every element of the world, from air and water to living beings. Through fresh imagery and magical rhythm, it celebrates the glory of the sun and the inner unity of all matter. The illustrations extend the text's meaning, reflecting the hues and sequence of sunlight.

Sushil Shukla is a contemporary Hindi poet and author known for his contribution to children's literature. He is the Director of Ektara, Takshila's Centre for Children's Literature and Art, and co-editor of the children's magazines *Pluto* and *Cycle*. Associated with the field for over 18 years, he is a key faculty member of Riyaaz, the academy of illustrators. He won the prestigious Bal Sahitya Purashkar (Sahitya Academy Award) in 2025.

Sushil Shukla sushilshukla29@gmail.com

Eklavya www.eklavyapitara.in • tultulbiswas@eklavya.in



INDONESIA (Indonesian)

Iwan, Rizal

Creepy Case Club: Kasus Hantu Panggung

[Creepy case club: The case of the stage ghost]

Ill. Vanessa Josephine

Jakarta: KPG (Kepustakaan Populer Gramedia), 2023

19.5x13cm, 202pp

ISBN 978-623-134-121-1, age: 10+

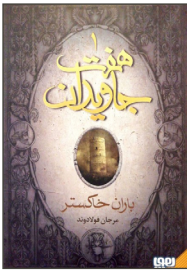
Elementary school, graduation ceremony, dance, ghost, mystery

In their final year of elementary school, three friends—Namira, Vedi and Jani—investigate a mysterious fifth dancer appearing during their school’s theatre recital. Drawing on the legend of the *Bedhaya Ketawang* dance, the young detectives grapple with riddles and danger to uncover a long-buried secret. This riveting mystery serves as a bittersweet ode to childhood and the pains of growing up.

Rizal Iwan is an Indonesian children’s book author and playwright, best known for the *Creepy Case Club* series. The sixth book, *Kasus Hantu Panggung*, won the Scarlet Pen Award for Best Children’s Book in 2024. He was selected for the Ministry of Education’s Children’s Book Writer Residency Program in 2024. His play *Pindah* won the Rawayan Award in 2022.

Rizal Iwan rizaliwan@yahoo.com

Kepustakaan Populer Gramedia www.info.kepustakaanpopulergra.media
pradikha@kepustakaanpopulergra.media



IRAN (Farsi)

Fouladvand, Marjan

Haft Javidan 1: Baran-e Khakestar

هفت جاویدان، جلد ۱: باران خاکستر

[The seven immortals 1: Rain of ashes]

Tehran: Hoopa Publishing, 2023

14x21cm, 228pp

ISBN 978-622-204-489-3, age: 15+

Epic, Nowruz, hero, quest

This novel retells the origins of Nowruz through Iranian mythology, depicting a cursed world where King Jamshid and the people must each overcome seven trials to break the curse. Blending ancient myths with contemporary themes, the story emphasises that collective heroism is required to confront inner darkness and restore kindness. It offers a fresh recreation of the enduring power of storytelling.

Marjan Fouladvand, born in 1970, is a writer, researcher, journalist and university lecturer in children’s and young adult literature. Her works, including *The Parrot and the Merchant* and *Simorgh*, have been translated into multiple languages and included in the *White Ravens* catalogue and the IBBY Honour List. She has served as editor-in-chief of distinguished literary journals and as a jury member for national awards.

Marjan Fouladvand marjanfooladvand@yahoo.com

Hoopa Publishing <http://en.hoopaa.com> • hoopa.academy@gmail.com

036



IRELAND (English)

Forde, Patricia

The Girl Who Fell to Earth

Dublin: Little Island, 2023

19.8x12.9cm, 186pp

ISBN 978-1-915071-43-9, age: 10–14

Extra-terrestrial, Earth, experiment, survival, secret

Raised on Planet Terros to hate humans, Aria is sent to Ireland to release a deadly virus, only to discover she is half-human and that Earth-dwellers are capable of deep love. When her mission goes wrong, she must evade forces from her past while reconciling her identity. This high-concept science fiction novel features a strong female lead and explores socially themed speculative fiction.

Patricia Forde, from Galway, is the 2023–2026 Laureate na nÓg. Her debut novel *The Wordsmith* won a White Raven Award and has been published globally. In 2019, her book *Bumpfizzle the Best on Planet Earth* was chosen for the Dublin UNESCO Citywide Read. She also published a non-fiction guide to writing for children in 2025.

Patricia Forde trishforde1@icloud.com

Little Island www.littleisland.ie • info@littleisland.ie

037



ITALY (Italian)

Morosinotto, Davide

Il leggendario tesoro di Hell Gate

[The legendary treasure of Hell Gate]

Milan: Mondadori, 2025

14x21.5cm, 489pp

ISBN 978-88-04-79218-5, age: 10–14

New York 20th century, coming of age, friendship, adventure, treasure hunt

Set in early 20th-century New York during the great immigration wave, this novel follows four outsider friends from East Harlem drawn into a search for a legendary treasure of gold bars. They must solve a mystery and escape gangsters in a classic group adventure that offers a deep portrait of adolescence. The story celebrates strong friendship, mystery and redemption.

Davide Morosinotto is an author whose books have been translated into 25 languages. In Italy, he won the Super Andersen Prize in 2017 and the Strega Children's Prize in 2021. He has been a finalist for the Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis and won awards in Germany, France, Holland and Catalonia. He was also nominated for the Carnegie Medal in the UK in 2022.

Davide Morosinotto moroz@bookonatre.com

Mondadori www.ragazzimondadori.it • valeria.sampaoli@mondadori.it

038



JAPAN (Japanese)

Sato, Madoka

Sukuranburu kousaten スクランブル交差点

[Scramble crossing]

Ill. Yuki Kurita

Tokyo: Shogakukan, 2023

13x19cm, 269pp

ISBN 978-4-09-289326-9, age: 13+

Studying abroad, Italy, friendship, love

Marco De Luca, an Italian student, joins a Japanese high-school class where the meek Tsuyoshi is assigned to look after him. As bullies target Marco, Tsuyoshi finds the courage to stand up for him, while friendships and romances develop among their peers. Like pedestrians at a scramble crossing, the characters come and go, leading to a satisfying change of heart for Tsuyoshi by the end.

Madoka Sato was born in Tokyo and has lived in Italy since 1987, where she studied product design. After running a design studio in Milan, she moved to Tuscany in 2000. She won the Grand Prize in the 22nd Nissan Children's Storybook and Picture Book Grand Prix in 2006, launching her writing career. Her book *Adoribu* received the Japan Children's Literature Association Award in 2020. She also translates Italian picture books and children's literature.

Madoka Sato sato4mobile@gmail.com

Shogakukan www.shogakukan.co.jp • rights_inquiry@shogakukan.co.jp

039



KOREA (REP. OF) (Korean)

Jin, Hyeong Min

Waewaewae dong-ali 왜왜왜 동아리

[Why why why club]

Ill. Yi Yun Hui

Paju-si: Changbi Publishers, 2025

15.2x22.5cm, 199pp

ISBN 89-364-4339-9, age: 8-13

Fishing villages, climate change, marine pollution

Set in a coastal village devastated by wildfire, this story follows a group of children and teenagers investigating the cause of the calamity. They identify human greed and the focus on economic gain as the root cause, taking direct action to demand accountability through the legal system. The novel asserts that children and adolescents are present citizens with a clear voice on Earth, not just a future generation.

Hyeong Min Jin made her literary debut in 2012 by winning the 17th Changbi Good Children's Book Manuscript Competition. Her works include the story collection *Baby Octopus* and the young adult collection *Bear's Request*, which won the Kwon Jeong-saeng Literary Award. She is an activist standing alongside citizens to address urgent issues such as human rights, peace and the climate crisis.

Hyeong Min Jin barium@naver.com

Changbi Publishers www.changbi.com • mongsil@changbi.com

040



LATVIA (Latvian)

Zandere, Inese

Putni mūs redz

[Birds watch us too]

Ill. Aleksandra Runde

Riga: Liels un mazs, 2023

17x24cm, 54pp

ISBN 978-9934-574-80-1, age: 5+

Poetry, birds

This collection of 41 poems reverses the concept of birdwatching, suggesting that birds observe humans too. Representing various species in different environments, the poems playfully depict scenes so children can identify with the avian heroes. The combination of atmospheric verse and stylised illustrations creates a treat for readers of all ages.

Inese Zandere, born in 1958, is a Latvian poet, writer and editor. A key figure in Latvian children's literature, she has received numerous accolades including the Annual Latvian Literature Award and the International Jānis Baltvilks Prize. She is a co-founder and chief editor of the publishing house 'Liels un mazs' and a former board member of IBBY Latvia.

Inese Zandere zandere@lielsmazs.lv

Liels un mazs www.lielsmazs.lv • pasts@lielsmazs.lv

041



LEBANON (Arabic)

Baydoun, Rouba

Kayfa Tartah Sama? كيف ترتاح سما؟

[How does Sama find comfort?]

Ill. Marah Tamari

Beirut: Dar Alhadaek Group, 2023

22x22cm, 21pp

ISBN 978-614-439-201-0, age: 5+

Habit, growing up, self-control

Sama struggles with the habit of sucking her finger to cope with boredom, loneliness and anxiety. After observing her newborn cousin doing the same, she decides she is too old for this and seeks her mother's help to break the habit. The story follows her determined efforts to find alternative ways to seek comfort and self-control.

Rouba Baydoun works in the field of humanities, writing and critiquing children's literature. She has authored and produced educational songs with animated videos for children. She is a mother of two, Jude and Sama, who inspired her work through their love of stories.

Rouba Baydoun roubabeydoun@gmail.com

Dar Alhadaek Group www.alhadaekgroup.com • alhadaek@alhadaekgroup.com

042



LITHUANIA (Lithuanian)

Marcinkevičius, Marius

Mergaitė su šautuvu. Istorija apie mergaitę partizanę

[A Girl with a gun. A story about a girl partisan]

Ill. Lina Itagaki

Kaunas: Misteris Pinkmanas, 2023

19.5x24cm, 218pp

ISBN 978-609-96295-6-8, age: 7–12

Lithuania, USSR, partisans, military occupation, independence graphic novel

This graphic novel tells the fictionalised story of Maggie, a girl who joins a partisan group hiding in a forest bunker after her family is deported to Siberia during the Soviet occupation of Lithuania. Guided by her teacher, the group leader, Maggie confronts her fears and grief while participating in the resistance. Based on witness memories, it is an inspiring tale of action and survival.

Marius Marcinkevičius, born in 1966, is a medical doctor, poet and writer. He has authored over 20 books for children, which have been translated into 25 languages and adapted into plays and musicals. *A Girl with a Gun* has won awards in Lithuania and Italy. He was previously included in the IBBY Honour List in 2020.

Marius Marcinkevičius Marukas.m@gmail.com

Misteris Pinkmanas www.pinkmanas.com • mr.pinkmanas@gmail.com

043



MALAYSIA (Malay)

Haron, Nisah

Chempaka Dengan Piano

[Chempaka and her piano]

Kuala Lumpur: Persatuan Penulis Nasional Malaysia, 2025

15x21cm, 144pp

ISBN 978-629-7760-46-9, age: 12–18

Misophonia, autism, friendship, acceptance

Chempaka, a child highly sensitive to sound, finds calm only with her pet cat, Piano. After going missing during an overwhelming noise incident, she forms a close friendship with Amir, who understands her condition, and her loyal school friend Balqis. The story portrays the challenges of an autistic child coping with the world and finding strength through acceptance.

Nisah Haron, born in 1973, is a Malaysian novelist, poet and essayist who received the Southeast Asian Young Writers Award in 2017. A former lawyer, she became a full-time writer in 2006 and represented Malaysia at the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa in the USA in 2015. An active copyright advocate, her stories have appeared in English, Mandarin, Tamil and Japanese translations.

Nisah Haron studionisaharon@gmail.com

Persatuan Penulis Nasional Malaysia www.bukupena.com.my

penamalaysiamy@gmail.com

044



MONGOLIA (Mongolian)

Bold, Enkh-Oyun

Baddi yu hiij yavaa bol? Бадди юу хийж яваа бол?

[What's Buddy doing now?]

Ulaanbaatar: Geren, 2023

30x30cm, 42pp

ISBN 978-9919-9066-0-3, age: 3–8

Girl, dog, imagination

Inspired by a true story, this picture book follows a little girl who lost her dog, Buddy. Finding no trace of him, she solaces herself by imagining wild scenarios of his new life: perhaps he is married, a researcher, or an emo singer. Through her fantasies, she processes her loss while hoping Buddy misses her as much as she misses him.

Enkh-Oyun Bold is a children's book author and illustrator based in Mongolia. Her debut book received the local Storyteller Fox Award. With a background in fine arts, she specialises in digital illustration and collaborates with numerous publishers. Her storytelling blends curiosity, imagination and culture to captivate young readers.

Enkh-Oyun Bold tarakashsht@gmail.com

Geren www.instagram.com/geren.picturebooks • geren.bookstore@gmail.com

045



NETHERLANDS (Dutch)

Koens, Enne

Vandaag komen we niet meer thuis

[We're not going home today]

Ill. Maartje Kuiper

Amsterdam: Luitingh-Sijthoff, 2024

15.5x21.8cm, 238pp

ISBN 978-90-210-3860-5, age: 10+

Refugees, migration, home, outsider

Ten-year-old Mirza is taken unexpectedly by his father to their war-torn home country, moving into a dilapidated house where he feels isolated and lonely. Struggling with a new language and customs at school, he longs to return to his best friend. Over time, however, he begins to understand his surroundings and uncovers a secret his father has been hiding.

Enne Koens writes children's books, plays and novels for adults, and teaches creative writing. Her books have achieved international success, with nominations for the German Children's Literature Award and the Italian Strega and Cento Awards. She frequently travels to Germany and Italy to conduct workshops with children.

Enne Koens enne.koens@gmail.com

Luitingh-Sijthoff www.lsuitgeverij.nl • info@lsuitgeverij.nl

046



NETHERLANDS (Frisian)

van Houten, Mirjam

Anton yn it museum

[Anton at the museum]

Ill. Mirjam van Houten

Leeuwarden: Afûk, 2025

20.4x27.8cm, 39pp

ISBN 978-94-93318-59-5, age: 4+

Museum, art, creativity, self-realisation

Anton's mundane routine is interrupted when a painting's bright pink colour at a museum captivates him. Haunted by a sad bird from the artwork, he quits his office job to start creating. Eventually, his own art is exhibited, potentially changing a visitor's life just as the museum visit changed his.

Mirjam van Houten, born in 1977 in Friesland, is an autodidact author and illustrator. Her debut *Tije* was nominated for the IBBY Honour List in 2018. Her second picture book won the Diet Huber Prize and has been translated into several minority languages. She has worked as a full-time creator of Frisian children's books since 2010.

Mirjam van Houten mirjamvanhouten@hotmail.com

Afûk www.afuk.frl • yngo@afuk.nl

047



NORWAY (Norwegian)

Kahrs, Julia Lossius

Noor og de forsvunne barna

[Noor and the missing children]

Oslo: Gyldendal, 2025

13.5x21cm, 317pp

ISBN 978-82-05-61003-3, age: 9–12

Detective story, fantasy, adventure, children's gang

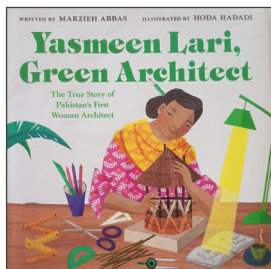
Noor and her mystery club face their biggest case when a bus full of children, including two club members, vanishes without a trace. Aided by her miniature version Oor and Detective Kathrine, Noor investigates a dark story involving living dolls and invisible miniatures. This wildly imaginative tale blends the absurd with a serious search for missing friends.

Julia Lossius Kahrs, born in 1985, is considered one of Norway's most original children's authors. With a background in Latin, psychology and anatomy, she made her debut in 2009. Her work is known for its bold exploration of the grotesque and magical-realism. Her 2022 book *Familien Brattbakk* won the Brage Prize and the Critics' Prize.

Julia Lossius Kahrs julia.kahrs@hotmail.com

Gyldendal www.gyldendal.no • sentralbord@gyldendal.no

048



PAKISTAN (English)

Abbas, Marzieh

Yasmeen Lari, Green Architect. The True Story of Pakistan's First Woman Architect

Ill. Hoda Hadadi

New York: Clarion Books (HarperCollins), 2024

26.6x26.6cm, 40pp

ISBN 978-0-06-328515-6 , age: 4–8

Yasmeen Lari, architect, natural disaster, sustainability, biography

This eco-biography charts the life of Yasmeen Lari, Pakistan's first female architect, from her early advocacy for historic buildings to her humanitarian work following natural disasters. After 2005, Lari developed sustainable, disaster-resistant housing blueprints using traditional materials and modern design. The book details her process and her efforts to teach communities to rebuild themselves.

Marzieh Abbas is an internationally published, award-winning poet and author of board books, picture books and novels. Inspired by her Pakistani heritage and Muslim faith, she is a graduate of the Children's Book Academy. She mentors aspiring authors worldwide and teaches the craft of writing through various prestigious programmes.

Marzieh Abbas Marziehabbas.author@gmail.com

Clarion Books www.harpercollins.com • Chris.Krones@harpercollins.com

049



PERU (Spanish)

Garayar, Carlos

La abuela que tejía el aire

[The grandma who weaved the air]

Ill. Valerio

San Isidro: De Lirio Ediciones, 2025

20.3x25.2cm, 60pp

ISBN 978-612-99010-1-5, age: 12+

Grandparents, age/aging, memory, weaving

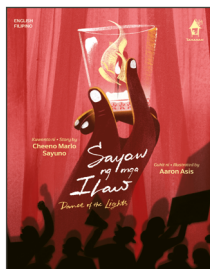
A grandmother discovers her ability to weave as a way to care for her family, creating complex fabrics to cover her loved ones with beautiful dreams when words fail her. Drawing on Peru's rich textile heritage, the story uses weaving as a motif to link themes of old age, memory and the invisible threads connecting generations. Valerio's illustrations add gentle motion and warmth to this delicate narrative.

Carlos Garayar is a writer and literary critic who studied Literature at the National University of San Marcos. While established as a specialist in Cervantes and crime fiction, he has focused on younger audiences since 2014. His recent works include *La zona invisible*, which won the Barco de Vapor Prize in Peru in 2025.

Carlos Garayar carlosgarayar@hotmail.com

De Lirio Ediciones www.edicionesdelirio.com • info@edicionesdelirio.com

050



PHILIPPINES (Filipino)

Sayuno, Cheeno Marlo

Sayaw ng mga Ilaw

[Dance of the lights]

Ill. Aaron Asis

Makati City: Tahanan Books, 2024

19.7x24.4cm, 38pp

ISBN 978-621-422-055-7, age: 9+

Philippines 1946-1986, martial law, missing persons, dance

Set in 1981 during the Marcos regime, this story follows Laya, who wants to learn the Pandanggo-Oasiwas dance, and her sister Kala. When their father disappears after a construction collapse at the Manila Film Center, the family is plunged into darkness and Kala turns to rebellion. This powerful fictional tale explores a family's struggle to find hope amidst the rubble of loss during Martial Law.

Cheeno Marlo Sayuno is an educator, cultural dance performer and writer of children's storybooks. He is an Associate Professor at the University of the Philippines Los Baños and a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He has received recognition from the Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards and the Salanga Prize for Writers for his stories reflecting Filipino traditions and history.

Cheeno Marlo Sayuno cheenosayuno@gmail.com

Tahanan Books www.tahananbooks.ph • frances@tahananbooks.com

051



POLAND (Polish)

Jędrzejewska-Wróbel, Roksana

W krainie snów

[In the land of dreams]

Kraków: Wydawnictwo Literackie, 2024

14.5x20.5cm, 357pp

ISBN 978-83-08-08500-4, age: 12+

Mother/daughter, role reversal, alcoholism

Matylda planned to spend the summer with a friend in Kashubia, but her mother surprises her with tickets to the USA. They're supposed to live in California for a while, see Hollywood, and experience a different life. The problem is, these aren't Matylda's dreams at all, but her mother's. Matylda meets an inspiring friend but gradually discovers her mother is hiding a difficult secret. The novel explores the burden of coping with a parent's problems and the disillusionment when a perfect reality proves to be a disguise.

Roksana Jędrzejewska-Wróbel is a recognised author and promoter of children's literature who has presented her work across Europe. She is the winner of the 'Przecinek i Kropka' competition and the Kornel Makuszyński Literary Award. Her books have been included on the Golden List of the "ABCXXI – All of Poland Reads to Children" Foundation and the Treasure List of the Children's Book Museum. She is a member of the Polish Section of IBBY and the Association of Polish Writers.

Roksana Jędrzejewska-Wróbel roksanaw@gmail.com

Wydawnictwo Literackie www.wydawnictwoliterackie.pl

sekretariat@wydawnictwoliterackie.pl



PORTUGAL (Portuguese)

Mésseder, João Pedro

As casas das coisas

[The houses of things]

Ill. Rachel Caiano

Alfragide: Caminho, 2023

16x24cm, 45pp

ISBN 978-972-21-3224-4, age: 7+

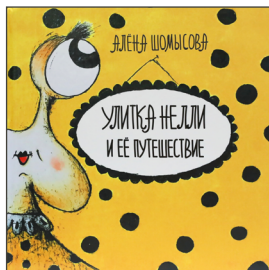
Prose poetry, everyday life

This collection of short prose poems transforms everyday objects and beings into a world of discovery, assigning each a symbolic home. Using metaphor and unexpected associations, the text invites readers to actively anticipate meanings and shift perspectives. Delicate illustrations accompany the verses, amplifying the beauty of the ordinary and the transformative power of imagination.

João Pedro Mésseder is the literary name of José António Gomes, author of around thirty books for children and young people. He has received awards such as the Maria Amália Vaz de Carvalho Prize and the National Poetry Award of Vila de Fânzeres. A university professor and researcher in literary studies, many of his books are part of the National Reading Plan.

João Pedro Mésseder jam.gomes@netcabo.pt

Editorial Caminho www.caminho.leya.com • ccruzeiro@leya.com



RUSSIA (Komi & Russian)

Shomysova, Alyona

Nöl'ö l'ol'ö da sylön tuj = Ulitka Nelly i eyo puteshestvie

Нөль лөль да сылөн туй = Улитка Нелли и её путешествие

[Nelly the snail and her journey]

Ill. Inna Popova

Syktvykar: Editorial Board of the Raduga Magazine, 2023

22x21.5cm, 120pp

ISBN 978-5-6048036-2-2, age: 6–10

Sea snail, adventure, journey, bilingual book

Nelly, a sea snail, is swept from her coral reef into the deep sea, encountering diverse creatures each dedicated to their unique purpose. She discovers her calling as an artist for a cleaner wrasse, creating original worlds rather than replicating patterns. To escape the Gorge of Eternal Sleep, she must restore a damaged painting for the moray eel queen, in order to earn her freedom and return home.

Alyona Startseva (Shomysova), born in 1986 in the Komi Republic, is a graduate in National Philology from Syktvykar State University. She has worked as an editor for several magazines and is the author of poetry collections and children's books. Her work has been recognised with the Alexander Luzhikov Prize and the Albert Vaneev Prize. She is a member of the Russian Writers' Union.

Alyona Shomysova alena-shomysova@mail.ru

Editorial board of the Raduga Magazine www.raduga-komi.ru • radugnie@mail.ru

054



RUSSIA (Russian)

Voltsit, Pyotr

Каникулы на ледоколе Каникулы на ледоколе

[Icebreaker holidays]

Ill. Svetlana Shendrik

Moscow: Laminaria, 2024

22.5x29cm, 62pp

ISBN 978-5-6051028-0-9, age: 6–12

Arctic, animals, iceberg, scientific expedition

This book follows a boy and his oceanographer father on an Arctic icebreaker expedition, exploring the ship's design, the ecosystem and the history of the Russian North. Enhanced with detailed illustrations and character dialogues, the narrative covers topics from biology to navigation in accessible language, alongside a dedicated section discussing the impact of climate change. The content was also reviewed by polar explorers and a veteran icebreaker captain.

Pyotr Voltsit, born in Moscow, holds a degree in Biology and Chemistry from Moscow State Pedagogical University. A former popular science editor, he has authored over 80 educational books recognised for their accuracy and interdisciplinary approach and translated into multiple languages. He also works as a translator specialising in popular science and fiction, with nominations for awards by the Masters of Literary Translation Guild and the Book Siberia Festival.

Pyotr Voltsit petrvolzit@yandex.ru

Laminaria www.laminaria.ru • info@laminaria.ru

055



SINGAPORE (English)

Gordon, Rachelyn

Curly

Ill. Cecilia Hidayat

Singapore: Rachelyn Gordon, 2022

22.2x21.9cm, 32pp

ISBN 978-981-18-5928-1, age: 3–9

Hair, diversity, adaptation, self-confidence

Curly loves her pixie cut until she starts school and faces pressure to conform. With the help of a teacher, she learns the importance of staying true to herself and finds confidence in her unique identity. This empowering story encourages young readers to embrace diversity and resilience, resonating strongly in Singapore's multicultural classrooms.

Rachelyn Gordon is a Singaporean children's author and creative writing educator who believes in the power of stories to build empathy. Her picture books, including *Rosie and the Mamak Shop* and *Frank*, explore identity, friendship, resilience, and above all, the power of laughter. A former international school leader, she now leads workshops helping children explore real-world issues and write with passion.

Rachelyn Gordon www.rachelyngordon.com

rachelyn.gordon@gmail.com

056



SINGAPORE (Malay & English)

Nurdin, Liyana & Hirfana, Nurhil

Dua Detektif dan Misi Kompas =**Detective Duo and the Compass Mission**

Ill. Fatimah Azzahraa

Singapore: Poppet's World, 2024

21x20.5cm, 38pp

ISBN 978-981-9418-73-2, age: 4-7

Singapore, secret, child detectives, detective story, bilingual book

Siblings Zaaim and Hulu embark on a quest to uncover their grandfather's Sunday morning secret using a compass, map and camera. This bilingual picture book combines adventure and problem-solving, challenging the young detectives to think critically and work together. The story celebrates family bonds, perseverance and the joy of discovery while inviting readers to put on their detective hats, follow the clues, and discover that every question can lead to a new adventure.

Liyana Nurdin, a former educator and mother, believes stories become truly meaningful when they relate not only to our own experiences, but also to the people around us, creating shared understanding and deeper connections. **Nurhil Hirfana** sees stories as windows and mirrors – windows that offer glimpses into diverse worlds and experiences, and mirrors that help readers see themselves more clearly. Together, they aspire to help readers gain a deeper understanding of themselves and the evolving world around them.

Liyana Nurdin • Nurhil Hirfana

nur.liyana.nurdin@gmail.com • Hirfananoor@gmail.com

Poppet's World www.poppet.world • hello@poppet.world

057



SINGAPORE (Chinese & English)

Lee, Seow Ser

Wo de ming zi shi Ling, wo shi ge mang ren =**My Name is Ling. I am Blind 我的名字叫玲。我是个盲人**

Ill. Sarah Abdul Wahid

Singapore: Helang Books (Archipelago Consultancy), 2023

21x24cm, 32pp

ISBN 978-981-18-8331-6, age: 6+

Visual impairment, glaucoma in children, bilingual book

Ling lost her sight to glaucoma at a young age but learned to navigate the world independently, with the help of a white cane and braille. With a kind heart, humility and a brilliant mind, she puts her talents to good use, helping others in her community just as they helped her. This story celebrates Ling's strength, grit, courage and spirit, aiming to uplift and inspire readers through a glimpse into her unique world.

Seow Ser Lee is a former legal advocate turned community advocate and mother of two. She co-founded 'To SIR (Socially Inclusive Reads) With Love', an initiative shortlisted for the President's Volunteerism & Philanthropy Awards 2025. She also serves as a community intervener supporting Deafblind persons. Her first book *Si Ma Guang and the Giant Jar*, in the 2017 IBBY Selection of Outstanding Book for Young People with Disabilities, has tactile pictures, braille and text in dyslexia-friendly typeface.

Seow Ser Lee seowser07@yahoo.com**Helang Books** helangbooks.wixsite.com/hello • helang.books@gmail.com

058



SLOVAKIA (Slovak)

Hlušíková, Marta

Leto s Marge

[Summer with Marge]

Ill. Adela Režná

Bratislava: Slovart, 2024

16.5x23cm, 117pp

ISBN 978-80-556-6563-4, age: 9–12

Elderly woman, secret, adventure

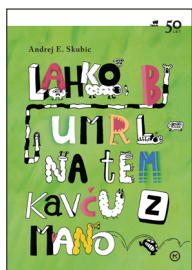
Two ordinary boys, Dominik and Oskar, notice an extraordinary grandma under a neighbouring beach umbrella who sips piña colodas and has butterflies in her hair. They notice that the grandpa taking care of her also looks just like Homer Simpson! Who is this peculiar grandma? And what is she writing in her yellow notebook? The story follows their summer adventure as they attempt to uncover her peculiar secret.

Marta Hlušíková studied Slovak language and Latin at Comenius University in Bratislava. She has worked in education since 1977, teaching at various secondary schools in Banská Štiavnica, Rimavská Sobota and Trstená na Ostrove. She currently lives and works in Trstená na Ostrove near Gabčíkovo.

Marta Hlušíková marta.hlusikova@gmail.com

Slovart www.slovart.sk • objednavky@slovart.sk

059



SLOVENIA (Slovenian)

Skubic, Andrej E.

Lahko bi umrl na tem kavču z mano

[You could die on this couch with me]

Ill. Tanja Komadina

Ljubljana: Mladinska knjiga Publishing House, 2024

14.8x20.8cm, 249pp

ISBN 978-961-01-7744-9, age: 12+

Adolescence, growing up

This coming-of-age novel captures the turbulent final year of primary school through the eyes of teenagers facing peer violence, divorce and the search for sexual identity. The third-person narrator guides the story with gentle wisdom, acknowledging the limits of omniscience while skillfully capturing modern teenage colloquial language and humour. Social media inserts deepen the portrayal of the characters' world. This story reflects the experiences of youth that adults only partially understand.

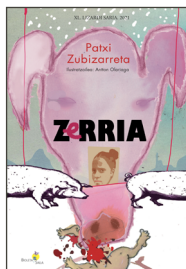
Andrej E. Skubic, born in 1967, is a Slovenian writer and translator of over 20 English-language books. He is the author of novels, short stories and plays, and has received major awards for both his original writing and translations. He debuted as a young adult author in 2018, with his *Freaks and Fiends Trio* series and the award-winning novel *You Could Die on This Couch with Me*.

Andrej E. Skubic a.skubic@gmail.com

Mladinska knjiga Publishing House www.mladinska-knjiga.si

alenka.veler@mladinska-knjiga.si

060



SPAIN (Basque)
Zubizarreta, Patxi

Zerria

Ill. Antton Olariaga
Donostia: Erein, 2022
20.5x14.0cm, 84pp
ISBN 978-84-9109-788-4, age: 14+
Humans, tolerance

Glaciologists who study icy regions describe the long history of our planet's climatic cycles, as if they were studying the world's DNA: the ice ages, the warm periods... At this critical moment of retreat and thawing, the glaciologist Bereket discovers the mummified bodies of a woman and a man in the Tsanfleuron Glacier in Switzerland and, alongside them, the body of a bear. The story takes the reader from the Alps to the Pyrenees, through several stories, with literary ingredients of intrigue, adventure and constant metaphors. This novel serves as a reflection on human nature and animal nature.

Patxi Zubizarreta is an award-winning Basque writer whose work draws from oral tradition and history. His books *The Golden Key*, *Usoa* and *Run, Kuru, Run!* have been included in the IBBY Honour List. His stories often explore journeys and migrations, and several have been adapted for film and animation. He has performed at international events including the Bologna Children's Book Fair and the IBBY World Congress in London.

Patxi Zubizarreta zubizarretapatxi@gmail.com

Erein www.erein.eus • erein@erein.eus

061



SPAIN (Catalan)
Serra, Clàudia

Un estiu

[One summer]
Valencia: Sembra Llibres, 2024
12x18cm, 89pp
ISBN 978-84-10198-20-3, age: 14+
Campsite, accident, theatre play

In July 1978, a family vacations at the Alfacs campsite until a massive fireball causes unprecedented devastation. This play explores life and death in the context of the tragedy, putting the audience in the shoes of survivors who fought to denounce the negligence that caused the explosion. It is a powerful story of resilience and the fight for justice following a societal shock.

Clàudia Serra, born in 1996 in Alicante, is a playwright and theatre critic. She studied Catalan Philology at the University of Valencia, completed a Master's Degree in Theater Studies at the Theatre Institute of Barcelona, and trained in dramaturgy. As a critic, she contributes to the *Encyclopedia of Catalan Performing Arts*. As a playwright, her plays include *Zõon Politikón* and *Una carretera sense arbres*. She won the City of Castellón Theater Award for *Un estiu*.

Clàudia Serra claudiateular@gmail.com

Sembra Llibres www.sembrallibres.com • comunicacio@sembrallibres.com

062



SPAIN (Galician)
Fraga, Antonio M.

Como escorrentar un lobo

[How to scare a wolf away]

Ill. María Brenn

Arzúa: Cuarto de Inverno, 2024

12.7x20cm, 127pp

ISBN 978-84-124586-4-0, age: 10+

Poland 20th Century, WWII, Jews, Roma

In 1944 occupied Poland, Noncia rescues two Jewish children and hides them in her house. To help them fight their fear, she tells them an incredible adventure of her childhood, when she traveled the paths accompanying the gypsy tabor to which she belonged. The story leads them to the Białowieża Forest, where she meets fantastic creatures and learns to face fear. The novel honours Alfreda Noncia Markowska, a Roma woman who rescued dozens of Jewish and Roma children during the war.

Antonio M. Fraga, born in 1976, is a Galician writer and former industrial engineer. He won the Merlín Prize in 2013 for *O Castañeiro de Abril* and the María Victoria Moreno Prize in 2018 for *O bestiario científico de Anxos Nogueirosa*, which was included in the 2022 IBBY Honour List. His novel *santoamaro* won the 12th Jules Verne Prize for Young Adult Literature and was selected for the 2021 *White Ravens* list.

Antonio M. Fraga antoniomfraga@gmail.com

Cuarto de Inverno www.cuartodeinverno.com • info@cuartodeinverno.com

063



SPAIN (Spanish)
Caldas, Pedro

La leyenda del samurái y la mariposa azul

[The legend of the samurai and the blue butterfly]

Ill. Javier Andrada

Boadilla del Monte: Ediciones SM, 2024

15.5x24.5cm, 212pp

ISBN 978-84-1182-643-3, age: 10–12

Japan, samurai, journey, adventure, magic

A samurai, a girl and a blue butterfly travel the roads of Japan, pursued by enemies and driven by mystery. Why are they riding together? Where are they headed? This tranquil yet adventurous tale is full of magic, humour and ancient wisdom. It is the first published children's book by the author, blending fantasy with a flair of mystery and a quest for answers.

Pedro Caldas, born in Seville in 1973, works as a psychologist in a nursing home. A lifelong gamer, he found in writing a secret way to play while appearing to do something important. He approaches each blank page as a detective opening a door to a haunted house, imagining the worlds behind it.

Pedro Caldas pedrocaldashidalgo@gmail.com

Ediciones SM www.literaturasm.com • carmen.palomino@grupo-sm.com

064



SWEDEN (Swedish)

Kroon, Oskar

Det finns inget paradīs

[There is no paradise]

Stockholm: Rabén & Sjögren, 2025

13.9x20.1cm, 227pp

ISBN 978-91-29-74804-8, age: 12–15

Grandfather, coming of age, confusion

Teenager Alexander spends a transformational summer alone with his gruff grandfather in a coastal village while his mother volunteers at the Ukrainian border. Through flashbacks and present events, the novel explores existential questions, friendship, first crushes and secrets in a beautiful depiction of summer. Told with ease, it depicts both an outer and inner journey during a pivotal season.

Oskar Kroon, born in 1980 in Växjö, is an author, cultural writer, journalist and baker based in Stockholm. His second book, *Vänta på vind*, won the August Prize as the Swedish children's book of the year. He has collaborated with various illustrators on award-winning titles and has published eight books to date.

Oskar Kroon okroon@gmail.com

Rabén & Sjögren www.rabensjogren.se • y.lva.blomqvist@rabensjogren.se

065



SWITZERLAND (French)

Zullo, Germano

Tous les bateaux ne prennent pas la mer

[Not all boats set sail]

Ill. Albertine

Geneva: La Joie de lire, 2024

20x25cm, 84pp

ISBN 978-2-88908-679-5, age: 8+

Prison, separation, family, boat

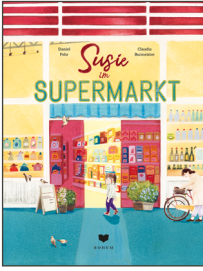
This epistolary picture book tells the story of a family whose father is in prison for bank robbery. With great tenderness, the father tries to keep in touch with his wife and two children. The father builds model boats for his children throughout the story, always accompanied by letters. His wife and his daughter distance themselves, but the son keeps in touch. With tenderness and finesse, the text and the images depict this family story over more than 20 years, with all the difficulties of maintaining or restoring ties.

Germano Zullo, born in 1968 in Geneva, is an author who formerly worked as an accountant. Since 1996, he has published numerous children's books in collaboration with illustrator Albertine. He also writes poetry and novels for young adults. Their collaborative work is known for its sensitivity, respecting children's freedom while offering diverse ways to understand human relationships.

Germano Zullo germano.zullo@gmail.com

La Joie de lire www.lajoiedelire.ch • info@lajoiedelire.ch

066



SWITZERLAND (German)

Fehr, Daniel

Susie im Supermarkt

[Susie at the supermarket]

Ill. Claudia Burmeister

Münster: Bohem Press, 2024

24x31cm, 26pp

ISBN 978-3-95939-236-5, age: 3+

Single parent, grocery shopping, everyday life, imagination

Every Saturday, Susie accompanies her mother to work at a supermarket, becoming 'invisible' to avoid the boss's rules. She observes the employees and customers in detail, from an old man with little money to a woman buying only pink toilet paper. At day's end, she becomes the last customer, purchasing the ingredients they'll cook for dinner. The story reveals insights into consumer society through simple, child-focused sentences.

Daniel Fehr, born in 1980, is a prolific Swiss picture book author and game developer. He studied photography in Zurich and German Studies at Princeton University. His books and games have been translated into about twenty languages. On behalf of the Swiss Institute for Children's and Youth Media, he developed the Swiss Reading Day campaign.

Daniel Fehr hello@danielfehr.ch

Bohem Press www.bohem.ch • info@bohem.ch

067



TÜRKİYE (Turkish)

Aydın, Almıla; Yılmaz, Nilay & Öğretir, Seda

Zamansız Şehrin Çocukları

[Children of the timeless city]

Ill. Osman Selçuk Özdoğan

İstanbul: Altın Kitaplar Yayınevi, 2023

13.5x19.5cm, 255pp

ISBN 978-975-21-2945-0, age: 13+

İstanbul 4th/19th/21st centuries, city, childhood

This collaborative novel by three authors weaves together the intertwined lives of children across three distinct eras of Istanbul: Byzantine, Ottoman, and modern-day. Set primarily in the Kazlıçeşme neighborhood, the narrative explores how shifting social roles, gender dynamics, education, and cultural rituals from the 4th, 19th, and 21st centuries shape the identities and adventures of its young protagonists, creating a rich tapestry of the city's historical memory and social evolution.

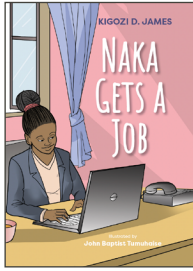
Almıla Aydın, born in 1970, is a philosophy graduate and writer who also translates from Italian to Turkish. **Nilay Yılmaz**, born in 1971, holds a PhD in children's literature and teaches language skills to children, creative writing, reading and upper thinking skills through games, stories and art. **Seda Öğretir**, born in 1980, is a media graduate working as a television reporter and presenter.

Almıla Aydın • **Nilay Yılmaz** • **Seda Öğretir**

almilaaaydin14@gmail.com • nilayyilmaz00@gmail.com • sedaogretir@gmail.com

Altın Kitaplar Yayınevi www.altinkitaplar.com.tr • info@altinkitaplar.com.tr

068



UGANDA (English)

Kigozi, James D.

Naka Gets a Job

Ill. John Baptiste Tumuhaise

Kampala: Ntuh Children's Writers and Illustrators Association, 2024

14x20cm, 16pp

ISBN 978-9913-697-04-0, age: 7–9

Education, reading, profession, success

Naka struggles to find work until her friend Keita offers her a position as a school bursar. Later, she discovers a job advert in a newspaper wrapped around her breakfast and becomes a senior accountant. Attributing her success to reading, she encourages children to explore everything they encounter for unexpected opportunities.

James D. Kigozi has been a member of the NTUHA children's writers and illustrators association for 25 years. Mentored by the late Eva Barongo, he has authored several books enjoyed by both children and adults. He is dedicated to writing and promoting a reading culture among children in Uganda.

James D. Kigozi ntuhachildrenswriters@gmail.com

Ntuh Children's Writers and Illustrators Association ntuhachildrenswriters@gmail.com

069



UKRAINE (Ukrainian)

Korniy, Dara

Чому розквітає папороть Чому розквітає папороть

[Why the fern blooms]

Ill. Nataliia Shmorgun

Kharkiv: RANOK Publishing House, 2022

15x21cm, 222pp

ISBN 978-617-09-7892-9, age: 11–14

Goblin, forest, adventure, magic, fantasy

Petrus Lelechenko lives with his mother and aunt on the edge of a village and dreams of his father's return. One day, he meets a house spirit that opens a door to a magical realm of Ukrainian folklore. His journey becomes a path of discovering his roots, faith and the power of kindness. It is a story about believing in miracles, cherishing family values and cultural heritage, and learning to see the magic in everyday life.

Dara Korniy (real name Myroslava Zamoyska), born in 1970, is a Ukrainian writer and journalist. A graduate of the Ukrainian Printing Institute, her works combine Ukrainian mythology with mysticism. She is the author of *The Cloud Chaser* and *Magical Creatures of Ukrainian Mythology*. She has received the Lesya Ukrainka State Literary Award and the title 'Golden Writer of Ukraine'.

Dara Korniy daravolyn@gmail.com

RANOK Publishing House www.ranok.com.ua • office@ranok.com.ua

070



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (Arabic)

Al Qasimi, Bodour

Bait El Hikmah بيت الحكمة

[House of wisdom]

Ill. Majid Zakeri

Sharjah: Kalimat, 2024

23.5x32cm, 32pp

ISBN 978-9948-733-85-0, age: 9–12

Library, reading, culture, Baghdad

During the Islamic Golden Age, Caliph Harun al-Rashid built a magnificent library in Baghdad, which was later destroyed by conflict, its writings lost in the Tigris River. This story serves as a powerful reminder of the need to build and protect a new House of Wisdom for future generations. It emphasises the importance of preserving knowledge against the backdrop of historical loss.

Sheikha Bodour Al Qasimi founded the Kalimat Group to inspire children through high-quality Arabic literature, now distributing over 500 titles globally. She established key institutions including the Emirates Publishers Association and the UAE Board on Books for Young People. As Chairperson of the Sharjah Book Authority, she oversees the Sharjah International Book Fair. She was the first Arab and second woman to serve as President of the International Publishers Association.

Bodour Al Qasimi info@kalimat.ae

Kalimat Group www.kalimatgroup.ae • info@kalimat.ae

071



UNITED KINGDOM (English)

Darbon, Mel

What the World Doesn't See

London: Usborne Publishing, 2023

13.5x20.2cm, 368pp

ISBN 978-1-4749-3784-9, age: 13–17

Family, grief, autism, disappearance, runaway, love

After their father's death and their mother's sudden disappearance, Maudie kidnaps her brother Jake, who has severe learning difficulties, from foster care to reunite the family. Told through alternating narratives, the novel explores the nuanced, loving yet dependent relationship between the siblings. It challenges myths about disability, giving Jake an active voice alongside his sister in a story of grief and resilience.

Mel Darbon is an Associate Lecturer at Bath Spa University and a former teacher for adults with learning disabilities. Her novels, including *Rosie Loves Jack*, aim to dispel myths about people with disabilities and give them their own voice, drawing on her experience with her own brother. Her third book is a middle-grade historical adventure co-written with a young woman with Down Syndrome.

Mel Darbon darbon.mel@gmail.com

Usborne Publishing www.usborne.com • fritha.lindqvist@usborne.co.uk

072



UNITED KINGDOM (Welsh)

James, Daf

Jac a'r Angel

[Jack and the angel]

Ill. Bethan Mai

Talybont: Y Lolfa, 2023

13x19cm, 253pp

ISBN 978-1-80099-392-1, age: 9–12

Grief, Christmas, angel, imagination

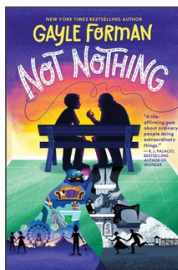
This is the story of Jac, a young boy who loves Christmas time and lives in the small village of Bethlehem with his grandfather. Miraculously, Jac is stunned to meet an angel who bursts out of his mother's advent calendar, offering him his very own wish. His wish? To play Mary in the school's Christmas show. But when Christmas starts to disappear around him, Jac makes a discovery that will change his world forever. This humorous and sensitive coming-of-age story shows how imagination can overcome grief and the dark forces of life.

Dr Daf James is an award-winning playwright, screenwriter, composer and novelist based in Cardiff. His debut novel *Jac a'r Angel* won the Tir na n-Og award and the Wales Book of the Year prize. He is the creator of the successful *Lost Boys & Fairies*, for which he wrote, produced and musically directed. Many of his plays have been performed internationally.

Daf James ylolfa@ylolfa.com

Y Lolfa www.ylolfa.com • ylolfa@ylolfa.com

073



UNITED STATES (English)

Forman, Gayle

Not Nothing

New York: Aladdin, 2024

14x21.5cm, 280pp

ISBN 978-1-6659-4327-7, age: 10+

Retirement home, volunteering, friendship, Holocaust survivor, self-confidence

After committing a crime, twelve-year-old Alex is assigned to volunteer at a senior living center, where his life changes drastically as it entwines with 107-year-old Josey, a Holocaust survivor, and the other residents. As Josey shares his tragic past, Alex confronts his own troubled background and gives Josey, selectively mute after losing his last friend, an opportunity to bear witness to a new generation. Set in a diverse community, this emotional story inspires readers to rise to the occasion of their lives.

Gayle Forman, born in Los Angeles, is a journalist and award-winning author of middle grade and young adult readers. Her book *If I Stay* was adapted into a major motion picture. Her middle-grade novel *Frankie & Bug* was a *New York Times* Best Children's Book of 2021, and *Not Nothing* won the 2025 Jane Addams Peace Association's Children's Book Award. She founded Operation Rise to encourage people to be their best selves.

Gayle Forman suzie@newleafliterary.com

Aladdin www.simonandschuster.net • education.library@simonandschuster.com

074



UZBEKISTAN (Russian)

Muminova, Madina

Strakhi Zakhramakhra, ili Kto vo vsem vinovat?**Страхи Захрамахра, или Кто во всем виноват?**

[Hazardmahr and his fears: Who is to blame for everything]

Ill. Aleksandra Safonova

Tashkent: Asian Book House, 2024

22x22cm, 81pp

ISBN 978-7746-8906-7-6, age: 7–10

Ecology, environment, forest animals

The final book in the ‘Times of Heroes’ series reveals the secret of the chief villain and teaches the importance of cooperation to save the planet. It encourages young readers to adopt daily eco-friendly habits such as saving electricity, sorting waste and planting trees. The story asserts that anyone can become a hero through desire and action.

Madina Muminova is the author of vibrant show projects, theatre productions and the ‘Time of Heroes’ book series, which addresses ocean and air pollution, desertification and forest fires. Her books inspired the “Time of Heroes” children’s eco-movement where participants aged 5 to 15 plant trees, clean litter, sort waste, and take small daily steps to save the planet. This project was nominated for the IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Award for 2026.

Madina Muminova madina0205tv@gmail.com

Asian Book House www.instagram.com/asianbookhouse.uz • asianbookhouse123@gmail.com

075



UZBEKISTAN (Uzbek)

Shermatov, Qobiljon

Buvamning Oshqozonidagi Mamlakat

[A kingdom in my grandpa’s stomach]

Ill. Dilzoda Hamidjonova

Tashkent: Akademnashr Publishing, 2024

24x17cm, 189pp

ISBN 978-9943-6500-5-3, age: 12+

Digital native, growing up, generational relationship, grandparents

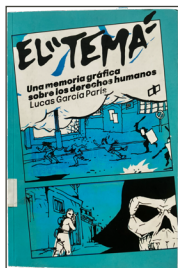
This modern allegorical fable contrasts the digital-age perspectives of youth with the often-ignored wisdom of their elders. Through the protagonist Bahodir’s fantastical journey, the novel critiques materialism, extravagant social customs, and the false equation of wealth with prestige. Blending the philosophical depth of classics with contemporary Uzbek societal issues, this book argues that true dignity arises from knowledge, honesty, and a pure heart.

Qobiljon Shermatov is a prolific young voice in contemporary Uzbek children’s literature. His breakthrough book *The Country in My Aunt’s Stomach* was named ‘Book of the Year’ in 2022, winning a prestigious state prize. His works, infused with patriotism and imagination, are being translated into Turkish, English and Kyrgyz, gaining international recognition.

Qobiljon Shermatov qobilshermatov206@gmail.com

Akademnashr Publishing www.akademnashr.uz/en

info@akademnashr.uz



VENEZUELA (Spanish)

García París, Lucas

El “tema”. Una memoria gráfica sobre violación de derechos humanos

[The “topic”. A graphic memory of human rights violations]

Caracas: Editorial Dahbar, 2023

15x22cm, 136pp

ISBN 978-9804-25-109-2, age: 12+

Venezuela, human rights

This graphic novel, illustrated in two colours, compiles testimonies from an investigative work on human rights violations in Venezuela. It addresses the acute vulnerability of a society where aggression has become everyday, pointing out a collective wound often ignored due to fear. The narrative strength and bold line art create a sensitive object that resonates with national unrest.

Lucas García, born in Caracas in 1973, is the author of the novels *Rocanrol* and *La más fiera de las bestias*, and the illustrated book *Superhéroe*. A graphic design graduate, he has worked as a drawing professor, cartoonist and illustrator for various media. He was an award winner for the Roche 2020 Prize in health journalism for his multimedia special on malaria.

Lucas García París lucas.garcia.paris73@gmail.com

Editorial Dahbar www.editorialdahbar.com • editorialdahbar@gmail.com



077



ARGENTINA

Trillo, Matías

Los peces de mi río

[The fish from my river]

Text by Ema Wolf

Buenos Aires: Primera Sudamericana (Penguin Random House), 2023
20x20cm, 28pp

ISBN 978-950-07-6902-0, age: 7+

River, fish, fantasy creature

A young boy and his grandmother are used to practicing extreme sports. During a canyoning accident, his grandmother's dentures are lost in the river, sparking a fantastical underwater journey. The search reveals marvellous creatures like Palmerín de la Rivera and Astrid, turning a tragedy into an exploration of the river's hidden life. The illustrations are essential to solve the mystery of the missing teeth in a surprising and humorous conclusion.

Matías Trillo is an independent illustrator, teacher and animator, a graduate of the National University of Arts (UNA). He works primarily in literature and has worked on children's content for clients such as Cartoon Network, Penguin Random House and *The Washington Post*. His illustration for *El usurpador de la luna llena* was selected for the 2006 IBBY Honour List, and *Gigantes* received the ALIJA Award in 2011.

Matías Trillo matiastrillo@hotmail.com

Primera Sudamericana www.penguinlibros.com • mariaamelia.macedo@penguinrandomhouse.com

078



ARMENIA

Tumaghyan, Harutyun

Vishapakari Gaghtniqy. Kari Verjy**Վիշապաքարի գաղտնիքը. Քարի վերջը**

[The secret of the dragon stone: The end of the stone]

Text by Artavazd Yeghiazaryan

Yerevan: Antares, 2024

15x21cm, 256pp

ISBN 978-9939-98-279-3, age: 9–14

Fantasy, magic, dragon

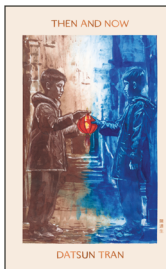
This series follows a young boy named Vahagn and his friends as they discover dragons from Armenian mythology that accidentally come to life. In this sequel, Vahagn attempts to live an ordinary life two years after the dragons' return. When his beloved dragon Vazgen is kidnapped, Vahagn and his friends Areg and Astghik must embark on a daring journey to rescue him and restore the balance between the human and magical worlds, blending courage and friendship in this adventure.

Harutyun Tumaghyan is a conceptual artist and illustrator who has long worked on developing concepts for children's books, interactive educational materials, and creative programs. He has collaborated with publishing houses in Armenia, the Czech Republic, Germany and Ukraine. In 2024, he directed *Sevanik*, an animated film based on his own concept, which debuted at international animation festivals.

Harutyun Tumaghyan haruttumagh@gmail.com

Antares Publishing House www.antares.am • antares@antares.am

079



AUSTRALIA

Tran, Datsun

Then and Now

Merri-Bek: Slingshot Books, 2024

18.2x30cm, 28pp

ISBN 978-0-6459754-0-6, age: 3+

Refugees, immigrants, memory, community

In this debut picture book, Datsun Tran tells his family's story of journeying from Vietnam as refugees. Using vivid ink paintings on mulberry paper, the book contrasts the past (sepia) and the present (blue) to explore the sensory associations of displacement. Originally conceived as a poem, the work honours the difficult decisions refugees make to survive and encourages empathy.

Datsun Tran is a multidisciplinary contemporary artist who combines traditional and modern materials to create ink paintings inspired by classical Chinese brushwork. His work explores themes of conflict, utopia, and the relationship between cultures, filtered through the lens of what we have in common. He has exhibited extensively in Australia, North America, Asia and Europe, and has been a finalist in over 35 art prizes.

Datsun Tran datsuntran@gmail.com

Slingshot Books www.slingshotbooks.com.au • hello@slingshotbooks.com.au

ILLUSTRATION

44

080



AUSTRIA

Völk, Julie

Drachengeburtstag

[Dragon birthday]

Hildesheim: Gerstenberg, 2025

26.5x25cm, 34pp

ISBN 978-3-8369-6315-2, age: 4

Birthday, surprise, dragon

Fred the Dragon prepares for his birthday party, baking a cake and decorating the garden, only to find his friends seem unavailable. However, a huge surprise awaits when all his friends reveal themselves, hidden in the house, ready to celebrate. Richly detailed illustrations convey the joy of planning and the warmth of friendship, offering a playful search game for young readers.

Julie Völk, born in Vienna in 1985, studied illustration at the HAW in Hamburg. A multiple award-winning artist, she has received the Serafina, the Troisdorf Picture Book Award and twice the Austrian Youth Book Award. She lives with her family in Lower Austria.

Julie Völk julie.voelk@gmail.com

Gerstenberg www.gerstenberg-verlag.de • verlag@gerstenberg-verlag.de

081



BELGIUM

Cheveau, Sarah

Nuit de chance

[Lucky night]

Paris: La Partie, 2023

17.5x30cm, 72pp

ISBN 978-2-492768-63-7, age: 4+

Wildlife, forest, illustration/drawing

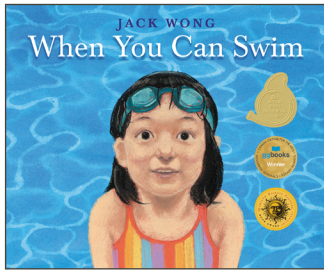
A brave child ventures into the forest at night, encountering squirrels, hares, badgers and deer before a surprising meeting with a wild boar. The book explores charcoal-making and presents a wood colour chart, inviting readers to discover the richness of the technique through the pages. The story combines an enchanting walk with educational insights into artistic materials.

Sarah Cheveau is an artist, author and illustrator who studied at the Erg (École de Recherche Graphique) in Brussels. A member of the Cuistax collective of illustrators, she has published several titles including *Sissi* and *Le Martinet*. Her album *Nuit de chance* won the IBBY Belgium Francophone Belgian Album Prize and the Carrément Sorcières fiction prize in 2024.

Sarah Cheveau sarah.cheveau@gmail.com

La Partie www.lapartie.fr • fanny.vergnes@lapartie.fr

082



CANADA

Wong, Jack

When You Can Swim

New York: Orchard Books (Scholastic), 2023

27.94x22.86cm, 42pp

ISBN 978-1-338-83096-5, age: 4–8

Swimming, joy, adventure, nature

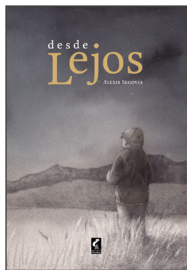
This reverent celebration of learning to swim features diverse children experiencing the mysterious joys of water in nature. Through expansive vignettes of sandpipers, lakes and waterfalls, the book empowers readers to overcome their fears of the water. It invites children into the warmth of the natural world, highlighting the joyous lessons nature teaches through its beauty.

Jack Wong was born in Hong Kong and raised in Vancouver, where he now lives. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. Drawing from his lived experience of his grandmother who swam in the rivers of Borneo and his mother forbidden to swim in China, he has created a poetic modern classic that fills readers with wonder and confidence.

Jack Wong jackytkw@gmail.com

Scholastic Canada www.scholastic.ca • mmaclagan@scholastic.ca

083



CHILE

Segovia, Alexis

Desde lejos

[From far away]

Santiago: Claraboya ediciones, 2024

18x26cm, 44pp

ISBN 978-956-9825-43-9, age: 8

Country life, child labour, loneliness

A boy playing in the field encounters a visitor who has come to speak to his parents, marking the beginning of a new stage in his life in Patagonia. This book addresses the issue of child labour and opens a conversation about children's rights. Through visual storytelling, it transforms the protagonist's childhood against the backdrop of the southern landscape.

Alexis Segovia, born in Coyhaique in 1988, is a visual artist, teacher, illustrator and author. His work highlights themes of territory, nature and heritage using analog-digital techniques. His debut book *Desde lejos* won the 2025 Colibrí Medal, awarded by IBBY Chile, and was selected for the *White Ravens* 2025 catalogue. He participated in the Chilean delegation at the 2025 Bologna Children's Book Fair.

Alexis Segovia alsegoviaolguin@gmail.com

Claraboya ediciones www.claraboyaediciones.com

valeria@claraboyaediciones.com

084



CHINA

Shao, Xiaoyu

Jiu shen lu huibenguan: Jiu se lu 九神鹿绘本馆: 九色鹿

[Dunhuang story picture books: Nine-coloured deer]

Text by Dun Tan

Beijing: China Children's Press & Publication Group, 2025

35x26cm, 46pp

ISBN 978-7-5148-9244-4, age: 6+

China, Dunhuang, wall painting, buddhism, folk tale, deer, helpfulness, betrayal

Inspired by Dunhuang mural art, this story follows a kind-hearted deer king who saves a drowning man, only to be betrayed for personal gain. The deer king eventually teaches the man a lesson with righteous power. Employing digital hand-drawing to mimic traditional craftsmanship, the illustrations adhere to the aesthetic principles of murals, combining scroll-style layouts with modern picture book techniques.

Xiaoyu Shao graduated from the Department of Chinese Painting at the Academy of Arts and Design, Tsinghua University, in 2005. Since 2016, she has created illustrations for magazines, books, films and games. Her works have been selected multiple times for the Bologna Children's Book Fair and have won the Bing Xin Children's Book Award and the Gold Award at the China Biennial of Printing Art Design.

Xiaoyu Shao 1143523235@qq.com

China Children's Press & Publication Group www.ccppg.com.cn/en • wangchunchen@ccppg.com.cn

085



COLOMBIA

Díaz Consuegra, Carlos Manuel

En un río

[In a river]

Bogotá: Editorial Gato Malo, 2025

17.5x23.5cm, 48pp

ISBN 978-958-56996-6-3, age: 6

River, travel, wordless book

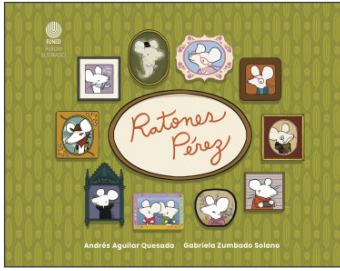
A canoe glides down a river, trading fish at a market before returning home. As it docks, the illustration texture shifts, revealing the canoe is actually embroidery on a handbag in a craft store. This wordless book is a clever play on perspectives, masterfully conveying the river's motion and the vibrant life flowing along it through delicate visual storytelling.

Carlos Manuel Díaz Consuegra was born in Bogotá in 1973. A graphic designer and illustrator, he has worked on personal projects and publications for the past ten years. His artistic influences include music, cinema, photography and architecture. He has illustrated several books including *Tears of Angels* and *Martina and the Letter from Monk Yukio*.

Carlos Manuel Díaz Consuegra carlosdiazconsuegra@gmail.com

Editorial GatoMalo www.editorialgatomalo.com • editorialgatomalo@yahoo.com

086



COSTA RICA
Zumbado Solano, Gabriela

Ratones Pérez

[The Perez mice]

Text by Andrés Aguilar Quesada

San José: Editorial Universidad Estatal a Distancia (EUNED), 2023

23x18cm, 119pp

ISBN 978-9968-04-096-9, age: 8+

Mouse, teeth

Ratón Pérez is famous for collecting children's baby teeth, but he cannot handle the millions of teeth lost by boxers, the elderly and skaters alone. Fortunately, tooth collecting is a tradition passed down through the Pérez clan. The story expands the myth to include all who lose teeth, celebrating this peculiar and generational family business.

Gabriela Zumbado Solano, born in San José in 1996, is a Costa Rican illustrator and designer. Her drawings have appeared in books such as *El nido rojo* and *Sereno*. Her work has been featured in exhibitions in Tokyo, Buenos Aires and San José. She currently lives and draws in Tokyo, Japan.

Gabriela Zumbado Solano gsolorzano@uned.ac.cr

Editorial de la Universidad Estatal a Distancia (EUNED) www.editorial.uned.ac.cr • dgarro@uned.ac.cr

087



CROATIA

Tintor, Hana

Gdje se skriva Vedran?

[Where is Vedran hiding?]

Text by Iva Bezinović-Haydon

Zagreb: Ibis grafika, 2022

21x26cm, 31pp

ISBN 978-953-363-068-7, age: 5+

Grief, confidence

This touching story addresses the loss of a child and the process of grieving through everyday situations. The fluent and simple text conveys a difficult story, but created with colors, memories, and simple artistic solutions, this picture book emphasizes the inner experience and intimacy of grief. Through illustrations without visible borders, this book reminds readers that love remains infinite even after death.

Hana Tintor, born in Zagreb in 1992, studied at the Faculty of Architecture before completing an MA in Illustration and Book Arts at the Cambridge School of Art. She has illustrated several dozen picture books for Croatian and foreign publishers since 2019. A freelance illustrator and animator, she leads workshops and draws inspiration from everyday life, nature and people.

Hana Tintor tintor.hana@gmail.com

Ibis grafika www.ibis-grafika.hr • info@ibis.grafika.hr

ILLUSTRATION

48

088



CYPRUS

Tsigaridou, Elena

Posa metra einai o kosmos mas ποσα μετρα ειναι ο κοσμος μας

[How many meters is our world?]

Text by Sandy Antoniou

Athens: Kaleidoscope Publications, 2024

24x22cm, 59pp

ISBN 978-960-471-168-0, age: 9+

Cyprus, Adamantios Diamantis, painter, artist

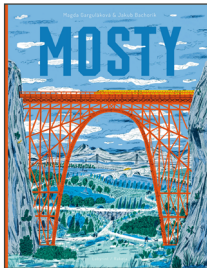
In 1972, painter Adamantios Diamantis completed a 17.5-meter panorama titled *The World of Cyprus*, depicting dozens of figures and preserving the island's history. This book steps into the painter's studio to meet his friends, including poet George Seferis and archaeologist Porphyrios Dikaios. As a little girl searches for her missing friend, the monumental painting comes to life, bridging memory and reality.

Elena Tsigaridou, born in 1980, is a Cypriot visual artist whose work explores identity and memory. A graduate of the Accademia di Belle Arti in Rome, she works in painting and mixed media, exhibiting internationally in New York, Brussels, Rome, Athens, and Dubai. She received the *Madame Figaro* Creator of the Year Award in 2018 and major national art prizes.

Elena Tsigaridou etsigaridou@gmail.com

Kaleidoscope Publications www.kaleidoscope.gr • info@kaleidoscope.gr

089



CZECH REP

Bachorík, Jakub

Mosty

[Bridges]

Text by Magda Garguláková

Prague, Czech Rep.: Labyrint, 2024

24.5x31.5cm, 72pp

ISBN 978 8086 80 392 0, age: 7+

Bridges

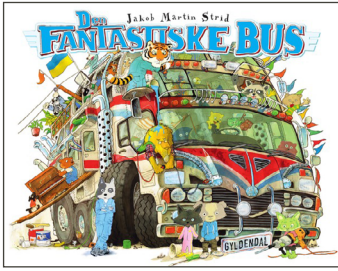
This large illustrated book tells the stories of over seventy bridges, from the Golden Gate to Charles Bridge, explaining their construction and historical significance. Using infographics, comics and panoramic spreads, the illustrations take readers on an energetic tour of these structures. The masterful balance of stylisation and descriptiveness creates a unique book that shares the authors' enthusiasm for engineering and art.

Jakub Bachorík, born in 1994 in Prostějov, is an illustrator and musician who studied at the Illustration and Graphic Design Studio at UMPRUM, where he now teaches. He devotes himself to book illustration, poster design and comics, often exploring science fiction, motorsports, and strange worlds, and is fascinated by space and technology.

Jakub Bachorík jacobbachorik@gmail.com

Labyrint www.labyrint.net • labyrint@labyrint.net

090



DENMARK

Strid, Jakob Martin

Den fantastiske bus

[The Incredible Bus]

Copenhagen: Gyldendal, 2023

30.2x38.8cm, 202pp

ISBN 978-87-02-15209-8, age: 5–9

Adventure, travel, utopia

In a post-atomic era, animal friends flee the polluted Ahnstar City for the promised land of Balanka. They build a fantastic bus with 10 wheels and 18,500 horsepower, journeying 100,000 kilometres through spectacular landscapes in order to find the mythical saffron lily to cure their gravely ill friend Timo, while also freeing Taku's father from a wicked reptile-octopus dictator along the way. The story emphasizes themes of cooperation, hope, and resilience in the face of oppression.

Jakob Martin Strid, born in 1972, began his career with satirical comic strips and is now one of Denmark's most beloved children's authors. Known for blending poetic, visual, and written language with humor and anti-authoritarian themes, he cultivates wildly imaginative universes filled with cultural references ranging from Metallica to politics. *The Incredible Bus*, weighing 2.5 kilos, is his masterpiece, resulting from 15 years of preparation.

Jakob Martin Strid lhj@gyldendal.dk

Gyldendal www.gyldendal.dk • lhj@gyldendal.dk

091



DOMINICAN REP.

Cuesta Mier, Ilemi

Alegría

[Happiness]

Text by Virginia Read Escobal

Oviedo: Pintar-Pintar Editorial, 2025

22.5x26.5cm, 30pp

ISBN 978-84-129515-8-5, age: 9–12

Dominican Republic, slavery, liberation, memory

Amidst the scents of coconut, cinnamon, and molasses in the kitchen, this book holds stories of Caribbean families, traditional sweets, and the strength of those who turned their lives after slavery into resistance and celebration. The illustrations evoke the memory that sustains *Alegría*, blending heritage with historical resilience.

Ilemi Cuesta Mier, an illustrator from Asturias, discovered her love for drawing in childhood. As an adult, she finds freedom and play in illustration, passionate about creating characters and telling stories for young readers. Her work *Xosefa de Xovellanos* was selected among the best published books by the Ministry of Culture of Spain in 2020.

Ilemi Cuesta Mier ilemicuesta@gmail.com

Pintar-Pintar Editorial www.pintar-pintar.com • info@pintar-pintar.com

ILLUSTRATION

50

092



ECUADOR
Chaves, Guido

Ella

[She]

Quito: Loqueleo (Santillana), 2025

22x22cm, 39pp

ISBN 978-9942-31-910-4, age: 4–5

Rain, nature

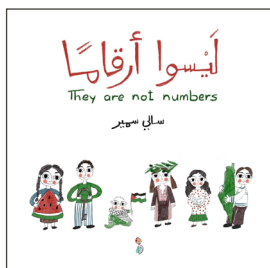
This picture book pays tribute to the rain, showing how living beings react to its arrival through poetic imagery. Rather than a linear story, it offers a sensory experience that celebrates the beauty of the everyday and the transformative power of water. The book encourages a deeper appreciation for simplicity, the small moments that shape our lives, and provides a subtle glimpse into the life of the *campesino*, emphasizing a deep respect for the land.

Guido Chaves, born in Guaranda in 1976, studied Fine Arts at the Central University of Ecuador and has worked as a professional illustrator since 2000. He has contributed to numerous educational projects and illustrated many children's books, receiving multiple awards within Ecuador. He also writes and illustrates his own books, establishing himself as an expressive voice in visual and narrative storytelling.

Guido Chaves guidochavesl@gmail.com

Loqueleo www.loqueleo.com/ec • guidochavesl@gmail.com

093



EGYPT

Samir, Sally

Laysu Arkaman ليسوا أرقامًا

[They are not numbers]

Cairo: Dar Marah, 2024

23x22cm, 48pp

ISBN 978-977-9675-30-5, age: 5–8

War, death, Palestine, Gaza, bilingual book

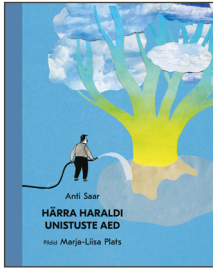
This book presents drawings of live scenes from the Israeli aggression on Gaza, highlighting the human dimension of war beyond dry statistics. By giving heroes a voice instead of reducing them to numbers, the illustrations accompanied by bilingual descriptions bear witness to the reality of the conflict. It is a visual testament to the individuals behind the headlines.

Sally Samir is an Egyptian visual artist and children's book illustrator who graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Cairo in 2011. She has illustrated around 30 children's books for publishers inside and outside Egypt. In 2022, she received the State Encouragement Award, and her book *Where, Moon?* won the best design award at the Lebanon International Book Fair. She also received the Mahmoud Kahil Award (Lebanon) in the category of editorial and illustrative cartoons.

Sally Samir Sallysamir215@gmail.com

Dar Marah www.marahbooks.com • marahpublishinghouse@gmail.com

094



ESTONIA

Plats, Marja-Liisa

Härja Haraldi unistuste aed

[Mr Harald's dream garden]

Text by Anti Saar

Tartu: Kolm elu, 2024

21.6x26.6cm, 34pp

ISBN 978-9916-9832-4-9, age: 6+

Dream, mindfulness

Mr Harald tends a lush garden where he grows dreams: some old and overgrown, others frail and needing care. Amidst this kaleidoscope grows a single ordinary pear tree, which blooms every spring, and of which he dreams of having a good harvest. The illustrations experiment with a broad range of visual techniques to depict this inquisitive world of dreaming and mindfulness.

Marja-Liisa Plats, born in 1984, is an illustrator, graphic designer and photographer who graduated from Tartu Art College. She has illustrated more than 50 children's books and regularly contributes to the magazine *Täheke*. Listed in the *White Ravens* catalogue three times, she has received the Edgar Valter Illustration Award and participated in the Bologna Children's Book Fair Illustrators Exhibition and the Bologna BRAW.

Marja-Liisa Plats marjaplats@gmail.com

Kolm elu www.kolmelu.ee/en/in-short • shalomsalar@gmail.com

095



ETHIOPIA

Negussie, Nahosenay

Web helemoç ወብ ህልሞች

[Beautiful dreams]

Text by Ellenore & Leyla Angelidis/Seattle: Open Hearts Big Dreams 2023

23x22cm, 36pp

ISBN 978-6277-68-538-6, age: 6–8

Ethiopia, horse, music, dream, bilingual book

Featuring the internationally renowned artwork of Nahosenay Negussie, this book follows a child dreaming of a life filled with music and horses. The detailed prints embody the beauty of the beautiful horses, people, and art of Ethiopia. The story reminds the child that they can do big things in this amazing world, blending myth and serenity.

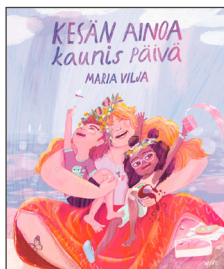
Nahosenay Negussie is a renowned artist whose work has been featured in the National Museum of Ethiopia. His richly detailed paintings with gilded details explore the space where myths and dreams collide, creating idealized representations of joy, while also commenting on the vast problems of contemporary society. He was part of the original group experimenting with prototypes for the Open Hearts Big Dreams project of Ready Set Go Books.

Nahosenay Negussie nahosenaynegussie@gmail.com

Open Hearts Big Dreams www.openheartbigdreams.org

info@openheartbigdreams.org

096



FINLAND
Vilja, Maria

Kesän ainoa kaunis päivä

[The only beautiful day of the summer]

Helsinki: Werner Söderström Osakeyhtiö (WSOY), 2024

22.4x22.6cm, 36pp

ISBN 978-951-0-50162-7, age: 3–6

Siblings, emotions

Eila and Aarno's family trek begins with high expectations but descends into chaos when Aarno starts action out, the camera breaks and Mother loses her temper. Through hazy illustrations that resemble memories, the book depicts both joy and tears, sunshine and thunderclouds. It conveys the message that everyone, children and adults alike, has the right to experience the full range of emotions.

Maria Vilja, born in 1986, is an illustrator and art pedagogue with a background in social work. She writes and illustrates the series *The Invisible Backpack*, dealing with the life of a sensitive child. Nominated for the Finlandia Prize and the Nordic Council's Literature Prize, she is also a winner of the Punni award.

Maria Vilja maria.vilja@gmail.com

Werner Söderström Osakeyhtiö www.wsoy.fi • essi.kytohonka@wsoy.fi

097



FRANCE

Ricq, Isabelle

Encore un plouf !

[Another splash!]

Paris: Seuil jeunesse, 2024

20x15cm, 24pp

ISBN 979-10-235-2034-7, age: 0–3

Pets, wildlife, water, play

Bath time becomes an underwater adventure when a little boy dives into a world of playful sea creatures. The book's wide format and calendar-style opening allow readers to follow his journey page by page, flipping the book over to climb back out to reality. Combining photography with drawing, the story bridges the gap between the real world and the imaginative depths found in a simple bath.

Isabelle Ricq graduated from Gobelins, l'école de l'image in Paris in 2003. Originally a documentary photographer, she now employs photography to depict reality, occasionally incorporating drawing into her images. Her work cleverly explores illusion and the manifestation of imagination in everyday life.

Isabelle Ricq isa.alex.ricq@gmail.com

Seuil Jeunesse www.seuiljeunesse.com • amarin@seuil.com

098



GERMANY

Rassmus, Jens

Regentag

[Rainy day]

Wuppertal: Peter Hammer Verlag, 2024

22.3x25.1cm, 64pp

ISBN 978-3-7795-0726-0, age: 4+

Imagination, rain, wordless book

When rain cancels a cycling trip, a brother and sister conquer boredom by conjuring mountains, flying beetles and giants from their imaginations. Black and white outlines depict the reality of the children's room, while bold acrylic colours unfold a wide world of make-believe. This wordless book visually celebrates the diversity of children's play, showing how imagination brightens even the gloomiest day.

Jens Rasmus, born in Kiel, studied illustration in Hamburg and Dundee. His first book was published in 1997, and he has since received numerous awards for his humorous stories about dreams and adventures. Nominated twice for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, he has been a lecturer in illustration at the Muthesius Academy of Fine Arts since 2014.

Jens Rasmus jens.rasmus@freenet.de

Peter Hammer Verlag www.peter-hammer-verlag.de • cputz@peter-hammer-verlag.de

099



GREECE

Bouloubasis, Petros

O Tharroyfylakas **Ο θαρροφύλακας**

[The bravekeeper]

Text by Dionisis Stathakopoulos

Athens: Desyllas, 2024

24.5x28cm, 34pp

ISBN 978-618-5568-91-7, age: 3–7

Self-confidence, self-awareness, courage

Little Remy asks where courage goes when it is lost, and plunges into a magical world where he meets the Bravekeeper, a gentle guardian of bravery, who helps him find the strength he thought he'd lost. The story reveals that courage is never truly lost but hides beneath fear, waiting to be remembered. Through vibrant and emotive artwork, the book encourages children to trust their inner light and find strength within themselves.

Petros Bouloubasis, born in Athens, is a renowned Greek illustrator celebrated for his vibrant artwork. A graduate of the Graphic Design Department of the Technological Educational Institute of Athens, his illustrations have been exhibited and published worldwide. He received Greece's National Illustration Award in 2007 and was recognised by the Greek Section of IBBY in 2025 for his work on *The Bravekeeper*.

Petros Bouloubasis petros.bouloubasis@gmail.com

Desyllas www.desyllas.gr • anastasis@desyllasgames.gr

100



HUNGARY

Máray, Mariann

Elérhetetlen

[Untouchable]

Budapest: Csimota, 2024

24x20.4cm, 29pp

ISBN 978-615-6472-30-4, age: 5+

Autism, syndrome, isolation, wordless book

This wordless picture book explores the world of autism, our relationships, and our boundaries through images that evoke feelings and memories difficult to express in words. It portrays a shell that both protects and excludes, asking where two worlds might meet. Readers of all ages are invited to write their own stories based on the pictures, which are full of capturing details, funny creatures and witty humour.

Mariann Máray is a visual artist and author based in Budapest, working in illustration and painting. Her artwork has been exhibited at the Bologna Children's Book Fair and she was a finalist in the Silent Book Contest. Recipient of the Compostela Prize in 2019 and named Illustrator of the Year in 2025, she has illustrated over 25 books that have also been translated into multiple languages.

Mariann Máray regifoxmariann@gmail.com

Csimota www.csimota.hu • dora@csimota.hu

101



ICELAND

Hjálmtýsdóttir, Lóa Hlín

Mamma sandkaka

[Sponge cake mom]

Reykjavík: Salka, 2024

20.5x28.5cm, 50pp

ISBN 978-9935-516-71-8, age: 5–9

Holiday, adventure

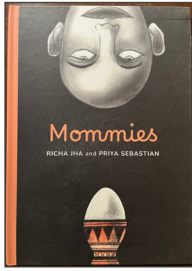
Dalia is on vacation in Tenerife with her dad, but she is bored by his desire to relax on the beach. Determined to explore the island's activities, she finds two partners in crime to join her adventures. The story humorously contrasts the adult need for rest with a child's boundless energy and curiosity.

Lóa Hlín Hjálmtýsdóttir is an artist working in visual arts, writing, singing and comedy. She has received nominations and awards for her children's books, including the Icelandic Literature Prize, the Nordic Council Children's Book Prize and the Reykjavík Children's Book Prize. Her work spans multiple creative fields, blending humour with visual storytelling.

Lóa Hlín Hjálmtýsdóttir loa@fmbelfast.com

Salka www.salka.is • salka@salka.is

102



INDIA

Sebastian, Priya

Mommies

Text by Richa Jha

Greater Noida: Pickle Yolk Books, 2024

22x30cm, 34pp

ISBN 978-81-948592-6-0, age: 3+

Mother, identity

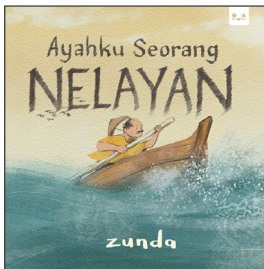
This book presents the many kinds of mothers, their choices and character, challenging conventional views that reduce them to stereotypical, gendered roles. Through powerful monochromatic compositions and restrained colour, the illustrations encourage readers to question social norms and celebrate diversity. It is a visual exploration of identity, choice and character in motherhood.

Priya Sebastian, who holds a master's degree in illustration from Queensland College of Art, lives in Bangalore. Her work is distinguished by charcoal and pastel on fine paper, creating atmospheric compositions. With over two decades of experience illustrating for major magazines and newspapers, she considers interacting with nature and recording experiences in visual journals integral to her practice. *Mommies* was selected as one of the 100 Outstanding Books of 2024 by dPictus.

Priya Sebastian priya.sebastian@gmail.com

Pickle Yolk Books www.pickleyolkbooks.com • richa@pickleyolkbooks.com

103



INDONESIA

Zunda

Ayahku Seorang Nelayan

[My father is a fisherman]

Yogyakarta: Penerbit Hujan & Bumi (HuMi), 2024

27x27cm, 41pp

ISBN 978-623-10-0406-2, age: 6+

Single father, fisherman, son, admiration, love

As the sun rises, a fisherman's son helps his father prepare the boat before setting out to sea, admiring the rough, weathered skin of his father's hands. This simple, heartfelt story captures the warmth and affection between father and son against the backdrop of Indonesia's thousand islands. The illustrations reflect the humble yet meaningful way of life of Indonesian fishing families.

Zunda (Naidi Atika Zundaro), born in 1995, is an illustrator based in Indonesia. She studied Visual Communication Design in Bandung Institute of Technology and later received an M.A. in Children's Book Illustration at Cambridge School of Arts at Anglia Ruskin University. Her book *Sultan Kecil Mencari Rempah* won first place in the Spice and Maritime Culture category in 2021. *Ayahku Seorang Nelayan* received the Best Indonesian Children's Literature Award in 2024.

Zunda (Naidi Atika Zundaro) naidiatikazundaro@gmail.com

Penerbit Hujan & Bumi www.heihumi.id • hei.humi@gmail.com

104



IRAN

Tahmasebi, Maryam

Haale Hale Hoole هاله هاله هولوله

Text by Mehdi Rajabi

Tehran: TUTI Books (Fatemi Publishing), 2024

16.5x27cm, 36pp

ISBN 978-622-7564-36-5, age: 6+

Food, diet, cooking, creativity

Jane loves junk food so much that she even mixes and matches different junk food to create new made-up dishes, until one day she finds an invitation to a junk food contest. Through a fun narrative and colorful illustrations, the story encourages children to think about their dietary choices and the effects of what they eat. It blends humor with a gentle lesson on health.

Maryam Tahmasebi, born in 1993 in Tehran, is a freelance illustrator and designer who graduated in Visual Communication from the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Tehran. Her career began in 2013 with children's magazines, and she has since illustrated picture books published internationally in multiple languages. Her work has been recognised with the Little Black Fish Award from the Children's Book Council of Iran and selections at the Belgrade Illustration Festival.

Maryam Tahmasebi maryamtahmasebi23@gmail.com

TUTI Books www.tutibooks.com • rights@tutibooks.com

105



IRELAND

Crossley, Aileen

An Áit nEitlíonn na Madaí Crainn

[Where the tree dogs fly]

Gaoth Dobhair: Éabhloid, 2025

23.2x32.8cm, 26pp

ISBN 978-1-914482-26-7, age: 4–8

Sadness, nature, healing

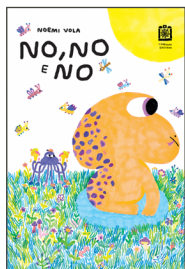
Molly, overwhelmed by the virtual world, is visited by Lus na mBan Sí and taken on a magical journey back into nature. This Irish-language picture book uses handmade lithographic prints to remind us of the beauty of the natural world and its ability to put our minds at ease. With a limited colour palette and surreal nature-creatures, the book offers a simple yet emotional story of healing.

Aileen Crossley is an award-winning author, illustrator and animator from Dublin, whose practice is rooted in analogue fine art printmaking and animation. Her stop-motion animation *Wishing Well* won two Irish Design Awards in 2018. Published in 2025, *An Áit nEitlíonn na Madaí Crainn* was her Illustration Masters project, made fully from lithographs at the Black Church Print Studio and acquired by NCAD's rare book collection.

Aileen Crossley aileen.crossley@gmail.com

Éabhloid www.eabhloid.com • eolas@eabhloid.com

106



ITALY

Vola, Noemi

No, no e no

[No, no and no]

Mantua: Corraini Edizioni, 2024

19.5x28cm, 34pp

ISBN 979-12-5493-120-2, age: 4+

Friendship, frog, spider, nature, individuality

Relationships are not always easy and mutual. Every day, Spider tirelessly offers friendship, help and ice cream to Frog, who responds with endless 'no's. Spider collects these rejections and studies them, until a tornado sweeps them away, opening the door to new encounters. This tender and funny story uses a cheerful colour palette to explore relationship difficulties, teaching that one frog's rejection shouldn't stop us from finding new friends.

Noemi Vola, born in 1993, is an Italian author and illustrator working in children's publishing since 2017, collaborating with Italian and foreign publishing houses and doing lectures and workshops. Her books have won the Chen Bochui International Children's Literature Award and the 'Nati per leggere' national award. They've also been selected for the Bologna Children's Book Fair and for the "Outstanding Picturebooks" exhibition curated by dPICTUS at the Frankfurt Book Fair.

Noemi Vola volanoemi@gmail.com

Corraini Edizioni www.corraini.com • info@corraini.com

107



JAPAN

The Cabin Company

Gama senbiki iwana senbiki ガマ千びきイワナ千びき

[1000 toads and 1000 spawning charr]

Text by Ippei Mogami

Tokyo: Bunkeido, 2025

22x26cm, 36pp

ISBN 978-4-7999-0552-4, age: 9+

Charr fish, toad, waterfall, willpower, perseverance

Gama the toad befriends Iwana the charr fish, who repeatedly fails to climb a waterfall but never gives up. Gama joins forces with Iwana and, on a stormy day, Iwana succeeds in climbing the raging water while Gama hops along the land to follow. At the top, they discover 1000 toads and 1000 charr fish, celebrating their shared triumph. Dynamic full-page illustrations of this creative team capture the full range of their emotions.

The Cabin Company is an art unit consisting of Kentaro Abe and Saki Yoshioka, formed in 2009, that creates picture books in Japan. Graduates of Oita University, they work in a closed school as an atelier. Their book *Gakko ni maniawanai* was listed in *The White Ravens* in 2023. Their book, *Yuyake ni tokete iku*, won the 1st Picture Book Nippon Award in 2024. Their artwork has featured on the Children's Book Week poster for three consecutive years.

The Cabin Company thecabincompany629@gmail.com

Bunkeido www.bunkei.co.jp/books • t-book@bunkei.co.jp

ILLUSTRATION

58

108



KOREA (REP. OF)

Kim, Dong-soo

Oneurui hal il **오늘의 할 일**

[To-do-list]

Paju: Changbi Publishers, 2024

23.5x23.5cm, 64pp

ISBN 978-89-364-2933-1, age: 4+

Water pollution, water spirits, environmental damage

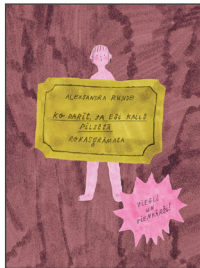
A child is picking up litter while playing by the water, where they meet a water demon who asks for help. The water demon must work to purify the polluted water and asks the child to care for the baby water demons while they go to work. This act of caregiving unfolds as play, and once finished, the child returns to shore, cleans the shore a little more, and heads home satisfied. Created with thin rice paper and paint, the luminous collages integrate multiple perspectives and amplify the importance of care in living in harmony with nature.

Kim Dong-soo, born in 1978, won the Grand Prize at the 2001 Korea Publishing Art Competition for her picture book *How I Caught a Cold*. Her book *To Do List* won the 65th Korea Book Award, and she has been nominated as the Korean candidate for the 2026 Hans Christian Andersen Award. Using traditional Eastern materials, she captures children's care for nature and innate sense of justice and reinterprets it through a contemporary lens.

Dong-soo Kim snata78@naver.com

Changbi Publishers www.changbi.com • noma@changbi.com

109



LATVIA

Runde, Aleksandra

Ko darīt, ja esi kails pilsētā

[What to do if you are naked in a city]

Riga, Latvia: Jānis Roze, 2023

18.1x13.5cm, 52pp

ISBN 978-9984-23-960-6, age: 7+

Nudity, shame, behaviour

This illustrated manual turns the universal and comedic nightmare of being naked in public into a playful survival guide. It offers 23 creative strategies to manage the situation, from using humor to defuse tension to improvising a cover-up with confidence. Part self-help and part comedy, the book reminds readers that sometimes the best way to face fear and shame is with a smile and a touch of imagination.

Aleksandra Runde, born in 1995, studied Graphic Arts at the Art Academy of Latvia and specialised in printmaking and illustration in Kraków and Rome. She enjoys both expressive brush strokes and delicate pencil lines. Her debut picture book won the Bologna Ragazzi Award 2024 in the Opera Prima category and multiple Latvian awards. A winner of the 2023 Bologna Illustrators Exhibition, she has illustrated over 10 books for publishers in Latvia and Sweden.

Aleksandra Runde ale.rund@gmail.com

Jānis Roze www.jr.lv • apgads@jr.lv

110



LEBANON

Al Robaie, Hussein

Al Dinosaur Al Kabeer الديناصور الكبير

[The big dinosaur]

Text by Samar Qanawi

Beirut: Dar Asala, 2024

20x28cm, 24pp

ISBN 978-9953-95-564-3, age: 6–8

Friendship, acceptance, kindness

A large green dinosaur lives peacefully by a small blue lake until a strange visitor reveals a dangerous secret. This story explores themes of self-love, acceptance and problem-solving, particularly for children with additional needs. Through expressive illustrations, it addresses how friendship can help overcome unexpected challenges.

Hussein Al Robaie, born in Beirut in 1994, has worked in children's book illustration since 2012. He views drawing as an expressive language to communicate with children and drive their development. He has illustrated about eighty books and participated in many Arab magazines, seeking to achieve cultural communication through his art.

Hussein Al Robaie asala_publishers@yahoo.com

Dar Asala www.asalapublishers.com • asala_publishers@yahoo.com

111



LITHUANIA

Itagaki, Lina

Mergaitė su šautuvu. Istorija apie mergaitę partizanę

[A girl with a gun: a story of a girl partisan]

Text by Marius Marcinkevičius

Kaunas, Lithuania: Misteris Pinkmanas, 2023

19.5x24cm, 218pp

ISBN 978 6099 62 956 8, age: 7–12

Lithuania, USSR, partisans, military occupation, independence, graphic novel

This graphic novel tells the fictionalised story of Maggie, a girl who joins a partisan group hiding in a forest bunker after her family is deported to Siberia during the Soviet occupation of Lithuania. Guided by her teacher, the group leader, Maggie confronts her fears and grief while participating in the resistance. Based on witness memories, the illustrations bring an inspiring tale of action and survival to life.

Lina Itagaki, born in 1979, is an illustrator, comics artist and publisher. After studying international economy in Japan, she learned graphic art in Vilnius in her 30s. She has illustrated 10 books since 2017, mostly based on real history, including the highly awarded *Siberian Haiku*. In 2022, she co-founded the publishing house 'Misteris Pinkmanas'.

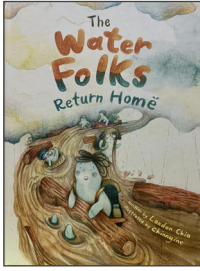
Lina Itagaki linaitagaki@gmail.com

Misteris Pinkmanas www.pinkmanas.com • mr.pinkmanas@gmail.com

ILLUSTRATION

60

112



MALAYSIA

Chinnyinc

The Water Folks Return Home

Text by Chia, Landon

Shah Alam: Gasing Buku, 2023

21x28cm, 36pp

ISBN 978-629-97381-2-1, age: 5–9

Deforestation, flood, environmental damage

After a holiday in the skies, the Water Folk return to Earth only to find their homes, the towering trees, completely gone. With nowhere to stay, they set off on a long journey to find their way back home. They encounter the Human Folk, and their meeting unexpectedly triggers a great flood. Through this imaginative tale, this picture book personifies water to mirror human life, exploring how careless human actions disrupt nature's balance. It is a reminder of our connection with the natural world and the need to live in harmony with it.

Chinnyinc (Chua Chinn Yin), a Malaysian artist from Kluang, graduated from the Cambridge School of Art with an MA in Children's Book Illustration. Preferring to tell stories through brush strokes rather than words, she addresses social and environmental issues in her work. Her illustrations reflect a deep concern for nature and the consequences of human intervention.

Chinnyinc chuachinnyin@gmail.com

Gasing Buku gasingbuku@gmail.com

113



MONGOLIA

Erdenebayar, Misheel

Tsetserlegt yu boldog ve? Цэцэрлэгт юу болдог вэ?

[Kindergarten, here I come!]

Text by Enkhjargal Banzragch

Ulaanbaatar: Nomt Boljmor Publishing, 2023

21x21.5cm, 46pp

ISBN 978-9919-0-1588-6, age: 0–6

Everyday life, childhood, animals

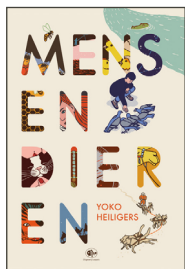
This gentle picture book helps young children emotionally prepare for starting kindergarten with the help of playful animal characters. It introduces the emotional and practical aspects of the transition, promoting new routines and fostering understanding of differences. Designed for reading aloud, it supports children aged 6 months and up in navigating this major milestone.

Misheel Erdenebayar is a Mongolian illustrator, author and founder of Geren, a publishing house and picture book store. She hosts the Geren Picture Book Club and records podcasts on illustration and storytelling. Using digital tools, collage and watercolour, she creates textured imagery. She completed a Children's Book Creating Fellowship with The Asia Foundation in 2023.

Misheel Erdenebayar mish.erdenebayar@gmail.com

Nomt Boljmor Publishing www.facebook.com/eBoljmor • eboljmor@gmail.com

114



NETHERLANDS

Heiligers, Yoko

Mensendieren

[Peoplesanimals]

Arnhem: Uitgeverij Loopvis, 2023

20.7x21.4cm, 52pp

ISBN 978-90-832630-1-4, age: 6+

Animals, humans

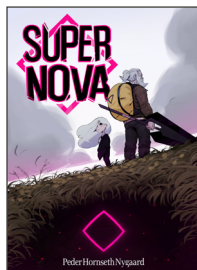
Some animals are pets to us, some we eat and others we admire at the zoo. Inspired by vintage school wall charts, this book presents an alphabetical collection of animals structured around different human-animal relationships. With a limited colour palette and inventive transitions, it explores how animals are intertwined with human lives.

Yoko Heiligers, born in 1983, was educated at the ArtEZ Arts Academy. Her project *Mensendieren* was selected for The Unpublished Picture Book Showcase by dPICTUS with the highest number of publisher votes. Nominated for the European Design Awards and the IBBY Honour List, she aims to share her fascination with the multifaceted relationship between people and animals.

Yoko Heiligers yokoheiligers@gmail.com

Uitgeverij Loopvis www.loopvis.nl • info@loopvis.nl

115



NORWAY

Hornseth Nygaard, Peder

Supernova

Oslo: TNT (Bonnier Norsk Forlag), 2025

17x26cm, 196pp

ISBN 978-82-347-2267-7, age: 9–16

Graphic novel, dystopia, friendship

In a distant future, humanity survives only by harvesting blood from mysterious creatures called Makinas. Hunter Finn tracks these beings in the Death Zone until he encounters Nova, a mysterious girl who shares his fondness for cinnamon sticks. As they bond, Nova's vague hints about her father conceal a darker truth in this visually striking dystopian graphic novel.

Peder Hornseth Nygaard, born in 1998, is a Norwegian illustrator, animator and comics artist. A graduate of Innland Norway University of Applied Sciences, he gained attention with a second-place finish in Egmont's comics competition in 2021. *Supernova* is his debut graphic novel, exploring humanity's fragile bond with technology and nature through a holistic craft of writing, illustration and design.

Peder Hornseth Nygaard peder.nygaard@hotmail.com

TNT www.bonnierforlag.no • hallo@bonnierforlag.no

116



PAKISTAN

Riaz, Maria

Eid Cat-astrophe

Text by Sanaa Ahmad

Karachi, Pakistan: Flowers of Jannah, 2025

21x29.7cm, 24pp

ISBN 978-6277-68-538-6, age: 4–7

Eid, cat, disappointment, patience

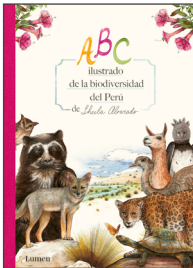
On the night before Eid, Ruqqaya receives a kitten named Rani, whose rabble-rousing behaviour threatens to wreck the celebration. Through comical activities and representations Islamic culture, the illustrations depict diverse hijab styles and Eid traditions. The story ignites love for cultural roots, proving that Eid plus a chaotic kitten equals purr-fection.

Maria Riaz is a Pakistani author, illustrator and designer whose work celebrates culture and inclusion. A graduate of the National College of Arts with training from the Rhode Island School of Design, she has illustrated over 30 books and written seven of her own, collaborating with organizations such as Room to Read, The Asia Foundation, Aga Khan University, and Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi. Founder of WHY Books Pakistan, she blends traditional textures with digital media to create emotionally engaging, culturally resonant stories.

Maria Riaz mariaz.mz@gmail.com

Flowers of Jannah www.flowersofjannah.com • info@flowersofjannah.com

117



PERU

Alvarado, Sheila

ABC ilustrado de la biodiversidad del Perú

[Illustrated ABC of Peru's biodiversity]

Lima: Lumen (Penguin Random House), 2025

22x29cm, 64pp

ISBN 978-612-4270-58-1, age: 7+

Peru, animals, plants, poetry

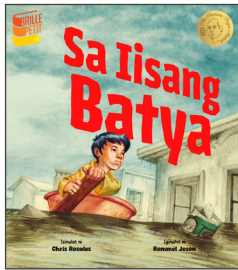
Inspired by an artistic residency in the Peruvian Amazon, this book offers an alphabetical journey through native species. Each letter opens the door to a flourishing creature that swims, flies or crawls, accompanied by poems and sketches that reveal the creative process. Through watercolours and delicate drawings, the illustrations provide a contemplative tribute to the life thriving in Peru's rivers, mountains and jungles.

Sheila Alvarado holds a degree in Fine Arts and has received multiple distinctions for illustration and poetry. Her graphic novel *Ciudad de payasos* was nominated for an Eisner Award, and she won Peru's National Prize for Children's and Young Adult Literature in 2019. In recent years, she has researched biodiversity and pre-Hispanic iconography to share Peru's richness with readers of all ages.

Sheila Alvarado sheila.alvarado.p@gmail.com

Lumen www.penguinlibros.com/pe • arthur.zeballos@penguinrandomhouse.com

118



PHILIPPINES

Joson, Rommel

Sa Iisang Batya

[In the same basin]

Text by Chris Rosales

Quezon City: Brille Petit (Brilliant Creations Publishing), 2024

20x22cm, 24pp

ISBN 978-621-438-484-6, age: 9+

Philippines, typhoon, flood, renunciation of possessions, animal rescue

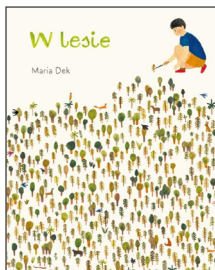
When a typhoon sweeps Migs away, he navigates the floodwaters using a large basin as a makeshift lifeboat. As he searches for safety, he tosses away possessions to make room for others in need. This story explores the effects of environmental disasters, capturing the courage and camaraderie of a community surviving in the same boat.

Rommel Joson is an award-winning painter, illustrator, sculptor and college instructor. A recipient of the Dean's Awards from Ateneo de Manila University, he graduated magna cum laude from the University of the Philippines, where he currently lectures. An active member of Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan (Ang INK), he has illustrated various children's books and exhibits his art portfolio widely.

Rommel Joson hello@rommeljoson.com

Brille Petit www.brilliantcreationspublishing.com • brillepetit@gmail.com

119



POLAND

Dek, Maria

W lesie

[A walk in the forest]

Pelplin: Wydawnictwo Bernardinum, 2024

24x30cm, 41pp

ISBN 978-83-8333-277-2, age: 4+

Forest, forest animals

This book invites readers to follow the trail and search for the treasures of the forest. It encourages children to hear the rustle of trees and feel the breeze, offering inspiration for wonderful journeys into the woods. Dominated by green shades, the illustrations celebrate a joyful play with a child's imagination and a closeness to nature.

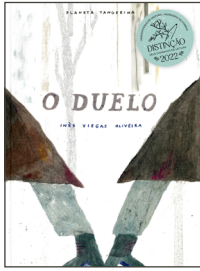
Maria Dek is an illustrator and author who lives and works in the Białowieża Forest, the oldest in Europe. Loving traditional techniques, especially gouache, her work is frequently featured in important international exhibitions. Her books have won numerous awards in Poland and abroad, including the IBBY Poland Book of the Year graphic award in 2024.

Maria Dek maria.dek@gmail.com

Wydawnictwo Bernardinum www.ksiegarnia.bernardinum.com.pl

redakcja@bernardinum.com.pl

120



PORTUGAL

Viegas Oliveira, Inês

O Duelo

[The duel. A story about peace]

Carcavelos: Planeta Tangerina, 2022

19x26cm, 56pp

ISBN 978-989-9061-10-1, age: 7+

Conflict, duel, non-violence

Two men in a cold country decide to fight a duel, but as they take their hundred paces, the world reveals unexpected wonders: trees, cities, music and dance. Violence gives way to curiosity and hope, turning a deadly confrontation into a journey of discovery. Structured as a letter, the book invites reflection on forgiveness, with outline-free illustrations creating rhythm and multiple meanings.

Inês Viegas Oliveira, originally a physics graduate, found her calling in art and completed a postgraduate degree in Illustration in Lisbon. Selected three times for the Bologna Illustrators Exhibition, she received the National Illustration Award in 2023. Her first book, *O Duelo*, was also selected for the dPictus 100 Outstanding Picture Books list and presented at the BRAW Amazing Bookshelf.

Inês Viegas Oliveira inesviegasoliveira@gmail.com

Planeta Tangerina www.planetatangerina.com • editora@planetatangerina.com

121



RUSSIA

Dmitriev, Aleksey

Конёк-Горбунок **Конёк-Горбунок**

[The little humpbacked horse]

Text by Pyotr Ershov

Moscow: Arbor, 2024

22x28cm, 98pp

ISBN 978-5-6052391-2-3, age: 10–14

Horse, magic, fairy tale, verse tale

This classic Russian fairy tale follows Ivan, a peasant boy who acquires a magical humpbacked horse. Together they fulfil the Tsar's impossible demands, from capturing the Firebird to retrieving a ring from the moon. The illustrations bring to life this story of loyalty and kindness, emphasising that a person's inner world is far more important than their outward appearance.

Aleksey Dmitriev, born in Tashkent in 1963, is a Russian artist and illustrator. A graduate in theatre design, he created sets for over 60 productions before transitioning to illustration in 2008. An Honoured Artist of the Altai Republic, he has received the 'Shuvalov' Medal from the Russian Academy of Arts. His works are preserved in museums and private collections across Russia and Europe.

Aleksey Dmitriev alexkdmitriev@gmail.com

Arbor www.arbor.ru • mail@arbor.ru

122



SINGAPORE

Quok, Hong Shin

Pineapple, Let's Roll!

Text by Peh Shing Huei

Singapore: The Nutgraf Books, 2024

22x22cm, 34pp

ISBN 978-981-18-9757-3, age: 0–6

Pineapple, school, bullying, friendship, self-confidence

Ong Lai, a shy pineapple outcast, is encouraged by his friend Jambu Jane to run for Head Prefect in the School of Fruits. Inspired by Singapore's 2023 presidential election, the book introduces themes of friendship, self-confidence and respect for differences. Set against a backdrop of local fruits, the story makes important civic lessons enjoyable and relatable for young readers.

Hong Shin Quok is a Singaporean freelance author and illustrator whose titles have been nominated for The Hedwig Anuar Children's Book Award. His book *The Incredible Basket* won Best Children's Book at the 2019 Singapore Book Awards, and *Grandma's Tiger* was selected for *The White Ravens* 2023.

Hong Shin Quok quekhongshin@gmail.com

The Nutgraf Books www.nutgraf.com.sg • claire@nutgraf.com.sg

123



SLOVAKIA

Martiška, Juraj

Detstvo s rozprávkou

[Childhood with fairy tales]

Text by Pavol Dobšinský

Bratislava: AlleGro Plus, 2024

16x19.5cm, 92pp

ISBN 978-80-99956-23-1, age: 7–12

Anthology, fairy tale, retelling

This unique book combines ten lesser-known fairy tales by Pavol Dobšinský with personal childhood memories of the author. The illustrations add visual charm and depth, using simple line drawings complemented by soft pastel colours. The book's delicate tone, subtle humour, and refined use of colour contribute to a pleasant and unobtrusive impression throughout the pages.

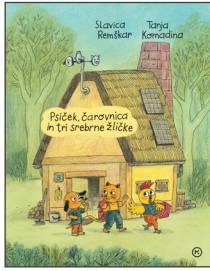
Juraj Martiška belongs to the middle generation of Slovak illustrators, having studied at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava. He has visually brought to life several dozen books for children and young adults, including works by Hans Christian Andersen and Carlo Collodi. His illustrative work is recognised for its delicate style and refined colour palette, earning him numerous awards.

Juraj Martiška juraj@martiska.eu

AlleGro Plus www.vydavatelstvoallegro.sk

vydavatelstvo.allegro@gmail.com

124



SLOVENIA

Komadina, Tanja

Psiček, čaravnica in tri srebrne žličke

[The puppy, the witch and the three silver spoons]

Text by Slavica Remškar

Ljubljana: Mladinska knjiga, 2024

21.3x26.8cm, 36pp

ISBN 978-961-01-7692-3, age: 4+

Community, courage, justice, witch, malice

In this modern fairy tale, a witch descends through the chimney of a small house where a cat, dog and rooster live, changing their lives forever. Expressive colour illustrations follow the atmosphere of the text, enhancing it with playful and skilfully composed details. The unique composition and thoughtful colour scheme create a charming, compact whole that celebrates friendship and ingenuity.

Tanja Komadina, born in 1976, graduated in Visual Communication Design from the Academy of Fine Arts in Ljubljana. She received the Levstik Award in 2017 and multiple Golden Pear recognitions for her illustrations. Her comics and books have been selected for the *White Ravens* catalogue. Since 2020, she has served as the art editor at Mladinska Knjiga, Slovenia's leading publishing house.

Tanja Komadina tanja.komadina@gmail.com

Mladinska knjiga www.mladinska-knjiga.si • alenska.veler@mladinska-knjiga.si

125



SPAIN

Martínez, Rocío

Alexander Von Humboldt. Explorador de lo inalcanzable

[Alexander von Humboldt. Explorer of the Americas and beyond]

Barcelona: Zahorí Books, 2024

16x40cm, 16pp

ISBN 978-84-19889-34-8, age: 8+

Alexander von Humboldt, voyage of exploration

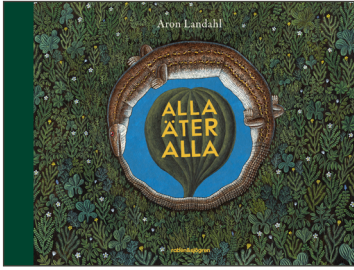
Inspired by the aesthetics of the late Enlightenment, this book uses watercolour on tea-stained paper to capture Alexander von Humboldt's global voyages. Maps, nautical charts and bright colours immerse the reader in the era, while infographics display the wealth of information about the explorer. The design envelops the reader, mirroring Humboldt's own pioneering use of visual data.

Rocío Martínez graduated in Fine Arts in Madrid, specialising in engraving. Dedicated to illustration since 1990, she has worked with companies in Japan, France, England and beyond. Since 1999, she has also published as an author, with books translated into multiple languages. She has received several awards across Spain and Latin America, and participates in national and international exhibitions.

Rocío Martínez info@rociomartinez.es

Zahorí Books www.zahoribooks.com • info@zahoribooks.com

126



SWEDEN

Landahl, Aron

Alla äter alla

[Everybody eats everybody]

Stockholm: Rabén & Sjögren, 2023

31x23cm, 28pp

ISBN 978-91-29-73601-4, age: 3-6

Food chain, animals

This picture book presents the food chain where every living creature devours another, from a mosquito eaten by a dragonfly to a lynx bitten by a mosquito. Magnificent illustrations covering entire spreads depict this cycle with a touch of darkness and cruelty that tickles readers. Inspired by medieval bestiaries, the rich detail and intimate, humorous text make the grim subject matter engaging.

Aron Landahl, born in 1984, is an illustrator, author, musician and nurse. His book *Alla äter alla* was nominated for the August Prize in 2023, and he was awarded the Elsa Beskow Plaque and the Snöbollen Award in 2024. Working mainly with acrylic paint and ink, he often starts with the background and proceeds forward, creating illustrations distinguished by their richness of detail.

Aron Landahl landahl.aron@gmail.com

Rabén & Sjögren www.rabensjogren.se • josefin.svenske@rabensjogren.se

127



SWITZERLAND

Jost, Rina

Weg

[(A) way]

Zurich: Edition Moderne, 2023

18.7x26.2cm, 108pp

ISBN 978-3-03731-253-7, age: 12+

Siblings, graphic novel, depression, imagination

Based on the author's own experience, this graphic novel follows Malin, whose sister Sibyl sinks into depression, turning to stone and falling through her mattress. Malin dives in after her, landing in a surreal landscape where she encounters mythic characters and faces her own fears. The story metaphorically explores coping with a loved one's illness, accepting that each person must find their own way home.

Rina Jost, born in 1987, studied visual communication at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts. Working as an illustrator and comic artist, her work is characterised by playfulness, humour, emotional depth, and is often inspired by personal anecdotes, as is the case in her autofictional graphic novel *Weg*.

Rina Jost rina.jost@me.com

Edition Moderne www.editionmoderne.ch • post@editionmoderne.ch

ILLUSTRATION

68

128



TÜRKİYE

Atılğan, Merve

Derin Orman

[The forest of dreams]

Istanbul: Can Çocuk Publishing, 2023

25.5x25.5cm, 43pp

ISBN 978-975-07-6116-4, age: 4–6

Darkness, imagination, imaginary journey

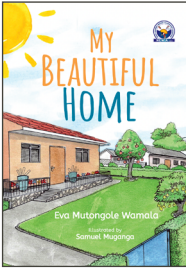
This book reveals that darkness is a vast, beautiful colour that allows light to exist, and that quiet pauses are full of potential. In these moments, imagination awakens, allowing journeys to hidden lakes and unknown forests. Through translucent figures and sacred geometry, the illustrations explore the connection between darkness and light, inviting readers to see everything by yielding to the shadows.

Merve Atılğan is an Istanbul-based multidisciplinary artist, illustrator and dancer. A graduate of Maltepe University's Cartoon and Animation Department, she also studied at the Royal Academy of Dance. Her work draws inspiration from shamanic traditions, archetypal symbolism and nature, merging her inner world with mystical elements to create healing visual stories.

Merve Atılğan merveatilgan@gmail.com

Can Çocuk Publishing www.canyayinlari.com • yayinevi@canyayinlari.com

129



UGANDA

Muganga, Samuel

My Beautiful Home

Kampala: Ntuha Children's Writers and Illustrators Association, 2024

14x20cm, 14pp

ISBN 978-9970-584-05-5, age: 4–6

Family, home, everyday life

This book takes readers on a journey to discover a beautiful home: a happy place with a comfy house, flowers and fruit trees. It depicts a kitchen with yummy eggs, family meals, and fun stories told by Mum. The illustrations celebrate a place filled with love, happy moments and the simple joys of family life.

Samuel Muganga is a graduate of Art and Design who has been an illustrator for 20 years, 15 of which have been with the Ntuha Children Writers and Illustrators Association. Descriptive and committed, he specialises in both human and animal illustrations. One of his greatest achievements is his contribution to *The Peace Story*, published in South Korea in 2010. He currently serves as the main illustrator and designer for NCWIA.

Samuel Muganga ntuhachildwriters@gmail.com

Ntuha Children's Writers and Illustrators Association ntuhachildwriters@gmail.com



UKRAINE

Shatokhin, Oleksandr

Narvaly ne plachut Нарвали не плачуть

[Narwhals don't cry]

Text by Oleksandr Podoliak

Kharkiv: Crocus Publishing House, 2023

25x29cm, 40pp

ISBN 978-617-7989-22-5, age: 4–9

Narwhal, marine mammals, self-confidence

A little narwhal grows up learning to overcome fears of looking strange or being called a baby. With his mother's support, he discovers new worlds and meets different animals, gradually succeeding in his journey. The book includes an educational section on narwhals and other North marine inhabitants, detailing their habits and unique features alongside the touching narrative.

Oleksandr Shatokhin, born in 1988, is a Ukrainian picture book artist graduated from an art school and a pedagogical university. He collaborates with the Illustra agency as well as with Ukrainian and international publishing houses, including The Old Lion Publishing House, Crocus, Mamino, Red Comet Press, Carthusia Edizioni. His silent book *The Yellow Butterfly* was listed among the Outstanding International Books by USBBY in 2024, and *The Last Leaf* was shortlisted for the International Silent Book Contest.

Oleksandr Shatokhin shatart88@gmail.com

Crocus Publishing House crocusbooks.com.ua • crocusbooks.sales@gmail.com



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Manasrah, Hassan

Aghla mafi al-wujood أغلى ما في الوجود

[The most precious thing in existence]

Text by Dalia Toonsi

Dubai: Dar Ashjar, 2026

26.5x24cm, 64pp

ISBN 978-9948-69-958-3, age: 10–13

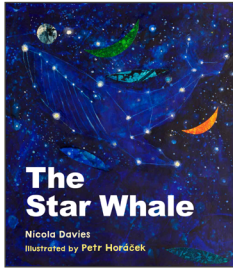
Wealth, greed, satisfaction, search

Despite possessing everything, an emperor remains unhappy and seeks the 'most precious thing in existence'. A merchant offers an elixir of happiness in exchange for his youth, but to keep it, the emperor must sacrifice his loyal companion, losing his contentment in the process. This fable illustrates that the price of contentment is everything one has already given away.

Hassan Manasrah, born in 1980, is a Jordanian-Palestinian visual artist, printmaker and animation art director. He has illustrated nearly 30 books and received the Etisalat Award for Arabic Children's Literature three times. Nominated for the Hans Christian Andersen Award in 2020, he also served as art director for the Emmy-winning film *Diary of a Doctor in the Emergency Room*.

Hassan Manasrah hassanmanasrah@gmail.com

Dar Ashjar www.darashjar.com • info@darashjar.com



UNITED KINGDOM

Horáček, Petr

The Star Whale

Text by Nicola Davies

Burley Gate: Otter-Barry Books, 2023

25x29cm, 93pp

ISBN 978-1-915659-09-5, age: 6+

Animals, poetry

This collaborative book grew from the writer reading the illustrator's sketchbooks and writing poems to match the images. The volume explores the natural world in close-up detail and from a distance, using a vivid, many-coloured palette incorporating collage and textured effects. From raging seas to playful fur, the paintings invite serious consideration and joyful discovery in equal measure.

Petr Horáček was born in Prague and studied at the Academy of Fine Art before moving to the UK in 1994. He has won and been shortlisted for international awards, including the Kate Greenaway Medal shortlist for *A First Book of Animals*. His glowing, expressive artwork perfectly matches words that speak directly to children, reflecting his deep feeling for wild nature.

Petr Horáček petrhoracek30@gmail.com

Otter-Barry Books www.otterbarrybooks.com • janetta@otterbarrybooks.com



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Griffin, Jason

Ain't Burned All the Bright

Text by Jason Reynolds

New York: Atheneum, 2022

15x21.6cm, 384pp

ISBN 978-1-5344-3946-7, age: 12+

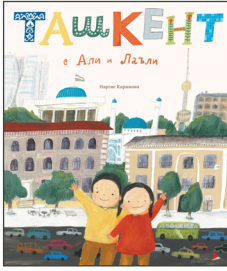
USA, African American, racism, violence, injustice

In a narrative poem stretching across 300 images in a Moleskine notebook, a teenage boy explores his feelings during the 'strangest year of our lives'. Bold collages capture internal anxiety and occasional joy, encouraging the reader to breathe 'in through the nose and out through the mouth'. The improvisational style vacillates between emotive colours and calming abstract shapes, inspiring art as personal expression.

Jason Griffin, born in 1981, is an American artist and master collaborator. A graduate of the University of Maryland, he has exhibited his art in major cities worldwide. Jason Douglas Griffin won a Caldecott Honor for his artwork in *Ain't Burned All the Bright*, written by Jason Reynolds. His recent projects include a commissioned mural for Montefiore Hospital and a residency at Het HEM in Amsterdam. He currently lives and creates in Queens, New York.

Jason Griffin julia@heirloomliterary.com

Atheneum www.simonandschuster.net • education.library@simonandschuster.com



UZBEKISTAN

Karimova, Nargis

Tashkent with Ali and Lali

Tashkent: Asian Book House, 2025

21x24cm, 40pp

ISBN 978-9-94358-781-6, age: 5–12

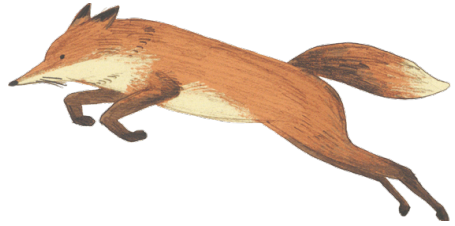
Tashkent, sightseeing

This picture book offers a poetic and playful journey through Tashkent with two children, Ali and Lali. They invite readers to discover iconic landmarks like the TV tower and Chorsu bazaar, as well as museums and parks. With warm, expressive illustrations and minimal text, each spread features an interactive 'Find and Show' quest, encouraging engagement with Uzbek culture.

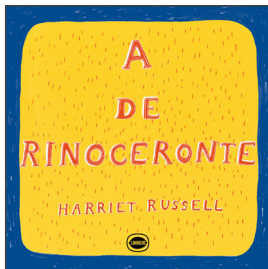
Nargis Karimova, born in 1981 in Tashkent, moved to Paris at age 25 to pursue art, graduating from Sorbonne University in 2010. She is the founder of #ArtVibes, an art studio in France where she teaches children. Inspired by childhood and cultural heritage, she aims to connect generations and preserve Uzbek traditions through her books.

Nargis Karimova nargiskarimova@gmail.com

Asian Book House www.instagram.com/asianbookhouse.uz • Asianbookhouse123@gmail.com



135



ARGENTINA (Spanish)

Fusco, Vanesa

A de Rinoceronte

(Orig. Italian & English: *A is for Rhinoceros* by Harriet Russell)

Buenos Aires: Limonero, 2023

20x20cm, 108pp

ISBN 978-987-82838-9-0, ages: 4+

Alphabet book, nonsense

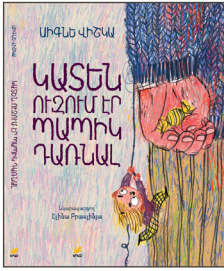
This visual alphabet defies every rule: H for lighthouse, M for giant vest, Q for an egg hatched by a hen with a wooden leg. Surrendering to the game, each page offers a surprise, a small leap into the void where rigid order dissolves into whimsy. Bound by nonsense and humor, the book invites readers to rediscover language and renew their capacity to marvel at the world.

Vanesa Fusco is an English translator and graduate of the “Juan Ramón Fernández” Institute of Higher Education in Living Languages, holding a Master’s in Translation from the University of Belgrano, where she teaches. Specialising in children’s fiction, poetry and comics, her work includes translations of novels by Brigid Kemmerer and Millie Bobby Brown. In 2022, she received ALIJA’s Destacados prize for her translation of *Thirty Talks Weird Love*.

Vanesa Fusco vanefusco@gmail.com

Limonero info@limonero.com.ar • www.limonero.com.ar

136



ARMENIA (Armenian)

Khachatryan, Naira

Katen uzum er papik darnal Կատեն ուզում էր պապիկ դառնալ(Orig. Latvian: *Kate, kas gribēja kļūt vectēvs* by Signe Viska)

Yerevan: Newmag Publishing House, 2025

21x27cm, 32pp

ISBN 978-9939-967-88-2, ages: 0–6

Grandfather/granddaughter, relationship

Little Kate admires her grandpa's calm nature, big hands, lemon candies and white hair. Loving him so much, she wishes to be just like him: kind, caring and patient. This story of love and devotion is beautifully illustrated and filled with warm, heartfelt conversations, intended for young children.

Naira Khachatryan was born in Yerevan in 1970 and graduated in philology from the University of Latvia. She has served as a publisher and edited books published in Russia and Latvia, receiving the Latvian literary award 'Silver Inkwell' in 2015. Her translations from Latvian include works by I. Ziedonis and J. Zviergzdinsh, while from Russian she has translated N. Abgarian and G. Yakhina.

Naira Khachatryan nairakhach717@gmail.com • ani.hakobyan@newmag.am • info@newmag.am

Newmag Publishing House info@newmag.am • www.newmag.am

137



AUSTRIA (German)

Rapp, Brigitte

Sonne an dunklen Tagen(Orig. English: *One More Mountain* by Deborah Ellis)

Vienna: Jungbrunnen, 2023

21.3x14.3cm, 154pp

ISBN 3-7026-5981-1, ages: 13+

Afghanistan, women's rights

This fifth book in the "Breadwinner" series follows well-loved characters, Parvana and Shauzia, two women united by a strong friendship built around their struggle for survival. Set in the summer of 2021, twenty years on from the first book, the duo continue to fight for independence and freedom with the magnetic force of duty and family driving them forward. Will the Taliban again thwart Parvana and Shauzia's journey to lead the girls in their care to safety? A story of power, sacrifice and the drive to continue fighting for your beliefs

Brigitte Rapp grew up in Burgenland with Croatian as her first language. She pursued translation studies at the University of Vienna and served as executive secretary of the Austrian Association of Literary Translators for 30 years. Now a psychotherapist and literary translator, she specialises in junior novels and non-fiction from English to German, particularly in psychoanalysis and education.

Brigitte Rapp brigitte.rapp@wpv.at

Jungbrunnen office@jungbrunnen.co.at • www.jungbrunnen.co.at

138



BELGIUM (French)

Cohen Beucher, Anne

Akata Woman(Orig. English: *Akata Woman* by Nnedi Okorafor)

Paris: L'École des Loisirs, 2024

14.8x21.8cm, 403pp

ISBN 978-2-211-28496-7, ages: 13+

Albinism, secret society, Nigeria, magic

Sunny Nwazue, a Nigerian-American girl with albinism, discovers she belongs to the Leopard People, a hidden community of magical beings. Set against the vibrant backdrop of Nigeria, Sunny embraces her powers while confronting dark forces threatening her world. Weaving African mythology with modern life, the novel explores themes of empowerment, friendship and the search for belonging, emphasizing the importance of heritage and uniqueness.

Anne Cohen Beucher left a career in banking to pursue translation, earning a Master's degree in Brussels. She translates children's and young adult books from English, Spanish and Catalan. Her honours include a Special Mention for the Pierre-François Caillé Prize and the SCAM Belgium Translation Prize. She has twice been on the IBBY Honour List and won major awards for recent translations by M. Carranza and R. Bavati.

Anne Cohen Beucher anne.cohenbeucher@gmail.com

L'École des Loisirs edl@ecoledesloisirs.com • www.ecoledesloisirs.fr

139



CANADA (French)

Duchesne, Christiane

Le chandail orange de Miya(Orig. English: *Miya Wears Orange* by Wanda John-Kehewin)

Montreal: Éditions de l'Isatis, 2025

22x22cm, 40pp

ISBN 978-2-89843-192-0, ages: 4+

Indigenous people, child abduction, memory, Canada

When Miya's teacher shares a story about Indigenous children taken to residential schools, Miya, who is Indigenous, fears the same will happen to her. Her mother reassures her that forced removals are over, yet Miya remains filled with sadness. This book tactfully explores how the traumas of the past continue to impact the present, following a young girl's emotional journey through history and memory.

Christiane Duchesne, born in Montreal in 1949, is an award-winning writer and translator. A former editor and scriptwriter, she has won the Governor General's Literary Award four times, the Mr. Christie Book Award twice, and the Prix Alvine-Belisle twice. She was a finalist for the Hans Christian Andersen Award in 1996 and uses her writer's skills to bring life to every translated book.

Christiane Duchesne duchesnec10@gmail.com

Éditions de l'Isatis isatis@ecosociete.org • www.editionsdelisatis.com

140



CANADA (English)

Kaplansky, Jonathan

Like a Hurricane(Orig. French: *Comme un ouragan* by Jonathan Bécotte)

Victoria: Orca Book Publishers, 2023

12.7x19.05cm, 115pp

ISBN 978-1-4598-3523-8, ages: 9–12

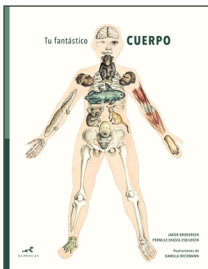
Homosexuality/LGTBQI+, secret, fear, coming-out, friendship

A young teen unravels under the weight of a secret: he is gay but fears rejection from parents and friends. His hidden feelings for his childhood best friend build into an emotional storm threatening to upend his life. This lyrically crafted journey explores the quiet courage required to live one's truth, offering a tender, affirming portrait of being seen, accepted and finally breathing 'for real, for the first time'.

Jonathan Kaplansky holds degrees from Tufts University, McGill University and the University of Ottawa. He has translated works by H  l  ne Dorion, Annie Ernaux and Lise Tremblay. His translation of *Like a Hurricane* was shortlisted for the David Booth Award for Children's and Youth Poetry. He currently lives in Montreal and is translating a novel by Jean-Michel Fortier.

Jonathan Kaplansky jkaplansky@videotron.caOrca Book Publishers orca@orcabooks.com • www.orcabooks.com

141



CHILE (Spanish)

Bunster Danklefsen, Camila

Tu fant  stico cuerpo(Orig. Danish: *Din fantastiske krop* by P. Engsig Eskilden & J. Brodersen)

Santiago: Saposcat, 2024

24.5x32cm, 55pp

ISBN 978-956-9866-41-8, ages: 7+

Humans, human body, evolution

Did you know humans have traces of dinosaur bones or a vestigial tail? This book takes readers on a fascinating journey through the wild evolution of the human body, from prehistoric fish to modern humans. Based on current scientific knowledge, it explains how we are made of inherited parts from fish, amphibian and monkey ancestors, helping readers understand themselves and the world in a new way. It is the sequel to the award-winning international bestseller *Life: A Long Story*.

Camila Bunster Danklefsen was born in Denmark to a Danish mother and a Chilean father, and now lives in Valpara  so. She gained a B.A. in Hispanic Literature and M.A. in Latin American Studies from the Universidad de Chile. She has translated more than 20 children's literature titles, which have been published in Chile. She is a three-time winner of the Colibr   Medal (2016, 2020, 2022) and was included in the 2018 and 2024 IBBY Honour List.

Camila Bunster Danklefsen camilabunsterd@gmail.comSaposcat marcela.fuentealba@gmail.com

142



CHINA (Chinese)

Cheng, Xiao

Shu De Mi Mi Sheng Ming 树的秘密生命(Orig. French: *La vie secrète des arbres* by Peter Wohlleben)

Beijing: Daylight Publishing House, 2025

21.2x28.5cm, 236pp

ISBN 978-7-5016-2523-9, ages: 10+

Tree, forest, ecosystem, graphic novel

Taking Peter Wohlleben's personal exploration as a thread, this graphic novel uses refined paintings and poetic text to unveil the mysteries of forests. From a first-person perspective, the author shares decades of observation, revealing the secret network among trees, their communication via fungi, and how they raise their young. Readers discover the trees' rich emotions, long-lasting memory and subtle influence on climate.

Xiao Cheng graduated from Sorbonne University and holds a PhD in Plant Ecology from the French National Center for Scientific Research. For two decades, she has studied tropical rainforests, striving to be an observer and populariser with both scientific spirit and humanistic sentiment. She founded the 'Xiao Senlin Nature Studio' to promote citizen science and the connection between children, the elderly and nature.

Xiao Cheng xiaonatures_cx@163.com

Daylight Publishing House 527412792@qq.com

143



COLOMBIA (Spanish)

García de la Torre, Gabriela

Historias sobre las matemáticas. Desde los cálculos cavernícolas hasta los computadores(Orig. English: *A Quick History of Math. From Counting Cavemen to Computers* by Clive Gifford)

Bogotá: Panamericana, 2023

23.3x17.3cm, 127pp

ISBN 978-958-30-6746-4, ages: 8–12

Mathematics

At a thrilling pace of curious facts and jokes, this book traces milestones in the history of mathematics, from prehistoric bone counting to modern computers and social networks. It explores the evolution of numbers, geometry and algebra, and includes a section on mathematical mistakes and riddles. The narrative makes complex history accessible and entertaining for young readers.

Gabriela García de la Torre, born in Bogotá in 1969, studied Literature and Foreign Languages. With nearly 30 years in the publishing industry as a writer, proofreader, editor and translator from English and Italian, she currently lives in Medellín. She devotes much of her time to writing, distinguished by a refined style full of humour.

Gabriela García de la Torre gabrielagarciadelatorre@gmail.com

Panamericana medios.editorial@panamericana.com.co • www.panamericanaeditorial.com.co



COSTA RICA (Cabécar & Spanish)
Comisión Interinstitucional Siwá Pákö

Cuentos en cabécar para la niñez = Ditsá yabalá i a ká pákë

(Orig. Cabécar compiled by E. Fonseca, G. García & R. Barquero)
San José: Editorial Universidad Estatal a Distancia (EUNED), 2023
20x26cm, 76pp

ISBN 978-9968-04-099-0, ages: 8+

Cabécar, myths, animal stories, bilingual book

This book compiles children's stories and tales for bilingual Cabécar-Spanish-speaking children, distributed across 64 Indigenous communities. Created and translated by a broad group of co-authors, the book celebrates the cultural practices of the Cabécar people, who maintain a deep connection with nature while suffering severe disadvantages in accessing health, social and educational services.

The **Comisión Interinstitucional Siwá Pákö** was established to coordinate efforts by the University of Costa Rica, the National University and the State Distance University. It aims to improve access to public higher education for the Cabécar population in the Indigenous Territory of Chirripó. The Commission includes a broad group of translators and editors who collaborated in creating this book to foster opportunities in bilingual intercultural education.

Comisión Interinstitucional Siwá Pákö gsolorzano@uned.ac.cr • dgarro@uned.ac.cr
EUNED <https://editorial.uned.ac.cr>



CROATIA (Croatian)

Husić, Snježana

Pjesme za djecu

(Orig. English: *Poetry for Kids* by Emily Dickinson)

Zagreb: Školska knjiga, 2023

21x24cm, 48pp

ISBN 978-953-0-62294-4, ages: 8–12

Poetry

This collection presents 35 poems by Emily Dickinson, carefully chosen for children and families. Divided by season, the collection includes famous works like 'Hope is the thing with feathers' and 'Because I could not stop for Death', each illustrated and thoroughly explained by an expert.. The translator preserved the musicality and brevity of the original verses, adapting them subtly to the specific rhythm of the Croatian language while respecting the poet's unique style.

Snježana Husić, born in Zagreb in 1969, earned a PhD in Romance philology after postgraduate studies in Pisa. She taught Italian literature and literary translation at the University of Zagreb from 2000 to 2022. Twice recipient of the 'Josip Tabak' Award, she has published around sixty translated books from English and Italian. Since 2024, she has served as president of the Croatian Literary Translators' Association.

Snježana Husić snjezanahusic@gmail.com
Školska knjiga info@skolskajniga.hr • www.skolskajniga.hr



CZECH REP (Czech)

Novák, Lukáš; Rubáš, Stanislav & Štastná, Zuzana

Když si šlápneš na tkaničku

(Orig. English: *Falling Up* by Shel Silverstein)

Prague: Albatros, 2024

17.2x22.6cm, 175pp

ISBN 978-80-00-07271-5, ages: 9+

Poetry

Shel Silverstein's second book of poems is translated here by a trio of experts who successfully capture its playfulness, lightness and wit. The Czech version preserves the rhythm and specific style of the original while navigating cultural and linguistic shifts with purposeful clarity. Admirably using the richness of the Czech language, the translation allows readers of all ages to enjoy the humorous punchlines and linguistically layered verses.

Lukáš Novák is a graduate of Czech Studies at Charles University, translating fiction and poetry since 2008; his Silverstein collection won several national awards. **Stanislav Rubáš** is a scholar specialising in translation theory, with published studies on Shakespeare and Pushkin. **Zuzana Štastná** teaches literary translation at Charles University and has translated works by George Orwell and Sylvia Plath.

Lukáš Novák • **Stanislav Rubáš** • **Zuzana Štastná**

lukas.novak@litigocommunications.cz • stanislav.rubas@ff.cuni.cz • z.stastna@centrum.cz

Albatros albatros@albatrosmedia.cz • www.albatros.cz



DOMINICAN REP. (Spanish)

Antigua, Kianny

Angélica y la güira

(Orig. English: *Angélica and la Güira* by Angie Cruz)

New York City, United States

Sacramento: Kokila (Penguin Random House), 2024

29x23.6cm, 40pp

ISBN 978-0593-61-953-7, ages: 5–8

Dominican Republic, grandfather/granddaughter, music, dance, güira

A young girl harnesses the power of music to bridge the distance between the Dominican Republic and Washington Heights. This jubilant picture book celebrates cultural roots and the connection between generations through the rhythmic sound of the güira, a musical instrument with the power to make people dance as fast as the wings of a hummingbird. Blending personal heritage with universal themes of belonging and joy, the story explores music and community, the wisdom and guidance of our elders, and the joy and freedom of dancing in the street.

Kianny N. Antigua is a writer, translator, audiobook narrator and Senior Lecturer of Spanish at Dartmouth College. She has published over 35 books in fiction, poetry and children's literature, winning multiple literary awards. Her texts appear in numerous anthologies, and she has translated works by Angie Cruz, Elizabeth Acevedo and Ruth Behar, among others.

Kianny Antigua kiannyantigua@gmail.com

Kokila consumerservices@penguinrandomhouse.com • www.penguin.com



EGYPT (Arabic)

Boustany, Fadwa

A'azu Asdiqa'i أعز اصدقائي(Orig. Spanish: *Algunos de mis mejores amigos* by Antonio Zurera)

Cairo: Dar Al Boustany, 2024

20x20cm, 32pp

ISBN 978-977-450-114-2, ages: 6+

Reading, education, books

Told in the first person, this story describes a boy's friendship with his toys, including Teddy Bear Dabdoub and Bobby the Dog. When he discovers his parents' favourite toys are books, he decides to imitate them, eventually playing with books until they become his best and closest friends forever. The narrative gently illustrates the journey from seeing books as objects to cherishing them as companions.

Fadwa Boustany, born and raised in Cairo, earned a degree in Political Science from the American University in Cairo. Since 1987, she has worked in her family's publishing house and antiquarian bookshop. Fluent in multiple languages, she acquired and translated this story to promote the power of reading and the beauty of books in the Arab world.

Fadwa Boustany boustany@boustanys.com

Dar Al Boustany boustany@link.net • www.facebook.com/Boustanys



ESTONIA (Estonian)

Laur, Eve

Geeuius laua all. Lapsepõlv raudse eesriide taga(Orig. English: *The Genius under the Table. Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain*

by Eugene Yelchin)

Tallinn: Pegasus, 2022

15x21.5cm, 200pp

ISBN 978-9916-16-155-5, ages: 8–12

Autobiography, childhood, USSR 1953–1985

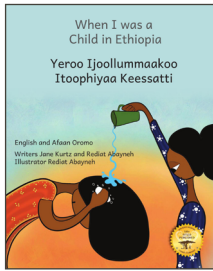
Set in Leningrad during the Cold War, this memoir describes the life of a Jewish family of five living in one room behind the Iron Curtain. Despite the atmosphere of fear, the narrator Yevgeny finds hope through art, supported by a ballet-fanatic mother, a poetry-loving father and an inspiring teacher. The story blends bleak reality with humour, suggesting that talent can make the absurdity of life more bearable.

Eve Laur, born in 1973, studied art education and drawing at the Tallinn Pedagogical University. A freelance translator since 1996, she has translated over fifty works of fiction from English, specialising in fantasy literature. She is a two-time winner of The Tower of Babel, the annual translation award given by IBBY Estonia, known for her sensitivity to language and inventiveness.

Eve Laur eve.laur@gmail.com

Pegasus pegasus@pegasus.ee • www.pegasus.ee

150



ETHIOPIA (Afaan Oromo & English)

Dedo Gameda, Ahmed

**Yeroo Ijoollummaakoo Itoophiyaa Keessatti =
When I Was a Child in Ethiopia**

(Orig. English by J. Kurtz & R. Abayneh)

Seattle: Open Hearts Big Dreams, 2024

8x10cm, 40pp

ISBN 979-8338-01-961-0, ages: 6–9

Ethiopia, childhood, memory, art, bilingual book

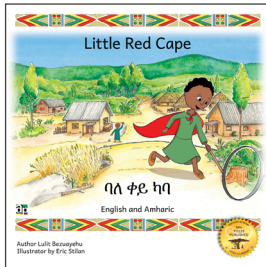
Rediat Abayneh's vibrant upbringing in Ethiopia is brought to life in this fun story, filled with bright colours, good smells and abundant beauty. Author Jane Kurtz captures Rediat's personal experiences, while Rediat's own colourful illustrations animate her memories. The book serves as a playful early reader celebrating a passionate, lifelong career in art rooted in Ethiopian culture.

Ahmed Dedo Gameda is an Assistant Professor of English Language and Literature at Haramaya University, teaching undergraduate and postgraduate students. He also serves as a translator, editor and reviewer for academic, technical and literary works. His expertise supports the creation of bilingual educational materials that bridge local culture and global literacy.

Ahmed Dedo Gameda ahmeddedo2002@gmail.com

Open Hearts Big Dreams info@openheartsbigdreams.org • www.openheartsbigdreams.org

151



ETHIOPIA (Amharic & English)

Bezuayehu, Lulit

**balā qāy kaba ባለ ቀይ ካታ =
Little Red Cape**

(Orig. English by Lulit Bezuayehu)

Seattle: Open Hearts Big Dreams, 2025

8.5x8.5cm, 56pp

ISBN 979-8263-68-266-8, ages: 7–9

Fairy tale/folk tale, Little Red Riding Hood, retelling, grandmother, danger, rescue, bilingual book

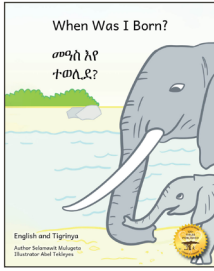
In this Ethiopian twist on *Little Red Riding Hood*, Little Red Cape sets off to deliver bread to Grandma Lemlem but is distracted by a beautiful butterfly. Ignoring her mother's warning, she talks to Mr Hyena, leading to danger and an eventual rescue. The story blends familiar folklore with local cultural elements, teaching lessons about listening and safety.

Lulit Bezuayehu grew up in Ethiopia before moving to the US for high school and college. Proud of her heritage, she has taught Amharic to children for over 15 years, creating flashcards and materials to help kids connect with their culture. Now living in Oakland as a User Experience Researcher, she dreams of making Ethiopian books accessible to everyone wanting to learn Amharic.

Lulit Bezuayehu lbezuayehu@gmail.com

Open Hearts Big Dreams info@openheartsbigdreams.org • www.openheartsbigdreams.org

152



ETHIOPIA (Tigrinya & English)

Dessalegn, Aklilu

mä'as 'əyā tāwälidä? መዓስ እየ ተወለደ? =

When I Was Born

(Orig. English by Selamawit Muguleta)

Seattle: Open Hearts Big Dreams, 2025

8x10cm, 40pp

ISBN 979-8287-89-094-0, ages: 7–9

Ethiopia, animals, birthday, lunar calendar, bilingual book

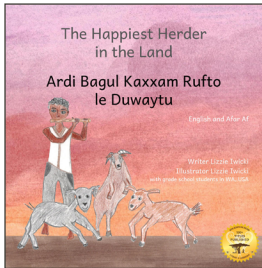
This playful bilingual early reader discovers the unique creatures and calendar of Ethiopia. Animal babies are born in different months, and repeated questioning reinforces bilingual vocabulary as readers learn when each was born. The story culminates in the discovery of Ethiopia's thirteenth month, Pagume, offering a fun way to learn about local timekeeping and nature.

Aklilu Dessalegn has been a Journal Editor and lecturer at Addis Ababa University since 2013. Holding an MA in English Literature, he has served as a lecturer at Haramaya University and as a professional translator and editor for various organisations for fourteen years. He is currently a PhD candidate in literature at Addis Ababa University.

Aklilu Dessalegn akedess06@yahoo.co.uk

Open Hearts Big Dreams info@openheartbigdreams.org • www.openheartbigdreams.org

153



ETHIOPIA (Afar Af & English)

Afar Ethiopia Regional Education Bureau

The Happiest Herder in the Land = Ardi Bagul Kaxxam Rufto le Duwaytu

(Orig. English by Lizzie Iwicki)

Seattle: Open Hearts Big Dreams, 2024

8.5x8.5cm, 36pp

ISBN 979-8325-03-297-4, ages: 7–9

Ethiopia, herdsman, goat, discovery, coffee bean, happiness, bilingual book

Based on the legend of coffee's origin, this story follows a weary goat herder who finds his herd dancing after eating red berries. Curious, he samples the berries and becomes the happiest herder in Ethiopia. Side-by-side text helps emerging bilingual readers build vocabulary, while playful illustrations bring the legend to life with clear visual references.

The **Afar Ethiopia Regional Education Bureau** generously provided the translation for this book. The bureau works to support education and literacy in the Afar region, collaborating on projects that promote bilingual learning and preserve local cultural heritage through accessible storytelling.

Afar Ethiopia Regional Education Bureau

yosephopenheartbigdreams@gmail.com

Open Hearts Big Dreams info@openheartbigdreams.org

www.openheartbigdreams.org

154



ETHIOPIA (Somali & English)

Mohamed Hassen, Abdi

Caroogii Yaraa = The Little Snail

(Orig. English by Betelehem Shiferaw)

Seattle: Open Hearts Big Dreams, 2024

8.5x8.5cm, 46pp

ISBN 979-8324-14-711-2, ages: 7–9

Animals, difference, acceptance, friendship, bilingual book

Little Snail cannot hop like a frog or fly like a butterfly; he can only crawl, leaving a trail that takes time and energy to make. When a kind lizard explains this to their faster friends, they realise the value of slowing down to include everyone. The story teaches that diversity in ability enriches the community, encouraging empathy and patience.

Abdi Mohamed Hassen, born in 1987 in the Somali Regional State, Ethiopia, completed his education in Kebribayah and Jigjiga before graduating from Addis Ababa University with a BA in Foreign Language and Literature. He also holds an MA in Educational Planning and Management from Jigjiga University. For the last ten years, he has worked at the Somali Regional Education Bureau.

Abdi Mohamed Hassen abdigurey721@gmail.com

Open Hearts Big Dreams info@openheartbigdreams.org • www.openheartbigdreams.org

155



FINLAND (Swedish)

Sandelin, Annika

Hela Konkarongen(Orig. Finnish: *Konkkaronkka* by Laura Ruohonen)

Helsinki: Förlaget, 2023

21.5x28.6cm, 28pp

ISBN 978-952-333-558-5, ages: 3–9

Adventure, journey, imagination, jungle

A wild bunch of animals arrives on an island for an adventure, but keeping them together proves difficult. The journey takes them through volcanoes, underwater caves and deserts, where toys and friends fall into holes only to be found again in unexpected ways. With cut-out holes guiding the path, this rhyming book follows in the footsteps of Tove Jansson's classics, celebrating chaos and discovery.

Annika Sandelin, born in 1972, is a respected Finnish-Swedish author and librarian. Her translation of the rhymes from Finnish to Swedish is praised for its tongue-twisting vocabulary that fits perfectly with the images. Awarded the Anni Swan Medal in 2021, her work has been nominated for the Nordic Literature Prize and recognised in *The White Ravens* selection in 2024.

Annika Sandelin annika.sandelin@gmail.com

Förlaget sara@forlaget.com • www.forlaget.com

156



FINLAND (Finnish)

Menna, Outi

Tasangon tyttäret(Orig. Swedish: *Slättens systrar* by Malin Klingenberg)

Helsinki: Schildts & Söderströms, 2024

15x20cm, 263pp

ISBN 978-951-52-6211-0, ages: 9–12

Fantasy, siblings, friendship

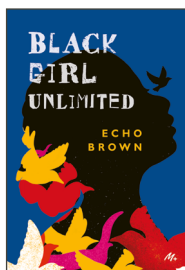
In the magical world of Gibat, where adults cannot be trusted, children must find their own power. This first instalment of the *Chronicles of Gibat* revolves around friendship, family ties and great sibling love. The translation captures the mysterious and exciting atmosphere, revealing both dark and hopeful events as the sisters take control of their lives.

Outi Menna has been a literary translator since 1997, working from Swedish, Norwegian and Danish into Finnish. Her translation of *Slättens systrar* is acclaimed for conveying the series' emotional depth and unique universe-building. She continues to translate the subsequent volumes, bringing Nordic fantasy to Finnish readers with sensitivity and precision.

Outi Menna outimenna@gmail.com

Schildts & Söderströms karin.berglund@sets.fi • kustantamo.sets.fi

157



FRANCE (French)

Danton, Marion

Black girl unlimited(Orig. English: *Black Girl Unlimited: The Remarkable Story of a Teenage Wizard* by Echo Brown)

Paris: L'école des loisirs, 2025

15x22cm, 282pp

ISBN 978-2-211-31012-3, ages: 15+

Drugs, poverty, teacher

Echo, a young black girl raised in poverty by drug-addicted parents, faces racism, sexism and trauma. Yet she resists the darkness through academic achievement and the support of believing teachers. Exceptional not only for her resilience, Echo is also a witch and a clairvoyant, using her magic to navigate a world filled with hardship. The novel displays impressive stylistic mastery and rare inventiveness.

Marion Danton is a translator specialising in children's and general literature, working mainly from English into French. Passionate about words and cultures, she brings stories to life for all ages. She also works as a proofreader, editor and trainer in the art of translation, dedicated to making diverse voices accessible to French readers.

Marion Danton edl@ecoledesloisirs.com

L'école des loisirs edl@ecoledesloisirs.com • www.ecoledesloisirs.fr

158



GERMANY (German)

Schäfer, Beate

Gras unter meinen Füßen. Das Jahr, als ich leben lernte

(Orig. English: *The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley)

München: dtv, 2024

14x21.1cm, 327pp

ISBN 978-3423-64-114-2, ages: 12+

WWII, disability, emancipation, siblings

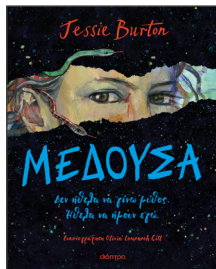
Ada, born with a deformed foot, suffers abuse from her ashamed mother until she escapes the London bombings in 1939 with her brother Jamie. Finding refuge with Miss Smith, Ada learns to ride and discovers inner and outer freedom. This deeply moving story of a resilient child finding trust and transformation is brought to life by a sensitively translated narrative voice that captures the struggle of a wounded soul.

Beate Schäfer, born in 1961, studied German, history and American studies. A former publishing editor and deputy program manager at dtv junior, she is now a freelance translator and writing coach. Nominated three times for the German Children's Literature Award for her translations, she also teaches intermedia art therapy at the Bern University of Art and Design.

Beate Schäfer beate-schaefer@arcor.de

dtv Wind.Daniela@dtv.de • www.dtv.de

159



GREECE (Greek)

Gana, Myrsini

Medusa Μέδουσα

(Orig. English: *Medusa. The Girl behind the Myth* by Jessie Burton)

Athens: Dioptra Publishing, 2024

16.8x21.1cm, 207pp

ISBN 978-618-220-573-0, ages: 15+

Myths, Medusa, love, freedom, betrayal

Exiled to a remote island with only snakes for company, Medusa's lonely existence is disrupted by the arrival of Perseus. This feminist retelling of the Greek myth unleashes desire, love, betrayal and destiny. Illustrated stunningly, the novel reimagines the monster as a complex girl, exploring the force of a supernova in a life defined by the whims of gods.

Myrsini Gana, born in Athens in 1975, studied English literature and cultural management. A literary translator since 2003, she has translated works by Colson Whitehead, Sylvia Plath and Jonathan Safran Foer. She received the Translated Literature Award in 2019 for translating Alice Oswald's *Memorial* and has published two collections of poetry, winning several literary prizes.

Myrsini Gana myrsini.gana@gmail.com

Dioptra Publishing lgalatis@dioptra.gr • www.dioptra.gr



ICELAND (Icelandic)

Bjarnadóttir, Æsa Guðrún

Spæjarastofa Lalla og Maju: Spítalaráðgátan

(Orig. Swedish: *LasseMajas detektivbyrå: Sjukhusmysteriet* by Martin Widmark)

Reykjavík: Mál og menning (Forlagið), 2023

14.8x21cm, 89pp

ISBN 978-9979-3-4977-8, ages: 6–12

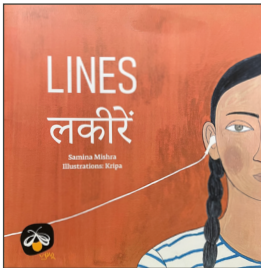
Detective story, child detectives

When valuables disappear from the local hospital, detectives Lalli and Maja go undercover to solve the puzzle. Facing patients, doctors and nurses as suspects, the duo uses wit and sharp observation to uncover an unexpected culprit. Filled with humour, twists, and suspense, this episode of the “Spæjarastofa Lalla og Maju” series introduces young readers to critical thinking and problem-solving in a light, entertaining adventure.

Æsa Guðrún Bjarnadóttir is an Icelandic editor and translator from English and Scandinavian languages, focusing on children’s literature. Her translations are recognised for their accuracy, clarity and stylistic fidelity, ensuring the author’s voice remains engaging for young readers. She was nominated for the Icelandic Translation Award in 2024 and the Reykjavík Children’s Book Award in 2025.

Æsa Guðrún Bjarnadóttir aesa@forlagid.is

Mál og menning forlagid@forlagid.is • www.forlagid.is



INDIA (Hindi & English)

Sablok, Shashi

Lakire लकीरें = Lines

(Orig. English by Samina Mishra)

New Delhi: Jugnoo Prakashan (Ektara Trust), 2025

25.4x25.4cm, 41pp

ISBN 978-8197-06-387-9, ages: 6+

Afghan girl, refugee, exclusion, limitation, poetry, bilingual book

This bilingual book presents a poem in both English and Hindi, voicing the struggle of a girl from a troubled homeland now living in a different country. Grappling with a line stretched tight by displacement, she learns to understand the struggles of home, family and school while holding onto a thread of hope. The translation preserves the poetic resonance of the original across languages.

Shashi Sablok has over 25 years of experience translating fiction, non-fiction and poetry, with a conscious choice to focus on children’s books. She has translated around 60 titles for Indian publishers including Tulika, Pratham and Katha. An editor and translator based in Bhopal, she finds her creative fulfillment in translation, though she occasionally writes her own books.

Shashi Sablok shashisab@yahoo.co.in

Jugnoo Prakashan publication@ektaraindia.in • www.ektaraindia.in

162



IRELAND (Irish)

Mac Dhonnagáin, Tadhg

Bi Fiáin, a Chroí(Orig. English: *Be Wild, Little One* by Olivia Hope)

An Spidéal: Futa Fata, 2024

27.4x24.5cm, 32pp

ISBN 978-1-915684-10-3, ages: 4+

Nature, animals, beauty, celebration

This uplifting picture book celebrates the wildness in all of us and the beauty of the natural world. From pine forests to starry skies, the poetic text encourages children to run with wolves, fly across oceans and dance with fireflies. Skilfully re-rendered into Irish, the translation captures the love, wisdom and energy of the original, making it a perfect shared storytime experience.

Tadhg Mac Dhonnagáin is a Galway-based novelist, scriptwriter, composer and founder of Futa Fata, a publisher of Irish language books. His love for the natural world is evident in his translations and his own original works like *Bliain na nAmhrán*. Under his leadership, Futa Fata has found readers across Europe and as far as China and South Africa.

Tadhg Mac Dhonnagáin tadhg@futafata.ie

Futa Fata gemma@futafata.ie • www.futafata.ie

163



ITALY (Italian)

Milton Knowles, Samanta K.

Il bello di Kerstin(Orig. Swedish: *Det fina med Kerstin* by Helena Hedlund)

Rome: La Nuova Frontiera Junior, 2025

14x21 cm, 199pp

ISBN 979-12-80176-88-2, ages: 8+

Honesty, friendship, love

Seven-year-old Kerstin collects golden objects, including a wedding ring she finds at school but is too afraid to return. Focusing on feelings rather than facts, this story explores a child's search for balance and self-recognition amidst tangled secrets and carefree games. Also nominated in the 2026 IBBY Honour List for its Polish translation, this heartwarming story captures childhood reality with humour and sensitivity, subtly exploring the thin line between truth and lies.

Samanta K. Milton Knowles graduated in Intercultural Studies and Linguistic Sciences, specialising in the translation of Astrid Lindgren. Living in Tuscany since 2014, she translates from Swedish and Danish for major Italian publishing houses. She edited the integral Italian version of *Pippi Longstocking* for its 75th anniversary and served on the administrative office of StorieLab.

Samanta K. Milton Knowles samantak.miltonknowles@gmail.com

La Nuova Frontiera Junior stampa@lanuovafontiera.it • www.lanuovafontiera.it



JAPAN (Japanese)

Nozawa, Kaori

Monokuro no machi no yoake ni モノクロの街の夜明けに(Orig. English: *I Must Betray You* by Ruta Sepetys)

Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten, 2023

13x19cm, 398pp

ISBN 978-4-00-116048-2, ages: 13+

Romania 20th century, dictatorship, revolution, 1989, espionage

Set in 1989 Romania, this thriller follows Christian, a high school student forced to become an informant for the secret police under Ceausescu's dictatorship. Knowing he is in danger, Christian decides to take action and secretly resists the regime. The narrative provides a factual description of the social situation leading to the revolution while keeping readers turning pages with its suspenseful plot.

Kaori Nozawa, born in Tokyo in 1961, graduated from Sophia University in English Literature. After living in the UK and Austria, she attended translation school in Japan. Since her debut translation of *Driving Blind* in 1998, she has translated a wide range of genres from children's literature to non-fiction, honing her skills through extensive preliminary work and reading.

Kaori Nozawa ezb10255@nifty.com

Iwanami Shoten jjidosho1@iwanami.co.jp • www.iwanami.co.jp



KOREA (REP. OF) (Korean)

Kim, Jeongha

Jasinmanmanhan eumchi geobug-ideul 자신만만한 음치 거북이들(Orig. Spanish: *Sé tortuga* by Agustín Sánchez Aguilar)

Seoul: Booksground (Influential), 2024

14.8x21.0cm, 159pp

ISBN 979-11-6834-227-9, ages: 8–10

Rooster, turtle, deafness, singing lessons

Winner of the 2023 Edebé Prize, this delightful tale follows a singing rooster haunted by past mistakes who finds redemption by teaching a group of tone-deaf turtles. The story blends humour and tenderness to bring out the child within us. The translation faithfully captures the author's simple yet lyrical prose, the quirky characters and the sharp thematic undercurrents, conveying them perfectly to Korean readers.

Kim Jeongha studied Spanish literature at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies and the Complutense University of Madrid. A prolific translator of over 200 books, her works include *Child Who Stole a Library* and *Climate Crisis: Urgent Remedies Needed!*. Her translation of *Sé tortuga* was enriched by evocative illustrations from acclaimed artist Lee Eun-Kyung.

Jeongha Kim k.estela88@gmail.com

Booksground books@influential.co.kr • www.influential.co.kr



LATVIA (Latvian)

Viška, Signe

Kā ārprāts man izskaidroja pasauli(Orig. German: *Wie der Wahnsinn mir die Welt erklärte* by Dita Zipfel)

Rīga: Liels un mazs, 2024

14x21.5cm, 191pp

ISBN 978-9934-633-23-2, ages: 11+

Adolescence, friendship

Lucy struggles to understand why her mother left her wonderful father for an annoying man, or why a neighbour believes vegetables are body parts of mythical creatures. Bound by a touch of madness, this novel is a witty, compassionate, and delightfully chaotic exploration of identity and empathy, where jokes hide real emotions and complex questions. It suggests that being ‘mad’ or different is not something to be feared, but a way to make sense of a chaotic world.

Signe Viška, born in 1997, made her debut with the picture book *Kate Who Wanted to Become a Grandfather*, which has been translated into nine languages. Working at the Richard Wagner Society of Riga, she also serves on the board of IBBY Latvia. In 2025, she received the International Jānis Baltvilks Award for her translation of Dita Zipfel’s novel.

Signe Viška signeviska@gmail.com

Liels un mazs limze@lielsmazs.lv • www.lielsmazs.lv



LEBANON (Arabic)

Assi, Mckeen

Maza Law...? ماذا لو...?(Orig. English: *What If...?* by Lynn Jenkins)

Beirut: Dar Alhadaek Group, 2024

23x24cm, 26pp

ISBN 978-614-439-564-6, ages: 5+

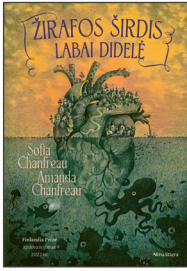
Imagination, creativity, fantasy

Zena lies in bed wondering if a monster hides in her closet, letting ‘what-ifs’ open the door to fear. With her mother’s guidance, she learns to use those same words to imagine joy: ‘What if cupcakes grew on trees?’, ‘What if clouds turned green and purple?’. By changing her thoughts, Zena discovers she can choose her feelings, turning worry into wonder and fear into curiosity.

Mckeen Assi is Regional Manager at Al-Hadaek Group, holding Master’s degrees in Applied Behaviour Analysis and Education. She has published books in collaboration with the Qatar National Library and translated several children’s titles. Her passion for translation stems from a desire to make stories accessible, fostering curiosity and empathy across cultures.

Mckeen Assi mckeenassi@gmail.com

Dar Alhadaek Group alhadaek@alhadaekgroup.com • www.alhadaekgroup.com



LITHUANIA (Lithuanian)

Karvelis, Mantas

Žirafos širdis labai didelė(Orig. Swedish: *Giraffens hjärta är ovanligt stort* by Sofia Chanfreau, Amanda Chanfreau)

Vilnius: Alma littera, 2024

16.5x23.5cm, 190pp

ISBN 978-609-01-5978-1, ages: 9–14

Father/daughter, longing, family life, search, mother, fantasy

Ten-year-old Vega lives on Giraffe Island with her father, never having met her mother. When she asks about her, she receives only mysterious answers. Coloured by magical realism, this touching story intertwines joy and sadness, despair and hope, the search for new horizons and the ability to forgive. It is a tale about the infinite, boundless nature of the heart.

Mantas Karvelis has translated from Swedish to Lithuanian since 2005, collaborating with major publishing houses on over 80 books, including works by Ulf Stark and Martin Widmark. In 2025, he was recognised by IBBY Lithuania for the most significant translation of the year for teenagers. He is also an avid professional tour guide.

Mantas Karvelis mantas.karvelis@gmail.com

Alma littera v.lovkiene@almalittera.lt • www.almalittera.lt



NETHERLANDS (Dutch)

Postema, Maria

De ogen en het onmogelijke(Orig. English: *The Eyes & the Impossible* by Dave Eggers)

Amsterdam: Leopold, 2023

17.3x22.7cm, 327pp

ISBN 978-90-258-8495-6, ages: 10–18

Dog, animals, humans, freedom, friendship

Johannes, a free dog, lives in an urban park by the sea. His job is to be the Eyes—observing the humans and other animals who share the park and making sure the Equilibrium is in balance—and report back to the park's elders, three ancient Bison. But changes are afoot and the Equilibrium is disrupted. Johannes must run faster, see better, and ultimately do more than run and see—he must liberate those he loves, and embrace the uncertainty of a new beginning

Maria Postema studied English and Film and Television Studies before becoming one of the Netherlands' most renowned YA translators. Her translation of *The Eyes & the Impossible* was acclaimed by the Dutch press for resonating perfectly with the original, as if 'the author were whispering her the tiniest nuances for each sentence'. It stands as an outstanding achievement in translation.

Maria Postema mariaPostema@gmail.com

Leopold info@leopold.nl • www.leopold.nl

170



NETHERLANDS (Frisian)

van Dijk, Tjitske & van der Meer, Hermien

De Wurdskat(Orig. German: *Der Wortschatz* by R. Gugger & S. Röthlisberger)

Leeuwarden: Afûk, 2025

22.5x29cm, 44pp

ISBN 978-94-93318-56-4, ages: 4+

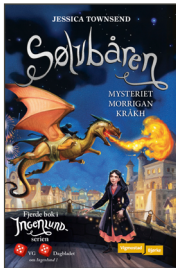
Language, creativity, imagination

Oskar digs up a chest filled not with gold, but with words like ‘sunbeam yellow’, which he throws into the bushes to conjure a yellow hedgehog. Running out of words, he meets Lise, who teaches him to invent new ones like ‘slyme-slippery’ and ‘chickadee-chirpy’. This imaginative ode to language invites children to play with words and fill their own treasure chests.

Tjitske van Dijk and **Hermien van der Meer** both work at Afûk, an institution for Frisian language and culture. Tjitske is involved in multilingual education projects, while Hermien is an editor. Together, they enjoyed translating this book, using the rich vocabulary of Frisian to invent quirky, humorous words that celebrate the joy of language.

Tjitske van Dijk • **Hermien van der Meer** tjitske.vandijk@afuk.frl • hermien.vandermeer@afuk.frl
Afûk yfno@afuk.nl • www.afuk.frl

171



NORWAY (Norwegian)

Vogt, Kirsti

Sølvbåren(Orig. English: *Silverborn* by Jessica Townsend)

Bergen: Vigmostad & Bjørke, 2025

13.5x20.6cm, 703pp

ISBN 978-82-419-5217-3, ages: 9–12

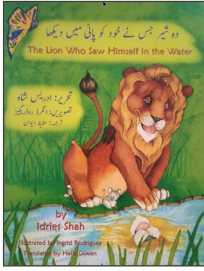
Fantasy, mystery, secret

In the wealthy Silver District of Nevermoor, Morrigan uncovers a family mystery involving a white wedding, a golden dragon and a red pool of blood. Embroiled in a murder investigation while grappling with her Wundersmith powers, she fears her friends will reject her if they learn her secret. This fourth installment in the *Nevermoor* series sees Morrigan racing against time to solve the mystery before shadowy forces awaken.

Kirsti Vogt, born in 1971, is one of Norway’s most celebrated translators from English, Swedish and Danish. Her work is highly praised for preserving humour and cultural keypoints. She has received the Bastian Award (2019) and the Cultural Department’s Award (2020) for translations of the *Nevermoor* series, and won The Translator Award in 2025 for her complete body of work.

Kirsti Vogt Kirsti@vogt.as
Vigmostad & Bjørke Post@vigmostadbjorke.no • www.vigmostadbjorke.no

172



PAKISTAN (Punjabi & English)

Mohiuddin, Sarwat

Ajhaā Sher Jihaine Apne Āp Nūn Pānī Vich Vekhiā**اجیہا شیر جیہنے اپنے آپ نون پانی وج ویکھیا**(Orig. English: *The Lion who Saw Himself in Water* by Idrees Shah)

Lahore, Pakistan: Hoopoe Books & Alif Laila Book Bus Society, 2025

21.6x28cm, 32pp

ISBN 978 1967 85 502 5, ages: 4–10

Fable, fear, lion, retelling, bilingual book

Originally composed by the 13th-century poet Rumi, this timeless tale follows Share the Lion King, whose adventures help children understand emotions and overcome irrational fears. Retold by Idrees Shah, the story blends imagination and insight to convey wisdom through simple narrative. It serves as a gentle tool for young readers to comprehend behaviour and grow with courage.

Sarwat Mohiuddin is a renowned poet, painter and prose writer from Lahore, holding a Master's in Punjabi Literature. A prolific author of twenty-five books, she has translated sixteen international children's books and the *Heer Waris Shah* into English verse. She has represented Pakistan at international literary forums and received the MLLF Lifetime Achievement Award in 2023.

Sarwat Mohiuddin sarwatmpk@yahoo.com

Hoopoe Books & Alif Laila Book Bus Society aliflaila.p.manager@gmail.com • www.aliflaila.org.pk

173



PERU (Spanish)

Garayar Rodríguez, Alejandra

Fábulas de La Fontaine(Orig. French: *Fables de La Fontaine* by Jean de la Fontaine)

Lima: De Lirio Ediciones, 2025

18.6x18.6cm, 99pp

ISBN 978-612-49606-1-1, ages: 6+

Fable

This edition offers a contemporary translation of Jean de La Fontaine's timeless fables, preserving the poetic spirit through assonant rhyme. The result of meticulous research, the verses resonate with today's readers while honouring the original essence. Illustrated by five renowned artists, the book includes a study of the author, a glossary and an audiobook narrated by the translator.

Alejandra Garayar Rodríguez is a Peruvian translator and filmmaker based in France, holding a degree from Sorbonne University. She has translated tales by Charles Perrault and 30 fables by La Fontaine for De Lirio. She has also worked as a director and script supervisor at Pompeu Fabra University, blending her cinematic and literary expertise.

Alejandra Garayar Rodríguez alegarayar15@gmail.com

De Lirio Ediciones info@edicionesdelirio.com • www.edicionesdelirio.com

TRANSLATION

92

174



PERU (Quechua)

Coronado, Nora

Uku Pacha(Orig. Spanish: *Uku Pacha* by Mauricio Apaza Llerena)

Lima: Fondo de Cultura Económica, 2023

16x16cm, 22pp

ISBN 978-612-4395-56-7, ages: 0-6

Birds, grandparents

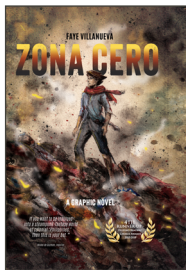
In this bilingual picture book, a gentle bird visits an elderly woman daily until one day it dies in her hands. Offering a quiet glimpse into Andean cosmogony, 'Uku' refers to the underworld, a realm of transformation and rebirth. The rhythmic lines invite shared reading in Spanish and Quechua, providing young children a gentle way to reflect on absence and care.

Nora Coronado is a certified Official Translator and Interpreter by the Ministry of Culture of Peru. Originally from Apurímac, she holds a Master's in Linguistics from the National University of San Marcos and works as a Quechua language instructor. She has authored pedagogical resources like *Qichwa tukunapaq* and participated in various literary translation projects.

Nora Coronado cnora477@gmail.com

Fondo de Cultura Económica (Perú) info@fce.pe • www.fce.pe

175



PHILIPPINES (English)

Guevarra, Richard

Zona Cero(Orig. Tagalog: *Zona Cero* by Faye Villanueva)

Bacoor City, Cavite: Kawangis Publishing, 2023

13.5x20cm, 126pp

ISBN 978-621-829-724-1, ages: 13+

Spain, Philippines 1892, colonial war, soldier, trauma, conscience

In this alternate-history fiction, Gobernador General Carlos Emilio revives the elite Hidalgo military unit to conquer the island of Manuvu using mechanical soldiers. Among the recruits is Antonio Malik, who must prove himself worthy while uncovering a sinister plan crafted by the 'Ilustrados'. As betrayal surfaces, Antonio sees both the glory and darkness within the country he serves, blending action, drama and steampunk aesthetics.

Richard Guevarra is a translator and editor based in Cavite. He worked with author Faye Villanueva to bring this graphic novel from Tagalog to English, preserving the intricate world-building and dramatic tension of the original. His work supports the growing visibility of Philippine speculative fiction in the global market.

Richard Guevarra kawangiskomiks@gmail.com

Kawangis Publishing laro.at.kwento@kawangis.ph • www.kawangis.ph

176



POLAND (Polish)

Czernow, Anna

Złota Kerstin(Orig. Swedish: *Det fina med Kerstin* by Helena Hedlund)

Warsaw: Wydawnictwo Dwie Siostry, 2023

15x20cm, 216pp

ISBN 978-83-8150-375-4, ages: 7+

Untruth, self-esteem, need

Seven-year-old Kerstin collects golden objects, including a wedding ring she finds at school but is too afraid to return. Focusing on feelings rather than facts, this story explores a child's search for balance and self-recognition amidst tangled secrets and carefree games. Also nominated in the 2026 IBBY Honour List for its Italian translation, this heartwarming story captures childhood reality with humour and sensitivity, subtly exploring the thin line between truth and lies.

Anna Czernow is a literary translator and researcher at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, specialising in Swedish children's literature and translation studies. She has authored over 20 articles and edited the English translation of Janusz Korczak's works. A member of IBBY Poland, she translates mainly fiction and essays for young readers.

Anna Czernow anna.m.czernow@gmail.com

Wydawnictwo Dwie Siostry office@wydawnictwodwiesiostry.pl • www.wydawnictwodwiesiostry.pl

177



RUSSIA (Russian)

Vizel, Mikhail

Volshebnik Federico **Волшебник Федерико**(Orig. Italian: *Federico che mago!* by Laura Fischetto)

Moscow: Gorodets, 2025

21.1x29.7cm, 29pp

ISBN 978-5-907483-66-8, ages: 6–10

Dream, play, circus, magic, Federico Fellini

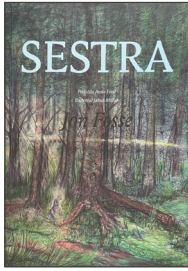
This vibrant, poetic interpretation of Federico Fellini's early life tells of an imaginative boy who meets his muse, Gelsomina, and joins a travelling circus. There, he learns to channel his fantasies into the world's greatest circus: cinema. Written in open poetic prose and enhanced by illustrations approved by Fellini himself, the story celebrates the power of imagination and art.

Mikhail Vizel, born in Moscow in 1970, is a writer, editor and translator who graduated from the Gorky Literary Institute. A pioneer of Russian online humanities, he co-founded the online media Lenta.Ru and has translated over 60 books by English-speaking and Italian authors, including Umberto Eco and Gianni Rodari. He serves as editor-in-chief of the Year of Literature portal.

Mikhail Vizel viesel@gmail.com

Gorodets info@gorodets.ru • www.gorodets.ru

178



SLOVAKIA (Slovak)

Fosse, Anna

Sestra(Orig. Norwegian: *Søster* by Jon Fosse)

Levoča: Modrý Peter, 2022

33x24cm, 53pp

ISBN 978-80-8245-001-2, ages: 7–12

Siblings, personality, life, awareness

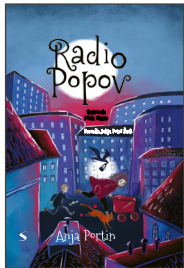
This minimalist, piercing, children's picture book explores the existential world of a four-year-old boy living near the sea with his parents and his younger sister. The translation faithfully opens up the poetic world of Nobel laureate Jon Fosse. The sentence structure and rhythm are carefully preserved, transforming simple childlike moments into a delicate linguistic spark that emphasizes self-awareness and sibling bonds with lyrical intensity and meditative tone.

Anna Fosse, born in 1986, is a translator and literary scholar specialising in Nordic drama. She studied at Comenius University and the Slovak Academy of Sciences, focusing on the tragic in Nordic drama. Among the first to introduce Fosse's plays to Slovakia, she received a prestigious award from the Literary Fund in 2017 for her pioneering work.

Anna Fosse anna.a.fosse@gmail.com

Modrý Peter modrypeter@wp.pl • www.modrypeter.sk

179



SLOVENIA (Slovenian)

Potrč Šavli, Julija

Radio Popov(Orig. Finnish: *Radio Popov* by Anja Portin)

Ljubljana: KUD Sodobnost International, 2024

14x20cm, 271pp

ISBN 978-961-7218-23-7, ages: 9–12

Loneliness, compassion

Nine-year-old Alfred, lonely and curious, meets the mysterious Sneak and discovers an old radio transmitter built by physicist A. S. Popov. His secret nightly broadcasts reach forgotten children across the sleeping city, offering connection and care. This warm, moving story, winner of the Finlandia Junior Literary Prize in 2020, is beautifully translated to convey the novel's fantasy, rhythm and emotional depth.

Julija Potrč Šavli, born in 1979, is a translator from Finnish, Estonian and English. She holds degrees from the University of Ljubljana and has translated over 40 children's books, including the *Tatu and Patu* series. In 2025, she received the Sovre Award, Slovenia's highest distinction for literary translators, for her outstanding contributions.

Julija Potrč Šavli julija.potrc@gmail.com

KUD Sodobnost International sodobnost@guest.arnes.si • www.sodobnost.com

180



SPAIN (Galician)

Barcia, Moisés

Que é a guerra(Orig. Catalan: *Què és la guerra* by Eduard Altarriba)

Cangas do Morrazo: Sushi Books, 2024

20x25cm, 39pp

ISBN 978-84-16884-90-2, ages: 10+

War

Designed to answer questions arising from news about war, this book explains causes and consequences in simple terms. Understanding how wars work is presented as the first step towards peace. The translation makes these complex topics accessible to young Galician readers, fostering critical thinking and empathy.

Moisés Barcia is a Galician translator who has worked with English, French, Italian and Spanish. Since 2005, he has directed Rinoceronte Editora, a label specialising in translated works from underrepresented or minority languages. He also oversees the children's imprint Sushi Books, promoting diverse voices in Galician literature.

Moisés Barcia mbarcia@rinoceronte.gal

Sushi Books falame@sushibooks.es • www.sushibooks.es

181



SPAIN (Catalan)

Pàmies, Xavier

El desnudador d'embruixos(Orig. English: *Unraveller* by Frances Hardinge)

Barcelona: Bambú (Editorial Casals), 2023

14x21.5cm, 577pp

ISBN 978-84-8343-848-0, ages: 14+

Spell, magic, metamorphosis, fantasy

In an imaginary world, Kellen possesses the gift of breaking spells. Accompanied by Nettle, a girl whom he saved from being turned into a bird, and her brother Yannick, still enchanted as a heron, he travels to Raddith to investigate a mysterious recruitment of sorcerers. The plot moves through swamps and encounters with enchanted people, facing a manipulative organization in a rich, atmospheric fantasy.

Xavier Pàmies, born in Barcelona in 1959, is a translator of fiction from Portuguese, English and French. Awarded the City of Barcelona Translation Prize in 2003, he holds a degree in Biology and a diploma in advanced translation studies. His extensive travels across South America, Africa and Asia have influenced his writing and translation work.

Xavier Pàmies pamiesxavier@yahoo.es

Bambú gisela.herranz@editorialcasals.com • www.editorialbambu.com

182



SPAIN (Basque)

Jaka Irizar, Aiora

Neska baten memoria(Orig. French: *Mémoire de fille* by Annie Ernaux)

Iruñea: Igela, 2024

12x20cm, 180pp

ISBN 978-84-126849-3-3, ages: 14–18

Young woman, coming of age, rape, France 1950s

In the summer of 1958, an eighteen-year-old girl working at a camp is abruptly immersed in the adult world of love and sexuality. Over fifty years later, Annie Ernaux faces those memories, plunging into photos and letters to complete an intimate portrait of her youth marked by shame, silence and grief. The translation captures the vivid recollection and emotional depth of the original.

Aiora Jaka Irizar, born in Donostia in 1982, holds a PhD in Linguistics and Basque Studies. A freelance translator and former researcher, she has translated authors like Mo Yan and Stefan Zweig into Basque. She won the Euskadi Translation Prize in 2024 and has received the Vitoria-Gasteiz Prize for children's literature translation three times.

Aiora Jaka Irizar aiorajaka@hotmail.com

Igela igela@igela.eus • www.igela.eus

183



SPAIN (Spanish)

Flecha Marco, Ana

Perfectamente imperfecto(Orig. Norwegian: *Full bajas* by Ingunn Thon)

Madrid: Nórdica libros, 2025

14.5x21.5cm, 184pp

ISBN 979-13-87922-04-7, ages: 10–12

Perfectionism, performance pressure

Orion Sigerstad is a perfect flute player until the day of his important concert, when he wakes up a complete buffoon, yelling at parents and playing wrong notes. Confused by this transformation, he must fix it in time, perhaps finding a good, imperfect friend along the way. The story explores the pressure of perfection and the value of authenticity.

Ana Flecha Marco is a freelance literary translator and writer based in Madrid, specialising in English, French and Norwegian. Her translation of Linn Ullmann's *Jente, 1983* won the Esther Benítez Translation Award in 2024. She has been shortlisted for the same prize multiple times for her translations of contemporary Nordic fiction.

Ana Flecha Marco aflechamarco@gmail.com

Nórdica libros info@nordicalibros.com • www.nordicalibros.com



SWEDEN (Swedish)

Lindbäck, Johanna

Missat samtal

(Orig. Norwegian: *Ubesvaret opkald* by Nora Dåsnes)

Stockholm: Alfabeta, 2024

18x23cm, 304pp

ISBN 978-91-501-2280-0, ages: 15+

Terrorism, fear, Oslo, graphic novel

Set in Oslo shortly after the July 2011 terrorist attacks, this graphic novel follows friends Rebekka and Fariba as they start high school. While Fariba becomes politically active, Rebekka tries to ignore the tragedy, focusing on school and friends. Yet she cannot stop thinking about the shooting, exploring themes of alienation, grief and the difficulty of reaching out in the face of meaningless violence.

Johanna Lindbäck, born in 1972 in Luleå, is one of Sweden's most popular authors of children's and young adult literature. A former Reading Ambassador, she translates from English and Norwegian into Swedish. Her translations include works by Sarah Dessen and previous titles by Nora Dåsnes, bringing contemporary Nordic voices to Swedish readers.

Johanna Lindbäck joalik@gmail.com

Alfabeta info@alfabeta.se • www.alfabeta.se



SWITZERLAND (German)

Roth, Eva

Das Dorf der Steine

(Orig. Spanish: *Hablan las piedras* by Lawrence Schimel)

Zurich: Atlantis, 2024

22x28cm, 26pp

ISBN 978-3-7152-0869-5, ages: 4+

Grief, graveyard, uncle

In a colourful graveyard radiating coziness, blind Sonja visits her late uncle Fred, feeling her way through engraved letters with her hands. With the help of Martin, the gardener, she discovers the stories behind the names, turning every gravestone into a window to a departed life. This succinct and sensitive text paints a comforting picture of saying goodbye and holding on to fond memories.

Eva Roth, born in 1974, is a writer and former editor at Atlantis Verlag. Her young adult novel *Lisa Perk* was part of the IBBY Honour List in 2022. Known for her linguistic sensitivity and precision, she translates picture books from Spanish into German, demonstrating the same keen sense for nuance found in her own award-winning texts.

Eva Roth mail@evaroth.ch

Atlantis info@atlantisverlag.ch • www.atlantisverlag.ch

186



TÜRKİYE (Turkish)

Kazmaoğlu, Mine

Findel Gizemi(Orig. English: *The Frindle Files* by Andrew Clements)

İstanbul: Güneşçi Kitaplığı, 2025

12x18cm, 215pp

ISBN 978-625-6915-41-1, ages: 10+

School, technology, language, imagination

Josh Willet, an avid gamer, dislikes Mr N, his English teacher, who runs a classroom completely free of technology. One day, Josh uncovers a secret from the teacher's past. Teaming up with his friend Vanessa, he uses his computer skills to investigate the mystery behind Mr N's strict approach. The story combines school life with a detective narrative, exploring the clash between technology and traditional education.

Mine Kazmaoğlu, born in Ankara in 1950, graduated from Robert College and the Istanbul State Academy of Fine Arts. A former assistant professor in history of architecture and editor of the *Ana Britannica Encyclopedia*, she has translated numerous children's books from English and German for Güneşçi Kitaplığı. She lives in Istanbul.

Mine Kazmaoğlu mail@mine.web.tr

Güneşçi Kitaplığı info@guneshcikitapligi.com • www.guneshcikitapligi.com

187



UKRAINE (Ukrainian)

Antoniak, Bożena

Іменини Іменини(Orig. Polish: *Urodziny* by Joanna Jagiełło)

Lviv: Urbino, 2024

15x20cm, 149pp

ISBN 978-966-2647-92-1, ages: 8+

Exclusion, community, school

This sincere story explores the fragile world of teenagers where friendship and loneliness intertwine. Through the eyes of schoolchildren hurt by exclusion, it reveals the deep need to be heard and understood. Small everyday moments uncover fears of rejection and the longing for sincerity, teaching that kindness begins with attentiveness to others' feelings.

Bożena Antoniak, born in 1971 in Lviv, holds a degree in Slavic philology and translates from Polish, English, and other Slavic languages. As editor-in-chief of Urbino Publishers, she promotes reading and organizes meetings with children. Her translations, often addressing topics like war, bullying and diversity, are popular and included in the Ukrainian school curriculum.

Bożena Antoniak wydawnictwo.urbino@gmail.com

Urbino Publishers wydawnictwo.urbino@gmail.com • www.urbino.com.ua



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (Arabic)

Mahfouz Barraj, Samar

Adam آدم

(Orig. Lithuanian: *Nukas* by Audra Barauskaitė)

Sharjah: Kalimat, 2024

23x28cm, 36pp

ISBN 978-9948-782-44-5, ages: 6–9

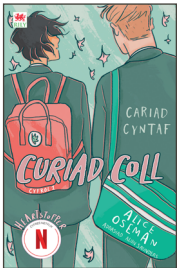
Senses, perception, identity, difference

Tony is not like other children; sometimes cannot hear and sometimes cannot see. His unusual way of experiencing the world creates humorous situations and encourages readers to imagine life from different perspectives. Through two stories presented from opposite ends of the book, the book explores themes of neurodiversity, understanding, and family acceptance.

Samar Mahfouz Barraj is a Lebanese author and translator with over 60 published books and around 100 translations from French, English and Italian. A former teacher, she dedicates herself to writing and conducting creative writing workshops. Her works have won several awards and she was nominated to the HC Andersen Award in 2024.

Samar Mahfouz Barraj samarbarraj@gmail.com

Kalimat info@kalimat.ae • www.kalimatgroup.ae



UNITED KINGDOM (Welsh)

Saunders, Alun

Curiad Coll: Cyfrol 1

(Orig. English: *Heartstopper* by Alice Oseman)

Caerphilly: Rily Publications, 2023

15.2x23.4cm, 263pp

ISBN 978-1-80416-379-5, ages: 11+

School, homosexuality/LGBTQIA+, love, anorexia/anxiety, graphic novel

This bestselling graphic novel, now adapted into Welsh, tells the classic tale of boy meets boy, boys become friends, boys fall in love. Alun Saunders' adaptation fits perfectly within modern South Wales, bringing the story to life with Welsh authenticity that celebrates culture and community. It offers readers the chance to immerse themselves in a beloved LGBTQIA+ story in their own language.

Alun Saunders is a bilingual writer, actor and award-winning playwright working in Welsh and English. Winner of the Wales Theatre Award for Best Playwright in 2016, he has written for major Welsh theatres and television dramas. His recent adaptation of the *Heartstopper* series into Welsh has been hailed as a triumph for young adult translated fiction.

Alun Saunders alunsaunderswriter@gmail.com

Rily Publications lynda@rily.co.uk • www.rily.co.uk



UNITED KINGDOM (English)

Prime, A. A.

The Secret of Helmersbruk Manor. A Christmas Mystery

(Orig. Swedish: *Hemligheten i Helmersbruk* by Eva Frantz)

London: Pushkin Children's, 2023

17.63x24.69cm, 270pp

ISBN 978-1-78269-418-2, ages: 9–11

Ghost, secret, danger, Christmas

Set across three timelines (1975, 1925, 2019), this narrative follows Flora, who feels strangely at home in Helmersbruk Manor despite never visiting before. Hearing ghostly voices and possessing unknown knowledge, she uncovers the manor's powers and her own link to its past. Richly detailed and intertextual, the story explores grief, loss and the search for identity and belonging.

A. A. (Annie) Prime is an award-winning translator from Swedish and Finland-Swedish, with an MA from University College London. She won the GLLI Translated Young Adult Book Award in 2020 and has been nominated for the Marsh Award and the Carnegie Medal. Her preferred texts contain magic, mystery and philosophical allegory, and she hopes to publish her own fantasy writing soon.

A. A. Prime aaprime.translation@gmail.com

Pushkin Children's sarahododina@pushkinpress.com • www.pushkinpress.com



UNITED STATES (English)

Lal, Vineet

Home

(Orig. French: *Maison* by Isabelle Simler)

Grand Rapids, United States: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2024

18.72x30.48cm, 64pp

ISBN 978-0-8028-5620-3, ages: 5–8

Animals, home, poetry

This oversized picture book invites readers into the dwellings of twenty-seven diverse animals, from bedchambers to skyscrapers. Bold illustrations pair with poems told from each animal's point of view, describing building materials like silk and wax, and functions like safeguarding eggs. The lively poems capture personalities and scientific facts, rivaling human architecture in complexity and beauty.

Vineet Lal, born in Singapore and raised in Edinburgh, transitioned from marketing to literary translation from French to English. He has translated works by Grégoire Delacourt and Guillaume Musso, as well as children's titles like *The Most Beautiful Winter*, which received a CBC Children's Favorites Award. He holds degrees from Princeton and Edinburgh Universities and serves on the Board of the Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust.

Vineet Lal vineet_lal@hotmail.com

Eerdmans Books for Young Readers astorey@eerdmans.com • www.eerdmans.com

LANGUAGE INDEX

52 Languages

Afaan Oromo	20, 150	Norwegian	47, 115, 171
Afar Af.....	21, 153	Polish.....	51, 119, 176
Amharic	22, 95, 151	Portuguese.....	52, 120
Arabic	18, 41, 70, 93, 110, 131, 148, 167, 188	Punjabi.....	172
Armenian	78, 136	Quechua.....	174
Basque	60, 182	Russian.....	53, 54, 74, 121, 177
Cabécar.....	144	Slovak.....	58, 123, 178
Catalan	61, 181	Slovenian.....	59, 124, 179
Chinese	9, 57, 84, 142	Somali.....	23, 154
Croatian.....	12, 87, 145	Spanish.....	1, 8, 10, 11, 16, 17, 49, 63, 76, 77, 83 85, 86, 91, 92, 117, 125, 135, 141, 143 144, 147, 173, 183
Czech	14, 89, 146	Swedish.....	26, 64, 126, 155, 184
Danish	15, 90	Tigrinya.....	24, 152
Dutch	4, 45, 114, 169	Turkish	67, 128, 186
English.....	2, 6, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 32, 36, 48, 55 56, 57, 68, 71, 73, 79, 82, 102, 112, 116 122, 129, 132, 133, 134, 140, 150, 151 152, 153, 154, 172, 175, 190, 191	Ukrainian	69, 130, 187
Estonian.....	19, 94, 149	Uzbek	75
Farsi.....	35, 104	Welsh.....	72, 189
Filipino.....	50, 118	Wordless.....	98, 100
Finnish.....	25, 26, 96, 156		
French	5, 7, 26, 65, 81, 97, 138, 139, 157		
Frisian.....	46, 170		
Galician.....	62, 180		
German.....	3, 28, 66, 80, 127, 137, 158, 185		
Greek.....	13, 29, 88, 99, 159		
Hindi	33, 161		
Hungarian.....	30		
Icelandic	31, 101, 160		
Indonesian.....	34, 103		
Irish.....	105, 162		
Italian	37, 106, 163		
Japanese	38, 107, 164		
Komi	53		
Korean.....	39, 108, 165		
Latvian.....	40, 109, 166		
Lithuanian.....	42, 111, 168		
Malay	43, 56		
Mongolian.....	44, 113		

Accident	61	Betrayal	84, 159
Adolescence	59, 166	Birthday	80, 152
Adventure	17, 25, 31, 37, 47, 53, 58	Boat	65
	63, 69, 82, 90, 101, 155	Books	148
Afghan girl	161	Bridges	89
Age/aging	18, 49	Buddhism	84
Animal rescue	118	Bullying	29, 122
Animal: Amphibians	29	Celebration	162
Animal: Birds	20, 21, 40, 174	Ceramics	9
Animal: Cat	116	Childhood	67, 113, 149, 150
Animal: Charr fish	107	Children's gang	47
Animal: Deer	84	Circus	177
Animal: Dog	44, 169	Coffee bean	153
Animal: Fish	77	Coming of age	5, 7, 15, 29, 31, 37, 64, 140, 182
Animal: Forest animals	74, 119	Coming-out	140
Animal: Frog	106	Communication	6, 23
Animal: Goat	153	Community	16, 18, 79, 124, 187
Animal: Horse	95, 121	Condition: Albinism	138
Animal: Lion	172	Condition: Alcoholism	51
Animal: Mammals	21, 130	Condition: Anorexia/anxiety	189
Animal: Marine mammals	130	Condition: Autism	13, 43, 71, 100
Animal: Mouse	86	Condition: Deafness	165
Animal: Narwhal	130	Condition: Depression	127
Animal: Pets	97	Condition: Disability	158
Animal: Rooster	165	Condition: Drugs	7, 157
Animal: Sea snail	53	Condition: Glaucoma in children	57
Animal: Spider	106	Condition: Misophonia	43
Animal: Toad	107	Condition: Syndrome	100
Animal: Turtle	165	Condition: Trauma	2, 6, 175
Animal: Wildlife	81, 97	Condition: Visual impairment	57
Animal: Wolf	62	Conflict	120
Animals	28, 31, 54, 113, 114, 117	Conscience	175
	126, 132, 152, 154, 162, 169, 191	Cooking	104
Archaeology	9	Country life	83
Army	32	Country: Afghanistan	137
Art	46, 150	Country: Canada	139
Awareness	178	Country: China	9, 84
Beauty	162	Country: Cyprus	88
Behaviour	109		

Country: Dominican Republic	91, 147	Emotions: Guilt.....	2
Country: Ethiopia.....	20, 21, 22, 23, 24	Emotions: Happiness	91, 153
	95, 150, 151, 152, 153	Emotions: Hope.....	161
Country: Italy	38	Emotions: Isolation	100
Country: Japan.....	63	Emotions: Joy.....	82
Country: Lithuania	42, 111	Emotions: Loneliness	83, 179
Country: Nigeria	138	Emotions: Longing	168
Country: Peru	117	Emotions: Loss.....	2, 19
Country: Philippines	118	Emotions: Love.....	29, 38, 71, 103, 159, 163, 189
Country: Singapore	56	Emotions: Satisfaction.....	131
Country: Spain.....	175	Emotions: Shame	109
Country: USA	133	Espionage.....	164
Country: USSR.....	42, 111	Everyday life	22, 24, 52, 66, 113, 129
Country: Venezuela	76	Evolution.....	141
Creativity	46, 104, 167, 170	Exclusion	161, 187
Crime: Child abduction.....	139	Experience.....	14
Crime: Child labour	83	Experiment	36
Crime: Rape	182	Family	12, 22, 49, 65, 71, 129, 168
Crime: School shooting.....	6	Family life	168
Crime: Terrorism	184	Family: Father/daughter	168
Crime: Violence	10, 133	Family: Father/son.....	19
Culture	22, 70	Family: Generational relationship	75
Dance	23, 34, 50, 147	Family: Grandfather.....	64
Danger.....	151, 190	Family: Grandfather/granddaughter.....	136, 147
Darkness	128	Family: Grandmother.....	151
Death	93	Family: Grandparents	26, 49, 75, 174
Diet	104	Family: Mother.....	51, 102, 152, 168
Difference	154, 188	Family: Mother/daughter	51
Digital native.....	75	Family: Siblings	26, 96, 127, 156, 158, 178
Disappearance	1, 50, 71	Family: Single father.....	103
Discovery.....	153	Family: Single parent.....	66
Diversity.....	18, 28, 30, 55	Family: Son.....	103
Dream.....	16, 94, 95, 128, 177	Family: Uncle.....	185
Dream robbers.....	16	Fantasy.....	5, 12, 25, 31, 47, 69, 78
Duel	120		156, 167, 171, 181
Education	68, 148	Festival: Christmas.....	72, 190
Elderly woman.....	58	Festival: Eid	116
Elementary school.....	34	Festival: Nowruz	35
Emancipation.....	3, 158	Food	104
Emotions	96	Food chain.....	126
Emotions: Acceptance	30, 43, 110, 154	Freedom	32, 159, 169
Emotions: Admiration	103	Friendship.....	2, 6, 7, 29, 37, 38, 43 47, 58, 73 106
Emotions: Compassion	179		110, 115, 122, 140, 154, 156, 163, 166, 169
Emotions: Confidence	87	Genre: Adaptation	55
Emotions: Confusion	64	Genre: Alphabet book	135
Emotions: Courage	99, 124	Genre: Animal stories	144
Emotions: Disappointment.....	116	Genre: Anthology.....	123
Emotions: Fear	140, 172, 184	Genre: Autobiography	149
Emotions: First love.....	15	Genre: Bilingual book.....	20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 53, 56
Emotions: Grief.....	2, 19, 71, 72, 87, 185		57, 93, 95, 144, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 161, 172

Genre: Biography	48	Honesty	163
Genre: Detective story.....	16, 34, 47, 56, 160	Human body.....	141
Genre: Dystopia.....	27, 115	Human rights.....	76
Genre: Epic.....	35	Humans	60, 114, 141, 169,
Genre: Fable.....	172, 173	Hunger.....	11
Genre: Fairy tale	121, 123, 151	Identity.....	102, 188
Genre: Folk tale	84, 144, 151	Illustration/drawing.....	81
Genre: Graphic novel.....	42, 111, 115, 127, 142, 184, 189	Imaginary journey.....	128
Genre: Poetry	8, 33, 40, 49, 52, 117	Imagination.....	44, 66, 72, 98, 127
	132, 145, 146, 161, 191		128, 155, 167, 170, 186
Genre: Prose poetry	52	Immigrants.....	79
Genre: Retelling.....	123, 151, 172	Independence.....	32, 42, 111
Genre: Role reversal	51	Indigenous people.....	139
Genre: Theatre play.....	61	Individuality	106
Genre: Verse tale	121	Injustice	133
Genre: Wordless book.....	85, 98, 100	Instruction.....	151
Girl.....	44	Integration	30
Gluttony.....	11	Journey.....	53, 63, 155
Graduation ceremony.....	34	Justice	124
Grocery shopping.....	66	Kindergarten.....	113
Growing up.....	41, 59, 75	Kindness.....	110
Güira.....	147	Language.....	17, 23, 170, 186
Habit.....	41	Learning.....	22
Hair	55	LGBTQIA+.....	189
Hand.....	24	Liberation.....	91
Healing	105	Life.....	168, 178
Helpfulness.....	84	Light.....	33
Hero.....	35	Limitation.....	161
History: 1989	164	Lunar calendar.....	152
History: Argentina 1976–1983.....	1	Magic.....	63, 69, 78, 121, 138, 177, 181
History: Berlin 1945.....	4	Malice	124
History: British India	32	Martial law	50
History: Bronze age.....	9	Mathematics.....	143
History: Colombia 2016.....	10	Memory	49, 79, 91, 139, 150
History: Colonial war	175	Metamorphosis	181
History: Dictatorship.....	1, 164	Migration	20, 45
History: France 1950s	182	Military occupation.....	42, 111
History: Istanbul 4th/19th/21st centuries	67	Mindfulness	94
History: New York 20th century.....	37	Missing persons	1, 50
History: Philippines 1892.....	175	Moving house.....	6
History: Philippines 1946–1986	50	Music.....	95, 147
History: Poland 20th Century	62	Mystery.....	34, 171
History: Romania 20th century.....	164	Mythical: Angel.....	72
History: USSR 1953–1985.....	149	Mythical: Dragon	78, 80
History: WWI.....	3	Mythical: Extra-terrestrial	36
History: WWII.....	4, 32, 62, 158	Mythical: Fantasy creatures	77
Holiday	15, 101	Mythical: Ghost	5, 34, 190
Holocaust survivor.....	73	Mythical: Goblin	69
Home.....	45, 129, 191		
Homosexuality/LGTBQ+	140, 189		

Mythical: Little Red Riding Hood.....	151	Past	12
Mythical: Medusa	159	Patience.....	116
Mythical: Monsters.....	31	Peace	10
Mythical: Underworld	25	People: African American.....	133
Mythical: Water spirits.....	108	People: Anuak	22
Mythical: Witch.....	124	People: Cabécar.....	144
Myths.....	144, 159	People: Jews.....	62
Nature.....	33, 82, 92, 105, 106, 162	People: Roma.....	62
Nature: Climate change.....	39	People: Somali	23, 154
Nature: Deforestation	112	People: Tigrinya.....	24, 152
Nature: Earth	36	Perception	188
Nature: Ecology.....	74	Perfectionism	183
Nature: Ecosystem	142	Performance pressure	183
Nature: Endangered species.....	20	Perseverance.....	107
Nature: Environment.....	74	Person: Adamantios Diamantis.....	88
Nature: Environmental damage.....	108, 112	Person: Alexander von Humboldt	125
Nature: Flood.....	112, 118	Person: Federico Fellini.....	177
Nature: Forest.....	14, 69, 74, 81, 119, 142	Person: Yasmeen Lari.....	48
Nature: Iceberg.....	54	Personality.....	178
Nature: Jungle	155	Philosophy.....	26
Nature: Marine pollution	39	Pineapple.....	122
Nature: Natural disaster.....	48	Place: Arctic	54
Nature: Plants.....	117	Place: Baghdad	70
Nature: Rain.....	92, 98	Place: Boarding School.....	5
Nature: River.....	77, 85	Place: Campsite	61
Nature: Sun	33	Place: City	67
Nature: Sustainability	48	Place: Dunhuang.....	84
Nature: Tree.....	142	Place: Fishing villages	39
Nature: Typhoon	118	Place: Gaza	93
Nature: Water	97, 108	Place: Graveyard.....	185
Nature: Water pollution.....	39, 108	Place: Library.....	70
Nature: Waterfall.....	107	Place: Lushai Hills	32
Need	176	Place: Museum.....	46
Neighbourliness.....	18	Place: National park	21
Non-violence	120	Place: Oslo	184
Nonsense	135	Place: Palestine	93
Nudity	109	Place: Prison	65
Occupation: Architect.....	48	Place: Retirement home	73
Occupation: Artist	2, 88	Place: Rift valley lakes.....	21
Occupation: Child detectives	16, 56, 160	Place: Sanxingdui.....	9
Occupation: Fisherman	103	Place: Tashkent	134
Occupation: Herdsman	153	Play.....	97, 177
Occupation: Painter.....	88	Poverty	157
Occupation: Samurai.....	63	Profession.....	68
Occupation: Soldier.....	175	Protection	20
Occupation: Teacher	157	Quest	35
Occupation: Volunteering	73	Questions	26
Orphan.....	3	Racism.....	133
Outsider.....	45	Reading	68, 70, 148
Partisans.....	42, 111	Reconciliation	10

Refugees	4, 45, 79, 161	Word play	17
Relationship.....	136	Young woman.....	182
Renunciation of possessions	118		
Rescue	151		
Revolution	164		
Runaway.....	71		
School	6, 34, 122, 186, 187, 189		
Scientific expedition	54		
Search	131, 168		
Secret	6, 12, 36, 56, 58, 78, 138, 140, 171, 190		
Secret society.....	138		
Self-awareness.....	99		
Self-confidence	55, 73, 99, 122, 130		
Self-control.....	41		
Self-empowerment	13		
Self-esteem	7, 176		
Self-realisation.....	13, 46		
Senses.....	188		
Separation.....	65		
Sexual identity.....	29		
Shadow	27		
Sightseeing.....	134		
Singing lessons	165		
Slavery.....	91		
Social disparity	11		
Spell.....	181		
Stigmatization.....	27		
Stranger.....	30		
Studying abroad	38		
Success.....	68		
Surprise	80		
Survival.....	4, 36		
Swimming.....	82		
Teamwork.....	16		
Technology	186		
Teeth.....	86		
Tolerance	60		
Tradition.....	23		
Travel	85, 90, 155		
Treasure hunt.....	37		
Umbrella	17		
Untruth	176		
Utopia.....	90		
Voyage of exploration.....	125		
Wall painting.....	84		
War	3, 4, 32, 93, 158, 175, 180		
Wealth.....	131		
Weaving.....	49		
Willpower.....	107		
Women's rights.....	137		

INTERNATIONAL BOARD ON BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) is a non-profit organization, which represents an international network of people who are committed to bringing books and children together. In 2026, IBBY has eighty-three Sections worldwide.

Bringing Books and Children together

IBBY's mission is:

- To promote international understanding through children's books
- To support every child's right to become a lifelong reader
- To uphold and protect the Rights of the Child in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- To encourage production and ensure access to high-quality books, both print and digital, addressing the needs of young readers everywhere
- To stimulate research and scholarly works in the field of children's literature
- To support and train those working with children and children's literature

IBBY's international activities:

- Hans Christian Andersen Award
- IBBY-Honour List
- IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Award
- IBBY-iRead Outstanding Reading Promoter Award
- International Children's Book Day
- IBBY's quarterly journal Bookbird
- IBBY Collection of Books for Young People with Disabilities
- IBBY-UNESCO Collection of Remarkable Books for Young Readers in Indigenous and Endangered Languages
- Silent Books Project
- IBBY Children in Crisis Fund
- IBBY-Yamada Fund
- IBBY Congresses
- IBBY Regional Conferences & Meetings

For more information, contact:

IBBY Secretariat

Nonnenweg 12

4055 Basel, Switzerland

Tel. +41 61 272 29 17

E-mail: ibby@ibby.org



@ibby.international

www.ibby.org

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