

**Season's Greetings from IBBY SA,
and welcome to our end of year Newsletter...**



IBBY SA

Warm greetings to you all for a happy and *bookish* festive season from IBBY SA's Executive Committee! It's the time of the year when we feel very much part of the international children's literature world – having had Christmas and New Year greetings from all over the world.

Our newsletter features two thought-provoking articles: Elaine Ridge's review of the landmark McFarland book on South African children's literature and Maxine Case's introduction to the emerging genre of *New Adult*. We report on two South African projects – Biblionef's taking stories to Mzoli's tavern in Gugulethu in its *My Language My Heritage* campaign and the success of South African children in the KIDSLIT quiz. Our news from what we call "Big IBBY" is of IBBY Italia's Silent Books project. It's a project that resonates with us in South Africa and we have sent off two South African wordless picture books for the children's library on Lampedusa island.

Since our last letter, Tafelberg and NB have announced the winners of this year's *Sanlam* Prize for *Youth* Literature, which are reviewed by Kathy Madlener, Lona Gericke and Zonke Silwanyana in our reviewing section. At the celebratory event on 26 October, as a former public librarian, I was delighted to hear Siphso Kekeswa, author of *Ndizigwaze ngowami!*, pay tribute to his local public library where he spends hours each week. It reminded me of the striking phrase used by well-known writer Sindiwe Magona in a recent talk at my university when she described the relationship between writer and library as "sacred space". Another important literary event has been the announcement of the winners of the Maskew Miller Longman 2014 Literature Awards. We will review them in our next letter when we will focus on the challenges of writing drama for young people.

Our plans for 2015 are to continue to strengthen IBBY SA and its ties with other role-players in the field. But we will need to spread our work across our membership base. One urgent project is to build up our Gauteng branch activities under the leadership of Maritha Snyman. Other proposals are for a poster campaign and a national seminar. Please look out for our appeals to members to join in our projects. Isabel Essery, our reviews editor, wishes to expand her reviewing team, for example. If you'd like to join her team, please email her

(isabelessery@ymail.com).

Our next Book Bash, on 5 February 2015, is a panel discussion on writing for teenagers. It will be chaired by Righardt Le Roux of PRAESA.



Book Review - 'Creating Books for the Young in the New South Africa'

Kids' Lit Quiz

My Language My Heritage

Big IBBY - IBBY SA Supports Silent Books

Will the new Adults Please Stand UP?

IBBYSA Reviewing



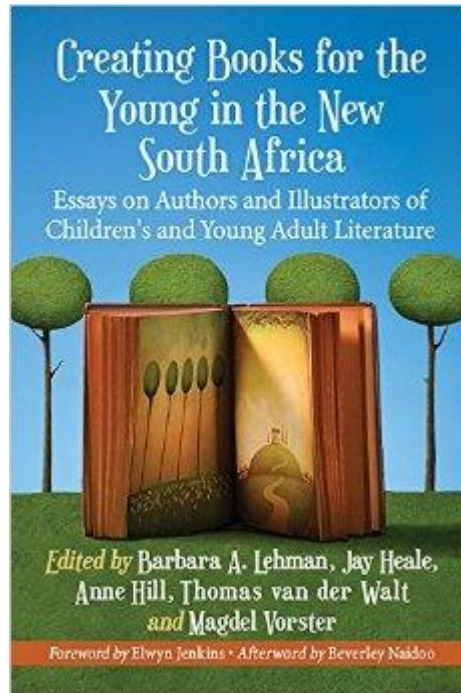
**Creating Books for the Young in the New South Africa: Essays on Authors and
d
Illustrators of Children's and Young Adult Literature**

Edited by Barbara A Lehman, Jay Heale, Anne Hill, Thomas van der Walt and
Magdel Vorster. McFarland, 2014

Reviewed by Elaine Ridge

Children's literature (including young adult literature) in South Africa has not yet been given its due. In that context, this set of essays on twenty authors, three Illustrator/authors and six illustrators is a welcome contribution. It is the fruit of an ambitious project that was clearly tackled with enthusiasm and passion.

There are essays on Lesley Beake, Alida Bothma, Paddy Bouma, Dianne Case, Jude Daly, Niki Daly, Leon de Villiers, Piet Grobler, Wendy Hartmann, Dianne Hofmeyr, Jaco Jacobs, Sindiwe Magona, Ingrid Mennen, Fiona Moodie, Gcina Mhlope, Martie Preller, Elizabeth Pulles, Joan Rankin, Jenny Robson, Linda Rode, Reviva Schermbrucker, Dianne Stewart, Marita van der Vyver, Marjorie van Heerden, Chris van Wyk and Ann Walton.



There are also shorter contributions on three writers described as 'noteworthy talent':

Kagiso Lesego Molepe, Nokuthula Msimang and Sally Partridge. One of the most important achievements of the project, noted by Elwyn Jenkins, is that it brings together in one volume serious studies of currently active illustrators and writers in Afrikaans and English. The chapters privilege voice over substance. While this means that the book has considerable variety of tone and approach, the discussion is sometimes disappointing. In my view the best essays are those on Fiona Moodie, Ann Walton and Sally Partridge (Anne Hill), Gcina Mhlope (Genevieve Hart) and Jenny Robson (Judith Inggs).

These tightly written accounts offer nuanced criticism and accurate commentary. At the same time, they hold the reader's interest and the writers find tactful ways of making the discussion accessible to an international audience. As a whole, though, the book represents a missed opportunity.

There are problems of coherence. The lack of an intellectually compelling rationale for choices made (e.g., the division into three parts and the authors or illustrators included or excluded in these) makes the decisions seem arbitrary. And one

is left asking why significant authors like Elana Bregin, Patricia Pinnock, Peter Slingsby, and Cicely van Straten have been omitted. Perhaps a survey essay would usefully have allowed the work of important figures like these to be acknowledged and placed. It could also have given some recognition to the role of two very significant books in extending the imaginative reach of young readers in South Africa: *Fly eagle, fly* (Christopher Gregorowski) and *The day Gogo voted* (Elinor Sisulu). For all that this volume is to be welcomed, then, it would have benefited greatly from the critical direction of a publisher's editor.



The Kids' Lit Quiz is a major new international literature competition where teams of four students, aged 10 to 13, from across the world, work together to answer wide-ranging literary questions. answering 100 questions arranged in ten categories.



Intelligent Life, a magazine section of The Economist recently had a wonderful write up of the Kids Lit Quiz, now in its 23rd year, and a huge photo of the St John's team, who represented SA this year.

Well done, Nicky Sulter and her team!



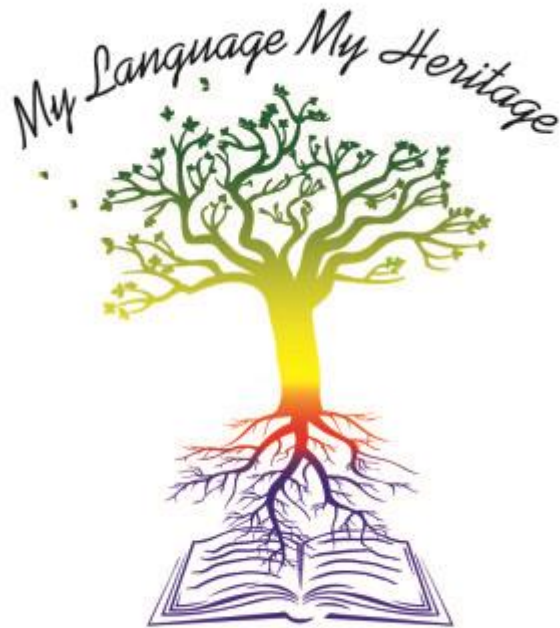
A photograph of the St. John's team, as it appeared in the magazine.

The South African Kids' Lit Quiz™ will be conducted in South Africa from 13-21st Feb 2015. Initially there will be seven regional heats followed by a national

final

on 26th Feb at Roedean School, Johannesburg.

Winning team to be invited to attend the World Finals in Connecticut, USA



Biblioneef is taking storytelling to another level by going to read in unusual places. Their [My Language My Heritage Campaign](#) launched its first Read-in at Mzoli's Restaurant in Gugulethu on Saturday 22nd November, where Biblioneef staff and volunteers read and displayed books in various languages amongst the hustle and hissing bustle of one the regions most popular braai stops.

"We celebrated South African language and heritage by reading from our favourite books and sharing the importance of reading, especially reading in one's home language; all this while enjoying some good ol' SA Braai," Says Jean Williams, Biblioneef's Executive Director.



Well known author and storyteller Sindiwe Magona shared stories with the crowd and sparked memories of the joy experienced when she read to as a child. The spirit of the day was fantastic and people were really keen to not only listen to what we had to say, but also to share their stories and experiences about reading and how the part it plays in their family.

The aim of this campaign is to raise awareness and support for Biblionef to acquire more books in the African languages for their Book donation programme. Biblionef hope to get more individuals to support them by inviting people to “take a selfie with a book, upload it to your Facebook and/or Twitter page and use the #BookSelfie..... Making sure to tag 'Biblionef South Africa' when uploading the picture. Then help change the life of a child by [donating R60 to Biblionef](#).



They launched this campaign on the 19th September at the Biblionef office and invited a few loyal friends of Biblionef to take the first few photos and most of them

contributed immediately.

To date 61 people have joined the campaign which brought in R 9 900. A special mention should be made when Cape Town Mayor ,Patricia De Lill, donated R2,000 when we approached her. Since then Biblionef has caught the attention of the media with their campaign and had several Radio interviews about Biblionef's work.

If you would like more information or to support My Language My Heritage, you can contact their offices at - info@biblionefsa.org.za, or by telephoning - 021 531 0447

BIG IBBY

IBBY SA supports Silent Books

Launched in 2012, IBBY Italia's extraordinary project 'Silent Books: From the World to Lampedusa and Back" reaches out to young people who find themselves estranged from their country for a variety of reasons, living the life of a refugee far from home. It aims to transcend those immediate and profound cultural and social boundaries that children find themselves thrown against, by promoting books as a tool for integration, books without words that are instantly accessible and universal in theme.

A migrant child peers out from a police van window on Lampedusa.



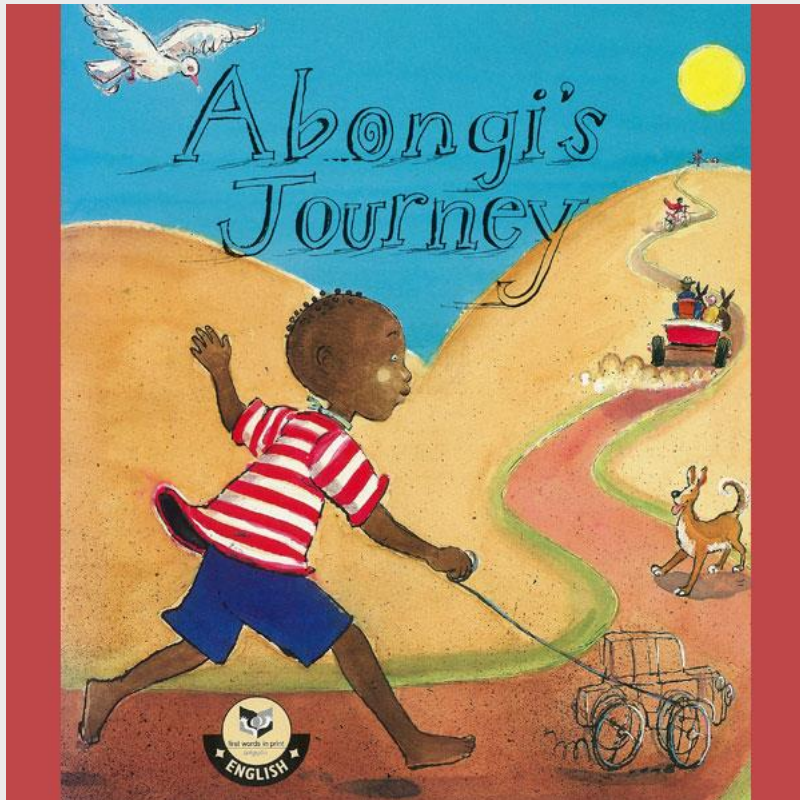
Lampedusa, is the remotest island in the Mediterranean and the first European port of call for those arriving from across the sea, on their way to starting a new life. The project originally comprised over one hundred silent books from four continents and more than twenty countries, housed in old travel trunks, containing books with pictures telling stories that words cannot tell, 'rich in sensations, dreams and memories emanating from their characters' silence to overcome the language barrier and foster encounters among different cultures.'

IBBY Volunteers in Lampedusa



In the spirit of this International call to action, IBBY SA recently contributed

two South African titles to the project, 'A Very Nice Day' by Ann Walton, a simple, comforting, story of the routine happenings that make up one happy day, and 'Abongi's Journey' by Kerry Saadien-Raad, a South African classic, its theme cutting across divides and reaching out to children who are missing their parents or close relatives.



Will the New Adults Please Stand Up?

by Maxine Case



Genre fiction is popular amongst South African readers and booksellers are taking note. A visit to several bookshops in Cape Town confirmed this with generous shelf space devoted to graphic novels, sci-fi and speculative fiction. Indeed, the appeal of the latter is now so widespread, that

Exclusive Books has even included a speculative fiction category in its Christmas catalogue – albeit with a heavy reliance on George R.R. Martin.

The topic of genre fiction arose at a recent board meeting of IBBY SA. What are the new genres we asked, and are South African publishers on board with current trends? We'll be exploring this

further in a series of short articles in this newsletter over the course of the next months. One of the most debated categories was “New Adult” – with what is exactly meant by the term forming a large part of the discussion.



According to [Goodreads.com](https://www.goodreads.com), “New Adult fiction bridges the gap between Young Adult and Adult genres. It typically features protagonists between the ages of 18 and 26.” Different sources set the upper limit of main characters at between 24 or 25, or as high as 35. What separates these characters from their Young Adult counterparts is that for the most part they are out of school, often in college or working their first job, and in many instances living a life away from family or a familiar home environment. While Young Adult fiction often grapples with serious issues such as illness, death and bereavement, New Adult novels typically explore darker themes and in greater depth, such as rape, abusive relationships and risky behavior.

Currently, the New Adult genre appears to be dominated by a handful of American authors, many of whom first came to attention via their self-published books. Jamie McGuire self-published

Beautiful

Disaster in June 2011, a book featuring Abby, a seemingly conservative college student,

and

Travis, an older student with rage issues. Beautiful Disaster swiftly found a wide audience and

in

2012 Atria Books brought out a traditionally published version. Movie rights were sold to

Warner Bros and by 2014, more than one million copies of the book had been sold, with

McGuire extending the

line with titles starring several of the subsidiary characters of the original book.

Atria Books too clinched [Colleen Hoover](#)'s successful and previously self-published Slammed

and Point of Retreat after a spirited bidding war. In this series, the main character, Layken

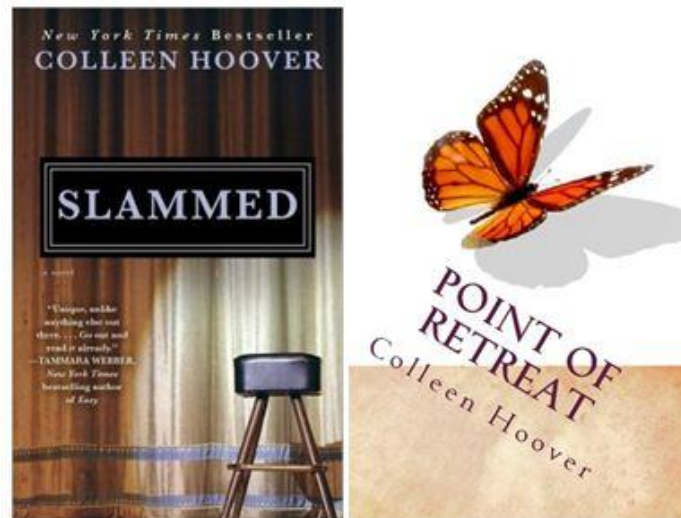
is an 18-year-old

high school student while her love interest, Will, is a teacher at the school she attends. Tammara Webber's Easy, about 19-year-

old college student Jacqueline's

experiences of navigating

relationships after a sexual assault, sold more than 150,000 copies as a self-published e-book before being sold to Penguin.



No article on New Adult fiction would be complete without mention of self-publishing phenomenon [Abbi Glines](#). Glines has penned and self-published a number of successful series – Sea Breeze, Rosemary Beach and the Vincent Boys, the latter of which had originally been pitched at the Young Adult market, but were made more explicit in order to appeal to an older audience. To be fair, the more explicit content had been included in earlier drafts, but had been excised to fit into the Young Adult niche. Like many self-published authors of New Adult books, Glines has since been signed up by a mainstream publishing company, Simon & Schuster's Simon Pulse imprint. Other successful writers in the genre include Jessica Sorensen (Coincidence series), K.A. Tucker (Ten Tiny Breaths), J.A. Redmerski (The Edge of Never) and Jennifer L. Armentrout (Frigid series) to name a few.

From the sales figures, it is clear that New Adult is a highly popular (and lucrative) genre. Nor is

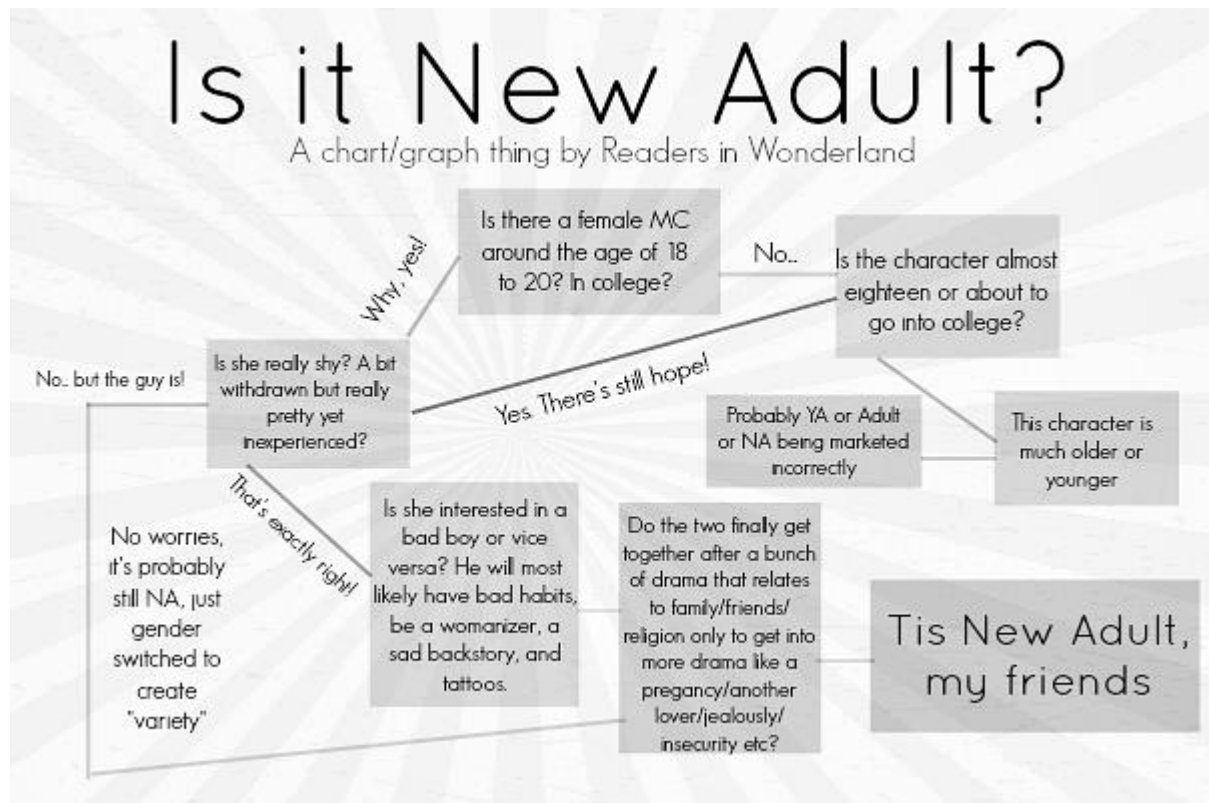
readership of New Adult fiction limited to the new adults themselves. [A 2012 Bowker study](#)

revealed that 55% of buyers of books aimed at those aged 12-17 were 18 years or older, with the majority aged 30-

44. This segment was responsible for nearly thirty percent of total sales in the USA with 78% of respondents indicating that they were buying for their own reading.

However, the genre is not without its detractors. Some see it as a marketing ploy by publishers, while others see the label as condescending, especially given the crossover appeal of the books.

Many refer to New Adult fiction as “Young Adult meets Fifty Shades of Grey” or some variation on this theme. Given the preponderance of romance novels in this genre, the latter is perhaps not an unqualified assertion.



Controversies aside, authors and publishers lament the lack of shelf space allocated to New Adult fiction and in South Africa the situation is much the same. In fact, none of the three bookshops visited had a dedicated section for New Adult fiction. When questioned, booksellers pointed to Young Adult shelves – most of which were dominated by books by American authors such as John Green (*The Fault in Our Stars*), Veronica Roth (*Divergent* series), Cassandra Clare (*City of Bones*), Richelle Mead (*Vampire Academy*) and of course Suzanne Collins and Stephanie Meyer of the *Hunger Games* and *Twilight* franchises respectively. “This will be popular once the movie comes out,” Tavia of CNA Cavendish said of Gayle Forman’s *If I Stay*, which is the story of 17-year-old cellist Mia and the choices she has to make after a horrendous car crash.

Naturally, talk turned to whether South African publishers and writers were active in the genre at our initial IBBY SA discussion. Some edgier Young Adult titles were raised, while a dult novels with younger protagonists were offered. Yet, we could not agree on one book released by a South African publishing company as being purely for the New Adult market. As for writers active in the genre, Johannesburg-born Tarryn Fisher’s *Love Me with Lies* series –

The Opportunist, *Dirty Red* and *Thief* – though set in Miami, has gained the author a strong following.

Have we missed any South African writers or publishers involved in New Adult fiction? We'd love to hear from you.



Maxine Case is a South African novelist, and short story writer. Her debut novel, *All We Have Left Unsaid*, won the 2007 Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best First Book, Africa Region and was the joint winner of the Herman Charles Bosman Prize 2007.

IBBYSA REVIEWING

by Isabel Essery – Reviews Editor

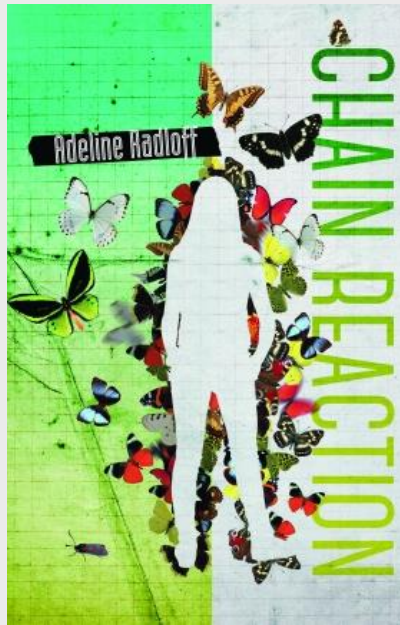


IBBYSA has received a wonderful selection of books for children and young adults in the past few months. We have had great fun reading them and would like to thank the publishers for keeping us up to date with the fabulous books that are on their lists.

The Sanlam Award winners for 2013 included 'Chain Reaction' by Adeline Radloff and 'Alive Again' by Andre Eva Bosch.. Both of these books for Young Adults deal with difficult challenges faced by many teenagers. 'Chain Reaction' looks at the frightening world of bullying, and what happens if one fails to intervene. 'Alive Again' focuses on the importance of making wise life choices. You will find reviews for these and the Afrikaans language winners below.

Young children will be delighted by a fabulous selection of beautifully illustrated picture books during the holiday season. Some of these include Fiona Moodie's 'Noko and the Kool Kats', and the quirky 'Jeff and George and the Totem Pole'. The originality and humour in South African children's illustrations and storytelling shines through in these books, as well as the many more that have been published this year. There will be lots of reviews appearing on our website in the next few months so please visit the site regularly to find out more about the books we have been reading. The newsletter's reviewing section will give an overview and highlight some of the important books.

'Chain Reaction' by Adeline Radloff (Tafelberg, 2014)



This story about the choices we make and how they affect us and those around us is

given a modern and different spin by the unusual format.

The first half of the book looks

at the choice made by “scholarship girl”,

as she is initially introduced to us, when she

comes across a clear incident of bullying. She chooses to ignore it, saying to herself that it’s not her concern. The ramifications of the decision are then played

out in a type of domino effect for half of the book.

To finish the story you start reading again from the

back of the book and a new scenario

presents itself...this time the girl chooses to intervene when she comes across the

bullying and the ramifications are quite different.

This book deals with important issues

in a most accessible way and I think the YA market will really enjoy reading it.

A worthy winner of the Silver Salam Award for 2013. Kathy Madlener

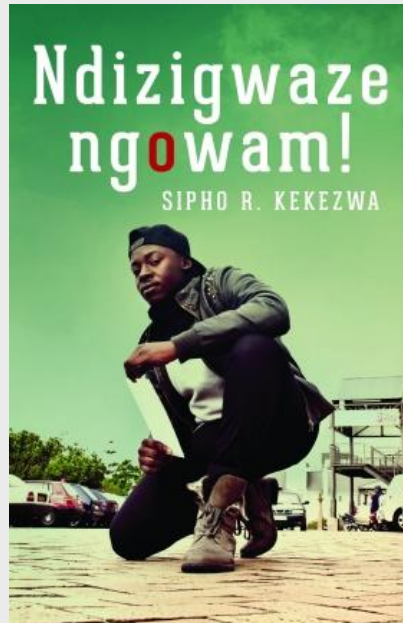
'Alive Again' by Andre Eva Bosch (Tafelberg, 2014)



Nandi had always been told by her mother that “ one wrong choice can put an end to your dreams, make good choices and life will reward you” , so she studies hard, dreams of being a lawyer and avoids “ the bad boys”. Her mother knows what she is talking about as her dreams were snuffed out when she fell pregnant and married her abusive husband. This story about a young , clever, beautiful girl is hard hitting, very relevant and beautifully written. I read this book from cover to cover in one sitting and I think it should be in all the high school libraries. A worthy winner of the Sanlam Gold Award for 2013. Kathy Madlener

Ndizigwazwe Ngowam! (I Shoot Myself in the Foot!) by

Sipho R Kekezwa



The book is good as it addresses the social problems of dysfunctional families that affect children. Kekezwa has used his experience and skilled writing abilities to portray the lifestyle of South African townships. Although the story is set in Cape Town it represents the challenges faces by teenagers who grew up in urban township areas across South Africa. Amongst the social issues that affect the bad decision making of the teenagers is the single parenting especially unemployed and elderly parents whose only income is the social grant. The urban lifestyle of the lack of traditional family support that still exist in some way in the rural areas add more to the consequences of peer pressure, misguided children and of cause wrong choices and bad decision making .

The story portrays the individualistic lifestyle of urban people minding their own businesses in communities by observing school children and under age children in sheebeens freely.

The book is very educational to youngsters because it put all that seems to be 'cool' lifestyle in perspective, and would allow them to learn and try to be mindful of their actions and also to use every opportunity that comes their way in order to better their lives.

SYNOPSIS

The story is about a school boy who is raised by a struggling grandmother living on social grant. His best friend is a spoilt drop out school teenager whose mother is a widow and stay at work, only comes on weekends. The mother has money from the dead husband and is trying to compensate her absence by spoiling him. Ndoda always has money and he drinks on the other hand Xola is struggling even to have a meal with her grandmother. Xola is repeating Grade 9 and the mother is concerned of befriending a school dropout. Xola ended up getting to frauds (credit cards etc.) of all kinds and not attending school through the influence of Ndoda who always buys him alcohol in the nearby sheebeens. One thing led to the other as Xola's grandmother observes her grandson with suspicion as he always has lots of money and unaware that

he is no longer going to school. Finally he got into trouble until he got into trouble.

Zonke Silwanyana

'Chuck Norris kan deel deur nul' by Annelie Ferreira (Tafelberg, 2014)



Hierdie jeugroman het so pas die SANLAM-prys vir jeuglektuur se goue medalje 2013 verower. Die Mullers se huis in 12de straat : Hier woon Albert se Ouma, 'n wenaar Pa, Marlie die 16jarige dogter, die verkleurmannelietjie Dompeldorius, en Albert. Albert dink Steve Jobs was cool. Hy is mal oor Chuck Norris grappe. Hy is die verteller in die verhaal en vanaf die inleidende paragraaf neem hy die leser op 'n reis waarin jy sy drome leer ken, sy beste

vriend Ashish, sy Ouma wat heel dikwels wegraak in winkels; Lungelo die skoolseun van wie hy aanfanklik nie baie hou nie; en dan die nuwe intrekkers oorkant die straat- Janine wat verwagting is en 'n man wat later blyk haar broer te wees. Twee onderwysers is betrokke by die verhaal se verloop- Meneer Potgieter wat hulle 'n EWB taak laat doen en die Yskoningin- die LO onderwyseres.

Albert se bynaam by die skool is Mini-Me want hy is kort. Maar Albert is "lank" as 'n dromer, want hy voel "voor jy iets kan doen, moet jy iets kan droom". Soos Steve Jobs. Hy neem fotos as 'n stokperdjie en hy en Ashish is mal oor games en speel gereeld in die Akasia Mall. Hulle hoor dat die games arcade gaan toemaak. Baie later sal hul uitvind wie die eienaar is.

Hierdie is die dinge en mense in sy lewe wat hom raak: Hulle gesin: sy Ouma se gereelde wegrakery; Marlie se simple eks-boyfriends; sy Pa wat gedurig besig is en hom as die toekomstige Drain Wizard and Son kandidaat sien; en Marlie se snaakse idees dat hul oorlede ma nie dood is nie. Die skool: Hy en Ashish se belangrike projek vir EWB wat handel oor sy droom om elke minderbevoorregte kind in die land van tweedehandse selfone te voorsien. Marlie se vriendin Suzanne – 'n droommeisie; die verkleurmannetjie Dompeldorius vir wie Albert baie lief is; en baie belangrik- Chuck Norris – grappe – Albert is mal oor sulke grappe en vertel dit gedurig.

Hierdie verhaal bied die leser 'n interessante, geloofwaardige en vermaaklike kykie in die lewe van 'n gewone Suid Afrikaanse gesin en die jongmense met Albert as die spreekbuis vir hul drome en gevoelens.

Die karakteruitbeelding is oortuigend . Die styl gemaklik, snaaks, kort sinne vertel die storie. Die spanningselement word goed gehandhaaf-

hoekom verdwyn Ouma gedurig?; waarom dink Marlie hul ma leef nog?; wie stuur eposse aan Marlie en wie is die man Steve wat sy gaan ontmoet?; gaan sy

e-

pos aan Bill Gates vrugte afwerp?; gaan Janine na haar baba se geboorte 'n groter

rol in hul gesin speel?; wat gaan gebeur met hul EWB taak wat Meneer Potgieter

administreer?

Dit is veral Albert se humorsin, beeldspraak en kommentaar en Chuck Norris grappe wat ek die meeste geniet het. Sy verhouding met sy Ouma is ook heel

om te deel.Hy is altyd besorg oor haar; spot oor die slegte kos wat sy maak:Sy

Ouma se Chinese herderspastei: As die Chinese dit regtig gereeld eet , kan daar onmoontlik soveel van hulle op die aarde wees”;-

Sy Ouma se verdwynery

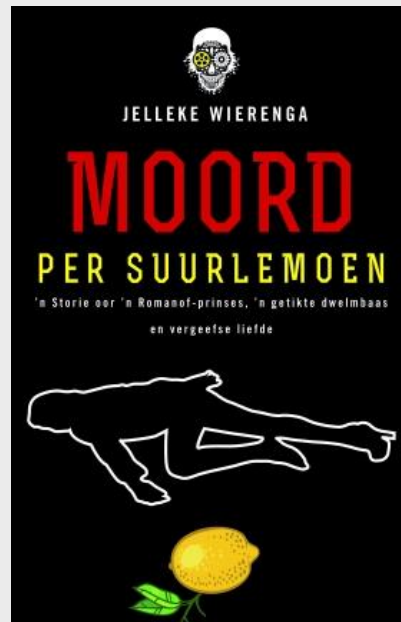
wat dalk 'n “alien abduction” kan wees; die baie visvingers wat sy koop is genoeg “vir 'n gesin robbe vir 'n jaar lank”.Hy sê van Steve:”As daai man hot is, is ek wraggies so warm jy kan met my sweis”.

Tieners sal kan identifiseer met die Muller gesin en die mense by wie hulle betrokke is. Die tieners verteenwoordig menige tiener in die drome wat hul nastreef, die frustrasies van verhoudinge met maats en ouers; maar ook die issue van 'n oorlede ma en 'n dogter se behoefte om met haar kontak te

maak. Daar is 'n opregte warm gevoel wat dwarsdeur die boek loop. Selfs die feit dat sy Ouma se optrede suggereer dat sy mediese hulp nodig het, word fyn ingewef in die verhaal. Die verskillende spanningselemente word ook dwarsdeur die verhaal gedra en tot 'n klimaks gebring. Hierdie is 'n volwaardige wenner van die SANLAM prys vir Jeuglektuur. Ideaal vir biblioteke en sal 'n welcome voorgeskrewe werk vir skole kan wees.

Lona Gericke

'Moord per suurlemoen' by Jelleke Wierenga (Tafelberg, 2014)



“Die een oomblik is ek Dale Steyn, wêreldklasbouler, die volgende oomblik lê 'n vrou leweloos op die veld. Dis hoe hierdie hele sage begin het. Hierdie sage van kop verloor or 'n moord per suurlemoen. Van 'n gesteelde Gold Wing. Van Russiese akteurs. Van 'n Romanof-prinses met 'n veel gesoende handjie. Van getikte dwelmopérateurs. Van ver

geefse liefde....”

Vanaf die eerste inleidende paragrawe besef die leser dat hierdie ‘n opwindende leeservaring

gaan wees! Dale Steyn en sy suster Brunhilde is so gefrusteerd met die twee “blaffers van

formaat” die buurvrou se honde -

dat hulle besluit dit is nodig om met die hulp van ‘n vrag

suurlemoene die twee stil te kry. Maar die idee was nou regtig nie om die buurvrou in die

proses dood te gooi met ‘n suurlemoen nie! Impulsief besluit die twee dadelik dat hulle

sal moet vlug. En hul getroue vriend Ben word ook betrek. Sy broer se geliefde Gold

Wing motorfiets moet die drie na die naaste veilige dorpie bring.

Hier vind ‘n wonderbaarlike transformasie van die drie tieners plaas-

hulle doen hulle

voor as Russiese akteurs en gaan tuis in die gastehuis die Groen lantern.

Sersant Japie Kleynhans van die plaaslike polisie is dadelik verlief op die bekende oorlike

Russiese prinses. Maar die eenaar van die Groen lantern het gou ander planne met

die drie-

Brunhilde is volgens hom die dogter van die legendariese dwelmkoning

Pappie, vergesel van haar twee luitenant. En hierdie is ‘n geleentheid vir die klomp

dwel-

handelaars om hul network uit te brei! Maar nouja... lees en sien wat gebeur!

Moord per suurlemoen is ‘n waardige wenner van die SANLAM silwer medalje

vir jeuglektuur. Die skrywer praat die taal wat tieners sal geniet. Die teks is deurspek met

humor en kwinkslae en die drie jongmense se vermomminge en

lawwe idees om die moeilike situasies te fnuik, sorg vir lekker en opwindende leesstof. Tieners sal wens hulle kon ook in so 'n situasie beland ! Dale Steyn

as verteller beïndruk met sy skerp waarneming van situasies en karakters, hy verwys byvoorbeeld na die eienaar van die Groen Lantern as 'n man met 'n “ongesonde psige”; en wanneer hulle uit “blommerige koppies” tee drink merk hy

op dat die prentjie van verfyndheid effens bederf word deur die manier waarop

hy en sy addelike vriende die sjooladekoek aanval. Die teks is deurspek met oorspronklike beskrywings van die omgewing, die inwoners van die dorpie , die Groen Lantern se personeel, die Negosiegat waar hulle hul verskeie kostuums

aanskaf, en die ete in die restaurant die Goue Pampoen. Hier is geen geleentheid

vir die leser om verveeld te wees nie.

Juis die gedagte dat twee tieners kan aanvaar dat hulle die buurvrou doodgegooi

het met 'n suurlemoen en dus van moord aangekla gaan word, maak die hele

leeservaring een van groot absurde aweregse lekkerte. Aanbeveel vir bibliotek,

skool-en tuisversamelings. Lona Gericke.

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