



**Lampedusa, September 2020**

Dear IBBY Colleagues

Once again we would like to ask for your support and your collaboration for the selection of the project Silent books: Destination Lampedusa - the international IBBY project that collects the best wordless picture books from around the world.

The previous the Silent Book collections have been invaluable for the creation of the children's library in Lampedusa; have been the basis for three travelling exhibitions that are being currently shown around the world; and, have formed a very special research collection at the Palazzo delle Esposizioni in Rome.

Due to the ongoing waves of migration and the constant flow of new arrivals in many countries, it continues to be important that the publishing industry should concentrate on producing good quality books to help refugee children and their families understand the world. Silent Books can help them by overcoming the vast differences in the many languages of the children - both for the new arrivals and the local population.

The project has been an enormous success with all members of IBBY. We are very grateful to all sections that have submitted books.

This year we have introduced an exciting new part of the project called **BOOKS ON BOARD**.

We are producing portable sets of books to use in emergency situations on the rescue boats.

By including books in these rescue missions, we hope to increase the kindness and dignity, and thereby the humanity, in the very first reception the shipwrecked refugees experience and by doing so mitigate the fear and horror that often travels with them, even when they are safe on board.

**We need your help!**

**BOOKS ON BOARD**



In order to continue strengthening this project, we ask you once again to choose and send to us the best Silent Books published in your country since 2017 – each book **must be without any text**. **The official nomination form should accompany each submitted book.**

Please send **three copies** of each title you select for the following:

**1. The children's library on Lampedusa**, which was created by the committed IBBY volunteers and of the inhabitants of the island. The new library building was officially opened in September 2017 and has been used by local children as well as by children new to the island. Every year we have an IBBY camp in November, however, because of the current pandemic the 2020 camp may have to be postponed to April 2021 after the Bologna Children's Bookfair.

**2. The 2019 travelling exhibition.** It is extremely important that IBBY people learn how to work with these tools for peace and cooperation. Please contact the IBBY Secretariat in Basel to coordinate your exhibition.

**3. The IBBY collection of Silent Books for documentation and research** in the Scaffale d'Arte of the Palazzo degli Esposizioni in Rome, which is a library specializing in international art publications for children. Since the start of the project, we have worked with many research groups with silent books, as well as in prisons and camps and with children with different disabilities. For the 2021 project, as in the previous years, an international panel of judges will identify books that they especially wish to draw attention to. These books will be officially presented on as the **Silent Books Honour List at the Bologna Children's Book Fair 2021**.

Please send the three copies of each title with the nomination form, before 27 January 2021, to the following address:

**Servizi Educativi  
Palazzo delle Esposizioni  
Attention of Giulia Franchi  
Via Nazionale 194  
00184 Rome  
Italy**

We hope you like the project and that you will continue to support us. The library in Lampedusa is finally open and is there to be a symbol of good welcoming practices and a reminder that we should all be reaching out to children in need.

**In these difficult times, my hope is that we will not stop trying our best to help others read into their future.**

Deborah Soria  
Silent books, from the world to Lampedusa and back  
Biblioteca IBBY Lampedusa