Librarians’ favourite books from their country

Edited by
Annie Everall OBE and Viviana Quiñones
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A programme of Section Libraries for Children and Young Adults,
IFLA – International Federation of Library Associations and
Institutions – in collaboration with IFLA Section Literacy and Reading
and IBBY – International Board on Books for Young People.

Programme co-ordination:
Annie Everall, in collaboration with Viviana Quiñones
About the editors

Annie Everall is a Director of ‘Authors Aloud UK’ and a children’s books, libraries and reading consultant. During her career she has developed and managed a range of award winning innovative library services and reading initiatives in the UK including the Derbyshire Big Book Bash for Children in Care, Derbyshire Book Pushers programme of teenage reading advocates, the Birmingham Centre for the Child, The Young Readers UK children’s literature festival and the Stories from the Web online reader development initiative. She is a children’s book reviewer, serves on the CLILP School Libraries Group committee and the Journal of Librarianship and Information Science editorial board. She has been Chair of the CLILP Youth Libraries Group and the Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Awards. She has been the UK representative on the Libraries for Children and Young Adults section committee of IFLA and is now on the Literacy & Reading committee. In 2001 she was awarded the OBE (Order of the British Empire) for services to children’s books and libraries.

Viviana Quiñones, from Argentina and France, has worked since 1985 at the French National Centre for Children’s Literature – formerly known as La Joie par les livres – which became part of the Bibliothèque nationale de France in 2008. At its International Department, she has cooperated with African librarians and publishers since 1987. She has developed the collection of African books for young people and promoted them through exhibitions. She was a founder of the journal for children’s librarians Takam Tikou in 1989 and has been its editor and contributor since then. She has managed an African network for children’s reading and taught many training sessions in different countries. She edited the best-selling handbook Faire vivre une bibliothèque jeunesse : Guide de l’animateur (2005) and has published numerous articles and papers. She is a standing committee member of IFLA section Libraries for Children and Young Adults since 2007; she initiated its Sister Library programme in 2009 and is currently Chair of the section.

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Foreword

By Viviana Quiñones
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We are very happy to publish the results of this participative, international, ongoing programme, “The World through Picture Books”. It deals with something we children’s librarians must never lose sight of, even if we are so busy with new technologies, budget restrictions, everyday work...: read children’s books and choose the best ones for our readers. Of course, we could spend hours discussing what “best” means, but one thing it surely means is very good books from the readers’ own country and from as many other countries as possible...This is why, inspired by Kazuko Yoda’s request to our Committee for advice on the” top ten” picture books in Committee members’ countries, we launched “The World through Picture Books” programme, in 2011.

Librarians from thirty-six countries have already made their choices which we publish here. Papers on picture books in several countries were presented at IFLA conference in Helsinki and are on line (http://conference.ifla.org/ifla78/session-99). Thanks to publishers’ generosity, the selected books were exhibited in Finland during IFLA conference 2012 and at Bologna International Children’s Book Fair 2013. Two touring exhibition collections are based in the National Libraries of France and Japan; they are available to be booked by any country wishing to exhibit them.

We wish to warmly thank all country co-ordinators and all children’s librarians in all countries that have worked for this programme: it is their participation that makes it valuable. And many warm thanks to Annie Everall for the hard co-ordinating work she has done and will continue doing...

Children’s literature is a treasure for young and not so young people. If some countries’ best works are largely known, those from other countries are not... We hope these lists of favourites will allow for many happy readings all over the world.
Introduction

The Programme

Children's Librarians all over the world understand how important picture books in both traditional and digital formats are for children: for their development, their cultural identity, as a springboard into learning to read for themselves; for their visual skills, and because of the closeness of sharing them with an adult. It is then very important to promote picture books and to ensure access to them. The idea behind the World Through Picture Books is to create a list of picture books from around the world that have been recommended by librarians, as a tool for building bridges and developing understanding between countries. The project is led by IFLA Children's and Young Adults section with support from partners IFLA Literacy and Reading section and IBBY (International Board on Books for Young People).

Aims of the programme

To create lists of picture books from around the world that have been recommended by librarians and which can then be used:
- As a way of celebrating and promoting the languages, cultures and quality of children's publishing around the world
- By countries wishing to purchase books from other countries and looking for 'favourite' titles
- By Sister Libraries as a way of exploring the children's literature of their 'Sister Library' country

Criteria for inclusion in the list

Each country is asked to submit ten picture book titles:
- Suitable for children aged between 0 – 11
- Books that are 'favourites', that have lasted or will last the test of time, and are seen as classics, representing the best in picture books from that country
- Must have been published by the country submitting them
- Are available in the original language
- Are of a good quality and a high standard of publishing
- Have text and illustrations that work very well together
- Reflect a positive message
- Are excellent for reading aloud and sharing with children
- Are in print and therefore still available for purchase

Information required for each title

Each country is asked to provide the following information for each of the titles included in their list:
- Name of the author
- Name of the illustrator
- Title of the book in the original language and its meaning in English
- Date of publication
- ISBN
- A colour image of the front cover
- A brief review of the book (in English and in the original language of the book)
The results in 2013

Country Participation
Each country organised the selection of their ten titles in the way that worked best for their country. In some countries there was collaboration between IFLA members, IBBY, Library Associations and a range of national youth library organisations. A variety of methods were used from on-line surveys and national nominations and country wide voting to small groups of librarians discussing and determining their list. So far thirty-six country lists have been received.

Information on the lists
The books within each list are arranged in the order that the country sent them to us. Some are alphabetical and some have been arranged in order of votes received or priority given to them. The reviews are published in English and the original language of the book. The English spellings of words have also been left as they would be in each individual country. For more information or comments about a particular list, the contact person for each country is mentioned on its pages. If your country has not yet chosen its list of ‘favourite’ books but you would like to become involved, please contact Annie Everall – email annie@alannie.demon.co.uk

Book Exhibitions
Two exhibition collections of the books were created, thanks to donations by the publishers. These were exhibited in Joensuu and Helsinki as part of the IFLA 2012 satellite and general conferences. They are now based in the National Libraries of Japan and France and are available for loan to libraries in any country wishing to exhibit them – each country will be responsible for costs of transportation, insurance and security. If you are interested, please contact Yumi Tobita (y-yobita@ndl.go.jp) or Viviana Quiñones (viviana.quinones@bnf.fr).

Impact of the Project
This has been a wonderful project to be involved with and its impact will become more visible once it starts to grow and the lists start to be used. The librarians who have been involved have very much enjoyed organising the list for their country and feel that they have learned a great deal. It has provided an opportunity to celebrate children’s books and the particular richness of picture book publishing around the world as well as strengthening the partnership between librarians, publishers and authors. The publishers and authors feel honoured and proud to be featured in these lists, especially as they have been nominated by librarians as these comments demonstrate:

“I am thrilled that these three classic books, Dear Zoo, Peace at Last and The Gruffalo have been chosen by librarians to represent the UK in such an exciting international initiative. They have truly stood the test of time – and with good reason: each is a beautifully crafted book, perfectly pitched for its audience, engaging, satisfying and a joy to read aloud and share with a child again and again. That these books have been chosen by librarians makes their selection as classics especially meaningful since librarians are the experts who recognise which books really connect with children and families and therefore truly deserve classic status.”

Suzanne Carnell, Publishing Director – Macmillan

“From Editorial Comunicarte, we wish to thank IFLA and all participating libraries for the project “The World through Picture Books”. We share its goals and, as publishers, we try to produce quality literature and illustration in order to give children and young people the best books. Our publishing house is in Cordoba, a city in one of Argentinian provinces. We are very pleased that you have chosen El Árbol de lilas de María Teresa Andruetto and Liliana Menéndez, in the series Vaquita de San Antonio.”
“Klaus Flugger[Andersen Press] has told me that Elmer figures in the top ten list of [favourites of librarians in the UK]. Obviously I am delighted and Elmer feels honoured…. I’ve continually refused approaches to make films but in spite of that the books seem to reach more and more countries. If Elmer still continues to tell me his adventures, I’ll still try to make them into books. Good luck with the project.”

David McKee, author and Illustrator of Elmer

“I’m very happy that my picture book will be at the IFLA conference, it is an honour. Every appreciation and recognition of my work is the greatest motivation to continue what I’m doing and the great thing is that the children’s librarians put it on the list. I’m happy to announce that in the autumn, I’m finishing the sequel to this picture book and I hope children (and librarians) will love it as much as they loved the first one”.

Pika Vonicina, author & illustrator of Emilija in the Land of Wheels

“It is astonishing enough for me that British librarians chose to include Dear Zoo in this prestigious top ten for the IFLA project, but the knowledge that the book will then be part of an international exhibition as well is extremely humbling. I am quite overcome by this huge accolade, and can only thank those librarians nationwide who felt Dear Zoo deserved to be on the list.”

Rod Campbell, author and illustrator of Dear Zoo

Ideas for using the lists

There are many ways to use the lists. Here are some of our suggestions but if you find other ways of using them, do please let us know.

- Explore the cultures of other countries through their stories
- Use them for stock selection, to purchase books and build your international collection
- Build your own knowledge of books from other countries
- Use your own country list to generate publicity for the picture book publishing in your country
- Work with your Sister Library on activities linked to the lists of your countries
  - Video children in your library reading books off your list aloud and get your Sister Library to do the same and then share the videos
  - Explore the same story that has been published in your country and the country of your Sister Library
- Use the pictures in the books from other countries to get children in your country writing what they think the story is about
- Share your own ideas via Facebook or Twitter

The Next Steps

Over the next months we will be:

- Encouraging more countries to work on producing a list for their country
- Developing the online catalogue further
- Ensuring each country list has reviews in both English and the language of that country (where appropriate)
- Looking at additional ways to use the lists
- Linking The World through Picture Books more closely to the Sister Libraries programme
- Encouraging countries to get media and press coverage for the project in their own countries
- Looking for ways to further promote the project
- Exploring ways of using social networking to promote the project
- Seeking funding to enable more promotional materials to be produced
These Algerian picture books were selected by Zahia Mezaoui, a librarian working in the library of the Institut Français d’Alger. Written and illustrated by Algerian and French authors, they are published by Algerian publishing houses Casbah, Dalimen and Lazhari Labter. They are well illustrated, have an educational purpose and are designed to enrich the child’s imagination and curiosity.

1

Corinne Chevallier • Hocine Mechemache, ill.
Le Seigneur triste, la jeune fille et les mois de l’année
[The sad Lord, the girl and the months of the year]
Casbah, 2009 • ISBN 9961002457

In a distant land, lived a sad Lord in his dusty castle. Not far from the castle, nestled a small village where lived a pretty girl. She was so pretty that they said of her that she looked like a fairy and that she danced under the trees the nights of moonlight. Over the seasons, the months of the year passed, beginning by September that came earlier, before the end of August, so, it decided to house in the Lord’s castle. To thank him for his hospitality, September promised to take him in his house, so that he could smile again...

Dans un pays lointain, vivait un seigneur triste dans son château poussiéreux. Non loin du château, vivait une jolie jeune fille dans un petit village. Elle était si jolie qu’on disait d’elle, qu’elle ressemblait à une fée et qu’elle dansait sous les arbres les nuits de pleine lune. Au fil des saisons, les mois de l’année passaient, en commençant par Septembre qui est venu plus tôt, avant la fin d’Août, et qui a décidé de se loger dans le château du Seigneur. Pour le remercier de son hospitalité, Septembre lui promet de l’emmener dans sa maison afin qu’il puisse retrouver le sourire ...

2

Corinne Chevallier • Hocine Mechemache, ill.
Le Lutin curieux qui voulait aller dans la lune
[The curios elf who wanted to go to the moon]
Casbah, 2009 • ISBN 9789961648452

It is the story of an elf who was so in love with the moon that he spent his nights contemplating it. He had even built a house on a tree to be able to approach it. This elf had other particularities, he interfered in everything, was curious and everyone avoided him because of his stupidity. One morning, going to quench his thirst, he met an old woman wrapped in black; he approached her and asked who she was. The latter replied that she was the night, and promised to make him see the moon...

C’est l’histoire d’un elfe qui était tellement amoureux de la lune qu’il passait ses nuits à la contempler. Il avait même construit une maison sur un arbre pour être en mesure de s’en approcher. Mais cet elfe avait d’autres particularités, il intervenait dans tout, du coup tout le monde l’évitait à cause de sa stupidité. Un matin, en allant étancher sa soif, il rencontre une vieille femme enveloppée de noir, il s’approcha d’elle et lui demanda qui elle était. Celui-ci répondit qu’elle était la nuit, et lui promit de lui faire voir la lune ...
Touil was the nickname of a little man who could not grow up (“Touil” means tall in Arabic). Touil was poor and did not have a house. As he offered his services to everyone, people asked him to live with them, in their house. But once his work was completed, he resumed his journey, playing his magic flute. By dint of walking, he arrived to the south, near a castle that housed a rich lord with his daughter “Lumière du jour”. A girl that he loved more than all. But when she was kidnapped by the genius of the oasis, Touil didn’t hesitate to save her...

In a wonderful country, lived a King who had had a lot of children whose needs he could not satisfy. One evening, he asked his eldest son to go get a treasure that belonged to his grandfather, now owned by a monster-headed dragon. Right away his son took the road on a horse named Gulmar, a road filled with obstacles...

Tom the Atom is a character who at the height of an existential crisis, explodes and releases the first elementary particles. The basic concepts covered in the story are explored in a scientific perspective and defined in a very simple way, making them accessible to young readers.

Corinne Chevallier • Hocine Mechemache, ill.
**Touil et la flûte magique** [Touil and magic flute]
Casbah, 2009 • ISBN 97899961648445

Corinne Chevallier • Hocine Mechemache, ill.
**Zimbel le petit tailleur** [Zimbel the little tailor]
Casbah, 2010 • ISBN 9789996164898

Corinne Chevallier • Hocine Mechemache, ill.
**Le Prince et le cheval enchanté** [The Prince and the enchanted horse]
Casbah, 2009 • ISBN 97899961648438

Yasmine Briki • Nesrine Briki, ill.
**Tom l’Atome et le Big-Bang** [Tom the Atom and the Big-Bang]
Casbah, 2009 • ISBN 97899961648438
Malek the little fennec is happy to go with his parents to the market. Merchant after merchant, they fill their baskets. And to thank him for being kind, his mom decides to prepare him a strawberry tart.

How wonderful Grandmother’s stories were! She told them so well, her voice was so sweet, that the children started to dream of heroes. They found themselves in a magical world full of birds and fish of all colors. They even met a lot of Kings, Princes, and Princesses...

Princess Yasmine was living in a palace with her parents. They were very kind but danger and evil were not far. In the other kingdom, reigned a wicked witch who desired to become the King’s wife and reign over both kingdoms. So, she used all the formulas to eradicate the Queen but it was without counting with the love felt by his son in regards to the Princess Yasmine.

This pretty little bilingual picture book features some hundred words that passed from Arabic to French or from French to Arabic, with the pronunciation of each original word in both languages. A good tool to help young children discover linguistic exchanges, whether ancient or recent, between these two cultural areas. Illustrations are charming and very original.

Malek, le fennec, est heureux d’aller au marché avec ses parents. D’un marchand à un autre, ils remplissent leurs paniers. Et pour le remercier de sa gentillesse, sa mère décide de lui préparer une tarte aux fraises.

Qu’elles étaient merveilleuses, les histoires de grand-mère! Elle les racontait si bien, avec sa voix si douce, que les enfants se mettaient à rêver des héros. Ils se retrouvaient dans un monde magique peuplé d’oiseaux et de poissons de toutes les couleurs. Ils ont même rencontré beaucoup de rois, des princes et des princesses...

La princesse Yasmine vivait dans un palais avec ses parents. Ils étaient très gentils, mais le danger et le mal n’étaient pas trop loin. Dans l’autre royaume, régnait une méchante sorcière qui voulait devenir la femme du roi pour régner sur les deux royaumes. Ainsi, elle usa toutes les formules pour éradiquer la reine, mais c’était sans compter sur l’amour ressenti par son fils à l’égard de la princesse Yasmine.

Ce très joli petit imagier bilingue présente une centaine de mots passés de l’arabe au français ou du français à l’arabe, avec la prononciation du mot d’origine dans les deux langues. Un bon instrument pour faire découvrir aux jeunes enfants les échanges linguistiques anciens ou plus récents entre ces deux aires culturelles. Les illustrations sont charmantes et très originales.
This selection speaks for us at the Biblioteca Popular Cachilo in the city of Rosario, as mediators, and for the target group: children. It is based on criteria that take into account the book and the reader. The selected books are quality materials, in literary terms and in terms of illustration and publishing. We have tried to go beyond the aesthetic and to cover political and ethical issues, which reflect our vision of promoting reading, and, of course, to pay attention to the content of each book. We have thought of the tastes and preferences of readers: these books have been well received in the library and in workshops. We have looked for books suitable to invite children to read, to imagine, to dream and fly...

1

María Wernicke
Uno y otro [One and other]

With characters like One, Another and No one and with the ability to play with colors and the feelings that they convey, this book asks us who we are and shows us that we are not always the same. In One and other, like in life itself, truth is relative, there is no truth in the singular, but in the plural, everything depends on who is speaking, when and where; it is important to have ears and eyes, willing to listen and see them. It praises diversity and the right to be different. It invites us to fly, but also to stop and look in the mirror.

Con personajes como Uno, Otro y Nadie y con la habilidad para jugar con los colores y las sensaciones que ellos transmiten, este libro nos pregunta quiénes somos y nos muestra que no siempre somos los mismos. En Uno y Otro, como en la vida misma, la verdad es relativa, no hay una verdad en singular, sino verdades en plural, todo depende de quién la diga, cuándo y dónde, para lo cual es importante tener los oídos –y los ojos– dispuestos a escucharlas – y a verlas –. Elógia la diversidad, y el derecho a ser distintos. Nos invita a volar, pero también a detenernos y mirarnos al espejo.

2

Silvina Rocha • Lucía Mancilla Prieto, ill.
Mateo y su gato rojo [Matthew and his red cat]

In Matthew’s book, and inside the head of any child, many things happen, surprises, dreams, desires, concerns, sorrows; characters appear and stories are lived, like one about a cat, a mouse and a smile that is lost. With illustrations using only white, black and red, with a simple and familiar text, we find a book that makes us feel, imagine, identify and think about the other and what he or she needs in order to be fine.

Dentro del cuaderno de Mateo, como dentro de la cabeza de cualquier niño, suceden muchas cosas, sorpresas, sueños, deseos, preocupaciones, tristezas; surgen personajes y se viven historias, como la de un gato, un ratón y una sonrisa que se pierde. Con ilustraciones que utilizan sólo el blanco, el negro y el rojo y con un texto sencillo y cercano, nos encontramos con un libro que nos hace sentir, imaginar, identificarnos y pensar en el otro y en lo que éste necesita para estar bien.
**3**

Claudia Legnazzi  
*Tuk es Tuk [Tuk is Tuk]*  

Tuk inhabits a varied world, with its own laws, full of strange characters and objects. But who is Tuk? Is it a person? Is it an animal? The author and illustrator, one of the most recognized artists for children in Argentina, provides us with a story beyond the formal body of the book, told by her through both textual and paratextual elements. The words take form and, together with the illustration and the book as a whole, show the importance and richness of being different, and remind us that as Tuk is Tuk, each reader is unique.

**4**

Laura Devetach  •  Juan Lima, ill.  
*La hormiga que canta [The ant who sings]*  

Ants play, sing and leave us a path of verses and leaves. Chimichurri, chimichurri, chimichurri... slowly and rhythmically, like ants walking, the words with which the author composes these poems get together. Meanwhile, the illustrator plays with black, green and ochre in a dance of ants and leaves. In this book, John and Laura’s ants sing to us and bring and take sheets... and verses. What page, what branch, what plan shall set it up?

**5**

Luis Pescetti  •  O’Kif, ill.  
*Caperucita Roja (tal como se la contaron a Jorge) [Little Red Riding Hood (as it was told to Carlos)]*  

While his mother is not at home, George’s dad tells him the story of Little Red Riding Hood in the common version. However, the child’s imagination makes a very different character and a very different story: a self-assured girl, a superhero father and so on. The most interesting thing is that this dispute of imaginary characters is shown through the pictures. It is a modern day version of Little Red Riding Hood, through the eyes of a child. It’s a classic with a twist. We read it as a challenge to devour, laugh and serve us on a platter.
A poetry book dedicated to a children’s game that we keep in our memory, when an uncle, grandfather or father used to “pull off our nose” with their thumbs. Looking at the nose dancing on the edge of things, with playful objects is a way to remember the poetry hidden in small familiar gestures. The visual display maximizes the verbal, the verses dance playfully in a familiar world to the beat of leaves, ants, candy paper, ice cream spoons, ladybirds and paper cut outs. The question that remains is: will the nose return to its place between your eyes, or will it remain forever in the hands of your uncle?

Un libro poético dedicado al juego infantil que guardamos en la memoria, cuando algún tío, abuelo o padre solía “sacar la nariz” con sus dedos pulgares. Ver a la nariz bailar por el borde de las cosas, junto a objetos juguetones es una forma de recordar la poesía escondida en pequeños gestos familiares. El despliegue visual potencia lo verbal, los versos danzan lúdicamente en un mundo familiar al compás de hojitas, hormigas, papeles de caramelo, cucharitas de helado, vaquitas de San Antonio y papeles recortados. La pregunta que nos queda es: ¿Retornará la nariz a su lugar entre tus ojos?, ¿o quedará para siempre en poder de tu tío?

When you see a colored sheet, please look carefully. Maybe from that surface – even and apparently empty – comes up a huge world to discover. Have you seen? is a book to look at not only with the eyes, to imagine, discover the colors, play with them and get lost in the landscape.

Cuando veas una hoja de color, no dudes en mirarla atentamente, puede que de esa superficie – pareja y en apariencia vacía – salga un mundo inmenso a descubrir. ¿Has visto?... Un libro para mirar no solo con los ojos, para imaginar, descubrir los colores, jugar con ellos y perderse en el paisaje.

The original text by Perrault is recreated with a cutting-edge illustration that “re-writes” the story by giving it a surprising twist, through allusions to historical figures, paintings and landmarks of Paris and a touch of today. An ambiguous girl stalked by a multivocal wolf, will slip again and again through the trees of a forest of symbols. On one hand, the moral of the author and on the other, the guillotine of the Revolution. Fascinating book that reveals in each reading, items not previously seen and with them, it offers a new version of the traditional tale.

Este texto original de Perrault, se recrea con una vanguardista ilustración que “rescribe” la historia dándole un giro sorprendente, a través de alusiones a personajes históricos, cuadros y lugares emblemáticos de París y un toque de actualidad. Una ambigua niña, acosada por un lobo multivoco, volverá a escurrirse una y otra vez por entre los árboles de un verdadero bosque de símbolos. Por un lado la moraleja del autor y por otro la guillotina de la revolución. Libro fascinante, que devela en cada lectura, elementos antes no vistos y propone a partir de ellos, una nueva versión del cuento tradicional.
This work maintains the essence of the fairy tale, but a dilemma is raised with contemporary issues (poverty, sorrow, need, the struggle of gender) with a deep social conscience. The story of the princess who originally is part of a political process, is told with a unique and poetic rhythm, is expanded to an iconic network of photos, paintings, cuttings and drawings. Without aesthetic renunciations, this book invites the reader to "wake up" to an ethical reflection, in order to think ourselves in this world.

Is it a tale or a poem? It is a story of love, searching and waiting in the shade of a faraway tree, to touch us closely. A parable of the journey in search of what we want. This book is a tale with a circular structure that is fragmented into silences that can only be filled by the reader. The illustrations at times open the game with ambiguity and lead to the senses beyond what the words say, maintaining a delicate thread of connection to the text. An exquisite and suggestive book, that talks about warmth and serenity, and the discovery of happiness.

Esta obra mantiene la esencia del cuento de hadas, pero plantea un dilema con temáticas contemporáneas (la pobreza, el dolor, la necesidad, la lucha de género) con una profunda sensibilidad social. La historia de la princesa que participa originalmente de un proceso político, narrada con un ritmo singular y poético se expande ante un entramado iconográfico de fotos, pinturas, recorte y dibujos. Sin renunciamientos estéticos plantea “despertar” a una reflexión ética, para pensarnos en este mundo.

Cuento o poesía? Una historia de amor, de búsqueda y espera a la sombra de un árbol que estaba lejos para tocarnos cerca. Una parábola del viaje en busca de lo que queremos. Un relato de estructura circular, que se fragmenta en silencios que sólo pueden ser llenados por el lector. Las ilustraciones por momentos se abren al juego con la ambigüedad y dan lugar a los sentidos más allá de lo que dicen las palabras, manteniendo un delicado hilo de conexión con el texto. Un libro exquisito, sugerente, que habla del abrigo, de la serenidad y del hallazgo de la felicidad.
This is the choice of two librarians working in the children’s section of the Médiathèque de l’Institut français de Cotonou, together with Mathilde Gall and V. Quiñones.

1. Béatrice Lalinon Gbado • François Yemadje, ill.
   Le Rat et le serpent [The Rat and the Snake]

   This modern tale is based on the two meanings of the word “good”: the rat understands it as man’s kindness, whereas the snake drools over man’s delicious taste... François C. Yemadje illustrates this story with tapestries made of applied dyed cloth, using ancestral techniques of the royal court of Dahomey kings. Characters and landscapes become thus deeper and more symbolic. Other illustrated folktales are published in the same collection “Lunes enchanteresses” (Enchanting moons).

2. Béatrice Lalinon Gbado • Roger Boni Yaratchahou, ill.
   Le Roi de la palmeraie [The King of the palm grove]

   Near Dékan palm grove, there lives a traveller’s tree that dreams to reproduce with his palm neighbour... Why that is impossible, that is the enigma the squirrel must solve. A non-fiction picture book on the reproduction of unisexual plants, well illustrated with watercolours depicting an oasis with poetry and subtlety. Every title in this collection “À la découverte de la vie” (Discovering life) treats a specific natural sciences subject, starting with a fictional story, to enhance the pleasure of learning.

Près de la palmeraie de Dékan vit un arbre du voyageur qui rêve de se reproduire avec son voisin palmier... Pourquoi est-ce impossible, telle est l’énigme que doit résoudre l’écureuil. Un documentaire sur la reproduction des plantes unisexuées, bien servi par des aquarelles dépeignant une oasis pleine de poésie aux couleurs subtiles. Chaque titre de cette collection «À la découverte de la vie» aborde un point très ciblé de sciences naturelles, en portant d’une fiction (conte, récit quotidien...), avec un réel souci du plaisir de l’apprentissage.
A baby will be born in the compound where little Kouagou lives. The informative side of this picture book in the collection “A la découverte de la vie” (Discovering life) is discreet here; what is important, is the child’s questioning, and his concern about his own “past” as a baby. Tenderness and a tone that sounds right, in delicate harmony with large colour areas with the child in the centre. A picture book to read and to look at with small children.

Michèle Nardi • Hervé Alladayè, ill.
Coco taillé tête d’œuf [Coco taillé, egg-shaped head]

But where is “Coco taillé”? He’s smeared his face with corn flour. Then, he’s put sand into the drinking water bowl. Then… ah, one has to keep an eye on him! This is one of six books featuring the youngest child in the compound, with stories told by images full of humour and tenderness, for very young children (as all titles in collection Le Serin).

Amour Gbovi • Hervé Gigot, ill.
Boni, l’enfant qui voulait aller à l’école [Boni, the child that wanted to go to school]

Boni, “blessed child” in bariba language, is meant to be a farmer and indeed, he does good work in the fields. However, he has one thing in mind, to go to school and he decided to make his dream come true. Page after page the reader sees Boni’s life flourish, through the simple words of the text and beautiful watercolours, full of light. Narration goes fast at the end of the book, with Boni as an adult, first a banker, then president of Benin (Benin current president’s name is, in fact, Yaya Boni), a president much concerned about public education.
All children have lots of fun at the village pond, until the day when one of them notices his pee-pee is red. It’s bilharzias. One must know more about this disease, treat it, not bathe in the village pond... One of the titles in the collection “Enfant et santé” (Child and Health): small picture books using a story happening in children’s daily life, to give information on health issues.

Because King Akuamu is very cruel, the Adan people decide to find a new homeland. But their march is soon stopped by a gigantic river. The crossing will be possible thanks to a miraculous bridge made of tree trunks – in fact, caymans, to which a cult is born, in acknowledgment for their help. These legend of the Adan people living in South Ghana, Togo and Benin, is completed by some pages of information on the cult of the sacred cayman. Other titles in this collection Cauris d’or, co-published in Togo and Benin, provide interesting fiction with a supplement on cultural traditions.
Gustave Akakpo • Kudzovi B. Norbert Kokoroko, ill.
G. M. Kwasi Fiaga and S. Y. G. Gableame Gbedemah, transl.
**Titi la fontaine / Titi aDuDogo (bilingual French – Ewe) [Titi the Fountain]**

Titi has wet her bed again… Her mother is not happy, the children in her neighbourhood go looking for her, find her, tie a rope with three frogs around her waist… That night, Bibi Rikiki the frog-shaped monster enters Titi’s bedroom and tries to put on her the mask that will steal her dreams. Titi is so scared that she wets her bed and the whole room, and the monster disappears in the water. Simple, lively text and colourful, expressive illustrations by an author and illustrator from Togo. Text in French and in Ewe, spoken in Benin, Togo, Ivory Coast and Ghana. Dozens of children’s books in different African languages in the collection Contes des quatre vents (Tales from the four winds).

Cyrille Kakpo
**La Moto de l’oncle Assa [Oncle Assa’s motorbike]**

What a pleasure it is to ride on Uncle’s motorbike… But the fumes it gives off are so bad for the environment ! One of the titles in the collection “Enfant et santé” (Child and Health): small picture books using a story happening in children’s daily life, to give information on health issues.

All book reviews are adapted from those published in the journal *Takam Tikou*, http://takamzikou.bnf.fr
This selection made by FNLIL, the Brazilian section of IBBY, has attempted to express the variety of Brazilian editorial production for that particular age group (0 to 11 years), as produced in the past four decades. The choice was nearly all based on books that stand out because of text and illustration quality, with FNLIL’s official recognition by means of the FNLILJ Award or the FNLILJ Highly Recommendable Label. Each one expresses characteristics that are inherent to books considered to be of good quality both here and abroad. Finally, we would clarify that, in Brazil, we consider books with many illustrations and short texts as a part of the “children” category. For textless books, those that contain only illustrations, the category is called “image book”. The titles of the books presented in English here do not necessarily correspond to the way they were published in that language, and are merely an attempt to clarify what it means to prospective readers.

Characters and objects molded in modeling plastic assembled in small scenes in a succession of good-humored, lyrical, intriguing, surreal images, where the very same character, always in varied situations, is reading a book. It is introduced as a source of pleasure, joy, information, wisdom, as company and refuge. Without exactly narrating a story, the short, precise and poetic text takes the reader on a journey of expectation leading to a surprise ending to the character with her grand paper-winged companion. Winner of the FNLILJ Children Award in 1994.

Marcelo Xavier • Gustavo Campos, phot.
Asa de papel [Paper wing]
Formato, 2006 • ISBN 8572080937

Personagens e objetos moldados em massa plástica foram montados em pequenos cenários numa sucessão de imagens bem-humoradas, líricas, intrigantes, surrealistas... Nelas, a personagem, sempre a mesma em situações variadas, está lendo um livro. Este é apresentado como fonte de prazer, de alegria, de informação, de sabedoria, como companhia, refúgio. O texto - curto, exato, poético - sem narrar propriamente uma história, conduz o leitor em um passeio cada vez mais repleto de expectativa para um final inesperado da personagem com seu grande companheiro de asas de papel. Vencedor do prêmio FNLILJ Criança em 1994.
Bartolomeu Campos de Queirós • Elisabeth Teixeira, ill.
Até passarinho passa [Even little birds fly away]
Moderna, 2003 • ISBN 8516036413

This book was the winner of FNLIJ’s Hors Concours Children Award in 2004. The story addresses a character recalling his childhood days, the cozy home, and the very special relationship he shared with nature and birds. He established a particularly strong friendship with a certain bird, based on silent sunny afternoons, and faces the prevailing emptiness after the loss of his friend. Having reached a finalist position for the Hans Christian Andersen award twice, the author relies on a text that inspires bucolic images to address death in a light and poetic manner. The illustrations corroborate the lightness of the text. In 2008, Bartolomeu won the IV Prêmio Ibero-americano SM de Literatura Infantil y Juvenil.

Eva Furnari
Bruxinha Zuzu [The little witch Zuzu]
Moderna, 2010 • ISBN 8516066871

This work was awarded FNLIJ’s Highly Recommendable label for the Image category in 2011. Eva Furnari’s illustrations make readers smile, as they, along with Zuzu, a clumsy little witch, are overwhelmed by the unexpected results of the magic tricks. The spells never go as she expects, and always take her by surprise. Eva pioneered success in Brazil with image only books, in the 1980’s, with her little witch character. She was awarded a number of FNLIJ prizes. In 1996 and 1998, she was included in IBBY’s Honor List.

Ronaldo Simões Coelho
Macaquinho [Little monkey]
FTD, 2011 • ISBN 8532276025

This is a classical Brazilian album that speaks of affection between father and son. Originally published in 1985, it still overwhelms readers. The books’ format has been changed by the publisher but they have retained the original illustrations. Every night, the little monkey went to his father’s bed and would not let him sleep. Everyday, there was a different excuse: it was either because of cold, hunger, or fear. And his father was always willing to solve the problem. Until one day, when the cub tells the real reason why he wanted to go to his father’s bed. Father and son grow even closer. The illustrations by renowned Eva Furnari clearly express the affection contained in the text. This book has been translated and distributed for free in Mexico and Bolivia.


Esta obra recebeu, em 2011, o selo Altamente Recomendável pela FNLIJ na categoria Imagem. As ilustrações de Eva Furnari causam riso no leitor, que junto com Zuzu, uma atrapalhada bruxinha, surpreende-se com os resultados inesperados de suas magias. Os encantamentos nunca saem como ela espera, e sempre a surpreende. O truque cômico e suave faz com que o livro arranque risadas e risos dos leitores de todas as idades. Eva foi pioneira no Brasil a fazer sucesso com livros somente com imagem, nos anos 80, com a personagem Bruxinha. Recebeu inúmeros prêmios da FNLIJ. Em 1996 e 1988, esteve na Lista de Honra do IBBY.

Este é um clássico álbum brasileiro que fala do afeto entre pai e filho. Publicado originalmente em 1985, continua encantando leitores. Embora tenha mudado de editora – na primeira chegou a mais xx edições – manteve as ilustrações, tendo apenas o seu formato modificado. Toda noite o macaquinho ia para a cama do pai e não deixava o pai dormir. Cada dia era uma desculpa: ou porque estava com frio, ou com fome, ou com medo. E o pai sempre resolvia o problema. Até que, um dia, o filhote conta a verdadeira razão de querer ir para a cama do pai. Pai e filho ficam mais juntos do que nunca. As ilustrações da renomada Eva Furnari expressam todo o afeto contido no texto. A obra foi traduzida e distribuída gratuitamente no México e na Bolívia.
In this book (FNLIJ Children Award 1987), Brazil’s grand artist Ziraldo, author of *O menino maluquinho*, a national classical work of children’s literature, speaks about the relationship between two children, two friends: the brown boy and the pink boy. Along the story, both make discoveries about colors and ethnicity, restating that true friendship is a value that goes far beyond these concepts. Also an illustrator himself, the author has been awarded many prizes and has been nominated three times for IBBY’s HCA award: 1988, 1990, and 1992.

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Winner of the Hans Christian Andersen award in 2000, Ana Maria Machado tells us the story of a white rabbit who finds the ribbon girl’s dark skin a most beautiful thing. He likes it so much that he tries to find where the color came from so his offspring can have their hair as black as a panther’s. This book has been translated into several languages and is one of the author’s classical works, because of the many prizes it has been given: Américas, Best Latin Books in the USA category in 1997; Colombia’s Fundalectura Highly Recommendable, and ALIJA, Buenos Aires’s Best Latin American Children’s Book, both in 1996; Venezuela’s National Library’s Best of the Year in 1995; Honorable Mention in the São Paulo Biennial as One of the Five Best works in the Biennial. Awarded several FNLIJ prizes for various books, the author also won the Tokyo Noma Illustration Contest’s Runner-up award in 2000, the same year when she was nominated for IBBY’s HCA award.
Little Pedro is a boy who happens to be charmed by the moon, until he finds out that the pebbles he finds are fragments from it. Pedro, which means ‘pebble’, sympathizes with the pebbles, as he thinks they might miss home. A turtle comes across his path and, given the similarity of its shell with the earth’s satellite, the boy names her Lua (moon). A strong and beautiful friendship arises and is firmly established between the two of them. Lua can no longer stay away from Pedro. In this book, that speaks of friendship and death, Odilon Moraes manages to harmonize text and beautiful black and white images, providing the work with a delicately poetic tone. In 2005, the book was awarded FNLIJ’s Children Award. In 2009, it was included in the White Ravens catalog of Munich’s International Library.

The people in this kingdom started to suffer after the king caught a disease that kept him from seeing and hearing small people. The disease spread on to the king’s aides in such a way that the people were no longer seen or heard by them. After all, the subjects were all so very small... One day, however, they discover they could be heard if they spoke all at once in a very loud tone voice. Based on the popular saying “Eyes that don’t see, heart that doesn’t feel”, the story challenges authoritarianism and reflects upon politics, as it shows what happens when rulers fail to work with and for the people. Even with these complex concepts, Carlos Brito’s illustrations manage to express to readers all of the fun that is necessary to awaken their imagination. The work is part of the renowned cycle of kings, around which the author has another three books that reflect upon the dominant/dominated issue. In 1982, it was awarded FNLIJ’s Children Award. Ruth Rocha was one of the authors who started the new children and youth literature in Brazil, in the late 1960’s. She is a most renowned author in the country. The first edition of this book, in 1981, was launched in the final moments of the dictatorship in this country, which officially extended until 1985. In 2002, she was nominated by FNLIJ for IBBY’s HCA Award.
The King of Almost-Everything had nearly everything: land, armies, and a lot of gold. But he was dissatisfied with the “nearly”; he wanted everything. So, he decided to have more land, more armies, more gold. Still dissatisfied, he wanted to own the flowers, the fruit, the birds, the stars, and even the sun. Having conquered all of these things, the King of Nearly-Everything eventually understood that there were still many more things which would never be his. In this prize-winning story—FNLIJ’s Children Award in 1975—Eliardo França manages to make young readers reflect upon complex concepts such as authoritarianism, materialism, inner peace. This is a masterpiece from a decade of excellent harvest within Brazilian children’s literature. This was the first book to be awarded a FNLIJ prize. In that same year, it was given another one in the BIB (Bratislava Biennial of Illustration), in former Czechoslovakia, currently the Czech Republic.

Eliardo França
O rei de quase-tudo [The King of almost-everything]
Companhia das Letrinhas, 2002 • ISBN 8589907171

This interesting work by renowned illustrators Graça Lima, Mariana Massarani and Roger Mello shows a little of the hustle-bustle and, at the same time, the solitude of life in a large metropolis. The quiet neighbor who plays the clarinet, has a rhinoceros pet, collects books and old stuff, merely greets her next door neighbor, who reads comic books, drinks coffee, and builds a paper town. Amidst the manias of neighbors who hardly ever see each other, there lies a question: What relations have we been establishing with people in the past few decades? The three authors have received many awards by FNLIJ, which gave the book the Highly Recommendable label in 2003 in the Children Category.

Graça Lima, Mariana Massarani and Roger Mello
Vizinho, vizinha [Neighbour boy, neighbour girl]
Companhia das Letrinhas, 2002 • ISBN 8574061492

Esta interessante obra dos renomados ilustradores Graça Lima, Mariana Massarani and Roger Mello mostra um pouco da agitação e ao mesmo tempo da solidão que a vida numa metrópole oferece. A tranquila vizinha, que toca clarineta, cria um rinoceronte, coleciona livros e coisas antigas troca apenas cumprimentos com o vizinho do lado, que lê quadrinhos, toma café e constrói uma cidade de papel. Em meio às manias dos vizinhos que pouco se conhecem, fica o questionamento: Qual é a relação que estamos estabelecendo com as pessoas nas últimas décadas? Os três autores são premiados pela FNLIJ, que em 2003 deu ao livro o selo FNLIJ de Altamente Recomendável, na categoria Criança.
This is the choice of six librarians working in children’s libraries in Cameroon (three in Yaoundé, one in Douala, one in Bamenda): Delphine Sylvie Balle, Institut français, Douala; Charles Kamdem Poeghela, CLAC, Yaoundé; Bernadette Maurice, Lucioles, Yaoundé; Joséphine Moubouka, Alliance française, Dschang; Olive Njuekou, Alliance française, Bamenda; Edith Noga, Centre Culturel François Villon, Yaoundé. The books are listed starting from the most voted for.

N.B. All consulted librarians have selected titles published by Akoma Mba, now out of business, which are no longer available and are therefore not mentioned on the list: Le Vieux char [The Old Tank], L’Arbre à merveilles [The Wonder Tree], Matiké, Bella fait la classe [Bella teaches lessons]...

1. Kidi Bebey • Christian Kwingé Epanya, ill.
   **Pourquoi je ne suis pas sur la photo? [Why Aren’t I in the Photograph?]**
   Edicef, Clé, 1999 • ISBN 2-84129-634-2

   “Where are we when we are not yet born?”, Titi wonders, realising that he does not appear on every photograph in the family album. He asks the question each day of the week to a different person, but only his mother’s answer will really be satisfying... A simple text that sounds true, beautiful illustrations by Christian Epanya, full of life and colour. This very accomplished picture book delights children.

   « Où est-ce qu’on est quand on n’est pas né? » se demande Titi en réalisant qu’il n’apparaît pas sur toutes les photos de l’album familial. Chaque jour de la semaine il interrogera quelqu’un de son entourage, mais il n’y aura que la réponse de sa maman qui le satisfera vraiment... Un texte simple qui sonne vrai, de très belles illustrations de Christian Epanya, remplies de vie et de couleurs. Un album très réussi qui enchante les enfants.

2. Ernest Mbanji Bawe
   **Nfo: L’enfant qui n’en fait qu’à sa tête [Nfo, the boy that does as he pleases]**

   A charming picture book featuring a small boy. Fetch water, crush maize with a mill: Nfo would like to do what his mother asks but he is in such a hurry, he so much wants to amuse himself... On the theme of a small boy doing one silly thing after the other and suffering the consequences, a simple text accompanied by large, lifelike illustrations, with singular charm: it is a pleasure to discover a West-Cameroon lifestyle.

   Un album attachant mettant avec grâce un petit bonhomme au centre du monde. Chercher de l’eau, écraser du maïs au moulin: Nfo voudrait bien faire ce que sa mère lui demande, mais il est tellement pressé, il a tellement envie de s’amuser... Sur le thème du petit garçon qui accumule les bêtises et en subit les conséquences, un texte simple accompagné de grandes illustrations très variées, au charme singulier: on a plaisir à y découvrir un cadre de vie camerounais.
3 Christian Kingue Epanya
La Pipe de Tita Nveng [Tita Nveng’s Pipe]

The vanishing of a pipe in a small village near Ebolowa in Cameroon has remarkable consequences: grand-father is so furious to be deprived of tobacco that he refuses to harvest palm wine, which deprives villagers from their daily fix, which exasperates them… Until little Engoulou confesses: she is guilty of having broken her grand-father’s pipe, ruining her holidays at the plantation that she had so much looked forward to… Misbehaviour, the weight of a secret, reconciliation: a very good story, for its themes, its progression and its rhythm. It is always a pleasure to plunge into Christian Epanya’s illustrations, in shades of red an orange, creating, with just some details, a special atmosphere and characters that seem real.

Une histoire de pipe disparue dans un petit village du Cameroun, près d’Ebolowa… Cette disparition va avoir des conséquences notables : colère du grand-père sevré de tabac, qui refuse alors de récolter le vin de palme, ce qui prive les villageois de leur ration quotidienne, ce qui provoque leur exaspération… Jusqu’à ce que la petite Engoulou révèle son forfait : c’est elle qui a cassé la pipe de son grand-père, gâchant ainsi les vacances à la plantation qu’elle attendait avec tant d’impatience… Une bêtise, le poids de son secret, la réconciliation : une histoire très bien vue dans ses thèmes, sa progression et son rythme. On a toujours plaisir à plonger dans les images de Christian Epanya, baignées de rouges et d’orangés, qui en quelques détails savent planter une atmosphère particulière et camper des personnages que l’on aurait déjà rencontrés…

Christian Kingue Epanya
Le Petit camion de Garoua [The Little Truck of Garoua]

Back from Garoua to his village in North Cameroon, Konan seems to have something in mind: he goes to his mother’s kitchen, then to the grocer’s, then to the bike repairer’s, then to the basket-maker’s… picking up different objects and materials. But what is he up to, this boy?, wonder all those who see him and follow him. He’s made a truck! A beautiful truck! It’s Uncle Amadou’s truck, in Garoua! Fanta is very proud of her little Konan, she hugs him tight in her arms. Luminous illustrations, colourful and warm, rendering the village life affectionately.

Revenu de Garoua dans son village du Nord Cameroun, Konan semble avoir quelque chose derrière la tête : le voilà qui passe dans la cuisine de sa maman, puis chez l’épicier, le réparateur de motos et de vélos, les femmes qui tressent des paniers… et récolte différents objets et matériaux. Mais qu’est-ce qu’il fabrique, ce garçon ?, se demandent tous ceux qui le voient et qui le suivent. Un camion ! Vraiment beau… c’est le camion d’oncle Amadou, à Garoua ! Fanta est très fière de son petit Konan. Elle le serre très fort dans ses bras. Illustrations lumineuses, colorées, chaleureuses, rendant avec affection la vie du village.

Francois Kammo Melachi • Katia Castanie
La Fête de l’arachide [Peanut Feast]

A non-fiction picture book on peanut culture and its role in Cameroon’s life and economy, by means of the story of a boy on holiday with his grandparents at the village. Information is given through the grandfather’s answers to the boy’s questions. The book, the first by the very young F. K. Melachi, is the laureate of a contest organised by an NGO wishing to give children in central Cameroon books depicting their daily life. Melachi’s illustrations are informational (on the tools, the phases of culture, the houses…) and if they seem a bit stiff, character’s faces are expressive and landscape, rendered with poetry.

Un album documentaire pour faire découvrir la culture de l’arachide et son rôle dans la vie et l’économie du Cameroun, à travers une petite histoire mettant en scène un garçon venu au village voir ses grands-parents pour les vacances. Par le jeu des questions de l’enfant et des réponses du grand-père, on fait le tour du sujet. C’est le premier livre du très jeune illustrateur F. K. Melachi. Ses images sont informatives (les outils, les étapes de la culture, l’habitat…) et si les personnages paraissent un peu raides, leurs visages sont expressifs et les paysages, rendus avec poésie. Cet album est le résultat d’un concours organisé par une association afin de donner aux enfants de la région du centre du Cameroun des livres parlant de leur quotidien.
**Petit Hippo et son stylo magique [Little Hippo and his magic pen]**

Daddy Hippo gives Little Hippo a red pen for his birthday, a pen “full of beautiful things”... Little Hippo tries to take those beautiful things out of the pen, but cannot, nor can his sister, nor the Hen, nor the Giraffe... Finally, Mother Hippo shows him how to use the pen and soon, the whole world begins to come out of it...

**Mariétou Kissaitou [Marietou Whoknowsall]**

When you know all, you are afraid of nothing: this is what little Mariétou believes. Bold, brave, she’s always the first to go at things. At least when there is light... For as soon as night comes, Mariétou is afraid of going across the courtyard to the toilet... Thanks to the words of an elder – the grand-father – Mariétou will get over her fear. A lively story, not without humour, that takes the reader to Douala. In À l’eau Mariétou! (ISBN 978-2-7320-3971-8) we find little Mariétou and her neighbourhood in Douala again: she goes for a day on the beach with her class, in her beautiful new bathing-suit, but she is terrified to go into the water: what if Mamywater really existed?...
The publishing of picture books in Colombia is recent. Since the eighties, when the edition of books for children and youth began in our country, only a few outstanding works have remained in our publishing market. In this selection of picture books we want to highlight the books written and illustrated by Ivar Da Coll, an emblematic author of our country, as well as the work of Alekos, Clarisa Ruiz and Antonio Caballero. Fundalectura -the Foundation for the Promotion of Reading- is a private, non-profit enterprise. It leads interdisciplinary assessment committees, which assess the bibliographic offer for children and youngsters. Their voluntary work feeds the lists of recommended books of the institution.

1. Clarisa Ruiz • Alekos, ill.  
**Tocotoc, el cartero enamorado [Tocotoc, the postman in love]**  

If ever you visit a town called Cataplun and see going by the park two lovers, a postman and a beautiful girl with a jelly bean nose and cheeks like apples, you should know that they are the protagonists of a curious story of love, a romance by correspondence. Tocotoc, the postman, was in love with Mary, a seamstress, but he was so shy that he did not dare to say he loved her. But he had an idea: to write her letters to express all things he had not the courage to say face to face. This charming tale is a tribute to epistolary dialogue, to the old habit of putting in a mailbox dreams, happiness, woes, and hopes. For his work in this book, the illustrator was nominated to the IBBY Honour List 1994.

2. Antonio Caballero  
**Isabel en Invierno [Isabel in Winter]**  

Many things happen to Isabel in Winter. She gets bored, sits to think, dresses and undresses and also she goes for a walk. At times she is alone, and sometimes she remembers that she is not, as the weasel Muchareja and the bear Nicholas. Isabel feels and thinks a lot. Her father knows this and so he wrote this book for her. When he showed it to Isabel, she felt represented in the character. A reading recommended to share with children living the game as their greatest adventure. The illustration line reflects the doodles children make at this age.
With a topic children love as it expresses with humor the harshness of lavatory matters, The situations depicted will make the reader smile. Three friends go out for a walk, sleep together and believe each other in the fabulous characters they invent to blame for the noises their bodies produce. Although many parents and teachers try to veil some topics to children, the author suggests the need to recognize that our body produces noises we cannot control, when least expected, overcoming the shame.

Mr. Surprise is a mysterious character that no one sees but everyone knows. When his visit is approaching, houses are decorated with candles, ribbons and flowers; behind doors, bags are put waiting for those gifts all have demanded from Mr. Surprise in a letter the wind carried to him. Hamamelis and Miosotis, two friends who like to visit each other to chat while drinking cocoa and eating cookies, make their requests to the expected visitor. But instead of asking gifts for themselves, each one asks for something that would make his neighbor happy.

As Hamamelis is famous by his discretion, Miosotis, his best friend, carries a secret to his home. Hamamelis keeps it in a chest, so carefully, together with a sword, a prince’s crown and a striped ball. But the secret begins to move and make strange noises, and Hamamelis must fight against the curiosity and the temptation he feels to open the chest. More important, he has to be strong enough to avoid being convinced by her friend (Calendula) Marigold, who offers him some delicious cookies in exchange for revealing the secret. What a problem!

Chigüiro, a capybara, is very intrigued and wants to understand the secret explaining why adults have to be so big, so serious, with such a big appetite. Why can’t he eat as much as Abo or have a couch like his couch, or cook with sharp knives as Ata does? They always tell him: “Now you are young, but when you grow up...” And he wonders when it will happen. “As time passes”, Abo comforts him and until this time arrives, Abo shows him how the adult’s world is. Then Chigüiro decides it is boring to be big and thinks it is better to wait to grow up and while waiting, carry on eating lollipops, riding his tricycle, and painting with crayons on his own small table.
Eusebio is a beautiful cat with a look between sad and sweet in his eyes. He is usually engaged in activities slightly spiritual, sensitive and even poetic. In this book, Eusebio begins to draw, specifically, to draw portraits. A cheerful morning, he decides to paint, and carrying the necessary elements, he sits under a shady tree to reproduce other beings on a paper. Then his friends began to parade in front of his improvised and airy studio to ask him for a portrait. The hen Ursula, duck Ananias, goat Eulalia, cat Camila and also dog Horacio want a portrait. All of them prove to be very fickle as models: they all have an excuse to leave soon the rigors of this activity so quiet and calm. Finally, Eusebio decides to paint landscapes, and then they ask him, again, for their portraits. At the end, Eusebio finds a final solution. With this book, Ivar Da Coll demonstrates his stories and illustrations, his imagination and poetry, are an outpost in our country and beyond. Doodle, to be published soon with new illustrations by the author, is part of the series Eusebio’s Stories, which include Birthday cake and I’m afraid.

It is night and Eusebio, the cat, cannot sleep because he is scared. But, fortunately, he is not alone. His friend Ananias, a wise duck, tells him a secret to stop him being frightened. He reveals him that monsters also have to brush their teeth and drink their soup, that they must take baths with soap and water, and go to sleep at eight in the evening. Also, he reveals that the monsters like colorful ice cream. Knowing these monsters weakness, Eusebio decides go to sleep. He is peaceful, after all somebody who has to drink soup, as him, monsters included, cannot be so bad.

This book will be published soon with new illustrations by the author.

Horacio, the dog, remembers that his friend Ursula had her birthday recently. He packs some fruit in a basket and runs to give them to Ursula, a hen, before she celebrates another birthday. Ursula receives her present and when she remembers that her friend the cow Eulalia had her birthday recently, runs to her home carrying in the basket fruit and some eggs before the cow celebrates another birthday. Then, the cow remembers that her friend, the cat Camila, recently had her birthday and runs to her home carrying fruit, eggs and also butter and cream, before the cat... and in this way continues a delicious play of repetition that makes this book one of the most beloved books of the Colombian author. At the end, the basket arrives to Eusebio, who decides to bake a cake, and guess who arrives at his home, attracted by the aroma? This book will be published soon with new illustrations by the author.
Books from Croatia

The list was created by members of the Croatian Committee for Library Services for Children and YA.

1

Pika Vončina

**Emilija u zemlji kotača [Emilija in the land of wheels]**


In this picture book the author presents Emilija the sheep, and her numerous sheep family. Emilija loves to eat, she grows with time and one day she discovers that she can say “no”. It is precisely her stubbornness that leads her into a true adventure. She refuses to go for a walk with the family, she takes her favourite toy and leaves. Her walk is cheerful at the beginning, but soon, the Lamb, Emilija’s favourite toy, loses a wheel. The search for the toy parts brings Emilija into a strange land of wheels. The text is simple and short, appropriate for children just trying to read on their own. Illustrations merge with the text and express the motives that are not always expressed in words.

** Autorica u slikovnici predstavlja svoju junakinju, ovcu Emiliju, i njenu brojnu obitelj. Ovca Emilija voli jesti, raste i jednoga dana otkriva da se može reći «ne». Upravo zbog svoje tvrdoglavosti doživljava pravu pustolovinu. Odbija otići u obiteljsku šetnju, uzima svoju najdražu igračku i odlazi. Samostalna šetnja počinje veselom, no ubrzo Ovčica, Emilijina omiljena igračka, izgubi kotačić. Potraga za igračkom odvodi Emiliju u čudnovatu zemlju kotača. Tekst slikovnice jednostavan je i kratak, prikladan za djece koja tek pokušavaju samostalno čitati. Ilustracije se stapaju s tekstom, te izražavaju motive koji nisu uvijek izraženi riječima.**

2

Sunčana Škrinjarčić • Ana Kadoić, ill.

**Plesna haljina žutog maslačka [The Dance dress of the yellow dandelion]**


It is hard to see through the mysterious life of flowers, because flowers do not talk, preserving in such a way the secret place and the secret time of the annual flower-ball. Most of the flowers are gorgeous, beautiful and fragrant, just a dandelion considers himself unworthy to go to the ball. And when everything seems completely hopeless, the dandelion will get some help, given to him by somebody from whom such a thing would never be expected. Insignificant until recently, this small flower with no odour nor colour will suddenly shine and dazzle all the participants with the most beautiful and most amazing fluffy dress. This poetic story talks about generosity and love that lie deep in every heart. Even those who seem to be the most brutal and untouchable individuals hide some goodness that sometimes needs to be slowly revealed.

**U tajanstveni život cvijeća teško je proniknuti, jer ono ne govori i tako već dugo čuva tajne o vremenu i mjestu održavanja godišnjeg cvjetnog bala. Većina cvijeća je raskošna, lijepa i mirisna, samo maslačak smatra kako je nedostojan odlaska na bal. I kad se čini posve nemogućim, maslačku će netko pomoći, netko od koga nikada takvo što ne bi očekivao. Do nedavno neugledan cvjetak bez mirisa i bogatih boja zablistat će i zasjeniti sve sudionike plesa u najljepšoj i najčudesnijoj pahuljastoj haljini. Ova poetična priča govori o plemenitosti i ljubavi koja se nalazi duboko u svakom srcu. Naizgled najgrublji i nedodirljivi pojedinci skrivaju dobrotu koje ponekad treba polako otkrivati.**

Contact: Dajana Brunac
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This unusual and witty tale introduces readers to the world of small, ugly, vicious and naughty monsters that are essentially sweet, kindhearted and likeable. They live near us, with us, inside us and make our lives different and happy. Small home-monsters show the characteristics and behavior of children and adults, and the recognition and identification with the characteristics and with names that represent those characters makes the process of reading very amusing. In the story, the family goes on vacation convinced that they left their old house empty. But that is not the case. Although most of the monsters are hidden in the car, two monsters remain in the house. They find the “Book of magic formula” which, surely, has to be tested and tried out. This story of monsters is rich in humour expressed through imaginative illustrations.

**Ova neobična i duhovita bajka uvodi čitatelje u svijet malih, rugobnih, pakosnih i zločestih čudovišta koja su u svojoj biti draga, dobrodušna i simpatična. Ona žive uz nas, s nama, u nama i čine život raznolikim, veselim i drugačijim. Mala kućna čudovišta ukazuju na osobine i ponašanje djece i odraslih, što čitanje knjige kroz prepoznavanje i poistovjećivanje s karakterom i imenima likova koje predstavljaju čini zabavnim. U priči obitelj odlazi na odmor uvjerenu da ostavlja svoju staru kuću praznu. No, tako samo izgleda na prvi pogled. Iako je većina kućnih čudovišta skrivena u autu, dva vrlo živahna sobna čudovišta ostaju kod kuće. Igrajući se pronalaze „Knjigu čarobnih formula” koje, naravno, moraju ih isprobati. Priča o čudovištima obiluje humorom izraženim kroz maštovite ilustracije.**

**Knjiga Ćarobnih formula [The Book of the magic formula]**
Stanislav Marijanović
Sipar, 1999 • ISBN 953-6415-20-8

**Knjiga sadrži dva duhovita igrokaza „Potragu za blagom” i „Ronilac bisera” koji su rezultat je zajedničkog stvaralačkog rada dvojice vrhunskih hrvatskih autora. Likovno je vrlo privlačna i zanimljiva kao samostalna djela, istovremeno služi kao predložak za daljnji rad, odnosno postavljanje igrokaza na pozornicu. Ona je svojevrsan naputak za uprzoćenje, a svako čitanje otkriva nove vrijednosti u napisanom tekstu i živopisnim ilustracijama. Slikovnica na nekim listovima sadrži „prozorčić”, iza kojih se kriju likovi iz predstave ili čak cijela scena, što pridonosi oživljavanju knjige, poput pozornice.**

**The book contains two witty role-play dramatisations, “Treasure Hunt” and “Pearl Diver” that are the result of joint creative work of two excellent Croatian authors. Visually very appealing and interesting as an independent work, it also serves as a template for some further work, such as setting the play on the stage. It is a sort of instruction for staging, and each reading reveals a new value in the written text and in colourful illustrations. Some pages of the picture book contain “windows”, with some of the characters in the play, or even whole scenes hidden behind, which contributes to the liveliness of the book, like a stage.**

**Morski igrokazi [The sea plays]**
Ludwig Bauer • Vjekoslav Vojo Radoičić, ill.
Golden marketing-Tehnička knjiga, 2005 • ISBN 953-212-245-1

**Knjiga sadrži dva duhovita igrokaza „Potragu za blagom” i „Ronilac bisera” koji su rezultat je zajedničkog stvaralačkog rada dvojice vrhunskih hrvatskih autora. Likovno je vrlo privlačna i zanimljiva kao samostalna djela, istovremeno služi kao predložak za daljnji rad, odnosno postavljanje igrokaza na pozornicu. Ona je svojevrsan naputak za uprzoćenje, a svako čitanje otkriva nove vrijednosti u napisanom tekstu i živopisnim ilustracijama. Slikovnica na nekim listovima sadrži „prozorčić”, iza kojih se kriju likovi iz predstave ili čak cijela scena, što pridonosi oživljavanju knjige, poput pozornice.**
In this picture book the author succeeded to restore harmony between the world of children and the world of adults. With interesting solution the author divides the story into two parts. A smaller part describes the experiences of a girl called Ela, while the greatest part depicts Dad’s reflections on them fishing together. Ela is a vivacious girl who is convinced that her dad is too busy and too serious, and he needs to relax. For Dad fishing means enjoying the peace and quiet, which is impossible with Ela. For the imaginative girl daddy’s hat represents a perfect boat, she releases bait-worms and leaves them to play, and throws stones exactly where her dad envisioned complete peace. Although the different perceptions are intertwined through some fun, joy and gladness, Dad is not always amused. However, the childs sincerity and open heart demonstrate the importance of socializing, playing and having fun, and the true value of love that saves lives.

Sanja Lovrenčić • Tomislav Zlatić, ill. 
Kako je dobro sa svim tim životinjama 
[It has been so good with all these animals]

In a small house there is a place for everyone, for people and many different animals. They all live together in harmony although they are of very different habits, needs, characters, sizes and colours. No-one is angry or bothers anyone, like it is said in a saying “where the inmate is not angry, no house is too small”. Of course, there can be even more animals, all are welcome and no one will be chased. Love for animals raises the goodness in every person. Children filled with love will become happy adults, and this is one of the ways to teach children to accept tolerance and respect diversities and a harmonious life together.
This story is about Mr. Otto who is a master upholsterer. He repairs old chairs and covers them with beautiful new materials of amazing colours and patterns. Anyone who sits in a refurbished piece of furniture, sails away in a different world and feels marvellous. Master Otto has a neighbour, a curious little girl who loves to watch him through the window of her room. She is very curious about the blue haze which envelops his home while he is working. When the old master and a small neighbor finally meet, the girl will discover the whole unknown world. Thanks to the unusual master she will find out the secret – how, with lots of knowledge and skills, some good will, and a little magic, not only can the old chairs be restored but people as well. With a little imagination (or green mist) their old ties and relationships become like new.

Priča je o gospodinu Ottu koji jemajstor tapetar. On popravlja stare naslonjače i presvlači ih predvijnim novim materijalima krasnih boja i šara. Svatko tko sjedne u tako obnovljeni komad namještaja, otplovi u drugačiji svijet u kojem se i sam osjeti čarobno. Susjeda majstora Otta, radoznala je djevojčica koja ga voli promatrati kroz prozor svoje sobe. Ona što je najviše čudi jest zelena maglica kojom je obavijena njegova kuća dok radi. Kada se stari majstor i mala susjeda konačno upoznaju, djevojčici će se otkriti dotad nepoznan svijet. Zахвajanući neoobičnom majstoru saznat će tajnu – kako, uz puno znanja, volje, umijeća, te malo čarolije, obnoviti ne samo stare naslonjače, već i ljude i njihove već pomalo istrošene veze i odnose koji, uz malo mašte (ili zelene maglice), ponovo postaju – kao novi.
We all know that our fondest memories are related to storytelling, delicious food and odours spreading from the mother’s or grandmother’s kitchen. The most precious moments are spent with those whom we love, and today’s lifestyle does not leave enough time to enjoy the togetherness. The kitchen is a place where everyone can hang out, cook and try out various dishes. The amazing cook-book of Lisa Brljiza, with its simple homemade recipes and verses encourages both children and parents to enjoy preparing meals together and to read poetry. It is still nice and comfortable to be in such homes where families often hang out at the table.

Once upon a time everything was different, the air was cool and the water in wells was crystal clear, with special flavour, all thanks to the diligent water-sprites. There was a little water-sprite who looked after a well, placed in the shade of an old pear tree. His life was beautiful until the old pear tree dried up and was left without fruit, and out of sadness he neglected the cleanliness of the well.

Crying for the past times the water-sprite could not find a solution. Then an owl gives the sprite some wise advice and soon the water in the well became clear again. The well is proclaimed Caesarean, and he became a Caesarean water-sprite. The text reveals to children the beauty in everything that surrounds them, and is complemented by melancholic illustrations.
The Danish picture books were chosen by the Danish IBBY members and the librarians in the children’s departments in Denmark. A call was sent out for nominations and a number of very fine suggestions were received. The IBBY board and Kirsten Boelt met and agreed the 10 Danish picture books shown here below.

1. **Egon Mathiesen**  
**Mis med de blå øjne [The blue eyed pussy cat]**  

The blue eyed pussy cat is not like all the other cats. They tease him for his blue eyes. But he becomes popular because he finds the land of many mice. The blue eyed pussy cat from 1949 is one of writer, painter and illustrator, Egon Mathiesen’s most familiar and beloved picture books for children. His poetic and simple texts combined with the illustrations created a new departure for Danish children’s literature in the post war period. The book is a classic and still read aloud to Danish children. For 3-6 year-olds.

2. **Flemming Quist Møller**  
**Cykelmyggen Egon [Bicycle mosquito Egon]**  

Bicycle mosquito Egon loves hard and fast sprints. So it was in 1967 when Egon machined out of the water on a great, new racing bike in Flemming Quist Møller’s picture book which remains a classic today. The book, in which Egon travels the world and ends up in a circus, is illustrated with fanciful colors and a detailed and lively bar. Quist Møller is both author, illustrator and musician, and received in 2006 Gyldendals Book Prize, which was awarded to an author or illustrator who has done something special for children’s literature. For 3-6 year-olds.

Contact: Kirsten Boelt  
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It is not easy to be a young snowy owl when you are not aware of what a young snowy owl really is saying. What does, Ulla the young snowy owl say? is the story of Ulla, who cannot speak openly and does not know how she should get the words out when she meets the other animals. But maybe they can help! The text is tight and clear, full of repetitions and sound that fit comfortably on the tongue. Illustrations by Charlotte Pardies are beautiful and simple in the colors blue and white. The book is from 2009 and has already been appointed as a classics for children. For 2-4 years olds.


A walk with the dog is an imaginative photo story told and illustrated by Bente Nyström Olesen. The reader travels with the dog on a tour through one image after another over 12 detailed notices, accompanied by a short text on four lines. It teems with secrets, stories and mysteries, which are to explore. Bente Olesen Nyström is an award-winning artist and illustrator. She has made numerous picture books and illustrated, among others, works about animals and plants. For 4-7 year-olds


The book Mom from 1998 is about a boy who has a fat mother. Extremely fat. She can smell a hot dog stand a hundred feet away. And she will not eat carrots and become thin. It’s embarrassing, the boy thinks, and he decides to find a new mother who is nice and slim. Kim Fupz Aakeson treats the subject ‘unconditional love’ in a warm and funny way. The drawings of Mom and her boy who is so embarrassed, so embarrassed by his fat mother is spread over the pages with loving hand by illustrator Mette Kirstine Bak. The 1999 Cultural Ministry Illustrator Award. For 8 year-olds and older.

Finn Herman from 2001 is about the fine lady who wants to go into town with her sweet crocodile Finn Herman. Of course it’s a little dangerous, but Finn Herman’s mother gives him good advice, so nothing happens... with Finn Herman, anyway. It ends with Finn Herman becoming so fat that he cannot even be in the book – so there must be a page pamphlet to show how big and fat he was after their walk. Finn Herman was designed by Hanne Bartholin, who received The Ministry of Culture Illustrator Prize for her humorous drawings that subtly and simply describe how her mother did not believe that the crocodile can do no wrong. For 4-6 year-olds.

Maria and her brother are street children and earn money by collecting garbage. The adults require them to deliver everything they find. But one day Maria finds the finest doll that she really wants to keep. But Maria can lie to the adults when they ask: “Is that all? Aren’t you keeping anything?” Maria’s doll is a picture book for schoolchildren. It tells of street children’s conditions and is about sibling love, friendship, poverty and survival. For 6-10 year-olds.

Sebastian’s father and mother think Sebastian is terribly afraid of the monster, which may be hiding in the closet. But actually, he thinks it’s so boring to be in bed. The father wants to get the bedding done quickly and show that monsters do not exist. But the whole family gets a big surprise – and Sebastian gets it exactly as he wants it. By late sleeping times, popcorn, television – and monster! Lars Vegas Nielsen the illustrator of this book received The Ministry of Culture Illustrator Prize. A crazy original, awful book that has it all including a funny ending. For 5 year-olds and older.

Little frog comes down from outer space. Straight into an unsuspecting frog family in the middle of their coziest hour in front of the television. The family takes the frog into their arms and loves it as one of their own children. There's just one problem: Little frog is very, very bad. He ends up being sent to specialists and the school psychologist. However, being part of a family who loves him, helps Little Frog to find his place in the world. This story won Jakob Strid the Danish part of the Nordic picture book competition, in 2004. For 4-6 year-olds.

In every way a great book, that gathers all the stories of the thunder god, the fertility creator, fighter, fire maker and hero Thor from Nordic mythology. Narrated in large, gentle, violent, sensual, and dramatic color images in Ib Spang Olsen’s special tone of language, so you can even hear him talk. A book for all ages and at all times. The book is a series of vivid and grandiose stories carried by a warm tone, in a visual language that has its own highly textural texture. It is simply good. For 6 year-olds and older.
This selection of picture books is a combination of classics and interesting contemporary authors and illustrators. Some of the stories have entertained several generations already. The older illustrations and colors appeal also to younger parents as retro chic. Contemporary illustrators and authors create experimental, fresh and color-saturated reading experiences.

The books were chosen by approximately 35 Finnish children librarians around the country, who voted for their favourites. A compiled list of 10 titles was made from the long list of individual favourites. The final list represents both official languages in Finland, Finnish and Swedish as well as the indigenous culture of Sami in the northern part of the country.

1. **Tove Jansson**
   **Vem ska trösta Knyttet? [Who will comfort Toffle?]**
   WSOY, 1960 • ISBN 9789150104714

   Toffle is a lonely and fearful little creature, who doesn’t want to be alone anymore. So he goes off to find a friend. His journey is full of amazement, beautiful colours and scary bogeymen.

   Translations: Finnish, English.


   Käännökset: suomi, englanti

2. **Mauri Kunnas • Tarja Kunnas**
   **Koiramäki-sarja [Doghill series]:**
   **Koiramäen talossa [The Doghill farm]**
   **Koiramäen lapset kaupungissa [Doghill kids go to town]**
   **Koiramäen talvi [Winter in Doghill]**

   Cherishing, delightfully and humoristically illustrated stories about Finnish way of life and traditions in the countryside, as it was about 150-200 years ago. Translations: English.

   Hauskasti ja humoristisen yksityiskohtaisesti kuvitettuja tarinoita perinteisestä elämäntavasta Suomen maaseudulla reilut sata vuotta sitten.

   Käännökset: englanti
3

Aino Havukainen • Sami Toivonen
*Tatun ja Patun Suomi [This is Finland]*
Otava, 2007 • ISBN 9789511219156

Tatu and Patu: what can you say about these guys? Their approach to Finnishness is unique, hilarious and to the point. An essential survival guide to Finnish mentality. Translations: English, Swedish.

4

Oili Tanninen
*Hippi [Nugget]*
Otava, 1967, 2009 • ISBN 9511232401

Nugget is a small picture book about friendship and caring. The images are strong and deep enough, maybe words are not needed. The colours appear to be very retro, as the book originates in the sixties.

5

Maikki Harjanne
*Minttu- ja Vanttu-kirjat [Minttu and Vanttu series]*
e.g. *Mintun ja Vantun matka [Minttu and Vanttu take to the sky]*
WSOY, 1986

Bright colours, clear illustration and familiar situations in a toddler family have made these picture books favourite over generations. Translations: English.

6

Juha Virta • Marika Maijala, ill.
*Sylvi Juhannusjiang pitkä päivä [The long day of Sylvia Prankster]*

Sylvi is annoyed to be the shortest in her class and wishes to grow and have longer legs. Well, one morning her wish comes true more rapidly than she ever expected... The book is a joy to behold with its oblong shape.
Eric is peaceful and calm. Too calm for a child, his parents think. Lively Lilly moves next door, is it possible for Eric to make friends with a rascal? Somehow Eric depicts the Finnish native character and mentality perfectly. Translations: Swedish.

every day life and situations in a toddler’s family: spending the night at Granma’s or wanting something REAL bad. Translations: Swedish, Danish, Dutch.

The ups and downs of a big family. Translations: Norwegian.

The National Centre for Children’s Literature – La Joie par les livres (Bibliothèque nationale de France) asked a selection of French children’s librarians working in public libraries of different sizes and locations, to make their choice of books.

1

Philippe Corentin

Plouf! [Splash!]


A landscape format used vertically makes the reader visualize the sensation of falling down, and gives a new turn to the plot. How to get out of the well when one is a starving stupid wolf who thought the moon was a cheese? Well, finding a half-wit that goes down the well himself!

Un format à l’italienne utilisé en hauteur permet de visualiser la sensation de chute et de faire rebondir l’action. Comment sortir du puits quand on est un loup affamé et stupide qui a pensé que le reflet de la lune était un fromage? Et bien, en trouvant un benêt qui y descend à son tour!

2

Claude Ponti

Blaise et le château d’Anne Hiversère [Blaise and Anne Hiversère’s Birth Day’s castle]


A great tribute to those stories that nurture children. The famous Claude Ponti’s chickens have ten days to build the most “irresistibilicious” castle for Anne Hiversaire’s [sounds like Anniversaire: Birthday] party! From the preparations to the party itself, it is a firework display of invented names, places, skills and abundant, extravagant, hilarious images. The many heroes quoted on the flyleaf – from Frankenstein to E.T., Obélix and Hulul – soon become guests of honour. A delightful book for family reading.

Un magnifique hommage aux histoires qui nourrissent l’imaginaire enfantin. Les fameux poussins ont dix jours pour construire le plus « irrésistibilicious » château pour la fête d’Anne Hiversère! Des préparatifs au goûter, on assiste à un véritable feu d’artifice d’inventions de noms, de lieux, de savoir-faire et d’images pleines de pages foisonnantes, extravagantes, hilarantes. Les multiples héros cités en pages de garde – de Frankenstein à E.T. en passant par Obélix et Hulul – se retrouvent bientôt en invités d’honneur. Un régal à lire en famille!
3 Jean de Brunhoff
**Histoire de Babar : le petit éléphant [The Story of Babar the little elephant]**

How a little elephant goes from the jungle to the city, gets civilised and becomes King. Page design, illustration and text combine wonderfully so that each big double page tells the first steps of a life. A hero that everybody knows since his creation in 1931, and who charms every generation – but beware of counterfeits!

Comment un petit éléphant passe de la jungle à la ville, se civilise et devient roi. La mise en pages, l’illustration et le texte se conjuguent à merveille pour permettre à toute l’étendue de la double page de raconter les premières étapes d’une vie. Un héros que tout le monde connaît depuis sa création en 1931 et qui séduit toute les générations, mais attention aux contrefaçons !

4 Esla Valentin • Ilya Green, ill.
**Bou et les 3 zours [Bou and the three bears]**

A story we know by heart – a little curious girl gets lost in the woods and goes into the three bears’ house – told here in a fresh, unexpected way thanks to the language, a joyous mixture of portmanteau words, neologisms, poetic words, foreign-sounding words. One gets used to it quickly and enjoys this language game with its repetitive structure that calls for reading out loud. Illustration in bright, deep colours for dense woods and expressive Bou with her big fair eyes, who goes from wonder to fear but badly wants, in spite of all, to go back visit the bears.

C’est une histoire que l’on connaît par cœur – celle d’une petite curieuse qui se perd dans la forêt et pénètre dans la maison des trois ours – mais qui se raconte ici avec une fraîcheur totalement inattendue, grâce à la langue, un joyeux mélange de mots-valise, de néologismes, de mots aux consonances poétiques, avec des accents de langues étrangères. On s’habitude très vite et l’on prend plaisir à ce jeu de langage – appuyé par une structure répétitive – qui invite spontanément à une lecture à voix haute. L’illustratrice manie ici avec brio les couleurs à la fois vives et profondes dans une juxtaposition de formes qui donne une belle densité à la forêt et une grande expressivité à Bou, avec ses grands yeux clairs, qui passe de l’émerveillement à la peur mais meurt d’envie, malgré tout, « de retourner viser les zours ».

5 Tomi Ungerer
**Les Trois brigands [The Three Robbers]**

A parodic story as Ungerer loves them, supported by economic, brilliantly efficient illustration: how the terrible robbers break and become benefactors of orphans for the sake of a little girl that is not easily impressed.

Une histoire parodique comme les aime Ungerer, soutenue par une illustration économe et magistralement efficace : comment les terribles brigands craquent et se transforment en bienfaiteurs des orphelins pour une petite fille qui ne se laisse pas impressionner.

6 Ramona Badescu • Benjamin Chaud, ill.
**Pomelo grandit [Pomelo grows up]**

On his morning road, Pomelo comes upon a tiny dandelion. He realises then that he has grown up! He explores the big pages of the book as he explores the wide world. He is still a little lost, touchingly clumsy and boldly shy, but he would like to do something big. How? What happens when one grows up? A big-format book on the doubts and hesitations of children growing up.

Sur le chemin du matin, Pomelo croise un tout petit pissenlit. Il se rend compte alors qu’il a grandi ! Il explore les grandes pages du livre comme il explore le vaste monde. Il est encore un peu perdu, attendant de maladresse et d’audace timide, mais il voudrait faire quelque chose de grand. Comment faire ? Que se passe-t-il lorsque l’on grandit ? Un album grand format sur les doutes et les hésitations des enfants qui grandissent.
7 Pierre Delye • Martine Bourre, ill.
Le p’tit bonhomme des bois [The Little Man of the woods]
Didier jeunesse, 2003 • ISBN 978-2-278-05383-4

The beautiful collage work by Martine Bourre, with its effects of different materials, is perfectly adapted to this lively story using repetition. We follow the little man of the woods who “follows the path of his thoughts” without realising that he is himself followed by the badger, then the fox, then the wolf, then the bear. The typography is cleverly used in this classic story nicely re-visited. Success guaranteed with small children.

Le beau travail de collage de Martine Bourre, avec ses effets de matière, est parfaitement adapté à cette randonnée pleine d’allant qui nous entraîne à la suite du p’tit bonhomme des bois, qui, lui, « suit le chemin et ses pensées », sans se rendre compte qu’à son tour, il est suivi par le blaireau, puis par le renard, puis par le loup, puis par l’ours. Les jeux de typo servent intelligemment cette histoire classique mais bien joliment renouvelée. Succès garanti avec les petits.

8 Natha Caputo • Pierre Belvès, ill.
Roule galette [Rolling Cake]

A cake cooling on the window sill gets bored, lets itself slide down and goes away on the road. It rolls across the countryside, sings a little song and escapes from the rabbit, the bear, the wolf… But the clever fox is watching out!

Une galette qui s’ennuie à refroidir au bord de la fenêtre, se laisse glisser et s’enfuit sur le chemin. Elle roule à travers la campagne, chantonne et échappe successivement au lapin, à l’ours, au loup… Mais le renard malin guette!


9 Grégoire Solotareff
Loulou

When a young wolf meets a young rabbit and neither knows that one is supposed to devour the other, then a beautiful friendship may be born. But when they decide to play at “who’s afraid of the big bad wolf”, this trustful relationship may be put in danger. Solotareff leads children, without any demonstration, to deep reflection. The force of illustration, playing with contrasting solid colours enhances the meaning of the text.

Quand un jeune loup rencontre un jeune lapin et qu’ils ignorent que l’un est sensé dévorer l’autre, une belle amitié peut naître. Mais quand ils décident de jouer à « peur du loup », cela peut mettre en danger cette relation de confiance. Solotareff emmène, sans rien démontrer, les enfants vers des réflexions profondes. La force de son illustration qui joue sur les contrastes d’aplats de couleurs vives rehausse encore le propos.

10 Nadja
Chien bleu [Blue Dog]
L’École des loisirs, 1989 • ISBN 978-2-211-01417-8

The friendship between a little girl and a strange blue-furred dog with green eyes sparkling like gems. Charlotte wants to adopt it but her mother won’t let her. Coming out of the night when she is lost in the woods, it will defend her from the black panther, spirit of the night, who has come to claim its dues. A strong story told with powerful gouache paintings.

L’amitié entre une petite fille et un étrange chien au pelage bleu, aux yeux verts qui brillent comme des pierres précieuses. Charlotte veut l’adopter mais sa mère s’y oppose. Surgi de la nuit quand elle sera perdue dans la forêt, il la défendra contre la panthère noire, esprit de la nuit, venue prendre son dû. Une histoire forte racontée à l’aide de puissantes peintures à la gouache.

THE WORLD THROUGH PICTURE BOOKS • BOOKS FROM FRANCE • 47
The selection of titles was created in 2011 by interviews with German librarians by Kerstin Keller-Loibl (Standing Committee, IFLA, section Libraries for Children and Young Adults) in cooperation with the German Library Association.

1. Werner Holzwarth • Wolf Erlbruch, ill. *Vom kleinen Maulwurf, der wissen wollte, wer ihm auf den Kopf gemacht hat* [The Story of the Little Mole who knew it was none of his business / The Story of the Little Mole Who Went in Search of Whodunit]
   A terrible catastrophe befalls the little mole one bright, sunny morning. When he looks out of his hole—PLOP! Something that looks just like a sausage lands on his head. Whodunit? Our little hero sets out to find who has left their business on his head. In the end, with the help of some flies, Little Mole gets his revenge.

2. Ernst Jandl • Norman Junge *Fünfter sein [Next please]*
   Beltz & Gelberg, 2009 • ISBN 978-3-407-79401-7
   Waiting for the doctor can be nerve-wracking, even for toys. As six injured playthings wait their turn to be called into a forbidding door, their growing apprehension is apparent on their faces. Each time, before the doctor calls, "Next please", the door opens and one happy toy comes bounding out, good as new. That doesn’t comfort the last toy in line – a wooden boy with a broken nose.
A young Queen lives alone in her castle, but becomes increasingly bored with her purely black and white world. To ease her boredom, the court painter and court musician magically bring colour and adventure to her life.


Charlie Rooster, Johnny Mouse, and Percy the pig are the best of friends. They do everything together. They ride their bike together, play games together, and even do their chores together. Because that’s what good friends do. When night falls, though, and it’s time to go to bed, they learn that sometimes friends have to be apart. But that’s okay, because true friends always find each other, even if it’s just in their dreams.


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Little bear and Little tiger live together in their house down by the river. They are quite content with their life until one day Little Bear finds a crate marked “Panama” floating in the river. The crate smells strongly of bananas and Little Bear takes it home in great excitement to show Little Tiger. Panama suddenly becomes their dreamland and they will not be content until they have been there.

Zwei Freunde brechen auf zu einer Reise in das Land ihrer Träume. Geeignet ab 4 Jahren.
Nobody knows why the little girl with the big bag marches through the park and shouts at complete strangers – until finally someone dares to ask. Then it turns out that she is sad and angry because Elvis is dead. Not THE Elvis but her canary, who had the same name. That's sad. But now Elvis gets a real funeral, with candles, a wreath with a sash, and afterwards there are biscuits and cocoa. And because that helps, the little girl can talk about Elvis again: what he was like and how beautifully he could sing. And who knows, maybe the two Elvises will meet in heaven...

 unarmedbear

Obwohl der kleine Bär eine lange Gute-Nacht-Geschichte gehört und seine 5 Küsschen bekommen hat, kann er immer noch nicht einschlafen...


With its tranquil pace and soft pencil drawings, this teddy bear tale makes a potent bedtime antidote for wound-up children. A wakeful teddy bear revisits his activities of the day just past, and ponders what he might do tomorrow. His mental wanderings take him to a river, a meadow, a neighbor’s house and a circus, where “in the evening quiet, the clown is playing a sleep song on his violin for the baby elephant.”

Der kleine Bär ist ein Optimist und kann sich über die kleinen und großen Dinge des Lebens freuen!

Geeignet ab 4 Jahren.

A family collection of 101 fairy tales by the Brothers Grimm, insightfully illustrated by Nikolaus Heidelbach. Recommended for ages 10 and over.

Ein Hausbuch mit 101 Grimm’schen Märchen, hintergründig illustriert von Nikolaus Heidelbach.

Geeignet ab 10 Jahren.
Books from Guadeloupe (France)

This selection was made by librarians and teachers desiring to give children quality picture books to read. It has taken into account the literary interest of picture books published in Guadeloupe today, which, more and more frequently, do not just concentrate on teaching purposes.

Two publishers, Jasor and PLB, do remarkable work to develop quality children’s literature. More and more, they encourage creative and original stories, quality in texts and illustrations, in design and aspect of books. These books offer a successful mixture to suit the tastes of children of different ages. The recipe? Take heroes that children like, familiar animals like the anoli little lizard, the ant, the toad (L’Anoli amoureux, Toc, toc, toc! C’est Manioc!, Frogolo et Marcello), family characters – a grandmother (Les Oeufs de Man Firmin), a little boy and his mother (Frogolo et Marcello) – or issued from folktales like an ogress (Le Drôle de festin de Commère Tartignolle) or Anansi the Spiderman (Les 7 dons d’Anansi). Pour in a good mesure of feelings, love (L’Anoli amoureux), anger (Frogolo et Marcello). Add a zest of humour (Rosalie et Ti Zandoli, Le Drôle de festin de Commère Tartignolle), a snatch of the fantastic (Lowitt la grenouille qui danse, Les Longues nattes de Poética), a pinch of popular song (Frogolo et Marcello).

Blend it all with superb illustrations made by new talents (Danielle Monsoro, Doumey Durieux, Javie Munoz, Marielle Plaisir) or renowned illustrators. Thus a special place is given to Sophie Mondésir who left us too soon, and to Alex Godard, Guadeloupean author and illustrator who has not been published locally but who represents le pays Guadeloupe and needs to be in this selection.

1 Ophélie Bohème • Sylvie Leduc, ill.
Rosalie et Ti Zandoli [Rosalie and Ti Zandoli]

Wanting to catch a butterfly, a little anoli (lizard) ends up very far away from home. A sparkling story, full of humour, with a text in French and Creole, a good rhythm, accessible to very small children and narrative illustrations full of imagination.

En voulant attraper un papillon, un petit anoli (lézard) se retrouve entraîné bien loin de chez lui. Une histoire pétillante et pleine d’humour, un texte en français et en créole, bien rythmé et très accessible aux plus petits, des illustrations narratives remplies de fantaisie.
Cécette lives in Guadeloupe, with Papoli and Man Ninie, her grandparents: her mother is far away, in Metropolitan France, and the little girl waits. She watches the horizon, expects mail, is on the lookout for news. Until the moment when, thanks to a story, she understands her own history better, accepts her father’s disappearance and believes she will meet with her mother again. A beautiful story that finds its richness in its simplicity. With few words, the text suggests the power of emotion. Illustrations, in big paintings, give colour and warmth to landscapes and characters.

Laurence Galvani

Toc, toc, toc! C’est Manioc [Knock, knock, knock! It’s Manioc]

This picture book is inspired by a traditional song of the Antilles: “Zandoli mandé mayé, Mabouya di non, Zandoli mandé mayé, Mabouya di non, non, non!” This time, Zandoli (or Anoli) wants to marry the Sun’s daughter; he loves her madly but the animals he meets don’t understand it, since they know nothing of love. Chance will bring a happy ending. A nicely written text, with a good rhythm – but the language of the Creole text is difficult for small children. Very figurative illustrations, in the beautiful colors of tropical nature, go well with this short tale.

Alex Godard

Maman-dlo [Mama of Water]

Manioc the ant is suddenly awakened. Somebody’s knocking at her door. She opens it but only finds a bundle. Manioc decides to find who has left it there and leaves to visit the vast world of the garden. A walk through the savannah, full of good and not so good encounters. Original illustrations in collages; the song sung during the walk is at the end of the book.


Gilda Gonfier • Doumey Durieux, ill. • Max Rippon transl. into Creole

Zandoli mandé mayé = L’Anoli amoureux [The Anoli in love]

Cet album s’inspire d’une chanson traditionnelle des Antilles : “Zandoli mandé mayé, Mabouya di non, Zandoli mandé mayé, Mabouya di non, non, non!” Cette fois, c’est la fille du soleil que Zandoli (ou Anoli) veut épouser, il en est follement amoureux et si les animaux qu’il rencontre ne le comprennent pas, c’est qu’ils ne connaissent rien à l’amour. Le hasard fera finalement très bien les choses. Le livre s’ouvre, d’un côté, sur la version en français et, de l’autre, sur la version créole. Le texte, est très joliment écrit, bien rythmé. Dommage que la version créole soit difficile d’accès pour les tout-petits. Les illustrations très figuratives, aux belles couleurs de la nature tropicale, accompagnent bien ce court récit.
5  Danielle Monsoro  
**Les 7 dons d’Anansi [Anansi’s seven gifts]**  

One day Anansi the spider wove round cocoons and the first humans came out of them. But only her last son, Anansi, stayed with her. He had six children and gave each a gift... A story inspired by Anansi the spider, a character of West Africa folktales. It talks of the origin of man and of mutual aid and support. Beautiful watercolor illustrations, full page, all soft, complement the text and make one want to go into the story.

Anansi l’araignée tissa un jour des cocons tout ronds d’où sortirent les premiers humains. Mais seul son dernier fils, Anansi, resta auprès d’elle. Il eut six enfants auxquels il fit à chacun un don... Une histoire inspirée par le personnage d’Anansi l’araignée, que l’on trouve dans les contes d’Afrique de l’Ouest. Elle nous parle de l’origine des premiers hommes et aborde les notions d’entraide et de solidarité. De magnifiques illustrations à l’aquarelle, pleine page, toutes en douceur, complètent bien le texte et donnent envie de rentrer dans l’histoire.

6  Danielle Monsoro  •  Romuald Monsor, transl. into Creole  
**Frogolo et Marcello = Fwogolo é Mawsélo [Frogolo and Marcello]**  

Frogolo the toad is on a walk: in front of the restaurant, to the hairdresser’s, the carpenter’s... He arrives at Marcello’s garden but the small boy is not happy, not happy at all. This story written and illustrated by Danielle Monsoro is based on a Sam Castendet’s song which is very well-known in the Antilles. The watercolor illustrations show a stereotyped setting, full of nostalgia from the 1950s. A new writer-illustrator to be encouraged.

Frogolo le crapaud se promène : devant le restaurant, chez le coiffeur, le menuisier... Il arrive dans le jardin de Marcello mais le petit garçon veut le frapper. Maman intervient et Marcello n’est pas content, pas content du tout... Cette histoire écrite et illustrée par Danielle Monsoro est basée sur une chanson populaire très connue aux Antilles de Sam Castendet. Les illustrations à l’aquarelle reflètent un décor stéréotypé et empreint de la nostalgie des années 1950. Tous nos encouragements à cette nouvelle auteure-illustratrice.

7  Nicole Noizet  •  Javie Munoz, ill.  
**Les Œufs de Man Firmin [Man Firmin’s eggs]**  

At Fonds Roseau, life is hard for old Rose: a daughter on the other side of the ocean, a husband that has passed away, grandchildren to raise and feed, and now her laying hen has disappeared... Well, she will brood the eggs herself! A funny situation, tenderness and mutual support in daily life are the features of this picture book with warm pastel illustrations.

À Fonds Roseau, dure est la vie pour la vieille Rose : une fille de l’autre côté de l’océan, un mari qui a rendu le dernier soupir, des petits enfants à élever et nourrir, et voilà que sa poule pondeuse a disparu... Qu’à cela ne tienne, elle va couver elle-même les œufs ! Cocasserie de la situation, tendresse et solidarité au quotidien marquent ces pages aux illustrations chaudes en pastel gras.
8

Jaël Pedro • Sophie Mondésir, ill.

**Les Longues nattes de Poétique**


A beautiful, big picture book, with delicate and colourful illustrations. A rich text-image ratio and precious illustrations. Here we find themes from classical tales where heroes have magical hair: Rapunzel, Samson... Poética has braided hair as so often in the Antilles and her braids get longer when she dreams or she wishes for something... and her wishes become true! It is also a kind of initiatory tale. When the time comes to have her hair cut, Poética will enter the adult world. Will she lose her powers then?

**Voici un bel album, grand format, aux illustrations délicates et colorées. Le rapport texte-image riche et les fonds des illustrations sont particulièrement travaillés, ce qui donne à l’ouvrage un côté précieux. On retrouve ici des thèmes venus des contes classiques où le héros possède des cheveux magiques : Raiponce, Samson... Poética, elle, a les cheveux nattés comme partout aux Antilles et ses nattes s’allongent quand elle rêve ou qu’elle souhaite quelque chose... et ses désirs se réalisent ! C’est aussi une sorte de conte initiatique. Quand viendra le temps de couper ses cheveux, Poética rentrera dans le monde des adultes. Perdra-t-elle alors ses pouvoirs ?**

9

Marielle Plaisir

**Les Longues nattes de Poétique**


Commère Tartignolle loves tarts, particularly benêtá [silly person] tarts! She thinks the small boy Abénou will be perfect for a tart; she finds him sleeping on the beach and she takes him home to cook. But, to Commère Tartignolle’s despair, neither the knife nor the frying pan nor the mixer will defeat the boy. A lengthy text, lively, tasty as a good tart! In a natural way, with both grace and a farcical quality, the text and the marvelous illustrations by Sophie Mondésir make this story as spicy as it should be.

**Commère Tartignolle raffole des tartes, surtout de la tarte au... benêtá [jeu de mots avec «benêt»] ! Elle pense en trouver un vraiment parfait pour une tarte, en la personne d’Abénou un jeune garçon dormant sur la plage, qu’elle amène à la maison pour le cuisiner. Mais ni couteau, ni poêle, ni mixeur n’auront raison du garçon, au grand désespoir de Commère Tartignolle. Un texte conséquent, plein de vitalité, savoureux comme une bonne tarte ! Le plus naturellement du monde, à la fois avec grâce et burlesque, le texte et les merveilleuses illustrations de Sophie Mondésir donnent à cette histoire le piquant qui convient.**

10

Anique Sylvestre • Michèle Chomereau-Lamotte, ill.

**Lowitt, la grenouille qui danse**


Pitou, a young boy, wants to charm Zinia, the new pupil in the class. He intends to impress her through a story, since she loves stories. So he asks his mother and she tells him the fascinating story of Lowitt, the green frog who, without willing it, became a dance star. A frog that turns out not to be a frog! The main themes of this tale are magic spells and transformation. Even if illustrations are sometimes redundant, every page has a clue – the same cord round the frog’s and the man’s waists – that works as a thread.

**Pitou, un jeune garçon, veut séduire Zinia, la nouvelle de la classe. Il compte l’éblouir en lui racontant une histoire, elle qui les adore tant. Pour cela, il sollicite sa mère qui lui raconte la fascinante histoire de Lowitt, la grenouille verte devenue star de la danse malgré elle. Une grenouille qui se révèlera n’en être pas une ! Ce conte a pour thèmes phares le sortilège et la métamorphose. Bien que les illustrations soient quelquefois redondantes, on retrouve de page en page, un indice – la même corde entourée à la taille de la grenouille et à celle de l’homme – qui fonctionne comme un fil conducteur.**
Lourdine Altidor, librarian in Haiti, made a choice of 30 picture books, particularly successful at "l'heure du conte" (storytime) and other reading programs. She sent this choice to other children's librarians in Haiti, to arrive at a choice of ten titles. Three librarians were able to answer in time: Adelyne Pinchinat, librarian at the Institut Français d’Haïti and the person in charge of the Digital library of the Université d’État d’Haïti, in partnership with Bibliothèque Sans Frontières; Fleurette Tessono, former Director of Alliance française des Cayes library, founder of FONDART where she manages a book club for young people; Gessy Tessier, former Director of the children's section of the Médiathèque de l’Institut Français d’Haïti, currently Library Assistant at Little River Library, Miami-Dade Public Library System, USA.


Bouquin the naïf uncle and Malice the cunning, teasing nephew are the most popular characters in Haitian folktales. Tales were nourished by the cultures of the various peoples on the island: Native Americans, Spanish, French, Africans... The adventures of Bouqui and Malice are told here in a very lively way, and dialogues are rich in Haitian Creole expressions. The author has set her tales in daily life, the market, the celebrations... Lots of fun at the expense of poor Bouqui!


Rats have serious misgivings about the cats of the nearby town, who want to eat them. A young couple of rats return from their honeymoon with a baby, Ratutu, who is obviously not like other little rats. His parents hide him under a big hat – how strange! – and they cut off his whiskers regularly... But instinct will eventually speak, and the hoax will be revealed. And if rats and cats learned to live together? A good story delivering a message in a light hearted way, accompanied by expressive illustrations.

Contact: Lourdine Altidor alourdine@yahoo.fr
3

Marlène Étienne • Chevelin Djasmy Pierre, ill.
Bénisoit en vacances [Bénisoit on holidays]

Bénisoit the donkey is the hero of several amusing stories by Marlène Étienne. In this one, Bénisoit goes with the children to the boat that will take them to Gonaïve island for their holidays. But Bénisoit intends to go on holidays too. He jumps on board and does one silly thing after another. Damage must be paid for. The children, remembering Bénisoit’s gift for dancing, put up a show and give the donkey his stage name: Jackel Makson. Pictures of Jackel dancing in the famous Michael’s style, are irresistibly funny. Chevelin Djasmy Pierre, in his style reminiscent of comics, has great talent for giving life to his characters. A picture book exuding good humor. Other titles in the series: Bénisoit en tap tap (2001); Bénisoit à Miami (2003); Bénisoit et le père Noël (2008).

4

Maël Fouchard • Chevelin Djasmy Pierre, ill.
Le Loup et l’agneau [The Wolf and the Lamb]

Maël Fouchard gives a very free version of La Fontaine’s fable “The Wolf and the Lamb”, spiced with some Creole words. It is a pleasure to discover the beautiful paintings by Chevelin Djasmy Pierre. By the same author, illustrated by Stanley Leriche with montage and collage, a free version of “The Cicada and the Ant”.

5

Ilona Armand • Chevelin Djasmy Pierre, ill.
La Folle poursuite [The Wild Chase]

Christo has escaped his big sister’s surveillance: Poulette can only watch him disappear, carried up in the air by a terrible malfini (a bird). She pursues him and is helped by a goat, an old man and an old woman... Lots of humour in the text and in the images in this story. Lots of repetitions, plus surprising, colourful characters.
Ti dane and Mercilia go to town for the first time, with their uncle who wants them to see what carnival is like. The children soon get lost in the motley crowd. While looking for their uncle they discover the fascinating but also disturbing world of the parade. They end up finding their uncle, after dancing to the catchy rhythm of meringue. Very colourful illustrations show the different carnival costumes and other details of this important event.

A very cruel man beats and starves his wife and children. If only they knew this heartless man’s name, he would burst into pieces! One after the other, the children find out his name but... they quickly forget it. Sito, the youngest child, does remember it. Coloured pencil illustrations, expressive and with child-like grace for this well-told folktale, on the subject of family violence, which happens in all social classes today.

Da, the wonderful grandmother of the small boy Vieux Os, has in her garden an old tomb. There lies mister Labastère, who still takes part in everyday life: Marquis the dog takes his nap there, and the pot of good Haitian coffee, subtle and light, steams on the tombstone. There are no frontiers between life and death, especially on the Day of the Dead. And when one thinks of dead people with tenderness and affection, they go on living in our hearts. A cheerful picture book, full or colour. Also by Dany Laferrière: Je suis fou de Vava (Éditions de la Bagnole: 2010)
Nicolas who usually talks so much is no longer himself: he does not open his mouth whatever his teacher, the school headmaster, the doctor, the psychologist, the soothsayer or the healer might say or do... But one morning his problems are over, in spite of a missing tooth... A well-constructed picture book, with illustrations full of charm and fine observation.

Maël Fouchard • Bérénice F. Baussan, ill.
La Grosse voix du rakbwa [Rakbwa’s gruff voice]

The three children are scared. From a very dark part of the garden, they hear a gruff voice howling, “spitting yellow sputter and green sputter”. They discover a kind toad that will finally become their friend. Illustrations, in the style of those made by children, are cheerful and amusing, in line with a lively text, with welcome repetitions, playing with sounds and blending subtly French and an inventive and funny Creole.

All book reviews are adapted from those published in the journal Takam Tikou, http://takamtikou.bnf.fr
CBT’s elegant picture books with bright, rich illustrations are meant for children below eight years. The bold text and simple, creative story lines revolve around subjects a young child can identify with delight. The Children’s Book Trust (CBT) library for Children and Young Adults selected 10 Indian children’s picture books based on their popularity among children in the library and their demand in other Indian languages. The CBT has the biggest public children’s library in India with more than 15,000 children’s books. For the ‘World through Picture Books’ project, the library staff chose 20 titles of quality children’s picture books and a notable children’s literature editor Ms. Navin Menon with her more than 35 years of experience in CBT selected 10 picture books for the project.

1. Asha Nehemiah • Subir Roy, ill.
   **Mrs. Woolly’s Funny Sweaters**

   Mrs. Woolly’s passion for knitting nearly gets her ‘entangled’, but not for long. Soon she is sold out and there are enquiries for more!
   Available also in Hindi, Kannada, Tamil, Telgu, Urdu

2. Devika Rangachari • Ankur Mitra, ill.
   **The Weather And I**

   A fascinating concept book, teaches children the various aspects related to the four seasons.
   Available also in Hindi
Ravi takes home a little squirrel he wants as a pet. This tender tale tells what makes him restore it to its mother. Available also in Hindi.

The tiger cub follows his mother about as she hunts for deer and pigs in the jungle. But when he grows up, he has to learn to hunt for himself. Available also in Bengali, Hindi.

This concept book, besides telling them how rain is formed, teaches children to count. Available also in Hindi.

The varied images and simple text lures children to relate to the array of colours around them. Available also in Hindi.
Owly, the little owl, and Oly, the little girl, want to meet each other. But how?
Available also in Hindi. Kannada, Tamil, Telgu

Ramu and Kamala are off to see the circus in their father’s tractor when the wheel rolls away!
Available also in Hindi, Bengali.

A little boy buys a balloon and plays all kinds of games with it. Available also in Hindi, Kannada, Tamil, Telgu.

Topsy-turvy adventures of a little girl on a topsy-turvy April Fools’ Day!
Available also in Hindi.
When selecting 10 Japanese picture books, the Children and Young Adults Section of the Japan Library Association (eleven members in all, most of them are active in public libraries and others were once librarians) discussed selection criteria and decided not to select new books but ones which have been read by many children over many years.

In the 1960s, librarians, writers, illustrators, and publishers were eager to distribute quality books to children. Eight out of the ten books in this list were published during the 1960s. Picture books, especially by native authors, are the best tool for understanding countries. There are many good books published after the 1970s: we hope this project will grow and another 'Ten Picture Books' list will be published in the near future.

1. Ken Kawata • Masayuki Yabuuchi, ill.  
しっぽのはたらき [Animal Tails]  
Fukuinkan Shoten, 1969 • ISBN 4-8340-0315-9

This book presents the motions and roles of various kinds of animals' tails. After a questioning page of, "Whose tail is this?" comes the answering page. Making use of animals' upper bodies and lower bodies, readers match the pictures to make a complete animal. The warm and realistic style of the paintings exactly catches the distinctive features of each animal. This science picture book is good for reading aloud, and preschool children will readily participate and enjoy it.

2. Eriko Kishida • Chiyoko Nakatani, ill.  
かばくん [Hippopotamus]  
Fukuinkan Shoten, 1962 • ISBN 4-8340-0081-8

This book is about one day in the lives of two hippopotamuses in a zoo. The storyteller is a boy who went to the zoo for his own enjoyment. Rhythrical expressions and words charm the reader. The layout makes for a big impression. The drawings express massiveness and a substantive feel making an appealing story.
**Three**

**Satoshi Kako**

**だるまちゃんとてんぐちゃん**  *Little Daruma and Little Tengu*


Little Daruma and Little Tengu are good friends. Little Daruma asks his father, Darumadon, to let him put on the same things as Little Tengu. However, it’s not possible to have exactly the same things. So, Little Daruma works out a way to make similar things and becomes deeply satisfied. However, is it possible to make the same long nose as Little Tengu’s? This book clearly represents the psychological characteristics of a little child who wants to have the same things as his friend.

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**Four**

**Noboru Baba**

**11ぴきのねこ**  *Eleven Hungry Cats*

Koguma Publishing, 1967 • ISBN 4-7721-0004-0

Eleven cats that are always hungry send a big, strong, and monstrous fish to sleep with a lullaby and catch it in a remote lake. However, the big fish, which is tied up to a raft, becomes a mere bone when the dark night is over. On the other hand, the cats’ stomachs become completely full and round like the stomachs of raccoons.

The broad-minded story about cats who act as they wish, gets children’s sympathy. Additionally, the attached pictures have been attractively drawn by a cartoonist. Consisting of six volumes, the stories are widely appealing to children.

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**Five**

**Rieko Nakagawa & Yuriko Omura**

**ぐりとぐら**  *Guri and Gura*

Fukuinkan Shoten, 1967 • ISBN 4-8340-0082-6

Two field mice, Guri and Gura, are fond of cooking and eating. They find a big egg in the forest. After talking, they decide to make a sponge cake. Gathering twigs, they build a fire place, and put a big pan on the fire. Then, a nice smell wafts into the forest and various kinds of animals gather around the fire. All the animals eat the softly baked cake.

The theme of "eating", which children like, and the conversational style of the book arouse children’s sympathy and lead them into the world of this picture book.
A mountain witch who lived in Chofuku Mountain had a baby. The witch asked the village people to pound steamed rice into cakes and bring them to her. Two young men, led on the way by an old woman “Akazabanba”, carried the rice cakes to the witch. During the journey, the young men scared the witch and ran off. Akazabanba went up the mountain alone to prevent a disaster to the village. The witch asked Akazabanba to lend her a hand for 21 days. As a reward she gave Akazabanba a magic cloth that would not diminish even if used continuously. Akazabanba gave the magic cloth to the village people. Akazabanba’s love and courage towards the villagers helped the village and made the people happy. This story has been told for many years in the Akita district of Tohoku. The pictures have been created with a beautiful and elegant touch like Japanese-style paintings, evoking a bright and happy atmosphere.

This diverse book tells of the dropping of the atomic bomb on August 6th, 1945 using large 27 by 31 centimeter pictures. Considering the pre-history of the war, which includes explanations of the development of the atomic bomb and the process of the dropping of the bomb, it explains the history from both offensive and defensive perspectives. It is composed using evidence as told by 61 survivors of the atomic-bombing of Hiroshima. The pictures illustrate the everyday lives of people at that time and elaborately reconstruct a bird’s-eye view of the horrific disaster of the atomic bomb. A chronological table of peace related matters and detailed explanations of the 18 pictures attached at the back of the book are included.

1945年8月6日の原爆投下を、縦27cm横31cmの大画面で多角的に伝える。連合国の原爆開発から投下までの進捗状況など戦争に至る前史から、戦後の軍拡競争までを視野に入れて、歴史の事実を攻守さまざまな角度から解説している。記述は61人の被爆体験者の証言を積み重ねて、当時の人々の暮らしぶりを描き、広島における被爆の惨状を、鳥瞰する手法で丹念に再現している。巻末に、50年にわたる平和関連年表や18枚の画面について、詳細な解説がある。
A Japanese folktale picture book. A skilful carpenter, who had been asked to build a bridge over a rapid river, was watching the stream and pondering his task when an ogre appeared in the water. He offered to do the task in exchange for the carpenter’s eyeballs. The bridge was completed in a flash. When the carpenter begged the ogre not to take his eyes, he said he would let him go if the carpenter could guess the ogre’s real name. A similar story to ‘Rumpelstiltskin’, children age 4 to 8 can enjoy the thrill of the conversation between the ogre and the carpenter. Pictures drawn using traditional Japanese techniques complement the atmosphere of the folktale.

It’s nighttime. / Look, the sky is really, really dark. / Now look above the roof. / There’s a light. / It’s the moon! / Good evening, dear Moon!” Two cats on the roof are cheerfully greeting the beautiful, rising moon. However, a big cloud passes, hiding the moon’s face behind it. “Please move, Cloud, we can’t see the Moon’s face,” the two cats cry. Then the cloud gradually passes over, and the smiling moon comes out again... The moon’s grace and its bright face are beautifully depicted in warm and soft strokes. Each illustration in this handy, square format abundantly describes the gentle atmosphere of the night.

Grumpa, the young elephant, was ordered to start work. He went to work for a biscuit maker, a shoe maker, a car maker, and so on. However, his efforts were in vain because all he could make were jumbo-sized goods that nobody would buy. Grumpa was very disappointed and began to think that he would never be able to work properly. Just then, he happened upon a busy mother with 12 children, and so found a job which would make him the happiest elephant in the world. He set to work creating a wonderful playground with the huge things he had already made. Children love the elephant-sized things and enjoy Grumpa’s success story. Simple pictures and a cheerful atmosphere attract little children.

Tadashi Matsui • Suekichi Akaba, ill.  
[Oniroku and the Carpenter]  
Fukuinkan Shoten, 1962 • ISBN 4-8340-0085-0

Akiko Hayashi  
おつきさまこんばんは  
[Good evening, dear moon]  
Fukuinkan Shoten, 1986 • ISBN 4-8340-0687-5

Minami Nishiuchi • Seiichi Horiuchi, ill.  
ぐろんぱのようちえん  
[Grumpa’s Kindergarten]  
Fukuinkan Shoten, 1966 • ISBN 4-8340-0083-4

日本の昔話絵本。腕のいい大工が流れのはやい川に橋をかけるように頼まれる。大工が川を見ながら考えていると、鬼が川の中から現れる。鬼は、大工が月玉をよこせば橋をかけてやるといい、あっという間に橋をかけてしまう。大工が月玉をとらないでくれと頼むと、鬼は自分の名前を当てたら許してやる、という。グリム昔話の「ルンペルシュティルツヘン」に似た話。子ども達は鬼と大工のやりとりをどきどきしながら楽しむ。日本画の技法を生かした絵が、お話の雰囲気にあつている。

「よるに なったよ／ほら おそらが くらいくらい／おや やねのうえが あかるくなった／おつきさま／おつきさま こんなばんは」屋根にのぼった二匹のねこの、きれいな月さまにあたさつします。けれど、おおきなくもが、お月さまをかくしてしまいました。「くもさん どいて／おつきさまの おかおが みえない」ねこたちが大きな声でさけぶと、くもは静かに去り、ふたたびきれいな月さまのお顔があらわれました。やさしく輝くお月さまの顔が、あたたかく柔らかに描かれている。子どもが手に取りやすい大きさの四角に、あたたかな日本の雰囲気がおさめられている。

ぐろんぱはさびしがりやの象。ぐろんぱは働きに出たけれど、大きすぎるビスケットを作って追い出され、大きすぎる靴を作って追い出され、どこへ行っても失敗ばかり。追い出されてしまうと、子ども達のお母さんに、子どもたちの世話を頼まれる。

ぐろんぱは幼稚園を開き、特大のビスケットや靴で子どもたちと遊ぶ。ぐろんぱは幸せな象。子どもたちは、象のサイズの大きな道具やおもちゃが大好きで、ぐろんぱの成功を一緒に喜ぶ。元気な雰囲気のこここの絵は、小さな子どもに人気。
The National Library for Children and Young Adults chose 10 Korean children's picture books based on recommendations made by 19 members of the Children's materials section which is the subcommittee of the National Library Service Council for Children in Korea. The Children's materials section is made up of 19 librarians who serve children and young adults in public libraries and children's libraries and write children's book reviews, which are shared by children's librarians nationwide. For the ‘World through Picture Books’ project, the members chose 25 titles of quality children's picture books and a notable children's literature author Ms. Ji Eun Kim finally selected the following 10 titles.

1. **Dong Soo Kim**
   
   감기 걸린 날  *How I Caught a Cold*
   

   The book *How I Caught a Cold* is about childhood behavior. What does a flock of featherless ducks have to do with a little girl catching a cold? It all begins with a new down winter jacket. One day, she discovers a feather emerging from it. That night, she goes to sleep wondering about the feather and begins dreaming of featherless ducks who feel cold. The girl distributes the feathers from her jacket. Finally, all the ducks feel warm but the girl doesn't. This book displays a child's imagination and love of animals.

2. **Jae Soo Ryu**
   
   노란 우산  *Yellow Umbrella*
   

   Like a sonata, this book is enjoyed with music instead of words. It is written without words. On the book readers will see the yellow umbrella that a student would hold on a rainy day. There is a harmony of colors and rhythm made by the yellow umbrella together with other colorful umbrellas. In the attached CD, there are 14 short pieces of piano music in accordance with the illustrations. This book has no text but it talks about the beauty of a rainy day. In 2002, the New York Times selected *Yellow Umbrella* as the ‘Book of the Year’.
This story demonstrates how important Lunar New Year’s day is in the Korean culture. It takes you through the experience of wearing traditional Korean clothes called “Hanbok,” a glorious costume complete with embroidered socks, rainbow-striped jacket and a crimson skirt, a warm furry vest, embroidered shoes, lucky charm, red and gold hair ribbons, bag and black satin hat for New Year’s Day. The reader can sense how excited the little girl is to have new clothes for New Year’s day. There are many wonderful cultural details throughout the book. The details are beautifully drawn and the text flows smoothly.

Hyun Ju Bae
설빔 [New Clothes for New Year’s Day]
Sakyejul, 2006 • ISBN 978-89-5828-139-1

This book shows that ‘home’ is not simply the place you live but a place connected to your history, heritage, friends, family and memories. Man Hui’s family lived in a small town house and then moved to his grandparents’ house where they have many rooms, a spacious backyard and three dogs. He finds a lot of enjoyment in living together as an extended family. Readers can have a better understanding of the daily life of a Korean family in the 20th century. Though we may take home for granted, readers will realize the most essential embodiment of life is ‘home’.

Yoon Duck Kwon
만희네 집 [Man-Hui’s Home]

This book is a philosophical dialogue with the self through three questions: “Where is the mind?” “What is the mind?” and “Who owns the mind?” Readers can learn how to understand and communicate with others through poetic texts and images. In addition to the self-reflective text by Kim Hee-kyung, Polish artist Iwona Chmielewska illustrated the work with abstract geometric forms and movable images. This book won the Bologna Ragazzi Award for non-fiction in 2010. The critics praised the work for being like “a short elegant poem,” and imbued with a “vision of the world.”

Hee Kyung Kim • Iwona Chmielewska, ill.
마음의 집 [A House of the Mind: MAUM]

"A House of the Mind: Maum" invites readers into a philosophical dialogue with the self through three questions: “Where is the mind?” “What is the mind?” and “Who owns the mind?” Readers can learn how to understand and communicate with others through poetic texts and images. In addition to the self-reflective text by Kim Hee-kyung, Polish artist Iwona Chmielewska illustrated the work with abstract geometric forms and movable images. This book won the Bologna Ragazzi Award for non-fiction in 2010. The critics praised the work for being like “a short elegant poem,” and imbued with a "vision of the world."
A young boy is waiting for his mama on the streetcar platform. As each streetcar arrives with passengers, he asks the driver if his mama is coming. Finally, one driver warns the boy he will get hurt if he stands so close to the streetcar and tells him to stand still until his mama comes. Time passes, the wind blows and snow falls as the child waits patiently without moving until his mother arrives. The muted watercolors capture people and scenery as they might have appeared in Seoul in 1938. A perfect union of text and illustration tells a simple but moving story.

The setting of this story is a Lady’s Chamber where a young woman sews clothes. The Lady has seven friends for her needlework: Ruler, Scissors, Needle, Thread, Thimble, Small iron with a long handle, and Iron. When the lady dozes off one day, the seven friends argue about who is the best part of sewing. Later, they all realize that all of them make sewing possible and they cannot carry out the needlework without the help of friends. Readers can realize that everything existing has its own value and better understand a Korean woman’s daily life and traditional clothes of Hanbok.

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A young girl spent a lot of time together with her grandfather. One day, he became very ill and was hospitalized. As the girl prays for his good health, she begins her journey to collect 10 symbols of longevity which include the sun, mountains, water, rocks, pine trees, clouds, magical mushroom, tortoise, white crane, and deer. These symbols are well demonstrated through illustrations featuring Korean traditional furniture and colors. In particular, it is interesting to see each symbol shown using different subjects like fabrics, paintings, chest inlaid with mother of pearl, embroidery, quilting and so on.
This wordless picture book perfectly captures a child's day at the beach. Followed by a flock of seagulls, a girl runs delightedly to where waves break on the shore. Loosely rendered charcoal and acrylic images curl and flow like water and reflect playfulness, especially in the facial and bodily expressions of the child and seagulls. The use of blue in an otherwise gray-toned world calls attention to the ocean, which rivals the girl as a main character in this story. The New York Times selected *Wave* as one of ten best illustrated children's books in 2008.

One day, a tiger appears before a granny and it tries to eat her. She begs the tiger to make him one bowl of red bean porridge before she dies. The old woman makes a big pot of red bean porridge and cries in front of it fearing her death. At night, the tiger comes back, and the small and weak objects like an egg, straw mat, turtle and gimlet join together to fight off the tiger. Readers are overjoyed when the scary tiger is beaten by small objects. The moral of the story is that those who are bad are punished one way or another.

Suzy Lee  
파도야 놀자  [*Wave*]  

Dae In Cho  •  Sook Hee Choi  
팥죽 할머니와 호랑이  [*The Red Been Porridge Granny and the Tiger*]  

그림책과 놀이의 만남이 무엇인지 잘 보여주는 그림책이다. 2~3가지의 컬러만 사용하며 배경을 과감히 생략한 그림을 독자들이 등장하는 아이와 파도에 집중하게 한다. 아이와 파도의 밀고 당기는 게임은 어린이가 바다를 보고 느끼는 감정을 솔직하게 드러내는 명장면이다. 화면 가득하게 그리진 아이의 표정에서는 물놀이에서 오는 즐거움이 충분히 전해진다. 이수지 작가는 '그림자 놀이' '거울 속으로' 등의 거울 3부작이라 불리는 작품들을 통해 아이들의 생활 속 상상 놀이를 다양하게 그려내고 있다.

한국의 옛이야기 ‘팥죽 할머니와 호랑이’는 위기에 처한 할머니를 구하는 사회적 약자들의 단결에 대한 것이다. 힘 없고 약한 존재들이 자신이 가장 잘 하는 것을 내세워 호랑이를 물리치는 이야기가 바른 허영으로 전개되어 재미를 끈다. 이야기를 읽는 어린이들도 자신들이 할 수 있는 작은 실천에 대한 자신감을 얻을 수 있다. 한국은 오천 년의 역사를 지니고 있다. 수많은 침략과 전쟁이 있었지만 꿋꿋하게 나라를 지켜왔다. 그 원동력은 이야기 속 개똥, 알밤 같은 보통 사물들이 힘을 합쳐서 위기를 극복해왔기 때문이다. 팥죽, 자라, 직게, 망설, 절구 등 한국의 전통 생활 문화를 느낄 수 있는 이미지가 가득한 책에서도 하다.
This list is built on the investigations made by Maha Alwan in public libraries in Lebanon. Forms were sent to one hundred public libraries in all parts of Lebanon and responses were received from 30 libraries. The result, based on the project’s criteria for selection, reflects the preferences of readers.

Sadly Maha Alwan has since died after an accident. We honour her memory, her enthusiasm and her commitment to children and their books, through this list.

1. Samar Mahfuz • Baraj Lena Merhej, ill.
   م أكن اقصد
   Lam akoun aqsid [It was not my intention]
   Assala, 2007 • ISBN 9953470065
   The story of a girl who does stupid things that carry consequences. But each time she learns from her own mistakes. A glimmer in her eyes is reminiscent at the end of this album that she thinks about another stupid thing...

2. Amal Ayoub • Frayji Michèle Standjofski, ill.
   آخ رجلي
   Akh rijli [Ouch my leg]
   Dar al-Ilm Lilmalayin, 2006 • ISBN 9953633762
   Jad, a young boy keeps moving, but one day he falls and breaks his leg. A story that softens the pain of children’s everyday life.

3. Fatima Charaf Al-Din • Hiba Farran, ill.
   نورا وقصتها
   Nura wa qissatouha [Nora and her History]
   Assala, 2008 • ISBN 9789953488578
   Illustrations that are full of details, and a beautiful calligraphy, recount the life of the ant Noura. A fable about the life of ants which reflects the formative experience of Noura. After saving her friends and family from a terrible flood she regains confidence in herself and returns to her family.
4. Nadine R.L. Touma • Lana Khayat, ill.

القمر والوروار

Al-Qamar wa-l-wirwar [The Moon and the bird]
Dar Onboz, 2006 • ISBN 9953465037

The moon and the bird are close friends, they eat and play together all day long. A rhythmic lullaby introduces the reader into a gentle drowsiness. A CD accompanies the book.

5. Rania Saghir • Samar Ziadeh, ill.

العملاق العملاق

Al-imlaq el imlaq [The great giant]
Turning point, 2005 • ISBN 9953000204

A child feels his "big" hands, his "big" feet, his "big" eyes. Beside his mother he discovers his real size.

6. Caroline Hemadeh

ياسمينة والسمكة

Yasmina wa essamaka [Yasmina and the fish]
Assala, 2007 • ISBN 9953470804

A part of learning Arabic language series. The letter and the sound "S" are often repeated throughout the text.

7. Samah Idriss • Yasmin Nachabeh Taan, ill.

قصة الكوسي

Qissat el-Koussa [The History of zucchini]

Oussama does not like zucchini, but his mom invented a trick to make him eat more zucchini. A book that breaks the taboo of using colloquial Arabic in children's book. Illustrations are innovative and feature rich details.
How to write a book? Ghassan’s mother is a writer, she tells him how to make books, from the idea until the printing.

In class, Ghassan is very proud of his mother who wrote the book chosen by the teacher.

* Maha Alwa (1962-2012) was the founder and Director of Mtein Library and a member of the Standing Committee of IFLA Section Libraries for Children and Young Adults.
Books from Madagascar

Each book on the list from Madagascar was chosen for a slightly different reason. These reasons are included as part of the review of each book.

1. Razanadriaka Vololomampisa Lalao Elina • Rivo Randremba, ill.
   I Tita sy ny boky [Tita and her book]
   Tsipika, 2009 • ISBN 978 2 912290 96 0

Tita is a young girl of 3 years old. She does not yet know to read. But she already likes to look at books for her age. Finally, she can write and read books. Tita encourages her friends to read because it helps everybody to develop. Her ambition when she will be an adult is to print books for young children. This book was chosen for the quality of its images and the story itself and especially as promoting reading is one of IFLA’s aims. It provides an opportunity to encourage young children to continue to read, especially for undeveloped countries like Madagascar.

2. Esther R. Randriamamonjy • Rainivato Rakotomalala, ill.
   I Trimobe sy Fara, vadiny [Trimobe and Fara, his wife]
   Trano, 2009

Trimobe is Fara’s husband. Fara is a young pretty girl who serves her husband well. But Trimobe is not only a bad and ugly husband, but he is very greedy. He always asks for something to eat. He has finished poultry, pig and duck, but he is never satisfied. Finally, Fara has an idea to get rid of her husband...

This book was chosen because it is one of the famous tales parents often tell to children. Most Malagasy young people know this story. We wish to share it with other children around the world and to show that we have similar little stories. The book shows Malagasy culture and fashion.
This book is about a very cute and intelligent young boy. The King does not believe in the boys' intelligence, so he asks him to achieve the unachievable like laying an egg. The boy shows the King, that it is never possible to achieve the unachievable. This book was also chosen because it is one of the famous tales parents often tell children, and most Malagasy young people know it.

The village where the two children lived was a beautiful village. All people who passed there called it “Ambohitsosa”, city of happiness. This village was situated in the suburbs of the city. One day, when the children were playing, a little car passed from the North...

This book was chosen because it tells stories set in one of Malagasy landscapes where we can see the endemic plant Ravinala, also representing the “Great Island”. This book is illustrated by watercolor paintings.


Tsambiky. Ilay Sifaka Fotsy [Bounce the White Sifaka]
Durell Wildlife Conservation Trust, 2009 • ISBN 978 0 955903 4 1

The Sifaka, or the white lemur, likes to bounce. And it is very funny and wonderful to look at him bouncing to the forest. Lemurs have a particular voice to talk to each other. Madagascar is known by its biodiversity. The “Great Island” (the third biggest island in the world) is especially represented by lemurs. Sifaka is one of the biggest and most spectacular lemurs. This book can show other young children around the world how lemurs live in the forest...

Tsara mahafinaritra ny tanâna nipetrahan’i Lema, zazalahy kely 5 taona, sy Ikelimahitsy, namany, 7 taona. Ambohitsosa, tanan’ny fahasaraborana no hiantsoan’ny olona mandalo eo ny tanâna misy azy ireo. Somary mihatakana kely ny renivahitra no misy an’Ambohitsosa. Indray andro, misy fiara avy any avaratra nandalo ny tanâna...
Madagascar has its own tales and legends. In this book, the author has especially chosen tales about nature and animals. The tales in this book recount and perpetuate the history, beliefs and customs of the Malagasy ancestors. They contain profound ideas, to entertain and captivate and show Malagasy morality and values. This book is nowadays in Malagasy and French languages.

Kinga and Bota are Mamy’s cat and dog. Mamy is a little girl of 7 years old. She goes to school and her animals envy her and want to follow her to school. The book tells Bota and Kinga’s journey in imagining what school, reading, listening and learning good manners in life is like. (Kinga means "quick", and Bota "large") The author published many books like this for young Malagasy children. These books are simple to read and to be understood and deserve to be included in this list from Madagascar.

Maria is a girl who has a different childhood because she does not live with her parents. She has to study in town. However, when the school year ends in June, she returns to her parents for her holidays. Many young Malagasy people study in town. Most of Malagasy localities or regions have still a lack of infrastructure. So parents have to send their children to study in town. The book shows the difference of the two ways of living, in town and in the countryside.
This book (for junior children) tells the story of a bird called Vorompotsy (white bird) who is the director of a primary school. One of the students is the frog, an intelligent student who practices French language whereas Vorompotsy teaches in Malagasy. He is impatient to teach... The zebu is part of Malagasy culture. It is in our society and represents many things. This book shows also that Malagasy society opens to other cultures, for instance using foreign language and transforming it in Malagasy (like "Direktera" which comes from "Directeur" in French.

Joséph Betalata • Patou, ill.
**Lasa mpiandy omby i direktera**
Tsipika Editions & Dika Printy, 2002 • ISBN 978 2 36076 000 8

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This book tells Haja and Hasina’s journey. They play in the garden every morning. But they finally spoil the flowers.

As Malagasy primary and secondary schools are bilingual (French and Malagasy), most of Malagasy authors try to print their book in those languages. This book shows not only how Haja and Hasina play in the garden, but is also a kind of guide for young children to learn about their general culture.

Geneviève Ramakavelo • Nicolas Randrianarisoa, ill.
**Haja sy Hasina [Haja and Hasina]**
Megaprint, 2011 • ISBN 978 2 917367 25 4

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Mitantara ny fiainan’i Haja sy Hasina ny boky. Milalao eo anjaraidaina metetika izy mianadahy kely azy niafara tamin’ny fahafahana ny voninkazo.
These books were chosen by librarians of the Children's Library in the Centre National de la Lecture Publique – National Centre for Public Reading – in Bamako: Head children’s librarian Abdoulaye Doumbia, and the Director of the Centre, Siaka Coulibaly, and by Viviana Quiñones.

1. Moussa Konaté • Aly Zoromé ill.
   **La Fileuse [The Spinster]**
   Le Figuier, 2003 • ISBN: 978-2-84258-081-0

   Published in a series on traditional crafts, together with *The Potter, The Dyer, The Weaver, The Miners of the desert*, this large picture book shows the spinster’s work. The reader follows her different tasks, from the purchase of cotton flowers in the market to the delivery of reels to the weaver. Every successive task is clearly and simply depicted in a double-page illustration and a short text describing tools and gestures in a colloquial manner.

2. Ina Keïta • Karim Diallo, ill.
   **Des jambes pour Aliou [Legs for Aliou]**

   What an adventure! Tidiane and Djénéba have decided to take care of Aliou, a disabled boy. Thanks to their support, Aliou can start attending school. A very good story set in the city of Bamako, very well depicted in Karim Diallo’s full page illustrations. Three other stories with the same characters in *Les Aventures de Tidiane et Djénéba*.

3. Modibo Sidibe • Svetlana Amegankpoé, ill.
   **L’Epopée de Soundjata : d’après la tradition orale malinké**
   [Sundiata Epic: from Malinke oral tradition]

   Sundiata Keita, founder of the Empire of Mali in the XIII century, is undoubtedly the most popular historical figure of West Africa. In addition to its introductory page and the essentials of the tale itself, this remarkable Malian large picture book has the big advantage of being richly illustrated by S. Amegankpoé, with great historical accuracy. By the same author and illustrator, the excellent *La Légende du Ouagadou-Bida*.
4 Moussa Konaté, Aly Zoromé, ill. 
*Tombouctou [Timbuktu]*
Le Figuier, 2006 • ISBN 978-2-84258-096-4

Tombouctou, as well as Djenné and Le Pays Dogon published in the same series, make children discover, in an adapted, simple, attractive way, cultures and places that UNESCO has included in its World Heritage List. Tombouctou begins with a map and historical information on this city of the desert, known all over the world since the 14th century. Illustration takes a large place; it is full of significant details that the simple text takes up, inviting the reader to watch and explain them. Architecture, crafts, feasts, drought... The past and the present are linked naturally.

5 Isabelle Revol
*Cadou [Cadou]*
Donniya, 2009 • ISBN 978-99952-0-048-0

The beautiful yellow shades of the cover make one want to open this picture book. And one is not disappointed. The illustration, pretty and original, in collages of tissue and paper, tells in a childlike way the hard story that so many women live, in Africa and elsewhere. Cadou, an African mother, leaves her children to work far away for many years, so that the children can eat properly and can go to school. Her suffering from being separated from them is constant, as is their presence in her heart. Almost chanted, the text goes to the essential and renders, at child level, with restraint, Cadou’s heart-rending feelings. A great book.

6 Halima Hamdane • Isabelle Calin ill.
*Sarraounia, la reine magicienne du Niger [Sarraounia, Niger’s magician Queen]*

Told simply to young children, the life of the beautiful Sarraounia, born in present-day Niger at the end of 19th century. The daughter of a Haoussa king, she was soon initiated to magic and to hunting and war weapons. She was recognized by her neighbour enemies as a formidable warrior, but she mostly distinguished herself in the resistance to the European conquerors. Good illustrations and some historical information complete this portrait of a great heroine of Niger. Published in the “Lucy” series of biographies of Black outstanding figures.

Tombouctou, comme Djenné et Le Pays Dogon dans la même collection, propose aux jeunes enfants une découverte adaptée, simple et séduisante de ces cultures et de ces lieux classés par l’UNESCO au patrimoine mondial de l’humanité.

Un album que la couverture aux belles couleurs jaunes donne aussitôt envie d’ouvrir. Et on n’est pas déçu.

A picture book on an universal question: every child’s wish to grow up and surpass his father or his mother. This is Little Chick’s wish. He’ll have to endure some setbacks before learning patience and finding himself, one day, almost as beautiful as his father. Svetlana Amegankpoé’s humoristic drawings show a terribly expressive chicken – curious, tender, ridiculous, sad or impatient. Images are as colourful as a backyard poultry, as joyous and lively as the story.

Cet album nous offre l’histoire d’un problème universel: le désir que tout enfant nourrit de devenir grand sur le champ et de surpasser son père ou sa mère. C’est aussi le souhait de Petit Poussin. Il lui faudra essayer quelques déconvenues avant d’apprendre la patience pour se découvrir enfin, le jour venu, presque aussi beau que son coq de père. Le dessin humoristique de Svetlana Amegankpoé nous offre un poussin terriblement expressif – tour à tour curieux, tendre, ridicule, triste ou impatient. Le dessin est coloré, à l’image de la basse-cour, gai et enlevé, comme cette histoire.

A version of the well-known story of the girl who puts an impossible condition on her marriage. This time, it is because she likes money too much and wishes to get rich thanks to her suitors… The man she marries is in fact a python, but with the help of her sister who has witch powers she escapes her husband and goes back home. The text by Ousmane Diarra, writer and storyteller, flows nicely; expressive, colourful illustrations are as lively as the text. The story is told in French and in Bambara in the accompanying audio cassette.

Une version du conte bien connu de la jeune fille qui met une condition impossible à son mariage. Cette fois-ci, parce qu’elle aime trop l’argent et veut s’enrichir sur le dos des prétendants… L’être qu’elle épouse finalement se révèle être un python, et ce n’est qu’avec l’aide de sa petite sœur qui a des pouvoirs de sorcière qu’elle échappera à son mari et retournera chez elle. Le texte d’Ousmane Diarra, écrivain et conteur, coule avec la fluidité de sa parole; les illustrations expressives, colorées, soulignent la vivacité du texte. Le texte est raconté en français et en bambara dans une cassette audio.

The protective and affectionate relationship between a young boy and his toddler brother. A brief, simple text; illustration – somewhat clumsy and naive, but with a certain charm – stages the two boys in a relationship of play and laughter but also of “education” that works well beyond language. And to grow up, nothing better than good stories… The Father is kindly asked to bring back, from Bamako market…picture books! Links between children are finely depicted, and the message is touching and lively. Some small punctuation and orthographic problems are to be regretted.

La relation protectrice et affectueuse d’un garçonnet envers un petit frère qui tient tout juste sur ses jambes. Un texte court, simple; des illustrations dont la maladresse et la naïveté ne sont pas dénuées d’un charme particulier, met en scène les deux enfants dans une relation de jeu, de rire, mais aussi d’ « éducation », qui passe bien au-delà du langage. Et pour grandir, quoi de mieux que de belles histoires à écouter? Le père est ainsi gentiment sommé, lorsqu’il ira au marché de Bamako, de rapporter des livres avec des images! Une juste observation en finesse des liens entre enfants et un message touchant et plein de vitalité. Dommage pour les petits problèmes de ponctuation et d’orthographe…

All book reviews are adapted from those published in the journal Takam Tikou, http://takamtikou.bnf.fr
Ten illustrated titles from different Mauritian authors were selected and the hope is that these titles will help project the new generation of our local writers and illustrators on the international scene.

1. Pushpa Lallah • Bernadette Mok Tsze Chung, ill. 
   **Marde so Zardin – Marde’s garden [Marde’s garden]**
   Federation of Pre-school playgroups, 1999 • ISBN 9990361061

   Marde is a gardener; he wears a hat, has a moustache and comes to work by bicycle. His garden was very beautiful. One day a group of children come to visit his garden and asks him why he has put a fence around his garden. He tells them how, after working so hard in his garden, the dogs came and crushed all his plants, so he had to protect the garden.

   Bilingual Creole-English.

2. Amarnath Hosany • Thierry Permal, ill. 
   **Le Paradis des oiseaux [Birds’ paradise]**
   Bartholdi, 2007 • ISBN 9789990386097

   An island was inhabited by different kinds of tropical birds staying together in harmony. The island was filled with vegetation and fruit trees. When the fruits were ripe, they attracted the bats but the birds did their best to protect their island. The bats stayed in the nearby island. A bat was sent to spy, but it was ill. The birds took care of it. When the bat recovered, it influenced each group of birds and divided them to break their strength. Then the bats invaded the island and made their paradise into hell. Hopefully, they realised their mistake and could get out of the hell with the help of the neighbouring island’s birds.

   Le Paradis des Oiseaux est un conte pour enfants, avec une histoire captivante. L’action évolue dans un décor exotique, mettant en garde toute une population, qui vivait jusque-là en parfaite harmonie, contre le danger de la division.

3. D. Vina Balgobin • Madvee Armoogum Sundhoo, ill. 
   **Our musical instruments: history of the Republic of Mauritius**
   Dehoutee Balgobin, 2009 • ISBN 9789990341584

   The first Frenchmen arrived in 1715. The French people used many musical instruments in their parties. Slaves and indentured labourers came to Mauritius and worked on the sugar estates. They came from different countries of the world and enjoyed the music and songs of their native lands. In 1810, there was a naval war and the French gave up the island to the British. In 1835, there was abolition of slavery. Many types of instruments used by slaves, Indian immigrants and Chinese were introduced to the island.
“Letter to Father Christmas” is the story of a postman who had a difficult childhood. Thus he never believed in Father Christmas. On his last day at work, he met a little girl from a poor village, who pleaded with him to write a letter to Father Christmas on her behalf. It can be seen in the story, that the determination with which the postman tried to fulfil the dream of that little girl and all the children of that village and the feeling of satisfaction and joy upon its realisation. On that day, he even believed in the magic of Christmas.

The Citadelle is an ancient fortress in Port-Louis, the capital of Mauritius. In the colonial period, soldiers were living there and guarded the port against intruders. Tikoulou likes the place very much as he can see the whole city and play with his friend and cousin during the summer holiday. They hear about the mysterious disappearance of bicycles and plan to catch the thief. They go to the Citadelle to execute their plan and luckily they find the stolen bicycles hidden in a dark room. Many other good picture books featuring Tikoulou, illustrated by Henri Koombes.

It is a story about Ze and Melia, brother and sister during the slave period. They had to wake up early in the morning and go to work. Melia worked as helper and Ze as Cartwright. They worked till late and did not have time to play. They had to wait for their lunch time to play but were scolded and beaten by their masters. In Creole.
The world through picture books  •  books from Mauritius  •

8
Shakuntala Halwoldar  •  Priska, Shaoling & Clarel, ill.
Stories for Moksha: adapted for parents
Cathay, 1999  •  ISBN 9990341733

The book consists of stories which are narrated by a grandmother (author) to her grand-child, Moksha. Moksha is 4 years old. The author has to go to her world to narrate her stories. The stories convey messages which centre around the family and core values and end with reflections for thought. The author believes that each story should be a source of inspiration for parents.

9
Sedley Richard Assonne  •  Catherine Servan-Schreiber, ill.
Tizann [Medicinal plants]
Editions de la Tour, 2006  •  ISBN 999492219X

A little girl was named Tizann (medicinal plant) by her aunt as Tizann's mother used to sell medicinal plants. Tizann helped her mother before going to school. As Tizann was familiar with the medicinal plants, her mother asked her to gather some medicinal plants from the forest. She was accompanied by her friend Yann. They took the bus to Plaine – Champagne. They were so busy in the forest that they did not notice the night and had to sleep in the forest. Ton Singaron, a hunter helped them reach home safely. In Creole.

10
Meeteelah Devi Purmah  •  Karishma Devi Purmah, ill.
Have you ever imagined? From human to alien
Woochit, 2008

The story is about the consequences that human beings may face in the future. So before it is too late, let us all reduce pollution so that we can save our planet and we do not end up being named Aliens, Aliens with numbers.

Tizann est une petite fille qui aide sa mère dans la vente des plantes médicinales. Un jour elle va à la Plaine Champagne pour la cueillette des feuilles médicinales en compagnie de son amie, Yann. Elles étaient préoccupées dans leurs tâches et ne se souciaient pas de la tombée de la nuit. Elles s'étaient égarées et c'est Ton Singaron, un chasseur qui les a aidées à rentrer chez elles.
The National Children’s Librarian Council requested all contacts within the twelve provinces to send their favourite 2 titles.

1. **Rindert Kromhout van der Meer • Annemarie van Haeringen, ill.**
   **Kleine Ezel en jarige Jakkie [Little Dunkey and the birthday present]**
   Leopold, 2001 • ISBN 978 90 258 3067 0

   Lovely story about Little Dunkey who buys a birthday present for his friend Jakkie. It is very difficult to give such a lovely present away so he tries lots of excuses. Luckily his mother has a good solution.

   Lief verhaal over Kleine Ezel die een verjaardagscadeau koopt voor zijn vriendje Jakkie. Omdat het erg moeilijk is om zo’n mooi cadeau weg te geven verzint hij allerlei smoezen. Maar gelukkig heeft zijn moeder een hele goede oplossing.

2. **Annemarie van Haeringen**
   **De prinses met de lange haren [The long-haired princess]**
   Leopold, 1999 • ISBN 9789025836085

   A princess is not allowed to cut her hair. Finally she needs to be carried around because of the weight of her hair. A strong man from the circus is her assistant. When she grows up a lot of young men with golden brushes want to marry her but she chooses love over money.

   Een prinses mag haar haren niet afknippen. Uiteindelijk moet ze overal naar toe gedragen worden omdat het haar veel te zwaar geworden is. Een sterke man uit het circus is haar assistant. Als ze volwassen wordt dingen veel mooie jonge en rijke mannen om haar hand maar ze verkiest liefde boven geld en trouwt met haar circusman.

3. **Max Velthuijs**
   **Kikker is kikker [Frog is frog]**
   Leopold, 1996 • ISBN 9789025860202

   Frog feels sad because all his friends have something special and he is just green. Great story about self acceptance and friendship.

   Kikker voelt zich verdrietig omdat al zijn vriendjes iets specials Hebben of kunnen. Kikker is alleen maar groen. Prachtig verhaal over zelfbewustzijn en vriendschappen.
Two little rats steal a pie. A wild chase is the result. Finally the pie falls into a pond and a frog saves it. Everybody gets a piece except for the two little thieves. Great large picture book without words but a huge amount of details and jokes in the illustrations.

A young boy loses his toy monkey. The story tells the adventures of the toy and how the young boy is re-united with his toy again. Great picture book without words. Lovely full-colour illustrations will plenty of detail.

Rabbit Tijn does not want to be cute! He wants to be tough, strong, and have a tattoo and piercings – but will that help?

It is a very cold winter so what do you do? Make a snowman and lots of others things. Very large picture book, ideal for group presentations.
8  Hans de Beer
**Ijsbeer in de tropen [Little Polar Bear]**
De Vier Windtreken, 1987 • ISBN 9789055791859

A little polar bear drifts out to sea and floats to the tropics.

**Het boek van Ella [The book about Ella]**
Querido, 2011 • ISBN 978904512763

Several stories about a toddler with a very strong opinion of her own. Stories about daily life and the emotions Ella is facing.

**De K van Kasper**
De Harmonie, 2008 • ISBN 9789061698470

Five stories about a very normal boy who is also very special.
Books from Nigeria were selected by Virginia W Dike against the criteria set for the project. These are exacting criteria for picture books in a country like Nigeria, which has published few picture books and fewer of good quality. Moreover, there is little tradition of keeping books in print. For this reason, it was difficult to completely meet some criteria. It is difficult to talk of classics, and those one might consider are unlikely to still be in print. I have included one older title (at the end) that is still available. The content (text, illustration, message) of these are of high quality, though the physical quality in some cases is less so. The others are very recent titles and are by one of two new Nigerian publishers producing picture books of high quality, including high physical quality: Cassava Republic and Farafina. The selection may seem lopsided, but this is what is currently available. It may also be surprising that all titles are in English, but this is another Nigerian reality. Very few children's books are published in Nigerian languages. I have listed the titles in order of year of publication, beginning with the most recent.

1 Virginia W. Dike • Robin Gowen, ill.  

Poetic descriptions and vivid illustrations introduce children to 25 notable birds of West Africa, both common ones and more unusual species. The book is designed to encourage careful observation, scientific inquiry and appreciation of the natural world. It begins with an introduction to birds that brings out basic features and hints on how to observe birds and ends with activities intended to lead children beyond the content of the book to a lifetime of scientific awareness and discovery. The book is envisaged as the first title in a nature series focusing on West Africa. Originally published in 1986 by Fourth Dimension Publishers of Enugu, an early leader in picture book publication, with different illustrations by the same artist.

2 Lola Shoneyin • Francis Blake, ill.  
**Mayowa and the Masquerades**  
Cassava Republic, 2010 • ISBN 978-978-48518-8-6

Mayowa is reluctant to leave his computer games to join his parents on a trip to visit Granny in a village in Western Nigeria. However, Granny teams him up with a neighbor boy who shows Mayowa the sights, including a festival of colorful masquerades. The two are so carried away with the dancing that they temporarily lose their way, but all ends well. Finally a tired but happy Mayowa is on his way home, now convinced that the village offers even more excitement than his room in the city.
Eze is so enamored with bread that he wants to eat nothing else. After repeated refusal to eat the nutritious and varied dishes prepared by his mother, Eze’s parents determine to teach him a lesson, putting him on a diet of nothing but bread. He quickly weakens and tires of the monotonous diet, thereby learning his lesson and starting to enjoy other food as well. This book is similar in theme to the American picture book, *Bread and Jam for Frances*. Originally published by Fourth Dimension Publishers of Enugu in 1980, with different illustrations, this is the best known of three Eze books, all originally published by Fourth Dimension in 1980 and in a revised edition by Farafina in 2009.

This and the next three titles are in a series of eight books highlighting the Millennium Development Goals. In this title Kitwa is a girl thoroughly fed up with the favored treatment received by her brother. Kitwa’s mother and grandmother pronounce her dream of playing the drums unladylike and say differential treatment is just the way things are. However, things change when the family visits cousins who take a very different view. There, everyone joins in the housework and plays musical instruments. A family band is formed, with Kitwa playing the drums and her grandmother realizing her childhood dream of playing the flute.

Preye is completely upset over the rubbish taking over the environment around him, especially discarded plastic bags. He determines to do something about it and together he and his friends mobilize to raise awareness. Together they research and produce a film that is shown all over the country and begins to effect changes in their community and beyond. It even takes them to meet the President and to realize that they too might one day lead the country.
Fatima Akilu • Mustapha Bulama, ill.
Aliyyah Learns a New Dance

In this title centering on developing global partnerships, Aliyyah enters a regional dance competition. With helpful hints and encouragement from her brother, she perfects her steps and wins at the African regional level in Tanzania. This leads to participation in an international competition in Sweden. With the support of her brother and classmates, and indeed the entire nation, she ties with a Serbian girl for first place and the two are rewarded with exchange visits to each other’s countries.

Chinua Achebe and John Iroaganachi, with The Lament Of The Deer by Christopher Okigbo • Adrienne Kennaway (1979, Nwamife Ed. and 1989 East African Educational Publishers), Mary Grandpre (2011, Candlewick Press in US), ill.
How the Leopard Got its Claws

Previous edition: Originally published by Nwamife, Enugu, one of the first indigenous Nigerian publishers, in 1972 with black and white illustrations by Per Christiansen and in 1979 with coloured illustrations by Adrienne Kennaway. This edition is available only in occasional old stock, but there have been later editions, in Nigeria, Kenya and the United States, that are still in print. In this tragic mythic tale of a world gone wrong, kind king leopard rules without force and the animals co-operate with each other until the dog spoils this peaceable kingdom. With his sharp teeth, he seizes control, drives out king leopard and soon has the fickle animals singing his praises. Disillusioned, the leopard goes in search of weapons that will enable him to regain his kingdom—sharp teeth and claws and a terrifying roar. He succeeds but ever after rules by force, while the dog becomes the servant of man. The 1979 edition had evocative impressionistic illustrations, but those in the new edition appear computer-generated.
Books from Norway

The Norwegian Library Association’s Section for Children and Young Adults co-operated with Norwegian IFLA members on this project in our country. The project was announced with information and publicity in Norwegian library and literature periodicals, on the internet via blogs and discussion-groups for librarians and people interested in literature. Children's librarians sent their suggestions to the Norwegian Library Association, and more than 100 picture books were nominated. The final list of picture books consists of titles that both met the IFLA criteria and got the largest number of votes. The librarians say that these books are excellent stories to promote in their work with story-telling for children in kindergarten and primary schools. These books are highly recommended by the librarians, and we are proud to send this list to an international selection of the world’s best picture-books.

One day the three Billy Goats Gruff set off to the hills. Suddenly they notice a sign that shows them the way to Waterworld. "Ohhh, please!" begs the littlest Billy Goat Gruff. He would rather go to Waterworld this summer. "And then we don’t have to cross the bridge either. It’s so scary with that troll," says the youngest goat. The big Billy Goat Gruff gives in and off they go to Waterworld. But when the three Goats don’t cross the bridge the troll comes to Waterworld. And the troll is really angry!


Bjørn F. Rørvik • Gry Moursund, ill.
Bukkene Bruse på badeland [The Billy Goats Gruff in Waterworld]
Cappelen Damm, 2010 • ISBN 9788202295882
Garmann is anxious about starting first grade as he is not ready. He cannot cycle, he does not dare to put his head under water and none of his teeth are loose yet. It’s urgent – school starts tomorrow! It’s the last day of summer and Garmann’s three old aunts come to visit. Garmann discovers that adults are also scared sometimes. His aunts are afraid of having to use a walker, harsh winters and of having to leave all behind when death comes. In the end Garmann isn’t any less nervous about starting school, but he knows anxiety is a part of life.

2007 Bologna Ragazzi Award winner.


Garmann’s sommer

Stian Hole, ill.
Stian Hole, ill.
Gammans sommer [Garmann’s Summer]
Cappelen, 2006 • ISBN 9788202259228

Imagine that your head is an egg. It can break any minute. What would PE (Physical Education) lessons and ball games be like? How do you think you would enjoy a walk in Pinecone Forest? Or riding your bike in dangerous traffic? Not much? 7 years old Odd is fully aware of all those things, because his head is an egg. Every morning he carefully covers his head in towels to keep it safe. Then one day Odd meets Gunn.


3 Lisa Aisato, ill.
Odd er et egg [Odd is an egg]
Gyldendal, 2010 • ISBN 9788205399204

Little sweet Lussie is so nice, so nice. So nice that one day she just disappears. No one noticed her: “Her mother forgot that she was there. Her father forgot that she was there. The teacher forgot that she was there. And all the pupils forgot that she was there”. When no one sees or hears her, she slips into the wall. Will she ever be able to find the way out?

This book received the Brage Prize 2002.

Lussi er så snill, så snill. Lussi er så snill at hun en dag blir borte. Og ikke bare litt borte, men helt bortebortebotevekk borte. Faktisk helt inn i veggene vekk. Lussi er så stille og snill og flink og ren og pen at ingen ser henne lenger. Ikke moren, ikke faren, ikke læreren og heller ikke de andre barna. Ikke engang den store vaktmesteren kan finne henne …
Johannes Jensen is a crocodile that works in a tax office. He feels different and tries to find out why. Could it be that he wears a bow tie? Is he adopted? Or is it because he has a tail? He ties up his tail but this leads to trouble balancing. He falls and hits himself and ends up at the emergency ward. There he meets Doctor Fjeld. This is a turning point for Johannes Jensen.

Tore Renberg • Øyvind Torseter

Gi gass, Ine [Step On It, Ine]

CappelenDamm, 2010 • ISBN 9788202325626

This is an imaginative and playful story about the siblings Ine and Hasse. Ine is the oldest. She has lost one tooth, is light on her feet and tough in her heart. Hasse is her baby brother with a pacifier and diapers. Whenever he is asked a question, he replies with either a “yes” or a “tractor”. Ine and Hasse are going to chop down a tree. They bring an axe into the forest. But after a while all the animals in the forest come out to watch them. And then the animals want to come home with them!

Trond Brænne • Per Dybvig

Venner [Friends]

Aschehoug, 2005 • ISBN 9788203246906

Five animals, who live on a farm, decide to get to know each other. They invite each other home and try to eat each other’s food. This is a lovely story which in very few words tells a lot about how friendship works.

Kari Stai

Jakob og Neikob [Yesper and Noper]

Samlaget, 2008 • ISBN 9788252170870

Jakob and Neikob live together and are good friends even though they are very different. Jacob says YES to everything and Neikob says NO. “Hey Neikob. You wouldn’t say no to a road trip?” “NO”, responds Neikob. On the road they meet a thief! He takes their muffins and says he wants to steal their car. ‘Yes’, replies Jacob, a little too fast. After several thoughtless YES answers, they end up being swallowed as crocodile food. Will they ever be able to escape from the crocodile’s stomach?
This is a timeless story about Ruffen who is an outsider and cannot swim and play with the other young sea serpents. He is in fact afraid of water. Ruffen is afraid of water, but when the Octopus becomes stuck, Ruffen helps free him and in return the Octopus teaches him to swim. Ruffen becomes the best sea serpent at swimming, and when a ship is wrecked in a storm, it is only Ruffen who dares to swim out and save the big American boat.

Tor Åge Bringsværd • Thore Hansen, ill.
Ruffen, sjøormen som ikke kunne svømme
[Ruffen, the sea serpent who couldn’t swim]
Gyldendal, 2005 (1st ed. 1977) • ISBN 9788205313255

This is a classic story about a young goat who can count – until ten. He counts all the animals he meets. The other animals become angry and afraid when he says he is going to count them, and one after another they run after the kid. In the end they all enter a boat. But the boat is only classified for ten animals. When the crew discovers that the kid can count, they scream: “Hurry up and count us!” Luckily they are exactly ten. The young goat remains at the boat to count passengers.

Alf Prøysen • Vivan Zahl Olsen, ill.
Geitekillingen som kunne telle til ti
[The kid who could count to ten]
The favourite books from the Philippines were chosen on the basis of their literary and artistic worth; suitability of content and vocabulary to the age of the readers; accuracy and clarity; positive reviews; high interest/low vocabulary items which satisfy the needs of reluctant readers.

1. **May Tobias-Papa • Isabel Roxas, ill.**
   **Araw sa Palengke**

   "Listen well," her mother tells her. "Hold on to me tightly, ha? So you won't get lost. And don't point at things that you want me to buy for you." And so the story begins with a promise: "Yes, Nanay, I promise." Early one morning, a little girl accompanies her mother to the market. They take readers with them. The market is hot and noisy, smelly and muddy, but it's also fascinating and colorful, because it's seen from a point of view that's only about three feet tall. When they arrive home, and our little girl unpacks the bayong (bag) to find a surprise wrapped in newspaper at the bottom, it's her joy we feel in the little dance that she does. Market Day! is a true marriage of text and visual image. The result is a lighthearted picture book that is nuanced, controlled, and thoroughly engaging. A really good read.

2. **Kristin Canon • Leo Alvarado, ill.**
   **Si Pilong patago-tagao**
   Adarna House Inc., 2004 • ISBN 971-508-240-8

   "Bulaga! You didn't see me, did you?"
   This Pilong! He really loves hiding.
   Won't he get tired of this kind of game?

   "Bulaga! Hindi ninyo ako nakita, 'no?"
   Hay, si Pilong! Mahilig magtago.
   Hindi kaya siya napapagod sa ganitong pagtalog?

3. **Jose Miguel Tejido**
   **Ang Pambihirang Sombrero**

   Mia found a strange hat in Lola's old trunk.
   What wonders is the hat hiding and why are her neighbors drawn to it?

   Nakahalungkat si Mia ng kakaibang sombrero sa lumang baul ng kaniyang Lola. Ano kaya ang hiwagang itinatago ng sombrero at bakit maraming tao sa kanilang pamayanan ang naaakit nito?
Tomorrow is a school day. Maya is worried that she won’t wake up early. But Nanay has some wonderful ideas on how to wake her up.

Of all the taho vendors, Tere’s father is the one with the highest and sharpest voice. When he hollers, it can almost shatter the glass in the neighbors’ windows. He has many regular customers because they’re entertained by the unique sound of his voice.

But one day, Tere’s father falls ill and cannot holler. Her brother takes over in vending taho. It looks like the whole day will pass without her brother being able to sell a single glass of taho. Until Tere hollers in the highest sharpest voice: “Taho! Taho! Taho... Tahoooieyy!”

Matsing is known for his intelligence and cunning but Pagong also has his wit and cleverness. When they both find a banana tree, the match begins. Find out who triumphs in this classic tale that has amused generations.

A reckless bus is acting like he is the king of the road. He doesn’t care what happens to others. Read what happens to the unruly bus because of his arrogance.
Onyok is a young rooster who cannot crow as good and as loud as the others, so he spends most of his time sulking. How can a shy rooster prove his worth?

Sa lahat ng mga manok ni Mang Oca, itong si Onyok ang mukmok nang mukmok. Paano'y hindi niya magawang tumilaok tulad ng ibang mga kapuwa manok. Paanong palalakasin ang loob ng isang mahiyaing manok?

Rebecca T. Anonuevo • Ruben De Jesus, ill.
Ang Mahiyaing Manok

Should one judge a person based on their physical appearance? Learn about the sad life of an old lady and how she was accepted by our young protagonist in this story of laughter and understanding.

Dapat bang husgahan ang tao batay sa kaniyang panlabas na anyo? Alamin ang malungkot na buhay ng isang matandang babae at kung paano siya tinanggap ng ating batang bida sa kuwentong puno ng tawanan at pag-unawa.

Maria Corazon Remedio • Roland Mechael Ilagan, ill.
Bru-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha... Bru-hi-hi-hi-hi-hi...
Adarna House, 1995 • ISBN 971-508-139-8

Three naughty children refuse to care for their environment: they destroy plants, waste water and throw garbage just about anywhere! One day, an enchantress decides to teach them a lesson they will never forget.

Tatlong pilyong bata ang nasisiyahan sa pagputol ng mga halaman, pagsasayang ng tubig at elektrisidad, at pagtatapon ng basura kahit saan. Si Emang Engkantada ang magtuturo sa kanila ng kahalagahan ng pangangalaga sa balanse ng kalikasan.

Rene O. Villanueva • Alfonso Onate, ill.
Si Emang Entankada at ang Tatlong Haragan
Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation Publishing was established as Qatar’s first publishing house to publish books of excellence and originality in English and Arabic. They are dedicated to cultivating new literary talent especially in Arabic by organizing events to support the development of aspiring new literary talent and running creative writing workshops. In the schools community, their fast growing role has gained them a lot of recognition among teachers, librarians and parents as they build a literary culture in Qatar and the Middle East through reading events and other initiatives such as World Book Day.

Through Reading and Writing Development (RWD) they aim to give Arabic literature the importance it deserves by creating content for librarians/teachers and literary resources such as the annual Children’s Book Guide with readers looking to RWD for quality book recommendations, book resources, and a community with whom to share their passion. They are also working on establishing a BQFP standard for libraries that local Independent Schools will aspire to meet.

They provide readers with a well-rounded list of children’s books in a combination of literature in translation and original writing and a variety of illustration styles, subject matters, and cultures. For example, Hamda and Fisaikra and Victory Over Abu Derya are retellings of old folk tales from the region which expose Qatar’s diverse ex-patriate community to the Gulf’s rich heritage. They aim to bring children in the Arab world closer to books on relevant themes such as tolerance, unconditional love, and fun and to give the message that good pleasurable books and active child-friendly libraries should be accessible to each and every child in school.
Hamda is the Cinderella of the Gulf. The story takes place on the Gulf shores where Fisaikra, the fairy fish rescues poor Hamda from the wicked step mother and brings her together with the charming Sheikh's son. A tale that is living proof of the power of popular fairytales to reinvent themselves in different cultures. Told by Kaltham Al Ghanim whose work vastly covers areas of anthropological research in the Arabian Gulf, paired up with a Qatari illustrator who works in Al Jazeera Children's Channel in Qatar.

A Gulf legend that lives on from one generation to another about the history of pearl diving where the pearl fleet returns from another hard season at sea after a terrible defeat by the legendary guardian of the sea kingdom Abu Derya. Many ships and sailors have been lost; but when the grandmother of little Rashid has a dream in which her grandson's hands are filled with pearls, the villagers vow to reverse their fortune. Down there, Abu Derya however is prepared to unleash his powers.
This selection of picture books, made by librarians of the “Bibliothèque départementale” of Reunion, says many things about this small French island situated in the Indian Ocean (21°09 S, 55°30 E). In all these books, children are invited to glance into their natural and cultural heritage (Reunion Island from A to Z, 100 words about Reunion Island). Reunion is a preserved area where nature, through rupture in the earth’s crust, has given birth to the island (The Small Volcano) and has developed some very extraordinary living birds such as shown in The Paille en queue bird or extinct ones like the dodo bird (The Bird Dodo’s take off). This nature must be protected: ecology, recycling and sustainable development are to be taught (Velocity). The island is very much concerned about its cultural identity; people from Europe, Africa and Asia have met there and created an extraordinary melting pot: this multi-ethnic population has merged in a unique society living together in peace and harmony but some questions have to be asked (She knows from whom she inherited it). Different religions co-habit and due respect is paid to each of them (The Mixing up of Religions). We also have examples of traditional tales with the mythical animal, the cunning hare who is always trapped in the end (Hare is going to the Ball) together with nursery rhymes and Creole songs (Ticoulitintin). Creole is the popular spoken language and how it should be written is much of an issue. Some tales are drawn from old native stories or from neighbouring Madagascar, whose history has been quite close to Reunion’s (In my basket).

All these books are remarkably illustrated, some can be considered as art books. Publishing for young children has increased these last years both in number and in quality, perhaps thanks to the work done by children’s libraries. The municipal library of Saint Pierre hosts a contest every three years; a prize is offered to the best illustrator of a picture book, chosen by children among a short list made by librarians, of recent picture books; the “Bibliothèque départementale” gives every newborn baby a book and a leaflet on how to read to babes together with an invitation to a show for young children. Moreover most libraries throughout the island have social and cultural activities with books especially for children and teenagers. This has boosted publishing. Reunion is only a small island and the sales opportunities are narrow, this explains why such a small number of books are published each year.
The better you know about the various religions that exist, the better you become tolerant and make it easier to live together. This book is accessible to children from very young age, it offers an abstract for the eight most popular religions in the world such as: Hinduism, Buddhism, the popular religion of China that include Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism, the Judaism, the Catholicism, the Orthodox, the Protestants, and Islam. Bassam lives in Réunion Island, a small island in the Indian Ocean where people about various religions live together. He is happy about this diversity; in fact he is often invited to big celebration parties by his friends. One part of the book could be classified as a documentary book which is useful for the reader because it gives answers to questions that are frequently asked about religions such as: What are the most popular religions? What are the big events associated to these religions? And what are the most important practices of each of them? We have chosen this book because it gives a positive image of Réunion Island and its people. In fact, it gives information about their religious beliefs, culture and practices and how people live together in peace with their differences. This book is accessible to children from the age of 8; it is a beautiful book with multicoloured pictures and could be used to read aloud. At the end of the book there is an index which gives explanation for all the religious terms and expressions. It helps children learn about the variety of religions that does exist in a same country and respect them.

Mieux connaître les différentes religions, c’est cultiver la tolérance pour mieux vivre ensemble.
Destiné aux enfants dès leur plus jeune âge, ce livre propose un tour d’horizon de huit grandes religions : l’hindouisme, le bouddhisme, la religion populaire chinoise, le judaïsme, le catholicisme, l’orthodoxie, le protestantisme et l’islam. Bassam vit à La Réunion, une petite ile de l’océan Indien dans laquelle se côtoient des fidèles de très nombreuses religions. Il se réjouit de cette diversité, il est en effet régulièrement invité à de grandes fêtes par ses amis. Une partie documentaire permet de répondre aux grandes questions que l’on se pose souvent sur les religions : Quelles sont les principales croyances ? Les grands événements ? Les pratiques importantes ? Nous avons choisi ce livre car il donne une image positive de la Réunion et son peuple. En fait, il donne des informations sur leurs croyances religieuses, la culture et des pratiques et comment les gens vivent ensemble en paix avec leurs différences. Ce livre est accessible aux enfants à partir de 8 ans, c’est un beau livre avec des images multicolores et peut être utilisé pour lire à haute voix. À la fin du livre, il y a un glossaire qui explique tous les termes et les expressions religieuses. Cet album aide les enfants à comprendre la diversité des religions qui existent dans un même pays et à les respecter.

Fabienne Jonca • Hélène Moreau, ill.
La Réunion des religions [The Mixing up of Religions]
Who are you? Where are you from? You are the fruit of your own roots, a new growing plant that will have its own way... The members of an African’s crossbreed family want to find a trait of their own in a new born baby girl. This book is about people from crossbreed origin and it was inspired by a song from the singer Robi. Who has never questioned himself about the similarity in a trait of characters that his child could have inherited from himself or from a member of his close family? The book attempts to answer these questions. Through the illustrations and the beautiful rhymes the album becomes very sincere and authentic. Furthermore the alternative between pictures that are painted and used to represent the members of the close family and those that are drawn and used to represent the growing girl are an excellent graphics choice because it reinforces the coherence between a text based on comparison of people and it is a kind of celebration for the crossbreed identity. The book has been selected for its originality. The topic it covers is a common subject but it is treated in an original way which makes it easy to read aloud with children from the age of three.

It is an alphabet primer of 100 words that describes Reunion Island, its history, the most famous spices found and used in this country, the typical houses of Réunion Island called “cases” (huts), the rainfalls, the banana, the mosquitoes, the traditional dance called “maloya”, but also details about Madagascar Island, etc... This book is an invitation to discover Réunion Island in an attractive and intelligent way, by using 100 famous words that will relate to the island in the most beautiful way through riddles and games. The illustrations use lots of colours, humour and imagination in order to reflect closely the charm, the richness and the atmosphere of this Island. This book is a real success amongst literature for young people and is accessible from the age of 6.
This hardback square book deals with frequently asked questions, anecdotal and metaphysical ones that could be asked at any age from age 0 to 6. Here there are some dodo’s birds who asked funny questions to their school teacher and all of them will take off! These philosopher birds speak for the pleasure of the readers. This book has been selected for its lovely artistic illustration, it could be classified as a book of art for children.

Le roi des animaux organisa un grand bal où tous les animaux furent invités, excepté ceux qui n’avaient pas de cornes. Un lièvre voulut y aller et décida de se faire de fausses cornes et put entrer dans le bal et fit la fête jusqu’au matin. Les cornes fabriquées en cire d’abeille fondirent au soleil. Quand le lièvre fut sorti, donc il ne put y entrer de nouveau ... Il s’agit d’un conte célèbre dans l’île de la Réunion que les conteurs racontent aux enfants à la veillée. L’auteur est un conteur très célèbre dans l’île et il conte généralement en créole (qui est un dialecte français parlé dans l’île). Par le biais de la langue créole le livre utilise des blagues et des expressions mais cela se perd dans la traduction française.

This book is a collection of beautiful tales from Madagascar Island and Reunion Island. They are in French and Sakalave (a Malagasy dialect spoke in the north of Madagascar) for the tales of Madagascar, and the tales of Reunion Island are in French and Creole (a French dialect spoken in Reunion Island). This book is the result of a co-operation between two authors, one from Madagascar Island and the other from Reunion Island and it shows the differences and similarities of cultures between the two countries through their literature and traditional tales. The book is multilingual and is accompanied by a CD.

Ce livre est une collection de belles histoires de l'île de Madagascar et de l'île de la Réunion. Celles-ci sont en français et en Sakalave (un dialecte Malgache parlé dans le nord de Madagascar) pour les contes de Madagascar et les contes de la Réunion sont en français et en créole. Ce livre est le résultat d’une coopération entre deux auteurs, l’un de l’île de Madagascar et l’autre de l’île de la Réunion et il montre les différences et les similitudes de culture entre les deux pays à travers leurs littératures et des contes traditionnels. Le livre est multilingue et est accompagné d’un CD.
7

Christophe David • François Gonthier, ill.

Le Petit Volcan [The Small Volcano]

Hi-Land, 2005 • ISBN 2-910822-00-1

This book is about the birth of the Island, in fact this is the story of the union of the sea to the volcano which has made this beautiful island. Then beautiful birds came to live there, and beautiful fishes came to live in the sea around it. All this has made the Island a paradise where it is good to live. The book uses the famous character of the sea and the volcano which are commonly used in literature for children. Indeed in Reunion Island we have a volcano which is still alive and does wake up once a year or once every two years. Children in this country grew up with nature around them, mountain, rivers, falls and the volcano which makes them get used to it so they don’t become frightened about it in their daily life.

8

Joëlle Écormier • François Gonthier, ill.

Ticoulitintin [Ticoulitintin]


A collection of traditional nursery rhymes of Réunion Island; these songs are in both languages Creole and translated into French, and these are still in use in nurseries or sung at home nowadays. At the end of the book the author has put a list of instruments that are commonly used with these songs. The book is accompanied with a CD audio. We have selected this book because it contributes to the folklore of Réunion Island and particularly to the children’s patrimony and culture that children are taught from a very young age. The book is very well illustrated and it gets good feedback in the Island.
Aurélia Moynot  
**Vélocité [Velocity]**  

The author and illustrator of this book is a modeller, she always makes the models, takes photos of them and uses them for the illustrations in her book. As a result the illustrations appear as if they are in 3D and it is a very nice combination of picture and drawings. Further this book is about biodiversity and recycling things. It gives a good image of how life could be beautiful when we care for the nature around us by using a bicycle instead of an engine or a car. We have selected this book because it gives a good image about the protection of nature, the politics of recycling things and sustainable development. This book was granted the prize “La Réunion des livres” for its illustrations in February 2011. All the models used in the illustrations are sold in the markets as toys for young children and they encourage them to appreciate playing with recycled things.

Marie Winter  
**Le Paille en Queue [The Paille en Queue Bird]**  
Editions Azalées, 1993 • ISBN 2-908127-18-0

This book is a documentary book for children dealing with a typical bird that lives in Réunion Island named “Le Paille en Queue”. The book is very well illustrated and gives minute details about the life of this bird. The young reader will appreciate the beautiful images of the island that are real places that he could have visited during his own life in this island. We have selected this book because the author is one of the first authors to write documentaries books about wildlife and flora for children in Réunion Island. Her books are a real success with children as they help children to know about the typical animals that live on their island, and probably nowhere else in the world, the same as for the typical plants that grow up here.

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L’auteur et l’illustrateur de ce livre est un modéleur, elle fait toujours des modèles et les photographie puis elle les utilise pour illustrer de son livre. Le résultat est que les illustrations apparaissent comme si elles étaient en 3D c’est une très belle combinaison d’images et de dessins. De plus ce livre traite les thèmes de la biodiversité et du recyclage. Il montre bien comment la vie pourrait être belle quand nous nous soucions de la nature autour de nous en utilisant la bicyclette au lieu d’un moteur ou d’une voiture. Nous avons choisi ce livre parce qu’il donne une bonne image de la protection de la nature, la politique de recyclage des objets et le développement durable. En février 2011, ce livre reçut le prix de «La Réunion des livres» pour ses illustrations. Tous les modèles utilisés en illustrations sont vendus sur les marchés comme des jouets pour des jeunes enfants et cela les encourage à apprécier le jeu avec des objets recyclés.

Ce livre est un livre documentaire pour les enfants qui traite d’un oiseau typique qui vit dans l’île nommé «Le Paille en Queue». Le livre est très bien illustré et donne les moindres détails de la vie de cet oiseau. Le jeune lecteur appréciera les belles images de l’île, qui sont des lieux qu’il a pu visiter personnellement. Nous avons choisi ce livre parce que l’auteur-illustrateur du livre a été le premier à sortir des albums documentaires sur la faune et la flore pour les enfants. Ses livres ont un vrai succès auprès des enfants qui apprennent ainsi la vie des animaux typiques qui ne vivent que sur leur île et nulle part ailleurs, cela s’appliquant aussi à la flore.
An initial consultation was undertaken with colleagues from the Children and Young Adults department of the Public Library of Brasov and an initial list of the picture books was agreed. Secondly, a search for the titles was carried out in many bookshops and online in order to see them, to verify if they are eligible, appreciate them and to know if they are in stock. Afterwards, ten titles were established and the proposition was submitted to IBBY National Section Romania and to librarians from the Children and Young Adults departments belonging to all Romanian public libraries via e-mail.

The Romanian National Section of IBBY operates within the Romanian Union of Publishers which means that the response of IBBY Section Romania also includes the editors’ response. A response was received from IBBY National Section as well as suggestions for new titles. Further searching and verifying of titles took place and finally the ten picture books for Romania were chosen based on the co-operation of IBBY Romania and librarians.

The anthology includes the most beautiful and appreciated Romanian fairy tales, read by children and adults as well, generation after generation: “Youth without Age and Life without Death”, “Aleodor the King”, “The Salt in the Food”, “Praslea the Sturdy and the golden apples”. All these tales were collected and published by Petre Ispirescu, a writer mostly interested in the literary traditional heritage of Romanian tales. With time, they became the tales of all the children, charming children’s spirit by their imaginative world.

Petre Ispirescu • Walter Riess, Mihaela Paraschivu, Valeria Moldovan, Raluca Ilie, ill.

**Basme [Fairy tales]**


Antologia cuprinde cele mai frumoase și apreciate basme populare românești, citite de copii și adulți deopotrivă, generație după generație: Tinerete fără bătrânețe, Sarea în bucate, Prăslea cel voinic și merele de aur. Poveștile au fost culese și publicate de Petre Ispirescu, tipograf, folclorist și scriitor interesat de moștenirea literară a povestilor tradiționale românești. Cu timpul, ele au devenit povestile tuturor copiilor, spiritul copiilor fiind fermecat de lumea magică a povestilor.
2

**Ion Creangă • Valentin Tănase, ill.**

**Harap Alb [White Moor]**


The White Moor is the King’s son, the youngest and most courageous one, who leaves the family, and is forced to face many challenges and difficulties. In spite of his father’s advice, the prince was tricked by the Spân (the Beardless Man) who turns him into a slave and gives him dangerous tasks that put his life at risk. Helped by Holy Friday and his horse, and also having supernatural powers, the White Moor succeeds in all his missions. Finally, the White Moor defeats his master and regains his freedom, finding his place and true love.

**Ion Creangă**

**Valentin Tănase, ill.**

**Harap Alb**


Born from his mother’s tears, the Prince Charming from the Tear left his home, in search of glory. He saves his neighbor’s kingdom from the curse of a witch, called Muma Pădurii (The Forest Witch), finding love with her beautiful daughter. At the request of his blood brother, he accepts the mission of bringing his brother’s future bride, the beautiful youngest daughter of the most powerful leader, Genar. After a lot of difficulties, he succeeds in his mission. The adventures, romantic atmosphere, magic characters and very poetic language give a special flavour to this tale, which captures any reader.

**Mihai Eminescu • Anamaria Smigelschi, ill.**

**Făt-Frumos din lacrimă [Prince Charming from the Tear]**

Gramar, 2007 • ISBN 978-973-591-570-4

Elena Farago (1878–1954) was a well known and appreciated Romanian poet. This is the story of a puppy badly hurt by a cruel boy and as a result becomes lame and is unable to play with other puppies or children. The boy’s regrets are useless, and the kind-hearted puppy did not punish him, being more generous than a human being could ever be. The poem, carrying a clear moral message, is one of the best poems known by children and it is often used as a nursery rhyme in schools, kindergartens and library reading activities.

**Elena Farago**

**Anamaria Smigelschi, ill.**

**Căţeluşul şchiop [The Lame Puppy]**

Many of the poems written by Otilia Cazimir (1894-1967) were dedicated to children. The author has always appreciated their tenderness and innocence. She used to tell them stories or write happy lyrics for them, describing either their world or the universe of the harmless insects or animals. The poetry *The Winter Old Woman enters the village* is about the cold season, which is imagined like an old and gloomy woman. The words and images are very suggestive and it quickly became a beloved and well-known children’s poem.

It is the best and the most successful book of the last years, written by a very gifted poet. Arik is a little hedgehog, who has a lot of adventures searching for his brothers and saving them from the smoky hornets. He fights against them helped by his best friend, a little mouse named Nasuri Cârne [Snub Noses]. He is also helped by a wise mole named Santa Cârţ and a horse fly, named Zum. The beauty of the lyrics, the exciting adventures and the attractive illustrations, including a puzzle game, make the reading a real delight for children.

Both volumes relate the adventures of a penguin, named Apolodor, who goes through all kinds of events along with his friends, Ilie the Kangaroo and Amedeu the Lion. Gellu Naum’s lyrics make a very powerful impression on young readers and Apolodor’s world is full of humor and surprises. At the same time, in these books, children discover both a lot of useful experiences, and a good model to be followed.

**The Winter Old Woman enters the village** by Otilia Cazimir (1894-1967) is published by Gramar, 2006. ISBN (10) 973-591-539-1, (13) 978-973-591-539-1. It is the best and the most successful book of the last years, written by a very gifted poet. Arik is a little hedgehog, who has a lot of adventures searching for his brothers and saving them from the smoky hornets. He fights against them helped by his best friend, a little mouse named Nasuri Cârne [Snub Noses]. He is also helped by a wise mole named Santa Cârţ and a horse fly, named Zum. The beauty of the lyrics, the exciting adventures and the attractive illustrations, including a puzzle game, make the reading a real delight for children.

**The Book with Apolodor** and **A doua carte cu Apolodor** by Gellu Naum (first volume) and Nicolae Vasilescu (second volume), published by Humanitas, 2008. ISBN 978-973-50-2213-6; 978-973-50-2214-3. Both volumes relate the adventures of a penguin, named Apolodor, who goes through all kinds of events along with his friends, Ilie the Kangaroo and Amedeu the Lion. Gellu Naum’s lyrics make a very powerful impression on young readers and Apolodor’s world is full of humor and surprises. At the same time, in these books, children discover both a lot of useful experiences, and a good model to be followed.
Noroce is an amazing dog who grows bigger and bigger. He eats more and more and there is a real danger to everything around him. Finally, Norocean demolishes his master’s house. The people call the police and the dog has to run away, into the forest, causing a lot of damage there too. Left behind by all the animals scared by him, Norocean decides to surrender to the authorities. On the road to them, Norocean meets three boys, in danger of drowning themselves and he saves them, drinking the whole water and becoming the hero of the community.

Sándor Fodor • Lívia Rusz, ill.
Csipike, az óriás törpe [Csipike, the Fierce Dwarf]

Csipike is a nice dwarf, sometimes grumpy, but trusted, and always available for his friends and animals of the forest where he lives, being absolutely convinced that the fate of the forest depends entirely on him. His experiences are both funny and highly educational. Time after time, he becomes aware of his real role and starts to respect the others. Fodor Sándor’s book has won many fans among children by its fully imaginative characters and events. The illustrations also have a large contribution to its success.

Ricarda Maria Terschak • Mihaela Tivadar, ill.
Die Bunte Omi [The Funny Grandmother]

The book describes the imaginary travel around the world of six children along with their grandmother. Traveling and playing, children learn new things about people and their particular habits in different places of the world, going through a real educative and moral experience. The illustrations are very real and convincing, making reading a real pleasure.

Cartea descrie călătoria imaginată în jurul lumii a 6 copiilor însoțiți de bunica lor. Călătorind și jucându-se, copiii învăță lucruri noi despre oamenii și obiceiurile lor particulare în diferite locuri ale lumii. Călătoria este o experiență educativă și morală, iar ilustrațiile contribuie ca lectura să fie o reală plăcere.
This list consists of books illustrated by the most impressive Russian painters of the present and past, which have been published in recent years. One top ten list can't include all varieties of the Russian book art. However, the expert group of the Russian State Children Library, which is the federal methodological centre, have tried to find a balance between recognized classical artists among Russian-speaking children (Ivan Bilibin, Yuri Vasnetsov, Vladimir Konashevich, Vladimir Suteev, Tatiana Mavrina) and the most impressive representatives of the Russian modern book graphic arts (Gennady Spirin, Nikolay Popov, Francheska Yarbusova, Kirill Chelushkin). Also, during the process of selection the best texts (books by Alexander Pushkin, Anton Chekhov, Korney Chukovsky, etc.) and the high printing quality have been taken into account by the experts.

Yury Vasnetsov is one of the most famous book illustrators in Russia. His works have been recognized as classics of Russian graphic arts. This book is considered to be his very best masterpiece (1964). Ornate, smart, decorated illustrations by Vasnetsov naturally fit for the small forms of Russian folklore.

Y. Vasnetsov, ill.
Ладушки: русские народные сказки, песенки, потешки
[Pat-a-cake: Russian folktales, songs, rhymes]

Russian folktales with classic illustrations by Ivan Bilibine, famous artist and participant of the artistic group Mir Iskusstva (World of Art) have been reprinted many times.

I. Bilibine, ill.
Русские народные сказки [Russian Folktales]
This book comprises not only folktales, but also all fairytale tales in verse written by Alexander Pushkin, such as “The Tale of the Priest and of His Workman Balda”, “The Tale of Tsar Saltan”, “The Tale of the Dead Princess and the Seven Knights”, etc. Tatyana Mavrina is the only Russian artist to have been awarded the “Nobel Prize for children’s literature” – Gold Medal of Hans Christian Andersen Award for Illustration. Her naïve, primitive but in fact very refined manner is widely recognized both in Russia and abroad.

Tat'yana Alexeevna Mavri'naya — единственная из русских художников, кто был удостоен «малой Нобелевской премии» — Международной Золотой Медали им. Х.К.Андерсена, высшей награды в области литературы для детей. Сказочная красота её кажущейся наивной, лубочной, но в действительности изысканной художественной манеры получила широкое признание у нас и за рубежом. К сожалению, в последние годы книги в её оформлении почти не издаются. Этот сборник — исключение. В него вошли не только фольклорные тексты, но и все сказочные произведения А.С.Пушкина (вплоть до отрывков из «Сказки о медведихе»).

Книга, вышедшая в издательстве «Московские учебники», небезупречна в полиграфическом отношении, однако даёт достаточно внятное представление об уникальном художественном мире этого удивительного мастера.

Alexander Pushkin • K. Chyolushkin, ill.
Сказка о рыбаке и рыбке [The Tale of the Fisherman and the Fish]

This tale in verse is about a fisherman who manages to catch a “Golden Fish” which promises to fulfill any wish of his in exchange for its freedom. Pushkin wrote the tale in 1833 and since that time it has been published with illustrations by very many artists. We have chosen this edition because of the graphics by Kirill Chyolushkin, one of the most talented and bright modern illustrators.

Пушкинская «Сказка о рыбаке и рыбке» издавалась с рисунками самых разных художников. Мы остановили свой выбор на этом издании из-за графических работ Кирилла Чёлушкина, одного из самых ярких, щедро одарённых современных иллюстраторов. Даже всем известное, хрестоматийное произведение Кирилл способен трансформировать в нечто совершенно новое, странное, завораживающее.

Korney Chukovsky • V. Konashevitch, V. Suteyev, V. Duvidov, ill.
Детям [For Children]

Korney Chukovsky is one of the most popular children’s poets of the Soviet times in the Russian language. This book comprises his poems “Doctor Aybolit”, “The Giant Roach”, “The Crocodile”, “Wash'em’clean”, etc., which have been favourites with many generations of Russian children. Each of the three illustrators has his own manner. Lyric and decorative style by Konashevitch, simple and smiling pictures by Suteyev, sincere and musical illustrations by Duvidov – all them show us the world of Chukovsky’s fairy tales.

Корней Иванович Чуковский — создатель российской детской литературы. Его сказки — безусловная классика, так же как иллюстрации, украшающие этот сборник.

Лиричный, игрушечно-декоративный Владимир Конашевич, бесхитростный и улыбчивый Владимир Сутеев, искренний, музикальный Виктор Дувидов — каждый из этих художников в своей неповторимой манере раскрывает мир сказок Корнея Чуковского.
6
Vadim Gusev
Pro what inside – read and look: either pictures with verses or verses with pictures...
Vadim Gusev illustrated his own poems in the Russian constructivism manner of 1920s. His poetry seems to be an integral part of his illustrations.

7
Nikolai Popov
Zachem? [Why?]
Nikolai Popov’s wordless, thought-provoking tale about a frog who sits peacefully on a rock smelling a flower and a mouse who aggressively snatches the flower away. The absurdity of aggression and the inevitable consequences of the violence that occurs teaches us the ugliness of war and that there are no winners. This book was selected as the best book for children in Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

8
Sergei Kozlov, Yuriy Norshteyn  • Franchesca Yarbusova, ill.
Ежик в тумане [Hedgehog in the Fog]
This is a story about a little hedgehog, who is on his way to visit his friend the bear cub. Hedgehog in the Fog is a 1975 Russian animated film directed by Yuriy Norshteyn. The script was written by Sergei Kozlov and a book under the same name was published. In 2003 in Tokyo Hedgehog in the Fog was selected “No 1 Animated film of all the time”.

Стилистика иллюстраций художника Вадима Гусева перекликается с работами русских конструктивистов 1920-х годов. Его поэзия настолько органично вписана в картинки, что кажется их неотъемлемой частью.

Книжная версия знаменитого мультфильма, признанного на фестивале в Торонто в 2003 году лучшим анимационным фильмом всех времён и народов.
Junna Morits • Eugeny Antonenkov, ill.
Крыша ехала домой: стихи-хи-хи для детей от 5 до 500 лет
[The roof was going home: ha-ha verses for children from 5 to 500 years old]

"Kashtanka" by Anton Chekhov is one of the most famous short stories for children. The dog Kashtanka lives in precarious surroundings, with a drunken master and the ever-present possibility that she’ll be beaten or neglected. Suddenly, she finds herself living the good life; in so far as canine ideals go, she’s hit the jackpot. However, she rejects the good life as soon as her original master calls. Illustrations by Gennady Spirin, one of the top illustrators of children’s books, are considered the best graphics that have ever been created for this story.

В лице художника Евгения Антоненкова Юнна Мориц нашла такого замечательного соавтора, что, кажется, обрела второе дыхание. Их творческий тандем получился на редкость слаженным и удивительно органичным.

Anton Chekhov • G. Spirin, ill.
Каштанка [Kashtanka]

“Каштанка” — пожалуй, самый известный рассказ А.П.Чехова из тех, что давно и прочно вошли в детское чтение. По мнению специалистов, иллюстрации Геннадия Спирина принадлежат к числу лучших графических работ, когда-либо сделанных к этому произведению.
Books from Senegal

The selection was made by Mané Joséphine Diouf, in charge of reading activities at the Children’s library of Institut Français Léopold Sédar Senghor in Dakar, and coordinated by Antoinette Correa et Viviana Quiñones.

1

Adapt. of the text by Léopold Sédar Senghor • Abdoulaye Sadji, Georges Lorofi, ill. Les Aventures de Leuk-le-lièvre [The Adventures of Leuk-the-Hare]

Resourceful Leuk-the-Hare has much to learn from life, from other animals, from men, to become as wise as he aspires to be... This picture-comic book tells, with jocular illustrations, some of the adventures of this traditional hero of the savannah and of other very human animals that never lose their sense of humour. First published in 1975, it is based on L.S. Senghor and A. Sadji’s classic book for children La Belle histoire de Leuk-le-lièvre.

Leuk-le-lièvre, débrouillard, a beaucoup à apprendre de la vie, des autres animaux, des hommes, pour devenir le sage qu’il aspire à être... Quelques unes des aventures de ce héros traditionnel de la savane africaine nous sont ici présentées dans la forme d’une bande dessinée à l’illustration savoureuse dans laquelle les animaux évoluent à la manière des humains, sans jamais perdre leur humour. Réédition de l’ouvrage paru en 1975, inspiré du classique La Belle aventure de Leuk-le-lièvre de L.S. Senghor et A. Sadji.

2

Fatou Ndiaye Sow • Moustapha Ndiaye, ill. Le Mouton d’Aminata [Aminata’s Lamb]

Aminata is delighted with the upcoming Muslim Tabaski festival: the tailor has sewn her a beautiful dress, the braider has made her beautiful braids... but the main thing is missing, the lamb ! Aminata is very concerned One of Fatou Ndiaye Sow’s great stories, with stylized illustrations by Moustapha Ndiaye showing everyday life.

Aminata se réjouit de la fête musulmane du Tabaski à venir; le tailleur lui a préparé une belle robe, la tresseuse lui a fait de belles nattes... mais il manque l’essentiel : le mouton ! et Aminata s’inquiète... Un récit de l’auteur sénégalaise Fatou Ndiaye Sow, dont les illustrations stylisées de Moustapha Ndiaye réproduisent des scènes de la vie quotidienne.
3. **Lamine Dièmé • Ndèye Daba Niane, transl.**

**Nenne / Bébé Amine [Baby Amine]**


When Baby Amine wakes up alone on a big bed, his eyes show perplexity, then anxiety and finally, great anger... Fortunately, Mother is not far away. A small, square picture book, with expressive illustrations, where the story is mostly told by the image and its skilful framing. Other good simple picture books for very young children in this collection 'Tété': *Dem Dikk* on the blue and yellow Dakar mini-buses, and *Colobane*, on Colobane market in Dakar. Bilingual French-Wolof.

4. **Béatrice Lalinon Gbado • Moctar Ly, ill.**

**Waali le petit Talibé [Waali the little Talibe]**

Bibliothèque Lecture Développement, Ruisseaux d’Afrique, 2005

Little “talibes” – children who attend Koranic schools, led by a marabout – live and beg in the streets of big cities. Starving, they sometimes snatch a passer-by’s handbag and end up at the police station. This is what happens to little Waali. It is Mister Ba the shopkeeper who tells this sad story to his family, that evening. What is the best solution for these abandoned children? To send them back to their home village? The powerful, warm illustrations enhance a story whose ending may not be a happy one.

5. **Raphaël Ndiaye • Malang Sène, ill.**

**Mariame Kanté, Antoinette Fall Corrée, adapt.**

**La Lutte [Wrestling]**


In Fadiouth village, on the island of clam shells, André explains to his cousin Leïty just arrived from France, all about traditional Serer wrestling: the origins, the training, the costumes, the different techniques, women wrestling... A quiz and charades complete this non-fiction picture book giving substantial information on a little treated subject, African martial arts.
Awa, a very poor girl, meets a donkey at a rubbish dump. He is in a pitiful state and Awa takes great care of him. One night, the donkey grants Awa’s greatest wish, to have a lavish home. But on one condition, the best room must belong to the donkey for ever. A tale on the importance of keeping one’s promises, told by a concise text and pleasant, meaningful illustrations.

Malick Mayabé Fall • Abdou Karim Camara, ill.
Oumar et Mariam [Oumar and Mariam]
BLD, 2006 • ISBN 978-2-9527685-7-3

Oumar and Mariam go back to the village after spending the school year at their uncle’s home in Dakar. It is a joy for them to see their parents again, and take part in the activities of every summer: help Mother cook and sell rice porridge, catch birds, harvest rice… Beautiful watercolours give charm to the book, a book serene as good family holidays.

Mariame Kanté • Pape Thierno Niang, ill.
Moi, Sirou, chat sénégalais [Me, Sirou, Senegalese cat]
BLD, 2007 • ISBN 978-2-9527685-6-6

Sirou, a kitten, tells the story. He’s just arrived in a family home with its order, its rules to respect, a little girl Soukeye who wants to pamper him… and a sofa, forbidden to him but of course, soon taken over. Sirou is punished and must go back to a stray cat’s life. But because he follow a thief’s plans, he is welcomed back into the family. A lighthearted story, with humour and a peaceful vision of everyday family life. Cartoon speech bubbles, inserted into the illustrations, add to the book’s playfulness.

Hélène Ngone Diop, Moustapha Ndiaye, ill., Mame Daour Wade, transl.
Jinne yu mel nune – Des djinns de toutes les couleurs [Djinns in all colours]
BLD, 2008 • ISBN 978-2-916859-06-4

First published in 1997 together with two other stories, this tale is published here alone, in a square, smaller and better suited format. It is not easy for djinns and men to live together, especially at siesta time when the little, invisible djinns make a racket… A very short text, in French and Wolof; amusing, colourful illustrations by Moustapha Ndiaye in his recognizable style.

All book reviews are adapted from those published in the journal Takam Tikou, http://takamtikou.bnf.fr
The Children and Young Adults Section of the Serbian Library Association announced the project and call for voting on the internet via blogs, mailing list and Facebook group. A compiled list of 10 titles was made by multiple-vote titles that were chosen by children’s librarians from 27 public libraries of different sizes from all around Serbia.

1 Branko Ćopić • Dušan Pavlić, ill.
**Jежева Кућица [The Hedgehog’s Home]**

Perhaps the most famous and most popular children’s poem ever written in the Serbian language, the “Hedgehog’s Home” by Branko Ćopić still enchants readers of all generations with its magic lyrics. Ježurka Ježić, the title character, is a moody loner who loves his home more than anything else. The story of his adventures in the forest is a story of modesty, courage, shyness and wisdom.

2 Simeon Marinković • Tihomir Čelanović, ill.
**Мишко Нећејед [Miško Nibbling]**
Kreativni centar, 2009 • ISBN 978-86-7781-221-8

One of the picture books about the little boy Miško who keeps getting into all kinds of trouble. The stubborn Miško finds a great way to attract attention by rejecting everything he is offered, especially food. However, one day his breakfast (jam, honey, milk and French toast) decides to abandon him instead of waiting for him to make up his mind. This exciting book will tell you about how Miško handled this unusual situation.
Dejan Aleksić • Boris Kuzmanović, ill.  
**The Little Girl And Blue**  

The Little Girl and Blue, written by Dejan Aleksić and illustrated by Boris Kuzmanović, is a book for children which stands out among its kind because of its unusual story, poetic style and great beauty. A highly imaginative book created in an original style with numerous illustrations that in unison truly penetrate deep down to the very depths of one's soul. The main character, a little girl, meets Blue in her enchanting dream. She sees him casually catching butterflies in a beautiful meadow while he is hopeful that they will fly him up into the sky, because every normal Blue lives in that lofty place...

Brana Crnčević • Dobrosav Bob Živković, ill.  
**The Angry Little Bear**  
Kreativni centar, 2005 • ISBN 86-7781-297-0

The well known poem by Brana Crnčević about a stubborn little bear who refuses to sleep his winter sleep, and wants to play with cats, rabbits and birds instead. Crnčević was inspired to write it when his little daughter refused to go to sleep on time. This poem has been very popular among children, and the angry little bear has become a nickname for disobedient and feisty kids.

Gordana Maletić • Ana Grigorjev, ill.  
**Let’s Meet The Leopard Family**  

In a nice quiet little town on the banks of the river there are many houses and large buildings. They keep their tenants, residents of this pleasant place to live. In one of the newest buildings high on a hill, surrounded by a park, unusual tenants have moved in recently. The whole neighbourhood is full of life now! Each floor is shared by two unusual families. That’s why living in this house is so cheerful for everyone. Let’s meet the Leopard Family.

Brana Cvetković • Neda Đokić, ill.  
**The Story of a Noodle**  
Kreativni centar, 2003 • ISBN 86-7781-152-4

The main character of this poem, written by the famous 20th century Serbian poet and illustrator, is a noodle. He escapes through a kitchen window, goes out into the world and has many adventures. At the end of this book there is a recipe for making noodles, so you can try it out yourself!
7

This series of lift the flap picture books “What Ana knows” is made for the youngest readers. Together with little Ana, through ten everyday situations, children will learn how to behave with their neighbours, and why it is so important to treat others in the same way that you yourself would like to be treated.

Simeon Marinković • Dušan Pavlić, ill.
Шта Све Ана Зна ...Добри Суседи [What Ana Knows...Good Neighbours]

8

This story, based on a Serbian folk tale, features as its characters a blowfly, a mosquito, a frog, a rabbit and a bear. Its repetitive and exciting rhythm will hypnotize the youngest readers and make them want to hear the story over and over again.

Brana Cvetković • Biljana Labović, ill.
Зунзарина Палата [The Blowfly’s Palace]
Креативни центар, 2006 • ISBN 978-86-7781-056-6

9

As a child, the famous Serbian poet Arsen Diklić loved spending time by the river Gacka, where he also kept his own boat hidden. When he grew up, his love of the river inspired him to write many poems and stories. The Blue Whale, one of his most beautiful poems, is a thrilling tale of a grumpy sailor and a big blue whale who endures his taunting, until one day when he loses his temper...

Arsen Diklić • Dobrosav Bob Živković, ill.
Плави Кит [Blue Whale]
Креативни центар, 2009 • ISBN 978-86-7781-047-4

10

Charming and amusing illustrations in this illustrated book embellish the stories about the adventures of those who inhabit the edge of the forest. These are the well known characters from popular tales - the fox, the bear, the wolf and many others... As always, their encounters in tales finish with the victory of the weaker but wiser, so the children can learn that wisdom triumphs over force.

Gordana Maletić • Ana Grigorjev, ill.
Јеж И Лисица [The Hedgehog and the Fox]
The books included in the top ten list for Singapore were chosen for inclusion because they are:

- Books that feature Singapore and/or its diverse culture
- Books with universal values such as friendship, love, family, etc.
- Of good quality in writing and illustrations (not didactic in the telling)
- Children’s perennial favourites (e.g. Mooty)

Most of the books featured have received awards such as First Time Writers and Illustrators award, Hedwig Anuar award or in the case of Emily Lim’s book, Independent Publisher’s Book Award (“IPPY Awards”) – Bronze medal in the Children’s Picturebook category.

1. Adeline Foo • Lee Kowling, ill.
   **The beaded slippers**
   Booksmith, 2008 • ISBN 9789810808044

   Puteh lives in a huge house with her grandmother, Mama, and their servant, Amah. There are 4 rooms in the house, one for each of them. But, the last room remains unoccupied. Not only that, it is always locked. Amah calls it the haunted room in the hope of scaring Puteh but that only triggers Puteh’s curiosity even more. One day, she chances on the room unlocked. As both Mama and Amah are busy, she sneaks into the room and discovers something special about the room. Follow Puteh and learn about the “Peranakan” world through the illustrations and facts in this book. With the inclusion of a glossary of Peranakan terms used for a better understanding, this will definitely be an informative read.

2. Shamini Flint • Alpana Ahuja, ill.
   **Sasha visits Singapore**
   Sunbear Pub, 2006 • ISBN 9789810565404

   Sasha is in Singapore, and she is in for a treat. Follow her through a bumboat ride, the MRT and even a zebra-striped train! As she explores vibrant Singapore, she meets the famous Merlion, the white tigers in the Singapore Zoo and even a Lion Dance.

   Tag along with Sasha and you will get a chance to visit Singapore’s famous attractions all in one day. The illustrations capture the essence of Singapore very well.
3 Belinda Chan • Lynette Long, ill.  
**Ah Kong’s clock**  
Straits Times Press Children, 2009 • ISBN 9789814266376

Ah Kong’s clock has been with the family for many generations. It is a friend as well as a member of the family. Day after day, the clock ticks on faithfully, telling everyone the time and going through important occasions with the family. But one day, the clock stops! Is it trying to tell us something? This is a great book, and also suitable for parents to emphasize to their child on the importance of time.

4 Jin Pyn  
**The elephant and the tree**  
Epigram Books, 2006 • ISBN 9789810561024

This story features a unique relationship between an elephant and a tree. They are the best of friends. The story begins with a young elephant who loves wandering free. Yet he will always go back to the same tree. He goes to the tree to scratch his itching body and to share stories. As the years go by, they lose their natural playground to humans. The elephant is shot and the tree chopped down. With one chained and the other bound, they recount the happy memories of the time they were both free. This heart-warming adventure tells of how the friendship between the elephant and the tree stands the test of time.

5 Lynn Lee • Phua San San, ill.  
**I don’t want Mei Mei anymore!**  
Straits Times Press, 2008 • ISBN 9789814266062

This book is about Mark and his baby sister whom he calls Mei Mei. One day, Mark gets very angry and declares that he does not want Mei Mei anymore. They sit in Mark’s rocket and take off on an adventure. They land right in front of a baby factory where Mark gets to exchange Mei Mei for another baby. Will he find the perfect baby? A simple yet beautiful story about sibling relationships.

6 By Emily Lim • Neal Sharp, ill.  
**Prince bear & pauper bear**  
Mustard Seed Books, 2007 • ISBN 9789810590048

Prince Bear and Pauper Bear belong to the same toy store but they look very different. While Prince Bear has matching eyes and a mouth, an armour with his name on it and wears a crown and cape, Pauper Bear is plain with mismatched eyes and no mouth. Prince Bear is bought by a girl who loves him initially but neglects him afterwards. Pauper Bear is given to a boy without much money. The grateful boy fixes his eyes and mouth and plays with him daily. A story that highlights the values of empathy, compassion and friendship. It is accompanied by child-like illustrations with gentle and cheerful colours.
**Mooty is a mouse who lives in Grandma’s house but he is forced to move out when Grandma gets a cat. He finds a big hollow tree and calls it his new house. He then makes friends with other creatures – ants, lizards, birds and frogs. Mooty’s adventures come in five books with ten stories.**

This heart-warming story starts with a simple thought: “Can you blow a kiss? Get ready, get set, blow! Now let’s see where your little kiss will go.” It then takes the reader’s imagination across various countries and cultures, following the pathway of the blown kiss. With rhyming text, this story shows how much joy a blown kiss can bring to others. The illustrations are charming; colourful with soft shades and full of expression! They enhance the vivid pictures that come to mind when reading the verses. The kiss finally lands in Singapore and it’s the reader’s turn to pass on the message of love and happiness - blow a kiss!

**What Sallamah didn’t know**

Set in early Singapore, this true story tells of a girl’s journey in discovering and accepting that she is an adopted child. It all began with a Chinese baby girl who was given to a Malay family to raise as their own. The baby was named Sallamah and grew up happily amongst her many siblings in a close knit kampong (Malay for “village”). Her happiness finds an abrupt end when she found out, by accident, that she was in fact adopted and of Chinese heritage. Soon, she learnt that some of her other siblings were also adopted as babies and were also of different races. This is a heartwarming story, beautifully written by the protagonist’s daughter – of true love and kinship, regardless of the colour of one’s skin.

**The adventures of Mooty**

Mooty is a mouse who lives in Grandma’s house but he is forced to move out when Grandma gets a cat. He finds a big hollow tree and calls it his new house. He then makes friends with other creatures – ants, lizards, birds and frogs. Mooty’s adventures come in five books with ten stories. The whole set is entertaining with Mooty getting married and having a baby at the end of the series. The illustrations are cute and children will especially get attracted to adorable Mooty in his sarong attire.

**The Book that was Handed Down**

Ping is always getting hand-me-downs from her brother Ming, including this book. She does not like the book at all, that is until her brother shares the hidden wonders of stories. This is a highly original picturebook, simple yet brilliantly put together to carry the story through its illustrations. It won the inaugural Hedwig Anuar Award in May 2011.
The main deliberation was done by Jay Heale and Lona Gericke who are widely considered to be the top authorities on children’s literature in South Africa on (respectively) English and Afrikaans books. Additional input was received by a number of librarians in public and school libraries.

1. Ingrid Mennen & Niki Daly • Nicolaas Maritz, ill.
Ashraf of Africa

A bright picture book to correct the popular view of Africa as a vast savannah roaming with lions! Ashraf is an African boy of today. He lives in the city of Cape Town and the only place he has seen wild animals is inside books. So he walks through the streets to the public library, where he renews his favourite book – about wild animals. Bold, simplistic pictures by a renowned local artist.

2. Christopher Gregorowski • Niki Daly, ill.
Fly, Eagle, Fly!
Tafelberg, 2000 • ISBN 9780624039037

A farmer finds an eagle chick and puts it with his chickens where it learns to live like a chicken and, as the farmer insists, it even “thinks like a chicken”. A friend tries three times to persuade the young eagle to fly, urging it “You belong not to the earth but to the sky.” Eventually he takes the eagle (and the protesting farmer) up a mountain. There, the eagle sweeps up into the sky, “never again to live among the chickens”.

3. Antjie Krog (English text by Gus Ferguson) • Fiona Moodie, ill.
Fynbosfeetjies [Fynbos Faeries]
Umuzi, 2007 • ISBN 9781415200223

Totally different from the delicate Flower Fairies of Cicely Mary Barker, these South African floral spirits are modern and with-it. The Erica fairies wear jeans and Grandma Geranium smokes a pipe. The Afrikaans verses of Antjie Krog are sheer brilliance. Fiona Moodie has provided our children with a pictorial encyclopedia of the fynbos: its inhabitants, its varied plants and winged visitors. A storming, stunning book.
4 Wendy Hartmann • Joan Rankin, ill.  
**Just Sisi**  
Human & Rousseau, 2010 • ISBN 9780798152198  
Sisi is a small rabbit with floppy ears – but could be any and every small girl. Five deceptively simple stories: a journey past unseen African dangers, a surprise party, painting the wall of Gogo’s house, welcoming Dad home and saying goodnight. Joan Rankin’s artwork is outstanding, with so much thought to space, page position, character, humour, reader reaction. The text is minimal. The impact maximum.

5 Maria Hendriks • Piet Grobler, ill.  
**Makwelane En Die Krokodil [Makwelane and the Crocodile]**  
Human & Rousseau, 2004 • ISBN 9780798144612  
This is a big, bold, laugh-making, Africa-loving picture book about a girl outwitting a crocodile. In amongst the everyday rural necessities of fetching water, washing clothes, pounding maize meal and, of course, making music, there is the need to be wary of danger. Piet Grobler’s exuberant artwork frolics around the large pages with zest and skill, full of the flavour and humour of Africa.

6 Wendy Hartmann • Marjorie van Heerden, ill.  
**Nina and Little Duck**  
Human & Rousseau, 2007 • ISBN 9780798148245  
This is sheer pleasure. A large-paged picture-book collection of read-aloud stories interspersed with rippling verses, all enlivened and enloved by Marjorie van Heerden’s illustrations. The whole feeling is of life and love, personified by two vigorous youngsters, Nina and Simon, but centred around the mother figure of Little Duck.

7 Sindiwe Magona • Paddy Bouma, ill.  
**The Best Meal Ever**  
Tafelberg, 2006 • ISBN 9780624042549  
Siziwe is looking after her four younger brothers and sisters in Guguletu, with both parents away. There is no food in the house – nothing. In desperation she heats up a pot of water, and adds salt and pepper, stirring until the younger ones gradually fall asleep as they wait. Then Siziwe falls to her knees and prays: “Thank you, Father in Heaven, for the gift of hope. This was the best meal ever! But, Lord, can you send us a different one, tomorrow?”
This heart-warming picture book records the occasion when a nation stood in line to vote in South Africa’s first democratic election. Elinor Sisulu follows Gogo, a grandmother, who has waited all her long life for this opportunity and insists in going to the ballot box in spite of the problems of transport and old age. Illustrated in bold, impressive colour.
Children’s librarians nominated their favourite titles and a list was made of these nominations. Voting was then done by email and the ten titles with the most votes became the list from Sweden.

1. Gunilla Bergström
   **Raska på, Alfons Åberg [Hurry up Alfie Atkins]**
   Raben & Sjöström, 1976 • ISBN 9789 12 967 1254

   It is a busy morning. Alfie and daddy are doing all the things you have to do before leaving your home after breakfast. Hurry up Alfie, says daddy. It is time to go to pre-school. But Alfie just has to do a couple of things before they can go. Hurry up!

2. Elsa Beskow
   **Sagan om den lilla, lilla gumman [The tale of the little, little old woman]**
   Bonnier Carlsen, 1897 • ISBN 9789 16 385 8260 • ISBN 9789 16 381 2675 • ISBN 9789 18 563 3449

   This is one of the classic Swedish picture books. The simple story is based on a rhyme the author heard as a child. It is about an old woman who lives with her cow and her cat. It has easy repetitions and a slightly dramatic ending.

3. Lotta Geffenblad
   **Astons stenar [The stones of Aston]**

   Aston is a dog. He collects stones. He thinks the stones are lonely and cold. He feels sorry for them and brings them all to his home. After a while his parents think Aston has too many stones. It gets too crowded. Here is a task to solve.

Contact: Ingrid Kallstrom
ingrid.kallstrom@stockholm.se
4

Pija Lindenbaum
**Gittan och Gråvargarna [Bridget and the grey wolves]**

Gittans is taking a walk in the woods with her kindergarten. She gets lost and cannot find the teachers and the rest of the children. But she finds some wolves and makes friends with them.

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5

Barbro Lindgren • Eva Eriksson, ill.
**Mamman och den vilda bebin [The wild baby]**
Raben & Sjögren, 1994 • ISBN 9789 12 962 8593

The little baby is wild and doing crazy things all the time. He makes up things and is very adventurous. His mummy is having a tough time taking care of him. The story is written with rhymes.

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6

Jan Lööf
**Sagan om det röda äpplet [The story of the red apple]**
Bonnier Carlsen, 1974 • ISBN 9789 16 382 6733 • ISBN 9789 16 386 5329

A man in a striped suit puts an apple in the window. The apple falls out. The book tells the story about everything that’s happening to the apple and its escapades.

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7

Ulf Nilsson • Anna-Clara Tidholm, ill.
**Adjö Herr Muffin [Goodbye, Mr Muffin]**
Bonnier Carlsen, 2002 • ISBN 9789 16 386 4681 • ISBN 9789 16 384 5939

An old guineapig looks back. He has had a long and joyful life. He had a beautiful wife and nice children. They were a happy family. In the end he closes his eyes and his family arranges his funeral.

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Knock on the blue door and enter the house. Together we knock on all different doors, open them and see what is behind them. Together we say hello to the figures we find in the rooms. This is a story for young children.

Knacka på [Knock, knock knock!]

Anna-Clara Tidholm
Alfabeta, 1992 • ISBN 9789 17 712 3354

Knock on the blue door and knock on all the different doors, open them and see what is behind them. Together we say hello to the figures we find in the rooms. This is a story for young children.

Pannkakstårtan [The birthday cake]

Sven Nordqvist
Opal, 1984 • ISBN 9789 17 712 3354

The old man lives in a house in the countryside with his cat. The cat is very special. He wants to celebrate his birthday three times a year. Here is one of those occasions. A lot of preparations have to be done.

Vem bestämmer? [Who is deciding?]

Stina Wirsén
BonnierCarlsen, 2006 • ISBN 9789 16 385 0905

The little teddy and the big teddy are having a good time reading a story. But soon they start to fuss. Who has the right to decide? Small teddy? Big teddy? This is a story for young children.
The selection of titles from all four language areas in Switzerland was chosen by Bibliomedia Switzerland and the Swiss Institute for Children and Youth Media, SIKJM. Bibliomedia Switzerland is a nationwide resource library for libraries and SIKJM supports libraries by offering courses and projects in the area of children’s and youth literature. At the basis of the choice of titles was a comprehensive knowledge of the Swiss children’s book literary scene in all four national languages as well as a good interconnection with public libraries in Switzerland. Both institutions collaborate closely with librarians of all four parts of the country.

Many Swiss authors and illustrators rely on publishers abroad (Germany, France, and Italy). Since Switzerland is a small country, there are just very few publishers – and an even smaller number of them produce children’s books (in the Italian speaking part of Switzerland there is no publisher at all). This circumstance is thus reflected in this selection.

Autumn. A grub, two worms, a bug and a caterpillar furnish their underground winter quarters. Apart from the caterpillar, everyone has collected supplies for the winter. “I don’t need anything to eat, the only thing I need are my dreams” says the caterpillar and pupates. The other friends play cards to pass the time and they get through the winter safely. If food became scarce they would still have the bug’s assets of the last resort, a huge onion. Ilicitly, the grub gnaws at it one day, and the onion breaks in two.

In springtime, nevertheless, a red tulip grows out of the onion and the caterpillar has turned into a beautiful butterfly. In my dreams I can fly tells a story about underground secrets and the awakening of nature in the spring. Illustrator Käthi Bhend depicts this world in earthy colours and with a delicate stroke of the brush. She enriches the stories of the fanciful underground animals with funny details and thus invites the reader to wonderful voyages of discovery.
Cow Marta is orange instead of black and white, but that is not the only difference between her and her fellow cows in the meadow. She dreams about participating in the next bicycle race. However, she needs a bike for that. Persistently, Marta pursues her goal, from old parts of metal she jury-rigs a bike and starts to exercise. All beginnings are difficult but very soon, Marta gets more confident and starts to practise her first feats. One year later, she enrols for the big bicycle race and starts pedalling like crazy. She crosses the finish line with a huge head start. Albertine is one of the most popular children’s books artists in Western (francophone) Switzerland. In 1999, she received a “Golden Apple” for her first storybook Marta and her bicycle featuring a philosophising cow at the Biennale of Illustration in Bratislava.

La vache Marta est orange au lieu de l’habituel noir et blanc tacheté. Mais ce n’est pas la seule singularité qui la distingue de ses collègues de l’alpage. Elle rêve de participer à la prochaine course de vélo. Mais pour cela elle a besoin d’un vélo. Marta poursuit obstinément son but et bricole de vieilles pièces qu’elle assemble, et commence à s’entraîner. Son apprentissage est difficile, mais elle prend peu à peu de l’assurance et tente ses premières acrobaties. Au bout d’un an, elle s’inscrit à la grande course et dès le départ tourne frénétiquement les pédales. Et c’est en vainqueur que Marta franchit la ligne d’arrivée avec une grande avance sur le peloton. Albertine est l’une des illustratrices de livres pour enfants les plus connues de Suisse romande. Pour son premier album avec sa vache philosophe, Marta et la bicyclette, elle reçoit en 1999 une "Pomme d’or » de la BIB (Biennale de l’illustration de Bratislava).

Vera Eggermann, Ulrich Kleb
Das Buchstabenmonster [The Letter Monster]
Atlantis im Orell Füssli, 2010 • ISBN 978-3-7152-0433-8

Mister Dot collects letters and words. If he doesn’t know a word, he asks his friend Bird. For Bird knows all the letters and all the words. One day, however, the Letter Monster appears. Its appetite for letters and words of all kind is insatiable. It erodes all letters. Mister Dot’s collection of words is destroyed and the people are left without language. Therefore, new words have to be invented and foreign words are imported by ships. But it is no use, the monster keeps on eroding. What can be done? Bird knows the answer: the monster has to be tickled in order to spit out the swallowed words. Vera Eggermann’s letters are acting on a white background. Thus, the black letters seems so vivid and whet the appetite for a playful discovery of language.

This wonderful storybook whets one’s appetite for reading. Kathrin Schärer’s expressive pictures featuring a mainly red and black background tell a fox and mouse tale of a different kind: a hungry fox chases after a mouse – into a library. To distract the fox, the mouse brings him a picture book. The fox delves into the book and is all excited. The following nights the fox returns to the library, crazy about reading new stories. Pippilothek??? humorously portrays the magical attraction of a library. It is a declaration of love for reading and for places where undisturbed reading is possible.

Geneva-based comics artist Nicolas Robel knows how to tell great picture stories for young children. The story about Paul for instance, who often feels lonely because his mother works all day. He has to share his fears and sorrows with his stuffed animals and finger puppets. Robel reveals Paul’s power and impotence with a constant change of perspective and the alteration of the background colours. The reader comprehends how strongly Paul relies on his puppet friends and what a huge step it is for him to let the girl next door take part in his games. Another strong point of the book is the fact that Paul’s mother supports her son in this maturity process, sees through his puppet theatre, but still takes him seriously. For Le Tigre bleu, Nicolas Robel was awarded with the Swiss Children’s and Youth Media Price in 2003.


L’auteur de bande dessinée genevois Nicolas Robel sait s’y prendre pour raconter de belles histoires pour les petits. Par exemple celle de Paul, qui se sent souvent seul, parce que sa mère doit aller travailler. Paul vous fera partager ses peurs et ses angoisses à travers ses animaux en peluche et marionnettes à doigt. Robel montre la puissance et l’impuissance de Paul avec des changements de perspective et de couleurs d’arrière-plan. Il permet au lecteur de comprendre comment Paul s’appuie sur ses amies marionnettes et à quel point c’est une grande étape pour lui de laisser la fille du voisin jouer à ses jeux. La mère de Paul soutient son fils dans ce processus de maturation. Son théâtre de marionnettes vu à travers lui est toujours pris au sérieux. C’est un autre point fort de cet ouvrage. Nicolas Robel a reçu pour Le Tigre bleu le Prix suisse Jeunesse et Médias en 2005.
Johanna Spyri’s *Heidi* was published in 1879 and has since sold over 50 million copies. Heidi has become a film star, a comic figure, and a musical performer. In a straightforward language author Peter Stamm narrates Spyri’s story about the five-year-old orphan girl who lives on an alp with her granddad until she is sent away to Frankfurt. Stamm’s Heidi is not a nature girl who suffers from living in a big city but a child that gets homesick far away from her alp and subsequently lapses into silence. With their documentary approach, Hannes Binder’s illustrations deny any idyll. In his pictures, Binder chooses wide, broad frames for the mountains, vertical ones for Frankfurt, and subdivided spaces to reflect the hectic city life as well as Heidi’s inner world. Thus, he constantly dissects the well-known, popular image of Heidi.

Selina Chönz • Alois Carigiet, ill.  
**Uorsin (in Puter Rhaeto-Romanic) / Ursin (in Sursilvan Rhaeto-Romanic)**  
[A Bell for Ursli]  
Lia Rumantscha, 1983

The internationally most renowned Swiss storybook tells the story of ‘Bell-Ursli’ and his search for the biggest cow bell so he can march at the front of the parade and banish winter with the ring of his bell at the spring celebration ‘Chalandamarz’. To obtain this biggest cow bell, he secretly mounts to his parents’ chalet through deep snow and spends a lonely night up there. When Ursli returns the next day with his big bell, his parents, who were worrying all night, are relieved. In 1945, the story of “Uorsin”, written by Selina Chönz from Engadine, was published. The book that is illustrated by Alois Carigiet has come to world fame. Ursli is the hero of this story about departure and homecoming, about autonomous actions and the proving of oneself. Due to Alois Carigiet’s expressive images the story of Ursli and his bell is a monument of Swiss artwork in the twentieth century. In 1996, the artist received the Hans Christian Andersen Award for his storybook artwork.
When mother was still alive, she promised her little daughter that she would accompany her wherever she would go. Now the little girl is sitting in church with her father, enduring the funeral service for her deceased mother. Both are crying. The priest is talking about things the girl does not understand. That is why she begins to explain to herself what she sees, what she feels, what she understands and what she imagines—and she manages to find explanations for all the things the adults are unable to communicate. “Their eyes are reddened and wet. They all have a cold. They won’t stop blowing their noses….” In the girl’s mind, the funeral service becomes a fantastic story and her mummy becomes a star. At the end of the funeral the girl still believes that her mother is going to come back. But mummy disappears in a coffin and daddy is still very sad. Catherine Louis, an illustrator from the French-speaking part of Switzerland, illustrates this sad and comical story by the French writer Azouz Begag by using colourful, abstract, impressionistic pictures that match the girl’s imagination: a blotch of colour here, a corner of a coffin or a piece of stained glass there.

Azouz Begag • Catherine Louis, ill. Ma maman est devenue une étoile [My mother became a star]

Quand maman était en vie, elle a promis à sa fille de l’accompagner où qu’elle aille. Maintenant, la petite fille est assise avec son père dans l’église et supporte avec résignation le service funèbre de sa défunte mère. Les deux pleurent. Le prêtre parle de choses que la petite fille ne comprend pas. Elle commence alors à se raconter ce qu’elle voit, ce qu’elle ressent, ce qu’elle comprend, ce qu’elle imagine et trouve des explications pour toutes les choses, que les adultes ne peuvent lui donner: « Vos yeux sont rougis et humides. Vous êtes tous fâchés. Vous n’arrêtez pas de pester… ». Dans sa pensée, la cérémonie funéraire se transforme en une histoire fantastique et sa maman en une étoile. À la fin des funérailles, la jeune fille pense encore que sa maman va revenir. Mais maman disparaît dans un cercueil et papa est toujours très triste.

Pitschi is not only the smallest of the five kittens living in old Lisette’s house, it also wants to play something completely different and test new roles. Its attempts to be a different animal always fail according to the same pattern. These repetitions enable children to marvel at Pitschi’s untiring courage and, at the same time, they provide them with previous knowledge that allows the reader to keep a certain distance. Pitschi’s mishaps are not simply tales of woe – its deviations from the norm and transgression of limits bring fun and humour into the story. Pitschi’s story is child-friendly because it presents straightforward situations. It is also world-encompassing because there is an artist who remains true to himself and works for a specific audience: his own children. It is not a coincidence that a cat is playing the game of identity search. Cats are an abiding theme in Hans Fischer’s works, he depicts them in numerous sketches, etchings, and lithographs. Pitschi, first published in 1948, belongs to the classics of Swiss picture book writing. Generations of children have grown up with it and still are.

Hans Fischer

For several months, illustrator Valérie Losa visited Italian migrants living in Switzerland. She participated in their Sunday meals, she observed the families, took photos, and drew the people. In the picture book *Sapore Italiano* she revives these meetings. She takes us along to a family home where the Sunday meal is being prepared, she celebrates cooking traditions, she brings kitchen smells alive, and depicts impressively how the families are trying to keep strong ties with their native country and their country of origin by gathering at the table and sharing Sunday meals.

For the topic of memory, the artist chooses a multi-layered sepia-coloured transparent paper, a technique that corresponds with the nostalgic memories of the migrants and at the same time shows their fragility. Losa does not only present idylls, however: the daily life in the new home country and the often difficult process of integration is brought up as well as the fact that social changes have taken place both in Italy and in Switzerland and little has stayed the same. For this topic, Losa uses coloured pen and ink drawings that bridge past and present. The only consistent things within all these changes are the recipes for the Sunday meals that have been passed on from generation to generation.

L’illustratrice Valérie Losa per alcuni mesi ha frequentato famiglie di emigranti italiani che vivono in Svizzera, partecipando al pranzo domenica; li ha osservati, disegnati, e fotografati. In “Sapore italiano” ha raccolto l’essenza di questi incontri. Ci conduce in una famiglia intenta a preparare il pranzo domenical: una celebrazione della tradizione culinaria. L’illustratrice ci restituisce i profumi della cucina attraverso immagini evocative che mostrano come sia importante per queste famiglie mantenere il contatto con le proprie radici attraverso il rito del pranzo in comune. Per valorizzare il ricordo del passato, Valérie Losa ha scelto della carta trasparente color seppia che ha dipinto con diversi strati di colore. Una tecnica che corrisponde appieno ai ricordi nostalgici degli emigranti lasciando, nello stesso tempo, trasparire la loro fragilità. Losa, però, non ci racconta solo il lato idilliaco di queste famiglie. Raffigura anche le loro fragilità, la loro vita quotidiana a contatto con la realtà di un nuovo paese, il processo a volte difficoltoso dell’integrazione e i cambiamenti sociali intercorsi sia in Svizzera sia in Italia. Per illustrare quest’aspetto l’illustratrice usa la colorazione a china; una tecnica che fa da ponte tra passato e presente. Le ricette, alla base dei pranzi domenicali di queste famiglie, sono tramandate da generazione in generazione e hanno trovato posto anche in questo libro.
The co-ordination of the selection of the top ten picture books for the United Kingdom was undertaken by Annie Everall. In order to draw up a list of titles, members of the national committee of the Youth Libraries Group of CILIP (Chartered Institute of Librarians and Information Professionals) were asked to nominate titles against the criteria established for the project.

In addition an article was published in the Youth Libraries Group newsletter also inviting nominations from librarians across the UK. 31 titles were nominated, although one (Eric Carle – *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*) was unable to be included as it was not first published in the United Kingdom.

An electronic voting form was sent to all national committee members of the Youth Libraries Group and its branch members. It was also sent to national committee members of ASCEL (Association of Senior Children's and Education Librarians) as well as to all ASCEL members with a request to forward it on to relevant staff in their Authorities. Every delegate at the Youth Libraries Group annual conference in September 2011 was given a voting form in their delegate pack and asked to complete it and hand it in before the end of conference, with two sets of the final ten titles being offered as a prize draw for completed application forms. In addition a notice was included in the Youth Libraries Group electronic newsletter inviting librarians to request a voting form. 4,070 votes were received and when analysed the top ten titles for the UK are the following:

1. **Each Peach Pear Plum**
   - Allan Ahlberg • Janet Ahlberg, ill.

   Awarded the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal for an outstanding book in terms of illustration for children and young people in 1978. *Each Peach Pear Plum* is a deceptively simple, engaging picture book in which Janet Ahlberg’s gentle pen and watercolour illustrations complement her husband Allan’s text to give young children the pleasure and satisfaction of using their knowledge of nursery rhymes to interact with the book, spot clues and find hidden characters...

   The book is very carefully designed to lead the reader through a range of settings filled with recognisable images from the literature of childhood. The reader is led from the opening, quilt like view of fields, cottage and an orchard of peach, pear and plum trees, into Mother Hubbards’s kitchen, up Jack and Jill’s hill and out into Robin Hood’s forest. Each double page spread follows a simple picture frame format with text and a small pictorial clue on one side, balanced by a detailed full-frame illustration with objects to find on the other...

   There is something very pleasing in seeing the domestic lives of familiar characters represented in such a witty way. The artists ability to depict a happily comfortable world, shown to great effect in the final full-page illustration where she completes the circular story and reunites all the characters makes this a very enjoyable and satisfying book.

   *Extract of a review from: Image & Imagination 50 Years of the Kate Greenaway Medal* by Ian Dodds and Sue Roe, CILIP Youth Libraries Group 2007 13 978 094651252
2 Quentin Blake
Mr Magnolia
Random House (Red Fox Imprint) • First published 1980 (Jonathan Cape imprint)
ISBN 978 1 862 30807 7 Pbk

Mister Magnolia is the archetypal English eccentric dressed in a shabby frock coat, enormous bow tie, clashing colours and only one boot. This simple and charmingly dotty story, told in rhyme, reveals more about Mister Magnolia’s flamboyant lifestyle and follows him in his search for that elusive second shoe. The liveliness of the rhyme is enhanced by the energetic, exuberant and humorous illustrations. Mister Magnolia and the cast of supporting characters are each drawn with confident economy, they are given their own quirky personalities through well observed arm movements, a flick of hair, a wayward scarf or a wonky ear.

There is no hesitation in Quentin Blake’s penmanship and he uses broad sweeps of colour to create an immediacy and freshness on every page. Quentin Blake is the master of simple line and wash illustrations. This book is full of joy, wild lines and vibrant colours leap from every page, making the whole work fresh, unique and memorable. It was awarded the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal in 1980.

Extract of a review from: ‘Image & Imagination 50 Years of the Kate Greenaway Medal’ by Ian Dodds and Sue Roe, CILIP Youth Libraries Group 2007 13 978 0946 512 52

3 Raymond Briggs
The Snowman
Puffin • First Published 1978 (Hamish Hamilton) • ISBN 978 0 141 34009 8 Pbk

One winter’s night, a snowman comes to life and a magical adventure begins for a small boy. Narrated entirely through pictures, Briggs’s dreamlike illustrations perfectly capture the wonder and innocence of childhood and the magic of a child’s imagination. Since its publication the book has become a world-wide phenomenon, being published in 15 countries. The film of the book has been shown on TV at Christmas for the past 25 years and the musical stage version is now into its tenth year. It is a book that spans the generations – adults enjoyed it as children and are now sharing it with their own children.

4 Rod Campbell
Dear Zoo

A child writes to the zoo for a pet. The zoo sends a series of unsuitable pets which all have to be sent back for different reasons, except for the last one which is just perfect. First published in 1982 and now available in many different formats including a delightful pop up version, this book has firmly established itself as a classic for the under 5’s. Bright, colourful illustrations and a simple yet engaging text make this a perfect book to read aloud and share with young children. The board book edition of Dear Zoo is available in dual language editions (published by Mantra Lingua), in English with Albanian, Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Farsi, French, Gujarati, Hindi, Panjabi, Portuguese, Russian, Simplified Chinese, Somali, Spanish, Turkish, Urdu, or Vietnamese.
5

Julia Donaldson • Axel Scheffler, ill.
The Gruffalo

Written in rhyming couplets, this tells the story of a mouse’s walk in the woods. He meets various animals who would like to eat him but he scares them off by telling them he is having tea with a monstrous creature called the Gruffalo – but what happens when he meets the real Gruffalo??

Aimed at children under seven, the richness of the text and the exuberance of the illustrations combine to create an award-winning book. It won the Nestle Smarties Gold Award in the 0–5 category in 1999, the Blue Peter Best Book to Read Aloud award, the 2000 Nottingham/Experian Children’s Book Award and was voted Best Bedtime Story by BBC Radio 2 listeners in 2009. Available in multiple formats, it has also been produced as an animated film and a stage production. A sequel ‘The Gruffalo’s Child’ was published in 2004. The author Julia Donaldson is the UK Children’s Laureate 2011–2013.

Translations include Dutch (De Gruffalo), Estonian (Grühvel), French (Gruffalo), German (Der Grüffelo), Hebrew (Trofot), Irish, Italian (A spasso col mostro), Lithuanian (Grufas), Polish, Russian (Груффало), Slovene (Zverjasec), Spanish (El Grúfalo), Scottish Gaelic, Swedish (Gruffalon), Turkish (Tostoraman), Welsh (Y Gryffalo) and Afrikaans (Die Goorgomgaai).

6

David McKee
Elmer

Elmer is the first in a series of books featuring a colourful patchwork elephant and his friends. In this story, Elmer thinks he looks odd, because he is patchwork coloured when all the other elephants are grey, so he rolls in berries to turn himself grey. He soon realizes though that being different is a good thing and the elephants love him because he is different. Text and illustrations full of colourful cheeky humour combine to create a modern classic that has become a firm favourite with young children all over the world. Elmer’s adventures are available in printed formats as well as on a variety of digital platforms and have been published in more than 40 languages. They have also been made into a TV series.

7

Michael Rosen • Helen Oxenbury
We’re Going on a Bear Hunt

A family sets out on a Bear Hunt and find themselves wading through grass, splashing through a river, squelching through mud, stumbling through a forest and shivering through a snowstorm, in search of a bear. The surprise comes when they reach a cave and discover that finding a bear wasn’t quite what they expected. The lyrical text by Rosen is perfectly complemented by Oxenbury’s watercolour illustrations. The story reads aloud beautifully and children can join in with a range of sounds and actions to extend the reading experience further. A classic book enjoyed by children and adults alike. Winner of the Smarties Book Prize in 1989, Highly Commended for the CILIP Kate Greenaway medal.
**8**

Shirley Hughes

*Dogger*

Random House (Red Fox imprint) • First published 1977 (Bodley Head) • ISBN 978 1 862 30805 3 Pbk

Dogger is a much loved toy dog owned by a little boy called Dave. Although his brother and sister have lots of toys, Dave only wants Dogger. Disaster strikes when at bedtime Dogger can’t be found and appears to be lost, leaving Dave very sad indeed. Even a family trip to the school summer fair can’t cheer him up, until the mystery is solved and his big sister Bella rescues Dogger and returns him to Dave. Many families can relate to this wonderfully heartwarming and familiar story of a lost and found toy. Although Hughes’ illustrations beautifully capture a snapshot of 1970’s life in an English community, they have a quality that makes the story timeless. The book won the CILIP Kate Greenaway medal in 1977 and in 2007 was voted the ‘Greenaway of Greenaways’ – the favourite Kate Greenaway medal of all time, during the 50th anniversary year of the medal.

**9**

Jill Murphy

*Peace at Last*

Macmillan, first published 1980 • ISBN 978 0 230 53241 0 Hbk

It’s bedtime and Mr & Mrs Bear and Baby Bear go to bed. Mrs Bear’s snoring keeps Mr Bear awake and makes him try to find somewhere else to sleep. He tries baby bear’s room, the living room, the kitchen, the garden and the car but all of them have a variety of noises that keep him awake. Exhausted he returns to bed but just as he is falling asleep the morning alarm clock rings to wake everyone up. Jill Murphy’s delightful illustrations wittily capture a night time routine and Mr Bears’ frustration at being unable to fall asleep. Children delight in the repetition within the text and the opportunity to join in with the night time noises. Highly commended for the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal.

**10**

Martin Waddell Patrick Benson, ill.

*Owl Babies*


Sarah, Percy and Bill wake up in their tree nest to find their owl mother gone. “I want my mummy” cries Bill, and Sarah and Percy do their best to comfort him and each other while waiting for their mother’s return. An excellent story that demonstrates how a book can be used to give children a way of understanding situations that might be happening to them by putting them into a different context. It helps children who may be experiencing the anxiety of first time separation from their parents due to starting nursery or school. It acknowledges the baby owls’ fears but at the same time offers reassurance and a happy ending with the return of their mum. The illustrations empathetically work with the text and further enhance the story making this a classic book to be read and re-read.
The United States members of IFLA and IBBY, represented by Barbara Genco (IFLA and YALSA, Young Adult Library Services Association) and Linda M. Pavonetti (ALSC, Association for Library Service to Children, and IBBY), created a survey for ALSC and USBBY members. The goal of our survey parallels that which members from other nations have been researching: What books do librarians believe are essential as read aloud offerings? We posted a series of questions on Survey Monkey and administered by ALSC. All members of the ALSC list serve were invited to participate. Additionally, other list serves devoted to literature for children were also provided access as were members of USBBY. Altogether, there were 171 participants. Only those books submitted through the on-line survey were counted. There were 779 individual books named, including books that were cited multiple times. Of those books, 296 titles had an unique vote and 483 were multiple-vote titles. There were comments—both informative and insightful—about most of the choices.

1

Maurice Sendak
Where the Wild Things Are

Nearing 50 years in print, Where the Wild Things Are remains one of the most enduring of American picture books. It is an irresistible and simple story: after he is sent to bed without supper for behaving like a wild thing, Max dreams of a voyage to the island where the wild things are. By journey’s end, he finds himself safe at home with his supper waiting. This book has been honored with some of the most significant awards in children’s publishing, including the 1964 Caldecott Medal. Author-Illustrator Sendak received the Hans Christian Andersen and the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award.

2

Eric Carle
The Very Hungry Caterpillar
Philomel/Penguin, 1969 • ISBN 9780399208539 hardcover (and many other editions and formats)

The Very Hungry Caterpillar follows the progress of a hungry little caterpillar as he eats his way through a varied and large quantity of food until, full at last, he forms a cocoon around himself and goes to sleep. Die-cut pages illustrate what the caterpillar ate on successive days. This book has been translated into over 50 languages and has become a favorite worldwide. Carle is the recipient of countless honors including the 2003 American Library Association Laura Ingalls Wilder Award for his entire body of work. He founded the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art http://www.carlemuseum.org
Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? has been a touchstone read-aloud for pre-school since its publication. Children see a variety of animals, each a different—and sometimes whimsical—color and finally, a teacher looking back at them. The ground-breaking approach of Martin and Carle, two picture book masters, is deceptively simple and insightful into the world of young children. Early childhood educator Martin's repetitive, clearly patterned, and predictive question-and-answer text encourages children to participate by reading along. Carle's vivid tissue paper collages are fully integrated with the text. This book never fails to engage.

George's mother is exasperated when he refuses to bark like a good little dog. George quacks. He oinks. He moos! Finally, Mama escorts George to a resourceful vet who reaches deep down inside the errant pup, and much to everyone's surprise, pulls out a cat! Then a duck, a pig, and finally a cow. Feiffer's pen and ink line drawings on pastel paper reinforce and expand the humorous text. Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist Feiffer provides one final surprise as George and his proud mother greet everyone on the street. Preschoolers (and even adults) are absolutely delighted!

The Snowy Day chronicles Peter's adventures as he explores his urban neighborhood. Peter gambols through his mysterious yet familiar snow-covered landscape experimenting with his footprints, knocking snow from a tree, and creating snow angels. Seemingly without effort, Ezra Jack Keats integrated multi-racial characters into the previously all-white world of American picture books. Keats is acclaimed for his bold and brilliant mixed media (watercolor, gouache, collage) art as well as his impassioned humanism. The Snowy Day, winner of the 1963 Caldecott Medal, thrills readers as much today as it did when it was first published.
Confronting night time fears is part of childhood as Caldecott-winning artist Emberley demonstrates in *Go Away, Big Green Monster!* Readers construct—then deconstruct—the monster starting with page one where die-cut yellow eyes on glossy black heavy-duty pages dominate. Each page turn introduces additional ‘monstrous’ attributes from a “long bluish-greenish nose” to “scraggy purple hair.” Authoritatively, the child proclaims, “YOU DON’T SCARE ME! SO GO AWAY…” Each subsequent page subtracts one of the not-so-scary features until the final, entirely black page. Emberley places control in the hands of the child-listener who states, “and DON’T COME BACK! Until I say so.”

Hand-lettered text and strong, curvilinear drawings combine to tell the story of a lonely couple, searching for a cat. On a far away hillside, the husband discovers “…hundreds of cats, thousands of cats, millions and billions and trillions of cats…” After a catastrophic catfight, the very old man and his wife are left with only an undernourished kitten that grows beautiful, nurtured by their love—a satisfying conclusion to this immensely pleasing, folk-tale inflected, story. The repetitive, rhythmic phrasing entices children to join in the telling. *Millions of Cats*, a 1929 Newbery Honor book, is considered to be one of the first modern picture books.

A peddler who balances his unusual wares on top of his head—bunches of gray, brown, blue, and red caps—must outsmart a band of mischievous monkeys that steal his caps as he naps under a tree. Exasperated when he can’t retrieve the caps, the peddler throws his own cap down. In a clever take on “monkey see, monkey do”… all the monkeys throw down their caps as well. Slobodkina, a fine artist and graphic designer, created this sure-fire read-aloud from an old folk tale and imbued the illustrations with sly humor. It has been an American picture book favorite for over 60 years.
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