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 quality of 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 Rakotalomalala, 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.

   I Trimobe sy Fara, vadiny [Trimobe and Fara, his wife]
   Tsipika, 2009 • ISBN 978 2 912290 97 7

   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.
4 Alison Jolly, Hantaminina Rasaminana • Deborah Ross, Mélanie Mcelduff, ill.  
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...

5 Razanadriaka V. Lalao-Elina • Magnolia Buisson, Patricia Ramahandry, ill.  
Ikelimahihitsy tao Ambohitsoa [Ikelimahitsy at Ambohitsoa]  
Tsipika, 2010 • ISBN 978 2 912290 98 4  

This book was chosen because it tells stories particularly 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.

6 Lucie Razafintsalama Rabenjamina • Honoré Benjamin Andrianifahanana, ill.  
Angano! Angano! Contes et Légendes de Madagascar [Tales and legends of Madagascar]  
Tsipika, 2010 • ISBN 978 2 36076 004 6  

They contain profound ideas, to entertain and captivate and show Malagasy morality and values. This book is nowadays in Malagasy and French languages.

7 Esther R. Randriamamonjy • Rainivato Rakotomalala, ill.  
Te hianatra I Bota sy Kinga [Bota and Kinga want to go to school]  
FLM, 2010 • ISBN 978 2 36076 004 6  

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.

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.