Librarians’ favourite books from their country

Edited by
Annie Everall OBE and Viviana Quiñones
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

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We are very happy to publish the first 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 online (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 coordinators 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@alanannie.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

“I am 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 Vonsina, author & illustrator of Emilija in the Land of Whirls

“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 thinking about what 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
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 le 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 ...

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 rencontrait 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 ..

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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

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

Contact: Zahia Mezaoui
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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.

Tom était le surnom d’un petit homme qui ne pouvait pas grandir (en arabe, « Touil » signifie grand). Touil était pauvre et n’avait pas de maison. Comme il offrait ses services à tout le monde, les gens lui demandaient de vivre avec eux, dans leur maison. Mais une fois son travail terminé, il reprenait sa route en jouant de sa flûte magique… À force de marcher, Touil arriva au sud, près d’un château qui abritait un riche seigneur avec sa fille, “Lumière du jour”. Une jeune fille qu’il aimait plus que tout. Mais lorsque cette dernière fut enlevée par le géant de l’assaillir, Touil n’hésita pas à la sauver…

Zimbel was a little tailor who sewed all day to earn money, but it was in vain. People laughed at him. One day, while he was walking sadly down the street, and thinking of the best clothes that he could make if he had the means, he crossed a rusty pair of scissors. So, he began to cut the grass, which turned into green silk! Amazed, he carried on with the sky, the stars… and all of them changed in one click clack…

Dans un pays merveilleux, vivait un roi qui avait eu une femme et qui ne pouvait plus satisfaire leurs besoins. Un soir, il demanda à son fils d’en aller trouver un trésor qui appartenait à son grand-père, aujourd’hui sous l’emprise d’un dragon monstre. Tout de suite, son fils prit la route sur un cheval nommé Guimar, une route semée d’obstacles…

Tom the Atom is a personnage qui, à la hauteur d’une crise existentielle, explode et libère les premières particules élémentaires. Les concepts de base abordés dans l’histoire sont explorés dans une perspective scientifique et définis de manière très simple, en les rendant accessibles aux jeunes lecteurs.
Books from Argentina

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. One and another, 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.

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 fascinating 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.

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 classic with a twist. We read it as a challenge to devour, laugh and serve us on a platter.

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Itsvansch

¿Has visto? [Have you seen?]

Ediciones del Eclipse, 2006  •  ISBN 987-901-76-7

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 ves una hoja de color, no doutes en mirarla atentamente, puede que de esa superficie – pura y en apariencia vacía – salga un mundo imenso 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.

Roberta Iannamico  •  Bianki, ill.

Nariz de higo [Fig nose]

Pequeño Editor, 2005  •  ISBN 987-602-015-3

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.

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?

Leticia Gotlibowski, ill.

La Caperucita Roja [Little Red Riding Hood]

Ediciones del Eclipse, 2006  •  ISBN 987-901-71-6

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 ambiguously. The narrative 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.

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 multivoc, volverá a escurrirse una y otra vez por entre los árboles de un verdadero bosque de símbolos. Por un lado la morada del autor y por otro la galería de la revolución. Libro fascinante, que devora en cada lectura, elementos antes no vistos y propone a partir de ellos, una nueva versión del cuento tradicional.

María Teresa Andruetto  •  Itsvansch, ill.

La dormiente [The sleeper]

Alfaguara Infantil, 2010  •  ISBN 987-917-041-546-6

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.

Esta obra mantiene la esencia del cuento de hadas, pero plantea un dilema con temas contemporáneos (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, recortes y dibujos. Sin renunciamientos estéticos planta “despertar” a una reflexión ética, para pensarnos en este mundo.

María Teresa Andruetto  •  Liliana Menéndez, ill.

El árbol de lilas [The lilac tree]

Comunicarte, 2006  •  ISBN 987-602-015-3

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.

¿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 misterio 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 abrazo, de la serenidad y delHalago de la febrícula.
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 Lalain 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 dreams 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 Lalain 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 its 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.

3. Alexandre Gbado • Claude Adjaka, ill.  
   **Je voudrais redevenir bébé [I'd like to be a baby again]**  
   A baby will be born in the compound where little Kouagou lives. The informative side of this picture book in the collection “À la découverte de la vie” (Discovering life) is discreet here, 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.

4. 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).

5. 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 and just words 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, Yayi Boni), a president much concerned about public education.

Bonifatou “bôn” en langue bariba, est né sous une bonne étoile. Destiné à devenir cultivateur, il travaille effectivement très bien au champ. Mais une seule et unique idée occupe son esprit : aller à l’école. Et il décide de réaliser son rêve... Le lecteur suit cette petite vie s’épanouissant au fil des pages, à travers des mots simples et justes et de belles aquarelles lumineuses. Le temps de la narration accélère brusquement à la fin du livre et on retrouve Boni, adulte, devenu banquier, puis président de la République du Bénin (le président actuel du Bénin s’appelle en effet Yayi Boni), un président très soucieux de l’instruction publique.
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.

Le Pipi rouge [Red pee-pee]


“Enfant et santé” (Child and Health): small picture books using a story happening in children’s daily life, to give information on health issues.


Le Caïman sacré [The Sacred Caiman]

Georges O.J.R. Bada, ill. Hector D. Sonon, ill.

La Statuette sacrée [The Sacred Statuette]


Le Caiman sacré [The Sacred Cayman]

All book reviews are adapted from those published in the journal Takam Tikou, http://takamtkou.bnf.fr

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 her on 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).

Titi a encore mouillé ses draps… Sa mère n’est pas contente, les enfants du quartier la poursuivent et lui attachent une cordelette avec trois grenouilles… La nuit tombée, Bibi Rikiki le monstre-grenouille se faufile dans la chambre de Titi et essaie de lui mettre le masque qui lui volera ses rêves. Titi a si peur que ses draps se mouillent, la chambre se remplit d’eau et le monstre disparaît dans l’eau. Un texte simple, vivant, et des illustrations colorées et expressives par un auteur et un illustrateur togolais. Texte en français et en éwe, langue parlée au Bénin, au Togo, en Côte-d’Ivoire et au Ghana. Des dizaines de livres de jeunesse dans différentes langues africaines dans la collection Contes des quatre vents.

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.

Le motocycliste / La moto de l’oncle Assa (bilingual French – Ewe) [Titi la fontaine / Titi a ñu ñogo (bilingual French – Ewe)]

Gustave Akakpo • Kudzovì B. Norbert Kokoroko, ill.


Askanda Bachabi

Le Pipi rouge [Red pee-pee]


Because King Akuumu 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 crossing will be possible thanks to a miraculous crossing will be possible thanks to a miraculous…

Le Caïman sacré [The Sacred Caiman]

Grand-mère Nanan by Véronique Tadjo.

Takam Tikou

http://takamtkou.bnf.fr
This selection made by FNLIJ, 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 FNLIJ’s official recognition by means of the FNLIJ Award or the FNLIJ 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 FNLIJ Children Award in 1994.


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 2006, Bartolomeu won the IV Premio Ibero-americano SM de Literatura Infantil y Juvenil.


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.


This is a classical Brazilian album that speaks of affection between father and son. Originally published in 1966, 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.

Contact: Elizabeth Serra fnlij@fnlij.org.br

Ana Maria Machado • Claudius, ill. 
*Menina bonita do laço de fita [Pretty girl with ribbon trap]*

Winner of the Hans Christian Andersen award in 2000, Ana Maria Machado tells us the story of a white rabbit who finds the rabbit’s girl’s dark skin most beautiful. 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. 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 1995; Colômbia’s Fundalectura Highly Recommendable, and ALIA/ 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 FNLJ 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.

Ziraldo Malan, Brazil’s grand artist, 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, insisting 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.


Ruth Rocha • Carlos Briito, ill. 
*O que os olhos não vêem [What the eyes don’t see]*

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 aids 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 Briito’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 1984, it was awarded FNLJ’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 1984, was launched in the final moments of the dictatorship in this country, which officially extended until 1985. In 2002, she was nominated by FNLJ for IBBY’s HCA Award.

Little Pedro is a boy who happens to be changed 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 2009, the book was awarded FNLJ’s Children Award. In 2005, it was included in the White Ravens catalog of Munich’s International Library.

Odilon Moraes
*Pedro e lua [Peter and the moon]*
Cosac Naify, 2004 • ISBN 8575033387

Little Pedro is a boy who happens to be changed 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 2009, the book was awarded FNLJ’s Children Award. In 2005, it was included in the White Ravens catalog of Munich’s International Library.

O menino Pedro é encantado pela lua, até que descobre que as pedras que encontra são fragmentos lunares. Pedro, que significa “pedra”, sente pena das pedras, achando que elas devem sentir saudades de casa. Uma tartaruga atravessa seu caminho e pela semelhança de seu casco com o atoleiro, o menino a chama Lua. Uma amizade forte e bonita se estabelece entre os dois. Lua não suporta ficar longe do Pedro. Neste livro que fala da amizade e da morte, Odilon Moraes consegue harmonizar texto e belas imagens em preto e branco, proporcionando à obra um tom delicadamente poético. Em 2005, este livro ganhou o prêmio FNLJ Criança. Em 2009, a obra fez parte do catálogo White Ravens, da Biblioteca Internacional de Mulhouse.
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—FNULJ’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 FNULJ prize. In that same year, it was given another one in the BIB (Bratislava Biennial of Illustration), in former Czechoslovakia, currently the Czech Republic.

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 FNULJ, which gave the book the Highly Recommendable label in 2003 in the Children Category.

**Books from Cameroon**

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 Balie, Institut français, Douala; Charles Kamdem Pogehla, CLAC, Yaoundé; Bernadette Maurice, Lucioles, Yaoundé; Joséphine Mbouka, 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], Mattiké, Bella fait la classe [Bella teaches lessons]...


“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.

2. **Ernest Mbanji Bawe** **Nfo: L’enfant qui n’en fait qu’à sa tête [Nfo, the boy that does as he pleases]** Clr, 1999 • ISBN 2-7035-0400-3

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, lively 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 parlantes, au charme singulier: on a plaisir à découvrir un cadre de vie camerounais.
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.

**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? wonders 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.

**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 are a bit stiff, character's faces are expressive and landscape, rendered with poetry.

**Petit Hippo et son stylo magique [Little Hippo and his magic pen]**


When you know all, you are afraid of nothing: this is what little Mariétou believes. Bold, brave, she's always the first to go out of 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 [Into the water, Mariétou] (ISBN 978-2-7320-3907-7) 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 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.

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

If ever you visit a town called Cataplun and see knives as Ata does? They always tell him: “Now have a couch like his couch, or cook with sharp knives as Ata or have a couch like his couch, or cook with sharp knives as Abo does? They always tell him: “Now have a couch like his couch, or cook with sharp knives as Abo does?” Abo shows him how the adult’s world is. Then Abo comforts him and until this time arrives, he wonders when it will happen. “As time passes”, Abocomforts 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 he had an idea: to write her letters to express her feelings and thoughts. Her father knows how to share with children living the game as their greatest adventure. The illustration line reflects the world through picture books • books from colombia •

**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.

**Hamamelis, Miosotis y el señor Sorpresa [Hamamelis, Miosotis and Mister Surprise]**  

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 (or 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.

**Hamamelis y el secreto [Hamamelis and the secret]**  

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!

**¡No, no fui yo! [No, it wasn’t me]!**  

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.

**Chigüiro Abo y Ata [Chigüiro, Abo and Ata]**  

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”, Abocomforts 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. Deadly, 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.

Eusebio’s Stories, which include Birthday cake and I’m afraid.

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. Autors of a childlike presentaču svoju junakinju, ovcu Emiliju, i njenu štorninu obitelj. Ova Emilija voli jesti, raste i jednoga dana otkuca da se može reći već. Upravo zbog svoje tvrdoglavosti doživljava pravu pustolovinu. Održava ošudio u obliku štornine, uzima svoju najdražu igračku i odlazi. Samostalna štornina počne vezati, na uzbuđeno Ovčića. Emilijina omljena igračka, igračka kotačić. Petnoga za igračkom odvodi Emiliju u dobrovremenu zemlju kotača. Tekst slikovnice jednostavan je i kratak, prikladan za djecu koja tek pokusava samostalno čitati. Ilustracije se staja u tekstom, te izražavaju motive koji nisu uvijek izraženi riječima.

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 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.
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 is fishing. Of course, there are different perceptions are intertwined through some fun, joy and gladness, Dad is not always amused. However, the child 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] Leykam-internacional, 2009 • ISBN 978-953-7534-36-3

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 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, 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 characters 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.

Svetljan Junaković
Knjiga ćarobnih formula [The book of the magic formula]
Sipar, 1999 • ISBN 953-645-20-8

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.
Gospodin Otto i stari naslonjači [Mr. Otto and old armchairs]

Otto i njegova kuća dok radi. Kada se stari majstor i mala susjeda nade, te je ubrzo voda u njegovu zdencu kristalno čista i posebna okusa.

Čudna vodenjaka.

Sonja Zubović • Marijana Jelić, ill.
Čudesna kuharica Liza Brižila [The amazing cook-book of Liza Brijiza]

Published by the author, 2010 • ISBN: 978-953-56354-0-6

Svi znaju kako su najljepša sjećanja vezana uz prijehod priča, ukuca hranu i miris koji se širi iz mame ili bakine kuharije. Najdašnji trenutci su provedeni s onima koje volimo, a danas je važno živeti i savršenost raznog jeta, a čudesna kuharica Liza Brižila svajom jedinstavnim, domaćim receptima i stihovima potiče djece i roditelje na uživanje u zajedničkom spravljanju jela i čitanju poređe. Tako je i ugođio još samo u onim domovima gdje se uživalo često druže za stolom.

Želimir Hercigonja • Marsela Hajdinjak-Kreč, ill.
Vodenjak i stara kruška [Water-sprite and the old pear tree]


U onima domovima gdje se uživalo često druže za stolom.

36

The World Through Picture Books • Books from Croatia

37

The World Through Picture Books • Books from Croatia
Denmark

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 through picture books is a classic and still read aloud to Danish children. For 3-6 year-olds.

3. Mette Moestrup
   **Hvad siger sneugleungen Ulla?** [What does Ulla, the young snowy owl say?]
   Gyldendal, 2009 • ISBN 978-87-02-07096-7

   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 year-olds.

4. Bente Olesen Nyström
   **En tur med hunden** [A walk with the dog]
   Gyldendal, 2011 • ISBN 978-87-02-08547-1

   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.

5. Kim Fupz Aakeson
   **Mette-Kirstine Bak, ill.
   Mor** [Mom]

   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 Mor and her boy who is so embarrassed, so embarrassed by his fat mother are spread over the pages with loving hand by illustrator Mette Kirstine Bak. The 1999 Cultural Ministry Illustrator Award. For 8 year-olds and older.

Contact: Kirsten Boelt
kbt-kultur@aalborg.dk

ISBN 978-87-02-08547-1

The book is a classic and still read aloud to Danish children. For 3-6 year-olds.

For 2-4 årige.

For 3-6 årige.

For 4-7 årige.


ISBN 978-87-02-02384-9

For 8 år og op.
Høst, 2010
Marias dukke [Maria’s doll]
Morten Dürr
illustrator af dette billede har vundet Kulturministeriets Illustratorpris for sin humoristiske tegninger, som subjektive og simpelt beskriver, hvordan hun mor ikke troede på en krokodille, som ikke kunne lave noget förre. For 4-6 år-ige.

Sebastians monster [Sebastian’s monster]
Martin Glanz Serup
illustrator af dette billede har vundet Kulturministeriets Illustratorpris for sin humoristiske tegninger, som subjektive og simpelt beskriver, hvordan hun mor ikke troede på en krokodille, som ikke kunne lave noget førre. For 4-6 år-ige.

Finn Herman from 2000 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 his humorous drawings that subtly and simply describe how her mother did not believe that the crocodile can do no wrong. For 6-10 år-ige.

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 there’s just one problem: Little frog is very, very bad. He ends up being sent to specialists and he doesn’t do anything ... with Little frog, 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 his humorous drawings that subtly and simply describe how her mother did not believe that the crocodile can do no wrong. For 6-10 år-ige.

The book is a series of vivid and grandiose 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 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 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 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.
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

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.

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]
Otava (joint ed.), 1996

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.

Haukasti ja humoristisesti yksityiskohtaisesti kuvattuja tarinoita perinteisestä elämäntavasta Suomen maanvallassa reilut sata vuotta sitten. Käännökset: englanti

3  Aino Havukainen  •  Sami Tolvonen
Tatun ja Patun Suomi [This is Finland]
Otava, 2007

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  Olli Tanninen
Hippu [Nugget]
Otava, 1967, 2009

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.

Translations: Finnish, English.

5  Maikki Harjanne
Minntu- ja Vanttu-kirjat [Minntu and Vanttu series]

e.g. Mintun ja Vantun matka [Minntu 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 Majala, ill.
Sylvi Kepposen pitkä päivä [The long day of Sylvia Prankster]
Otava, 2008

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.

Translations: Finnish, Swedish.

Contact: Ulla Potsonen
ulla.potsonen@gmail.com
7 Sinikka Nopola and Tiina Nopola • Markus Majaluoma, ill.  
**Rauhallinen Erkki [The calm Eric]**  
Tammi, 2001

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.

8 Kristiina Louhi  
**Tomppa-kirjat [Tomppa series]**  
e.g.**Missä Tomppa? [Where’s Tomppa?]**  
Tammi, 2008

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.

8 Tove Appelgren • Tittamari Marttinen, ill.  
**Vesta-Linneas svartaste tanke [Vesta-Linnea down in the dumps]**  
Tammi, 2008

The ups and downs of a big family.

10 Annukka Aikio and Samuli Aikio • Mika Launis, ill.  
**Tyttö joka muuttui kultaiseksi koskeloksi [The girl who transformed into a gooseanser]**  
WSOY (2nd ed.), 2010


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**Books from France**

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!

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 Hiversère’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.

Contact: Nathalie Beau  
nathalie.beau@bnf.fr
3 Jean de Brunhoff
Histoire de Babar : le petit éléphant [The Story of Babar the little elephant]


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

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.

5 Tomi Ungerer
Les Trois brigands [The Three Robbers]

Une histoire parodique comme les aime Ungerer, soutenue par une illustration étonnante et magistralement efficace. Elle raconte l’histoire de la vie de trois aventuriers qui, après avoir dû se battre pour la survie, deviennent des benefactors of orphans.

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 badly 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.

7 Pierre Delve • Martine Bourre, ill.
Le p’tit bonhomme des bois [The Little Man of the woods]

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 revisited.

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

A cake cooking 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! A classic of Père Castor Books, published in 1930 and still making children happy.

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.

10 Nadja
Chien bleu [Blue Dog]

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 panthère noire, who is like a bear, a wolf, the panthère noire, but it is eaten by the badger, then the fox, then the wolf, then the bear. The typography is cleverly used in this classic story nicely revisited.

The beau travail de collage de Martine Bourre, avec ses effets de matière, est parfaitement adapté à cette rondeur préstine 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 loup, puis par le loup, puis par l’ours. Les yeux de l’ours servent intelligemment cette histoire classique mais bien joliment renouvelée. Succès garanti avec les petits.
Books from Germany

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 Erbrich, 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—PLDD! 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]
   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.

3. Helme Heine Freunde [Friends]
   Beltz & Gelberg, 2008 • ISBN 978-3-407-71024-0
   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.

4. Nadja Budde Einszweidrei Tier [One two three me]
   Hammer, 2000 • ISBN 978-3-87394-827-4
   Did you ever notice that juice rhymes with moose? Or that pale rhymes with whale? Eye-catching, funky art and unexpected rhymes come together in this little book to show just how silly everyday words can be. Kids will crack up at the outrageous cartoon illustrations—a roach in a shower cap? A boar wearing lederhosen? Read the simple, wacky text aloud, and what seems to be random words suddenly take on a clever rhythm and pattern all their own. What could be more fun than nonsense and concepts rolled into one?

5. Jutta Bauer Die Königin der Farben [The Queen of Colours]
   Beltz & Gelberg, 2009 • ISBN 978-3-407-79221-1
   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.

6. Janosch Oh, wie schön ist Panama [The trip to Panama]
   Beltz & Gelberg, 2007 • ISBN 978-3-407-80533-1
   Did you ever notice that juice rhymes with moose? Or that pale rhymes with whale? Eye-catching, funky art and unexpected rhymes come together in this little book to show just how silly everyday words can be. Kids will crack up at the outrageous cartoon illustrations—a roach in a shower cap? A boar wearing lederhosen? Read the simple, wacky text aloud, and what seems to be random words suddenly take on a clever rhythm and pattern all their own. What could be more fun than nonsense and concepts rolled into one?

Contact: Kerstin Keller Loibl loibl@fbm.htwk-leipzig.de


Zwei Freunde brechen auf zu einer Reise in das Land ihrer Träume. Geeignet ab 4 Jahren.
7 Philip Wächter
Ich [Me]
Beltz & Gelberg, 2009 • ISBN 978-3-407-79404-8
Bears have more than a passing resemblance to humans. Especially this bear, who takes pleasure in the little things in life, and, of course, the big things as well. He is generous to a fault, and if we are to take his word for it, a rather clever fellow. But, like many of us, even our bear has days when he feels dreadfully alone... Fortunately, he knows exactly what to do about it.

8 Jakob Grimm, Wilhelm Grimm • Nikolaus Heidelbach
Märchen der Brüder Grimm [Fairy tales by Brothers Grimm]
A family collection of 101 fairy tales by the Brothers Grimm, insightfully illustrated by Nikolaus Heidelbach. Recommended for ages 10 and over.

9 Peter Schössow
Gehört das so??! [Is that right? – The story of Elvis / Can it be?]
Hanser, 2008 • ISBN 978-3-446-20563-5
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 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 Elvisses will meet in heaven...

10 Quint Buchholz
Schlaf gut, kleiner Bär [Sleep well, little bear]
Sauerländer, 2007 • ISBN 978-3-7941-3666-7
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.


Obwohl der kleine Bär eine lange gute-Nacht-Geschichte gehört und seine 5 Küsschen bekommen hat, kann er immer noch nicht einschlafen... Geeignet ab 3 Jahren. Auswahlliste Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis 1994.

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.

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), the spider (Le Drollé de festin de Commère Tartignolle) or Anansi the Spiderman (Les 7 doins d’Anansi). Pour in a good measure of feelings, love (L’Anoli amoureux), anger (Frogolo et Marcello). Add a zest of humour (Rosalie et Ti Zandoli, Le Drollé de festin de Commère Tartignolle), a snatch of the fantastic (Lowitt la grenouille qui danse, Les Longues nattes de Poétique), a pinch of popular song (Frogolo et Marcello). Blend it all with superb illustrations made by new talents (Danielle Monsoro, Doumy 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.
Laure Galvani
*Toc, toc, toc! C’est Manioc [Knock, knock, knock! It’s Manioc]*

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 • Doumyer Durieux, ill. • Max Rippon transl. into Creole
*Zandoli mandé mayé = L’Anoli amoureux [The Anoli in love]*

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.

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 folklore. It tells 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.

Nicole Noizet • Javie Munoz, ill.
*Les Œufs de Man Firman [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 élever et nourrir, and voilà que sa poule pondeuse a disparu… Qu’à cela ne tienne, elle va couver elle-même les œufs! C’est la situation, tendresse et solidarité au quotidien que raconte cette histoire. Les illustrations chauves en pastel gras marquent ces pages aux illustrations chaudes.
1 **Books from Haiti**

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’Haiti and the person in charge of the Digital library of the Université d’État d’Haiti, 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’Haiti, currently Library Assistant at Little River Library, Miami-Dade Public Library System, USA.

2 **Clélie Aupont • Rodchield Lamothe, ill.**

**Drôle de Ratutu!**


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 lessons, with rats using their wits to escape. The author is known for her writing on the role of colour 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, she market, the celebrations... Lots of fun at the expense of poor Bouqui!


ISBN 978-99935-9590-8

Rodchield Lamothe, ill.

Chevelin Djasmy Pierre, ill.

Editha 2011

Odette Roy Fombrun raconte Bouqui et Malice

[Odette Roy Fombrun tells Bouqui and Malice]

[Drôle de Ratutu!]

Bouqui 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, she market, the celebrations... Lots of fun at the expense of poor Bouqui!

Bouqui and Malice, l’oncle un peu naïf et le neveu rusé, ont de sérieux doutes sur les chats du voisinage. Un jour, un jeune couple de rats rentre du mariage avec un bébé, Ratutu, qui n’est pas comme les autres petits rats. Ses parents le cachent sous un grand chapeau – comment fait-on ! – et lui coupent les poils. Mais, au bout du compte, l’histoire se révèle et les chats et les rats vont vivre ensemble… Une histoire qui convient.

Odette Roy Fombrun

Chevelin Djasmy Pierre


ISBN 978-99935-9590-8

3 **Marie Poirier • Michelle Chomereau-Lamotte, ill.**

**Les Longues nattes de Poétika**

PLB Éditions, 2001

ISBN 2-912300-24-X

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... Poétika has braided hair as well, and her wishes become true! It is also a kind of initiatory tale. When the time comes to have hair cut, Poétika will enter the adult world... Will she lose her powers then?

ISBN 2-912584-54-5

Poétika rentrera dans le monde des adultes.

Éditions Jasor, 2009


4 **Clélie Aupont • Rodchield Lamothe, ill.**

**Drôle de Ratutu!**


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Odette Roy Fombrun

Chevelin Djasmy Pierre


ISBN 978-99935-9590-8

5 **Michèle Chomereau-Lamotte, ill.**

**Le Drôle de festin de commère Tartignolle**


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... Poétika has braided hair as well, and her wishes become true! It is also a kind of initiatory tale. When the time comes to have hair cut, Poétika will enter the adult world... Will she lose her powers then?

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6 **Clélie Aupont • Rodchield Lamothe, ill.**

**Drôle de Ratutu!**


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 lessons, with rats using their wits to escape. The author is known for her writing on the role of colour 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, she market, the celebrations... Lots of fun at the expense of poor Bouqui!


ISBN 978-99935-9590-8

Rodchield Lamothe, ill.

Chevelin Djasmy Pierre, ill.

Editha 2011

Odette Roy Fombrun raconte Bouqui et Malice

[Odette Roy Fombrun tells Bouqui and Malice]

[Drôle de Ratutu!]

Bouqui 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, she market, the celebrations... Lots of fun at the expense of poor Bouqui!

Bouqui and Malice, l’oncle un peu naïf et le neveu rusé, ont de sérieux doutes sur les chats du voisinage. Un jour, un jeune couple de rats rentre du mariage avec un bébé, Ratutu, qui n’est pas comme les autres petits rats. Ses parents le cachent sous un grand chapeau – comment fait-on ! – et lui coupent les poils. Mais, au bout du compte, l’histoire se révèle et les chats et les rats vont vivre ensemble… Une histoire qui convient.
Bénisoit en vacances

Bénisoit en vacances is a book written by Marlène Étienne and illustrated by Chevelin Djasmy Pierre. It is a children's book that tells the story of Bénisoit, the donkey, who is the hero of several amusing stories. In this book, Bénisoit goes with the children to the boat that will take them to Gonâve Island for their holidays. But Bénisoit intends to go on holidays too. He jumps on board and does one silly thing after the other. 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 famous Michael's style, are irresistibly funny.

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 (2003); Bénisoit à Miami (2003); Bénisoit et le père Noël (2008).

La Folle poursuite

La Folle poursuite, also known as The Wild Chase, is a book written by Marlène Étienne and illustrated by Ilona Armand. It is a children's book that tells the story of a very close relationship between two children, Christo and Tatézoflambo. Christo and Tatézoflambo are best friends and they are always together, doing everything together.

One day, Christo and Tatézoflambo decide to go on a wild chase to catch a very important event. They set out on their adventure, with Christo's big sister's surveillance, and Tatézoflambo, who is always on the lookout for trouble, is right behind them.

During their journey, they meet a beautiful old woman who invites them to her house. The children are surprised by the old woman's hospitality and they quickly forget it. Sito, the youngest child, is greeted by the old woman who asks him to help her with some household chores.

While they are working, the children start to feel very tired and they decide to take a nap. Christo, who is always up for a challenge, decides to try to wake up the old woman. However, when he tries to do so, he ends up falling asleep himself.

When the old woman wakes up, she is surprised to see Christo asleep and she decides to take care of him. She makes him a delicious breakfast and he falls in love with the old woman's hospitality. They spend the rest of the day together and Christo learns an important life lesson about the value of hard work and loyalty.

La Folle poursuite is an adventure story full of humor and heartwarming moments. It is a great book for children who love adventure and friendship stories.

Le Loup et l'agneau

Le Loup et l'agneau is a book written by Marlène Étienne and illustrated by Maël Fouchard. It is a children's book that tells the story of a very close relationship between two children, Christo and Tatézoflambo. Christo and Tatézoflambo are best friends and they are always together, doing everything together.

One day, Christo and Tatézoflambo decide to go on a wild chase to catch a very important event. They set out on their adventure, with Christo's big sister's surveillance, and Tatézoflambo, who is always on the lookout for trouble, is right behind them.

During their journey, they meet a beautiful old woman who invites them to her house. The children are surprised by the old woman's hospitality and they quickly forget it. Sito, the youngest child, is greeted by the old woman who asks him to help her with some household chores.

While they are working, the children start to feel very tired and they decide to take a nap. Christo, who is always up for a challenge, decides to try to wake up the old woman. However, when he tries to do so, he ends up falling asleep himself.

When the old woman wakes up, she is surprised to see Christo asleep and she decides to take care of him. She makes him a delicious breakfast and he falls in love with the old woman's hospitality. They spend the rest of the day together and Christo learns an important life lesson about the value of hard work and loyalty.

Le Loup et l'agneau is an adventure story full of humor and heartwarming moments. It is a great book for children who love adventure and friendship stories.
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.


All book reviews are adapted from those published in the journal Takam Tikou, http://takamtikou.bnf.fr

Books from India

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 15000 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, Telugu, Urdu

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

Contact: Sushma Arora
sushekher@gmail.com
3 Shankar  •  Pulak Biswas, ill.
Mother is Mother
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.

4 Lois Hamilton Fuller  •  Anil Vyas, ill.
Little Tiger Big Tiger
Children’s Book Trust  •  ISBN 81-7011-058-8
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.

5 Santhini Govindan  •  Saurabh Pandey, ill.
Counting Clouds
Children’s Book Trust, 2009  •  ISBN 81-7011-982-0
This concept book, besides telling them how rain is formed, teaches children to count.
Available also in Hindi.

6 Devika Rangachari  •  Sanjay Sarkar, ill.
Colours in My World
ISBN 978-93-80076-16-4
The varied images and simple text lures children to relate to the array of colours around them.
Available also in Hindi.

7 Benita Sen  •  Saurabh Pandey, ill.
Oly and Owly
Owly, the little owl, and Oly, the little girl, want to meet each other. But how?
Available also in Hindi, Kannada, Tamil, Telgu.

8 Asha Nehemiah  •  Subir Roy, ill.
Little Tiger Big Tiger
Children’s Book Trust, 1999  •  ISBN 81-7011-846-8
Ramu and Kamala are off to see the circus in their father’s tractor when the wheel rolls away!
Available also in Hindi, Bengali.

9 Navin Menon  •  Viky Arya, ill.
Balloons For Me
A little boy buys a balloon and plays all kinds of games with it.
Available also in Hindi, Kannada, Tamil, Telgu.

10 Sigrun Srivastava  •  Subir Roy, ill.
All Fools’ Day
Topsy-turvy adventures of a little girl on a topsy-turvy April Fools’ Day!
Available also in Hindi.
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 will readily participate and enjoy it.

Eriko Kishida • Chiyoko Nakatani, ill. [Animal Tails]
Fukuinkan Shoten, 1969 • ISBN 4-8340-0315-9

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.

Rieko Nakagawa & Yuriko Omura ぐりとぐら [Guri and Gura]
Fukuinkan Shoten, 1967 • ISBN 4-8340-0082-6

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.

Satoshi Kako だるまちゃんとてんぐちゃん [Little Daruma and Little Tengu]

This book clearly represents the psychological 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.

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

Noboru Baba 11ぴきのねこ [Eleven Hungry Cats]
Koguma Publishing, 1967 • ISBN 4-8340-0081-8

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.

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 will readily participate and enjoy it.

Ken Kawata • Masayuki Yabuuchi, ill. [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. Rhythmic 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.

動物園のかばの一日を、遊びに行った男の子がかばに語りかける形で書いている。リズミカルな音は興味深い心に通じる。かばの大きさをうまく印象付ける図柄や、布地を生かし、かばの重さ感や質感を通じて総合美が魅力的である。

Kazuko Yoda
Contact: Kazuko Yoda
k.yodaas@gmail.com
6 Masamoto Nasu • Shigeo Nishimura, ill.  
絵で読む広島の原爆
[Hiroshima: a tragedy never to be repeated]
Fukuinkan Shoten, 1995 • ISBN 4-8340-1265-4

この多冊多の物語は、8月6日の原爆投下を、観る者に広島の被爆状況を現実の視点で再現し、被爆体験者の証言を積み重ねて、当時の人々の被爆体験を再現している。記述は個々の被爆体験者の証言を基に、被爆体験者の感情を、鳥瞰の手法で再現している。巻末に、50年が経たに平和関連年表や18枚の画面について、詳しい解説がある。

A chronological table of peace related matters and detailed explanations of the 18 pictures attached at the back of the book are included.

7 Miyoko Matsutani • Yasuo Segawa, ill.  
やまんばのにしき  
[The Witch's Magic Cloth]

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 journey, were frightened when the witch asked them to bring rice cakes to the witch. During the journey, the young men were scared 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 village people 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.

8 Tadashi Matsui • Suekiichi Akaba, ill.  
くりつとおとく  
[Oniroku and the Carpenter]
Fukuinkan Shoten, 1986 • ISBN 4-8340-0083-8

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.

9 Akiko Hayashi  
おつきさまこはらん  
[Good evening, dear moon]
Fukuinkan Shoten, 1986 • ISBN 4-8340-0687-5

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 greating 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 tones. Each illustration in this handy, square format abundantly describes the gentle atmosphere of the night.

10 Minami Nishiiuchi • Seiichi Horiiuchi, ill.  
ぐるんぱのようえん  
[Grumpa's Kindergarten]
Fukuinkan Shoten, 1986 • ISBN 4-8340-0085-0

Grumpa, the young elephant, was ordered to start work. He went to work for a biscuit maker, a shoe 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.

日本の昔話絵本。鬼のいたい大工が為された作品には宇宙に懸けられるよう願われる。大大工が見なが ら考えていると、鬼の口から現れる。鬼は、 大工が目をこぼし棒を問い合わせてよいといい。あ といういう鬼田をかすめて、大大工大目をと らせてこれを助け、鬼は自分の名前を当て らせてくる。という。グリム昔話の「ルンペル スティルツヘン」に似た話。子どもは鬼と大 工のやりとりをきのこきながら楽しむ。日本 画の技法を生かした絵が、お話の雰囲気あっ ている。
Books from Republic of Korea

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
   *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. There are many things around the little girl’s house that a student would hold on a rainy day. There is no text in this book, but it talks about the beauty of a rainy day. In 2002, the New York Times selected it as the "A Book of the Year" in the world through picture books. It is written without words. It is written without words.

2. Jae Soo Ryu
   *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 16 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’.

3. Hee Kyung Kim
   *A House of the Mind: MAUM*

   Miss Ji Eun Kim, a notable Korean children’s literature author finally selected 10 titles from the ‘Books from Korea’ 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.

   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 text and images. In addition to the self-reflective text by Kim Hee-kyung, Polish artist Ivona Chmielewska illustrated the book 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 "a short elegant poem," and imbued with "a vision of the world."

4. Yoon Duck Kwon
   *Man-Hui’s Home*

   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 like home for granted, readers will realize the most essential embodiment of life is ‘home’.

5. Hyunjoo Bae
   *New Clothes for New Year’s Day*

   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 fuzzy 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.
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 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 paintings, chest inlaid with mother of pearl, embroidery, quilting and so on.

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 old woman makes another pot of red bean porridge. The tiger eats it all and leaves. One day, the tiger appears before the old woman again and this time she makes a big pot of red bean porridge. The tiger eats it all and says, "I will not eat you anymore."

Gim plum, elephant grass, and ginseng are three friends of the old woman. They help her collect ten symbols of longevity which include the sun, mountains, clouds, and so on. As they collect these symbols, they meet with many obstacles. However, they overcome them and the old woman makes ten bowls of red bean porridge. The tiger gives each of the three friends a bowl of red bean porridge. They make a big pot of red bean porridge and everyone eats it. The story ends with the old woman and the three friends celebrating the festival of longevity.

Dae In Cho • Sook Hee Choi

Samsung Press, 1997


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 old woman makes another pot of red bean porridge. The tiger eats it all and leaves. One day, the tiger appears before the old woman again and this time she makes a big pot of red bean porridge. The tiger eats it all and says, "I will not eat you anymore."

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Books from Lebanon

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.
   * لم اكن اقصد [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 [Ouch my leg]*
   Dar al-ilm Umalayin, 2006 • ISBN 9953613762
   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 [Nora and her History]*
   Assala, 2008 • ISBN 9789953488828
   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 [The Moon and the bird]*
   Dar Onboz, 2006 • ISBN 9953466507
   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 • Samir Ziadeh, ill.
   * العملاق العملاق [The great giant]*
   Turning point, 2005 • ISBN 9953000024
   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 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 الكوزي [The History of zucchini]*
   Ouissama 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.
Samah Idriss • Omar Elkhoury, ill.

Al-maja’ [The Vault]
Dar al-adab li-sighar, 2005 • no ISBN

Mazen tells his life and the lives of his neighbors during the Lebanese civil war. Their hiding place, its organization and how they shared responsibilities. He also talks about his first love, during the war.

Nazeck Saba Yared

Fi zel al-Kala’ [In the shadow of the citadel]
Dar al Kitab al Alami, 2004 • ISBN 1552060705

Having lost her parents in an accident, Nada lives with her old aunt. She seeks to help her but it’s very hard for a young girl of her age. An uncle living in America comes to rescue the family but Nada refuses to leave Lebanon.

Nabiha Mihaydli • Loujaina Al Assil, ill.

غسان أمي هي المؤلف [Ghassan, my mother, is the author]
Dar al-hadaeq, 2006 • ISBN 9953464014

How to write a book? Ghassan’s mother is a writer, she tells him how to make books, from the idea until the printing.

10

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.

Razanadirika Voloilomampica 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.


Tsy mitsahatra ny manontany sakafoy hehahina fiano i Trimobe. Notampiny nehaniky dotoho ny vorona sy ny kisoa tao an'ireo. Fari ny misy dia nitaraka hevitra i Fara hiasana aminy...
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 “Ambohitoa”, 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 is 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.

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...

The Sifaka is as intelligent as he is cute. Sifaka can make words, using its voice in different ways of living, in town and in the countryside. So parents have to send their children to study in town. Most of Malagasy localities or regions have still a lack of infrastructure. So many young Malagasy children. These books are simple to read and to be understood and deserve this for young Malagasy children. These books are “large”) The author published many books like this for young Malagasy children. These books are

This book is about the world of Malagasy landscapes where we can see the endemic plant Ravinala, also representing in one of Malagasy landscapes where we can see

So many 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 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”)

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This book is about the world of Malagasy landscapes where we can see the endemic plant Ravinala, also representing in one of Malagasy landscapes where we can see
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.

Mitantara ny fiainan'i Haja sy Hasina ny boky. Milalao eo anaránàna marestèka ízy manadany kely ary niandrasa tamin'ny famihana ny voninkazo.

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

They play in the garden every morning.

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Moussa Konaté, Aly Zoromé, ill.

Tombouctou [Timbuktu]

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.

Sarraounia, la reine magicienne du Niger [Sarraounia, Niger’s magician Queen]

6

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. Tombouctou démarre avec une carte et quelques rappels historiques sur cette cité du désert, connue du monde entier dès le xivème siècle. Une place très abondante est donnée à l’illustration, pleine de détails significativement repris par un texte très simple qui invite, dans une démarche pédagogique directe, à observer ce qui dit l’image et à l’expliciter. Architecture, savoir-faire, fêtes, sécheresse... Passé et présent se relient tout naturellement.

4

The beautiful yellow shades of the cover make 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

The story is told in French and in Bambara in the accompanying audio cassette.

8

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.

5

Le Pays Dogon

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 conquests. Good illustrations and some historical information complete this portrait of a great heroine of Niger. Published in the “lucky” series of biographies of Black outstanding figures.

6

A la portée des jeunes enfants, simplement racontée, la vie de la belle Sarraounia née au Niger à la fin du xixe siècle. FILLE du roi d’une peuple d’origine haoussa, très tôt initiée à la magie et au maniement des armes de chasse et de guerre, elle est reconnue dans des conflits avec ses voisins comme une redoutable guerrière, mais surtout elle s’illustrera dans la résistance au conquérant européen. Une belle illustration bien suivi par la mise en page et quelques repères historiques complet ce portrait d’une grande héroïne du Niger. Ce livre fait partie de la collection “Lucy” de biographies de personnages du monde noir.

7

The protective and affectionate relationship between a young boy and his toddler brother.

6

La Princesse capricieuse [The Capricious Princess]

Balani, 2006

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.

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Ousmane Diarra – Massaré Tounkara, ill.

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The protective and affectionate relationship between a young boy and his toddler brother.

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La relation protectrice et affectueuse d’un garçonnet enveloppé d’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 travaille bien au-delà du langage. Et à grandir, toutefois, 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 de deux enfants et un message touchant et plein de vitalité. Dommage pour les petits problèmes de ponctuation et d’orthographe...

9

Moulaye et Zakaria Traoré – Nafoogo Coubilba, ill. – Ismaila Samba Traoré, adapt.

Nabi mon frère


The protective and affectionate relationship between a young boy and his toddler brother.

6

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9


Little Chicken wants... to grow up

Dony, 2009 – ISBN 99952-0-048-0

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

7

La protection et l’amour de la mère envers son 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 travaille bien au-delà du langage. Et à grandir, toutefois, 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 de deux enfants et un message touchant et plein de vitalité. Dommage pour les petits problèmes de ponctuation et d’orthographe...

9

All book reviews are adapted from those published in the journal Takam Tikou, http://takamtikou.br.net
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 9789990386060

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 ask 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 scène une population qui vit dans le plus grand respect de l’équilibre de la nature.

3. D. Vina Balgobin • Madvee Armoogum Sundhoo, ill.
   **Our musical instruments: history of the Republic of Mauritius**
   Debehute Balgobin, 2009 • ISBN 9789990341984

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.

4. Amarnath Hosany • Thierry Permal, ill.
   **Contes de Noël [Stories for Christmas]**
   Bartholdi, 2005 • ISBN 9990386056

“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 fulfill 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.


5. Alain Gordon Gentil • Ho Kyamma, ill.
   **Mystère à la Citadelle [Mystery at the Citadelle]**
   Yévi, 2001 • ISBN 9990371368

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.

C’est l’histoire de Tikoulou qui vient passer quelques jours de vacances de Noël chez son cousin Gomanta. Tikoulou passe des moments agréables à Port-Louis et ailleurs pour apprendre à La Citadelle, une ancienne forteresse où vivent les soldats à l’époque où l’île Maurice était une colonie anglaise.

6. Shenaz Patel • Joëlle Maestracci, ill.
   **La Toile bleue [The blue cloth]**
   Vilaz, 2010 • ISBN 9789999313887

A little girl sat in front of the sea and wanted to animate the dull, blue cloth in front of her. She stood up, approached the water and grabbed the blue cloth with both hands. The sea came with her followed by the sky. She put the cloth to dry on a wire. People were very angry about her action but were surprised to see garbage falling from the cloth. Finally, the cloth became clean and white.

C’est une fable, que l’auteur a nouée dans son imaginaire poétique. Une petite fille contemple la mer et elle se dit : Une toile bleue, trop imbibée de salinité, qui va cependant s’animer de vie particulière quand elle décide de la décrocher pour l’épingler sur une corde à linge.

7. Centre Nelson Mandela pour la Culture Africaine • Stanley Harmon, ill.
   **Zistoir Ze ek Melia: lepok esklava – moris 1834**
   Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture, 2006 • ISBN 9990310102

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.

Ze ek Melia zot 2 za mafan esklav. Gis a zot creatite ek izimation zot reni sap depi lefer system esklavaz.
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.

Shakuntala Halwoldar • Priska, Shaoeling & Clarel, ill. 
*Stories for Moksha: adapted for parents* 
Cathay, 1999 • ISBN 9990341133

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.

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

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.

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

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. In Dutch.

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

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

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

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. In Dutch.

**Rindert Kromhout van der Meer • Annemarie van Haeringen, ill.**
*Kleine Ezel en jarige Jakkie [Little Dunkey and the birthday present]* 
Leopold, 2001 • ISBN 9789002530200

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.

**Contact:** Ingrid Bon 
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**Books from the Netherlands**

The National Children’s Librarian Council requested all contacts within the twelve provinces to send their favourite 2 titles.
The Tjong Khing
**Waar is de taart? [Where is the Cake?]**
Lannoo, 2004 • ISBN 9789020956924

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.

**Dieter Schubert**
**Monkie [Monkey]**
Lemniscaat, 1986 • ISBN 9789060696408

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.

**Sylvia van den Heede**
**Wat een kou, Vos en Haas! [Isn’t it cold, Fox and Hare]****
Lannoo, 2009 • ISBN 9789020956401

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.

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**Hans de Beer**
**Ijsbeer in de tropen [Little Polar Bear]****
De Vier Windtrekken, 1987 • ISBN 9789055791859

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

**Imme Dros** • Harrie Geelen, ill.
**Het boek van Ella [The book about Ella]****
Querido, 2011 • ISBN 9789025137215

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

**Karel Eykman** • Patsy Backx, ill.
**De K van Kasper**
De Harmonie, 2008 • ISBN 9789061698470

Five stories about a very normal boy who is also very special.

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Books from Nigeria

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 15 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 loader 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 978-978-4818-8-6

   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.

3. Simidele Dosekun • Rosalie-Ann Modder, ill. 
   *Beem Explores Africa* 

   In this vividly illustrated introduction to the African continent, a young girl, Beem, guides readers in exploring a varied geography of cities and cultures, wildlife and landscapes. She explores ancient places in Egypt, Mal and Zimbabwe; the modern cities of Cairo, Lagos and Johannesburg; rivers, lakes and mountains; rain forests, savannah and deserts.

4. Ifeoma Okoye • Segun Adejumo, ill. 
   *Only Bread for Eze* 

   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 1986, 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.

5. Fatima Akilu • Alexander Amulu, ill. 
   *Kitwa Plays the Drums* 

   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.

6. Fatima Akilu • Alexander Amulu, ill. 
   *Preye and the Sea of Plastic* 
   Cassava Republic, 2009 • ISBN 978-978-4843-8-8

   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.
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.

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.

How the Leopard Got its Claws


How the Leopard Got its Claws

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 peaceful 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.
This book received the Brage Prize 2002.

And all the pupils forgot that she was there.

Her father forgot that she was there.

Little sweet Lussie is so nice, so nice. So nice that

Imagine that your head is an egg. It can break

Imagine that your head is an egg. It can break

Garmann is anxious about starting first grade

Cappelen, 2006

Then one day Odd meets Gunn.

Lisa Aisato

Imagine that your head is an egg. It can break

Then one day Odd meets Gunn.

Odd er et egg [Odd is an egg]

Cappelen, 2002

Tenk deg at hodet ditt er et egg. Som kan knuse når

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This is an imaginative and playful story about

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There he meets Doctor Fjeld. This is a

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There he meets Doctor Fjeld. This is a

Henrik Hvolland • Torill Koll, ill.

Johannes Jensen føler seg annerledes [Johannes Jensen Feels Different]

Cappelen, 2003 • ISBN 9788202244662

Johannes Jensen is a crocodile that works in a
tax office. He feels different and tries to find out

Johannes Jensen is a crocodile that works in a
tax office. He feels different and tries to find out

Johannes Jensen is a crocodile that works in a
tax office. He feels different and tries to find out

Tore Renberg • Øyvind Torseter

Gi gass, ine [Step On It, Ine]

CappelenDam, 2010 • ISBN 9788203329606

This is a fantastic full and keen telling of how

This is a fantastic full and keen telling of how

This is a fantastic full and keen telling of how

Trond Brønne • Per Dybvig

Venner [Friends]

Aschehoug, 2005 • ISBN 978820349606

Five animals, who live on a farm, decide to get

Five animals, who live on a farm, decide to get

Five animals, who live on a farm, decide to get

Gro Dahle • Svein Nyhus, ill.

Snill [Nice]

Cappelen, 2002 • ISBN 9788202213124

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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.

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.

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.

"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.

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

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

Contact: Melanie Abad
melanier_25@yahoo.com
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!”
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.

Contact: Amira Abed
amira.bqfp@gmail.com

1

Kaltham Al Ghanem • May Al Mannai, ill. Hamda and Fisaikra حمادة وفسيكرة

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 Chanim 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.

2

Mohamed Ali Victory Over Abu Derya البيانتصار على أبو دريا

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.
Elle a de qui tenir [She knows from whom she inherited it]

Dans mon soubi [In my Basket]


This book is a collection of beautiful tales from Reunion Island and Madagascar Island. They are in French and Sakalave (a Malagasy dialect spoken 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 the 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.

4

Arius and Mary Batiskaf  • A class of year 5 from the primary school of Champcourt, le Tampon, ill.

Dodo dékol [The bird Dodo's take off]


Ce livre est une collection de belles histoires de l'île de Madagascar et de l'île de la Réunion. Ces histoires sont des contes en français et en créole sakalave (un dialecte malgache parlé au nord de Madagascar) pour les contes de Madagascar et des contes de la Réunion sont en français et en créole (un dialecte français parlé à la Réunion). 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 cultures entre les deux îles à travers leurs littératures et des contes traditionnels. Le livre est multilingue et est accompagné d'un CD.
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 flowers 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.

This book is a documentary book for children dealing with a typical bird that lives in Reunion 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 it is one of the first authors to write documentary books about wildlife and flora for children in Reunion 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.

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 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.
Romania

Books from Romania

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.

1

Petre Ispirescu • Walter Riess, Mihaela Paraschivu, Valeria Moldovan, Raluca Ilie, ill. Basme [Fairy Tales]

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”, “Aelor 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 tradition of Romanian fairy tales. With time, they became the tales of all generations. The collection captures any reader. Antologia cuprinde cele mai frumoase şi apreciate basme populare româneşti, citite de copii şi adulţi de generaţie la generaţie. “În imaginea vie şi umorul”, “Aelor, cel rege”, “Sare în bucate”, “Praslea cel voinic şi merele de aur”. Toate aceste basme au fost colectate şi publicate de Petre Ispirescu, tipograf, folclorist şi scriitor interesat de tradiţia literară a basmei populare româneşti. Cu timpul, ele au devenit basmele copiilor şi adulţilor, expunind expresiv atmosfera, imaginea şi limbajul poeziei româneşti.

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 Span (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.

Harap Alb este cel mai tânăr şi curajos dintre cei trei fi fi ai regelui, care părăseste familiu, plecând să înfringe destinul şi trebuind să facă faţă multor provocări şi dificultăţi. În ciuda sfatului părinţilor săi de a evita Omul Span (Cîmă Roşu), prinţul este pâcatat de Span, care îl întreabă şi îi dă să facă cele mai grele sarcini, dorindu-i să-i piardă viaţa şi să îi ia locul. Ajutat de Sf. Vineri şi de calul său cu puteri supranaturale, Harap Alb reușește să duce la bun sfârșit fiecare misiune grea încredințată de stăpânul său. În final, Harap Alb îşi înfringe stăpânul şi îşi recâştigă libertatea, descoperind adevăratele droguri şi locul său propriu în lume.

3

Mihai Eminescu • Anamaria Smigelschi, ill. Făt-Frumos din lacrimă [Prince Charming from the Tear]
Gramar, 2007 • ISBN 978-973-591-570-4

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.

Născuți din lacrimile mamei sate, Făt Frumos din Lacrimă păreau casa părinților lui, în căutarea gloriei. El salva vizinătura veche din blescare, numită Muma Pădurii, descoperind în frumoasa ei fiică adevărata dragoste a sa. La cererea fratei săi de sânge, el acceptă misiunea de a-i aduce fratele său de sângie, Genarul. După o mulţime de greutăţi, el reușește misiunea. Aventurile, atmosfera romantică, personajele magică și limbajul poetic expresiv confund un aer special acestei poveşti care captivează orice cititor.

4

Elena Farago • Anamaria Smigelschi, ill. Câţeluşul şi chipoară [The Lame Puppy]

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 adults as well, generation after generation. 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 Span (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.

Elena Farago (1878-1954) a fost o cunoscută şi apreciată poetă română. Poemul intitulat “Căţeluşul şi chipoară” este povestea unui câţeluş rănit grav de un băiat crud. Din cauza acelei accidente nefericite, câţeluşul devine chipoară şi nu se mai poate joca cu ceilalţi câţeluşi sau cu copiii. Regretele băiatului sunt inutile, deoarece căţeluşul poate să nu-i pună la locul. Poemul, cu un evident mesaj moral, este unul dintre cele mai cunoscute creaţii ale poeziei de către copii, folosit adesea în activităţi pedagogice din grădiniţe, școlii și bibliotecile copiilor.
Otilia Cazimir • Anamaria Smigelschi, ill.  
Baba larna intră-n sat [The Winter Old Woman enters the village]  
Garam, 2006 • ISBN (30) 973-591-539-1; (73) 978-973-591-539-1

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 becomes a beloved and well-known children’s poem.

Ioana Nicolae • Mihaia Marian, ill.  
Aventurile lui Arik [Arik’s Adventures]  
Corint Junior, 2008

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.

Gellu Naum • Nicolae Vasilescu (First Volume), Gellu Naum (second volume), ill.  
Cartea cu Apolodor [The Book with Apolodor]: A doua carte cu Apolodor [The Second Book with Apolodor]  

Both volumes relate the adventures of a penguin, named Apolodor, who goes through all kinds of events along with his friends, like the Kangaro 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.

Laura Cristinasăracăin • Cristina Pecheriu, ill.  
Norocel  
Benefica, 2010 • ISBN 978-973-9754-1-6

Norocel (Lucky) is a nice dog who grows bigger and bigger. He eats more and more and there is a real danger to everything around him. Finally, Norocel demolishes his master 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, Norocel decides to surrender to the authorities. On the road to them, Norocel 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 Ruzs, 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 educational and moral experience. The illustrations are very real and convincing, making reading a real pleasure.

Csipike este un puţic drăguţ, unui sfat, dar de încredere şi întotdeauna dispus să ajute prietenii lui şi animalele din pădurea unde trăieşte, fiind absolut convinzat că sorta pădurii depinde în întregime de el. În final acesta el dă peste cap toată viaţa pădurii prin ordinea lui. În timp, el devine conştient de rolul său real şi începe să se întreobe cu ceilalţi. Experienţele lui sunt pline de umor, dar şi educaţionale. Cartea lui Fodor Sándor a căpătat multă faimosă pentru poezia sa, personajele sale și evenimentele ei pline de imaginări. Ilustrațiile au contribuit la succesul cărții.
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 Vasneцов, Vladimir Konashevich, Vladimir Suteev, Tatyana Mavrinya) 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 Vassnetsov 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 Vassnetsov naturally fit for the small forms of Russian folklore.


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.


This book comprises not only folktales, but also all fairy 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 Mavrinya 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.


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 many artists. We have chosen this edition because of the graphics by Kirill Chyolushkin, one of the most talented and bright modern illustrators.

5. Korney Chukovsky • V. Konashevitch, V. Suteev, V. Duvidov, ill. Детям [For Children] Planeta Detstva, 2007

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”, “Krasnenn’koe”, 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 Suteev, sincere and musical illustrations by Duvidov – all them show us the world of Chukovsky’s fairy tales.

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Таганья Алексеевна Маврина — единственная из русских художниц, кто был удостоен “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 шедрокой художественной манеры, которую она придумала и прояснила, как смысл жизни, в последнее время в её оформлении почти не издаётся. Этот сборник — исключение. В его оформлении не только фантастические постки, но и все сказочные произведения А.С.Пушкина (многие из которых мы снова представляем на наших читателях в переводе М.М.Мещерякова). Книга, выходящая в издательстве “Московские учебники”, небеспутка в полиграфическом отношении, однако дает достаточно внятное представление об уникальном художественном мире этого удивительного мастера.
Vadim Gusev

Про что внутри — прочти, посмотри: рисунки со стихами ли, с рисунками стихи ли... [What is inside — read and look: either pictures with verses or verses with pictures...]

Detgiz, 2010

Vadim Gusev illustrated his own poems in the Russian constructivism manner of 1920s. His poetry seems to be an integral part of his illustrations.

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.

Nikolai Popov

Зачем? [Why?]

Ripol classic, 2010

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.

В книге-картинке замечательного художника Николая Попова нет ни единого слова, но говорит она об очень важных вещах. О том, как легко рассориться со вчерашним друзьями и ненавидеть и ненавидеть до конца жизни. История о войне мышей и лягушек, о войне и мире. Их творческий тандем получился на редкость слаженным и удивительно органичным.

Sergei Kozlov, Yuriy Norshteyn • Franchesca Yarbusova, ill.

Ежик в тумане [Hedgehog in the Fog]

Krasnyy Parokhod, 2011

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 “N+1 Animated film of all the time”.

Книжная версия знаменитого мультфильма, признанного на фестивале в Торонто в 2003 году лучшим анимационным фильмом всех времен 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]

Vremya, 2010

Junna Morits has attracted many young readers with her children’s poetry, some of which, like her adult work, became known to mass audiences through guitar singers. Illustrations by Е. Antonenkov make their creative co-operation a real tandem.

“Каштанка” 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.

“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 связанных с этим произведением.
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.


Leuk-le-lièvre, debrilleul, 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.


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. 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.

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 978-2-9527685-6-6

Oumar et Mariam renontre au village après l’année scolaire chez leur oncle à Dakar. C’est une joie de retrouver les parents et les activités de chaque été : aider maman à préparer et à vendre la bouille de ric, attraper des oiseaux, récolter le riz... Les belles illustrations à l’aquarelle sont pour beaucoup dans le charme de cet album serein, à l’image des bonnes vacances en famille.

Simeon Marinković • Tihomir Čelanović, ill. 
Мишло 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.

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.
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 union 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...

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 tenanted by people who have moved in recently. The whole building is so cheerful for everyone. Let’s see how the tenants, residents of this pleasant neighbourhood is flourishing now! Each floor is tenanted by people who have moved in recently. The whole building is so cheerful for everyone. Let’s see how the tenants, residents of this pleasant place to live.

This series of five flag picture books “What Ana knows...Good Neighbours” 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.

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 this poem after his daughter had a nickname for disobedient and feisty kids.

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 smart whale who endures his taunting, until one day when he loses his temper....

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Books from Singapore

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, 2006 • ISBN 9789810810844

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 9789814266576

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 9789810535124

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 SanSan**, 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.
10

Yixian Quek • Grace Duan Ying, ill.
The Book that was Handed Down
Straits Times Press, 2008 • ISBN 9789814266055

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.

8

Sharon Ismail • Khairuddin Saharom, ill.
What Sallamah didn’t know
Candid Kids, 2007 • ISBN 9789814276559

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.

7

David Seow • Enrico Sallustio, ill.
Blow a kiss
Bonnie Books, 2010 • ISBN 978981824938

This heart-warming story starts with a simple thought: “Can you blow a kiss? Get ready, get set, blow! Now it’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!

9

Jessie Wee • Kwan Shan Mei, ill.
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.

3

Antjie Krog (English text by Gus Ferguson) • Fiona Moodie, ill.
Fynbosfeetjies [Fynbos Fairies]
Umuzi, 2007 • ISBN 9781919888023

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.

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”.

1

Ingrid Mennen • Niki Daly, 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. Bored, simplistic pictures by a renowned local artist.
4 Wendy Hartmann  •  Joan Rankin, ill.  
**Just Sisi**  
Human & Rousseau, 2010  •  ISBN 9780798148245  
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 Cuguletu, 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?”

8 Elinor Batezat Sisulu  •  Sharon Wilson, ill.  
**The Day Gogo went to Vote**  
Tafelberg, 1996  •  ISBN 9780624035484  
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 & Sjögren, 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 1561 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.

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.

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.

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 5129
   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.

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 9339
   An old guinea pig 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.
8 Sven Nordqvist
Pannkakstårtan [The birthday cake]
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.

9 Anna-Clara Tidholm
Knacka på [Knock, knock knock!]
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.

10 Stina Wirsén
Vem bestämmer? [Who is deciding?]
The little teddy and the big teddy are having a disagreement in the story. But soon they start to fuss. Who has the right to decide? Small teddy? Big teddy? This is a story for young children.

Käthi Bhend • Evelyne Hasler, ill.
Im Traum kann ich fliegen [In my dreams I can fly]
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 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 Ehrlichkeit, the grub gnaws at it one day, and the onion breaks in two. Dennoch wächst im Frühling aus der Zwiebel eine riesige Tulpe und die Raupe hat sich in einen wunderschönen Schmetterling verwandelt. "Im Traum kann ich fliegen" erzählt von Geheimnissen unter der Erde und dem Erwachen der Natur im Frühling. Käthi Bhend zeichnet diese Welt in erdnahen Farben und mit fliigranen Strichen. Sie richtet die Geschichten dieser fantastischen Erdbewohner mit witzigen Details an und lädt so zu wunderbaren Entdeckungsreisen ein.

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.

Contact: Ruth Fassbind
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The World Through Picture Books • Books from Switzerland

The World Through Picture Books • Books from Switzerland

THE WORLD THROUGH PICTURE BOOKS • BOOKS FROM SWITZERLAND • 127
2 Albertine
Marta et la bicyclette [Marta and her bicycle]
La Joie de Lire, 1999 • ISBN 978-2-88258-467-0

Cows 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.

3 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 seem so vivid and whet the appetite for a playful discovery of language.

4 Lorenz Pauli • Kathrin Schärer, ill.
Pippilotheke?? [Pippilotheke??]

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. Pippilotheke?? humorously portrays the magical attraction of a library. It is a declaration of love for reading and for places where undisturbed reading is possible.

5 Nicolas Robel
Le Tigre bleu [The Blue Tiger]
La Joie de Lire, 2002 • ISBN 978-2-88258-221-8

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 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 the Swiss Children’s and Youth Media Price in 2003.

The internationally most renowned Swiss storybook tells the story of ‘Bell-Ursli’ and his search for the biggest cow bell so he can march into the story. Pitschi’s story is child-friendly and can be read as an animal fable. His attempts to be a different animal always fail and are not simply tales of woe – its deviations from the norm and the逾越边界 also Anlass zu Humor. Pitschi Geschichte ist kindermahal, sie aber zugleich auch wetthellig, weil hier ein Künstler sich selbst bleibt and für konkrete Kinder arbeitet, für seine eigenen Kinder. Dass eine Katze das Spiel der Identitätssuche spielt, ist kein Zufall: Katzen sind ein Lernthema des Kindes, das es in unzähligen Stüzen, Radierungen oder Lithographien umgesetzt hat. Das 1948 erstmals erschienene Bildercbuch zählt zu den Klassikern der Schweizer Bilderbuchschaffens, mit dem Generationen von Kindern aufgewachsen sind – und immer noch aufwachsen.


The most beautiful and popular Swiss storybook is, without a doubt, Johanna Spyri’s Heidi. First published in 1879, the book is set in the fifteenth century. In 1996, the artist received the)[image] 1996: The artist received the his bell is a monument of Swiss artwork in the twenty-first century. In 1996, the artist received the Hans Christian Andersen Award for his storybook artwork.

The book that is illustrated by Alois Carigiet has come to the fore once again. 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 twenty-first century. In 1996, the artist received the Hans Christian Andersen Award for his storybook artwork.

The author of this book, Peter Stamm, narrates Spyri’s story about the five-year-old orphan girl who lives on an alp with her grandparents and subsequently lapes 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 distsects the well-known, popular image of Heidi.


Johanna Spyri’s Heidi is published in 1879 and has since sold over 80 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.


Pitschi is not only the smallest of the five kittens living in old Lissie’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.


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 don’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 splash 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] La Joie de Lire, 2007 • ISBN 978-2-88258-384-0

Quand maman était en vie, elle a promis à sa fille de l’accompagner où qu’elle allait. Alors maintenant, la petite fille est assise avec son père dans l’église et supporte avec résignation le service funéraire de sa défunte mère. Les deux pleurent. Le prêtre parle de choses que les adultes ne peuvent lui donner. « Vous êtes tous rois et humains. Vous êtes tous flous. Vous n’arrêtez pas…” 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.
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 frightful things happen, 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 domenicale; li ha osservati, disegnati, e fotografati. In “Sapore italiano” ha raccontato l’essenza di questi incontri. Ci conduce in una famiglia intenta a preparare il pranzo domenicale: 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 lasciandoli, nello stesso tempo, trarne la loro fragilità. Losa, però, non ci racconta solo il lato triste e angosciado 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 trasmirate da generazione in generazione e hanno trovato posto anche in questo libro.
2 Quentin Blake
Mr Magnolia
Random House (Red Fox imprint) • First published 1978 (Hamish Hamilton) • ISBN 978 0 141 34009 8 Pbk

Mister Magnolia is the archetypal English eccentric dressed in a shabbily frock coat, enormous bow tie, dressing 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 Dods and Sue Roe, CILIP Youth Libraries Group 2007 13 978 0946 512 52

5 Julia Donaldson • Axel Scheffler, ill.
The Gruffalo
Macmillan, first published 1999 • ISBN 978 0 3305 1278 7 Hbk

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 Nestlé Smarties Gold Award in the 0–5 category in 1999, the Blue Peter Best Book, 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), German (Der Grüffelo), Hebrew (Trofeb), Irish (A spáissi col mestró), Lithuanian (Grūfas), Polish, Russian (Груффало), Slovene (Zvejvates), Spanish (El Grufillo), Scottish Gaelic, Swedish (Grufflén), Turkish (Tostoraman), Welsh (Y Gryffalo) and Afrikaans (Die Gorgomgail)

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.

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 realises 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.

**Books from the USA**

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
Don’t Let The Pigeon Drive The Bus!


Don’t Let The Pigeon Drive The Bus! is an ingeniously simple story that instantly connects with the pre-schooler’s world view. A silly pigeon that longs to drive a bus sees a chance to make its dream come true when the bus driver takes a short break. Funny and exciting by turns, the often hilarious child-centric text is perfectly matched to the spare yet marvelously expressive line drawings and understated earth-toned palette. Don’t Let The Pigeon Drive The Bus was a 2004 Caldecott Honor Winner and an adaptation won the 2010 U.S. Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Children’s Video.

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?


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 shape; 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. Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? is an ingeniously constructed, reader-friendly book: Children, adults, and language learners alike will enjoy the repetitive, clearly patterned, and predictive question-and-answer text as well as the strong, curvilinear hand-lettered text and strong, curvilinear drawings combine to tell the story of a lonely, undernourished kitten that grows beautiful, nurturing, and course, goodnight moon. The stylized paintings of course, goodnight moon. The stylized paintings to sleep, a little rabbit says goodnight to each star in his “great green room”: goodnight stars, goodnight air, goodnight noises everywhere, and, of course, goodnight moon. The stylized paintings by Clement Hurd are wonderfully childlike and delicately full of details that complement—and extend—the text so masterfully. Although the book was initially rejected by the library world (The New York Public Library declined to purchase it until 1973), Goodnight Moon has become one of the best-selling American picture books of all time.

The Snowy Day

Viking/Penguin, 1962

Now 50 years in print, The Snowy Day chronicles Peter’s adventures as he explores his urban neighborhood. Peter gams 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.

Millions of Cats

Little Brown, 1934

Hand-lettered text and strong, curvilinear drawings combine to tell the story of a lonely, undernourished kitten that grows beautiful, nurturing, and course, goodnight moon. The stylized paintings to sleep, a little rabbit says goodnight to each star in his “great green room”: goodnight stars, goodnight air, goodnight noises everywhere, and, of course, goodnight moon. The stylized paintings by Clement Hurd are wonderfully childlike and delicately full of details that complement—and extend—the text so masterfully. Although the book was initially rejected by the library world (The New York Public Library declined to purchase it until 1973), Goodnight Moon has become one of the best-selling American picture books of all time.

Go Away, Big Green Monster!

Little Brown, 1992

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-green nose’ to “scrappy 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.”

Caps for Sale: A Tale of a Peddler, Some Monkeys and Their Monkey Business

Harper & Row, 1946 • ISBN 978-0201091472 (and many other formats and editions)

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’...