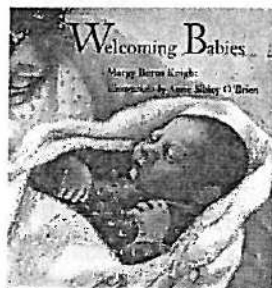


International Stories List Term Two, 2004

Contributors to this book list are: Kerry Aluf, Helen Beckinsale, Anne Coppell, Bronwyn Fox, Lois Huston, Libby Limbrick, Ann Luxton, Lorraine Orman, Frances Plumpton, Rosemary Tisdall.

booklist



Welcoming Babies

Margy Burns Knight,
 ill Anne Sibley O'Brien

Tilbury House 2003; Pb ISBN 0884481247
 A warm and cosy introduction to different ways of celebrating the birth of a new baby. At the end of the book are notes, which explain in more detail the cultures and traditions shown in the book. Ages 3 and over. AC



One Round Moon and a Star for Me

Ingrid Mennen, ill Niki Daly

Orchard, 1994; Hb ISBN 0531068048
 NB: due to be republished this year by Frances Lincoln (Pb ISBN 1845070259)
 A young boy tells of his daily life and the celebrations surrounding the birth of the family's new baby. Set in Lesotho this is a beautiful book, with a universal message as the boy asks "Papa, are you really my papa too?" Ages 3 and over. AC

Whistle for Willie

Ezra Jack Keats

Puffin, 1977

Pb, 0140502025

Ezra Keats collage illustrations document Peter's day - hiding in a carton, pretending to be his father, drawing with chalks, running from his shadow - all the while practising whistling for his dog. This simply told story of a small Afro-American boy mastering of one of the enviable milestones of childhood is still enjoyed by today's preschoolers. FP

Lily's Garden of India

Jeremy Smith

Illus by Rob Hefferan

Ticktock Media,

Pb, 2003.

Lily's mother had created a garden filled with flowers from all over the world. One day Lily wandered along a new path and discovered the

Garden of India where each of the plants told the little girl their special story. This brightly illustrated picture book introduces children to jasmine, marigold, lotus, chai and other plants used in Indian culture and also includes additional information on Indian Festivals as well as the plants. FP



Fishing with Spider Webs

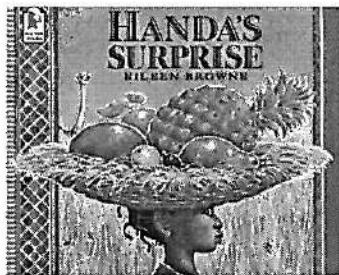
Lino Nelisi

Ill. Elspeth Alix Batt

Scholastic NZ 1994

Hb ISBN 1869432096

Young Aiani, on holiday in Nuie, spends an exciting day with her Uncle Tuki discovering the traditional art of fishing with spider webs. The bold, exuberant illustrations showcase the tropical landscape and traditional Nuiean lifestyle. An appealing story for 4yrs+. KA



Handa's Surprise

Eileen Browne

Walker Books 1995

Pb ISBN 0744536340

Handa is off to visit her friend, Akeyo, in the next village. She carries seven delicious fruits in a basket on her head to surprise her friend. On arrival, Handa herself has the biggest surprise. This cumulative story introduces children to the exotic fruit and animals of Kenya as well as traditional village life. Vivid illustrations delightfully extend the story. Engaging for 3-6yr olds. KA Also Handa's Hen.

Whoever you are

Mem Fox

Illustrated by Leslie Staub

Hodder Children's Books, Australia

A wonderful picture book with a gently persuasive message that, 'whoever we are' all over the world, we be different in the way we look and live but inside our hearts are all the same. Mem Fox's rhythmic prose appeals to young and older listeners and readers alike while Leslie Staub's vibrant illustrations of children of many skin colours in different parts of the world are distinctive and captivating. Guaranteed to bring a request to 'Please read it again'. LL

The Gigantic Turnip

Aleksei Tolstoy & Niamh Sharkey

Puffin, 1999

Pb 0140565906

An old man and an old woman lived together in a little house where they planted a garden full of vegetables. However when they harvested their vegetables there was one gigantic turnip that the little old man could not pull out of the ground and so he called the old woman to help and they pulled and they pulled and they pulled . . . Niamh Starkey's illustrations add a humorous touch to the drama of this traditional tale first recorded by Tolstoy in Russia in the nineteenth century. Great to read aloud to three year olds onwards. FP



Katje the Windmill Cat

Gretchen Woelfle

Ill Nicola Bayley

Walker,

Pb, 0744589398

Katje the cat lived with Nico the miller in a Dutch Village by the sea. She chased the mice in the mill and at night slept on Nico's pillow. When Lena came to live with Nico Katje was banished outside, and when Anneke was born the cat was chased away from the baby's cradle. One terrible stormy night when Lena had taken a meal to Nico who was guarding the windmill, Katje slipped into the house to visit the baby, and, when the dike suddenly broke, baby, cat and cradle were swept away through the flooded streets. Nicol Bayley's painterly illustrations portray the drama of this historically recorded event which is also played out in the series of Delft tiles framing each page. For four year olds onwards. FP

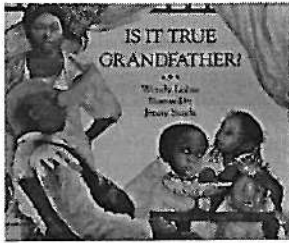


Rain

Manya Stojic

Chrysalis, 2000

It was hot and the soil was cracked and dried in the African Savannah and when porcupine smelled rain coming he hurried off to tell the zebras. One by one zebra, baboon, rhino and lion also anticipate and then celebrate the rains that fill every waterhole and then renew the barren land for the coming season. Bold bright pictures accompany the simple yet effective text that three year olds onwards will enjoy. FP



Is It True Grandfather?
Wendy Lohse, ill Jenny Sands
Scholastic, 1998; Pb ISBN 0868966223

The family, and many villagers, gather around to listen to Grandfather Thomas tell the story of his sister Beth's first exploration into the caves. Set in the Seychelles, the illustrations vividly depict life on these tropical islands. This book is also an interesting introduction to family tales and history – particularly the children looking at their great-aunt Beth and trying to reconcile that image with the story of the young explorer. Ages 4 and over. AC.



Hue Boy
Rita Phillips Mitchell, ill Caroline Binch
Penguin, 2002; Pb ISBN 0140563547

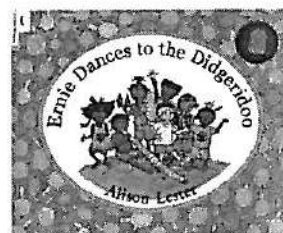
Hue Boy's a big topic of discussion in his Caribbean village, all because he hasn't grown. With his father away working on a ship, his mother takes him to various people for advice. But no matter what he tries – eating fruit, stretching exercises, washing in herbs – he doesn't grow. When his father comes home – he does. Wonderfully lush illustrations depict the vibrant Caribbean landscape and people, while the story strikes

a chord with children of any nationality. Ages 4 and over. AC.



Emma's Rug
Allen Say
Houghton Mifflin, 2003; Pb ISBN 0618335234

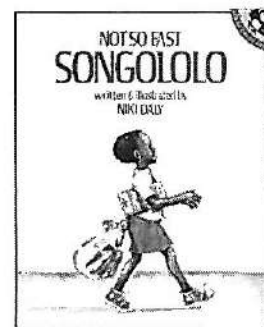
When Emma was born somebody gave her a rug. It lived by her bed and when she started walking, she carried it around, and never walked on it. Emma draws and draws, so well she wins prizes. But when her mother washes the rug, all her inspiration vanishes. Although not specifically a multicultural tale, Say's illustrations show that Emma is of Asian descent. Ages 4 and over. AC.



Ernie Dances To The Didgeridoo
Alison Lester
Australia: Hodder Children's Books, 2001
ISBN 0733613624

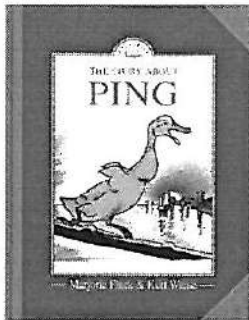
This book is based upon a story that the upper primary students at Gunbalanya Community School in Arnhem Land made about their lives. When Ernie goes to live in Arnhem land for a year, he writes to each of his friends (Rosie, Frank, Tessa, Nicky, Clive, and Celeste) about the six Arnhem Land seasons and what that time of

year means to the aboriginal people. The text is appropriately simple. Each letter is supported by a series of vignettes depicting Ernie's new friends engaged in typical activities. Back home, his six old friends share what they have learned and try some of the activities of the Australian outback. The simple text and illustration conveys a wealth of information about aspects of aboriginal culture
Age 4+ BF



Not So Fast Songololo
By Niki Daly
Puffin Books, 1985
ISBN 0140507159
Set in South Africa.

Shepherd, a young African boy, is enlisted to assist his elderly grandmother, Gogo on a shopping trip to the city. His hand-me-down tackies (sneakers) are old and worn and his desire for a new pair is evident in his dreamy eyed window shopping. At the end of the day, Gogo surprises him by taking him into the shop and buying him a pair of new bright red tackies. The expressive text and water colour illustrations work well together to underscore the warm mood of the story: Gogo is old but her face shines like new shoes. Her hands are large and used to hard work. But when they touch they are gentle
Recommended 4+. BF



The Story about Ping

By Marjorie Flack

Illustrated by Kurt Weisse

ISBN 185681212X

First published in 1935, this story has captured generations of readers.

Ping, a beautiful young duck, lives on a houseboat on the Yangtze River with his large extended family. He finds adventure one evening when he is too late to board his master's houseboat at day's end after searching for food along the riverbank. He is captured by a young boy whose family want him for their cooking pot, but the dismayed boy releases him and Ping finds his way back to his houseboat. The faithfully rendered illustrations of the boats, fishermen, ducks, and trained fishing birds well capture life on the banks of the lush Yangtze River. Age 4+. BF



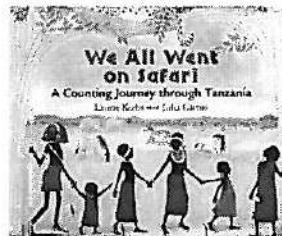
"Slowly, Slowly, Slowly," said the Sloth.

Eric Carle

H Hamilton, 2002

Slowly, slowly, slowly a sloth crawls deliberately along a branch, while a parade of other inhabitants of the Amazonian jungle bustle past, and in and out, of his tree. Even when they ask him why he is so slow and boring,

the sloth takes his time until he finally and eloquently describes exactly what he likes to do. Preschoolers onwards will enjoy checking the endpapers to discover the names of all the creatures and delight in the sloth's descriptive language as well as admire Carle's brilliant collage illustrations. FP.



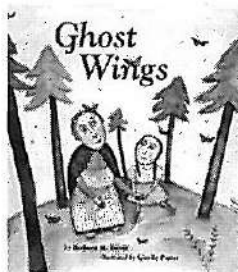
We all Went on Safari. A Counting Journey through Tanzania

Laurie Krebs & Julia Cairns.

Koala, 2003

Pb, 0864615132

A group of Maasi children count the animals they see as they go on safari though the Tanzania grasslands. This beautifully illustrated rhyming picture book is much more than a counting book - it reads aloud well and also includes additional material about Tanzania, the Maasi people, the animals found there and a pronunciation guide to the Swahili names and numbers. Four +. FP



Ghost Wings

By Barbara Jooose

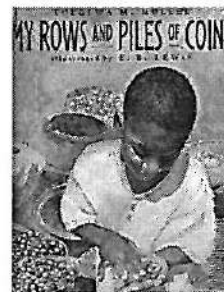
illustrated by Giselle Potter

San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2001

ISBN 0811821641

Set in Mexico amidst the monarch butterflies' annual migration and during the Days of the Dead. This is a poignant story about a little

girl whose best friend is her grandmother. She is bereft when her Grandmother dies, and doesn't understand her Papa's reassurance that "when you love someone they never really leave." Then, during the Days of the Dead, a time for celebration and remembering, something extraordinary happen that brings Papa's words vividly to life. Well researched with authentic illustrative detail. The book includes an explanation about the Days of the Dead celebration, monarch butterfly migration, as well a guide to using the book. Best for sharing one-on-one or small group discussion. 5+. BF



My Rows and Piles of Coins
Tololwa M. Mollel, ill E. B. Lewis

Houghton Mifflin, 2000; Hb ISBN 0395751861

Saruni, a young Tanzanian boy, saves his money to buy a bicycle to help his mother transport goods to the market. While saving, his father teaches him how to ride on his big bike. Eventually Saruni takes his savings to the bicycle seller, who laughs at him. His mother uncovers the story and tells his father. His father sells him the old bike, and then his parents return his money to reward him for his help. With that, Saruni begins plans to buy a cart.... A vividly illustrated look at life in Tanzania. Ages 5 and over. AC.



El Chino

Allen Say
Houghton Mifflin, 1996; Pb
ISBN 0395778751

Say was inspired by the true story of Bong Way “Billy” Wong – El Chino – the first Chinese bullfighter. Billy grew up in America and was told by his father that he could be anything he wanted. As a child Billy wanted to be a basketballer, but who’d heard of a Chinese athlete? His dreams were quashed as he was four inches too short for college basketball, so he settled on being an engineer. During a trip to Spain he was enchanted with the athleticism and grace of the matadors and decided to try his luck. Say’s illustrations are deliberately photo-like, changing from sepia to black-and-white to colour as the years progress. A wonderful tale of dreams and being yourself. Ages 5+. AC



Jamela’s Dress

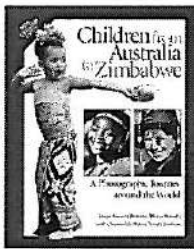
Niki Daly
Frances Lincoln, Pb
Mama has bought herself some new material for a dress but Jamela just can’t resist wrapping around herself and parading down the street in all her finery. Niki Daly has drawn on his experiences of Cape Town to capture the well-intentioned antics of a

delightful little girl and her exasperated yet loving mama. FP



Enough is Enough!

Scott Willis and Jenna Packer
Scholastic Australia, 2003
Hb, ISBN 1865045764
Shortlisted for the Picture Book category of the 2004 NZ Post Book Awards for Children and Young Adults, this luscious book provides a funny and interesting look at the landscape and market place of a European town, probably France. As Henry trundles round buying loads of mouthwatering, and exotic food, the illustrations perfectly catch the busy, sunfilled atmosphere of the town. Best for early primary ages. LO



Children from Australia to Zimbabwe: a Photographic Journey Around the World
Maya Ajmera & Anna Rhesa Versola.

Charlesbridge Publishing, 2001; Pb ISBN 1570914788
Each double-page spread introduces you to a different country and their way of life. There’s a map, photographs and facts, like the favourite sport and languages spoken. The book is arranged alphabetically with one country per letter and, when appropriate, a list of other countries. A good starting point for discussion. Ages 6 and over. AC.



Little Oh

Laura Krauss Melmed, ill Jim Lamarche
HarperCollins, 1997; Hb
ISBN 0688142087

A young boy asks his mother to tell him the story of Little Oh. Little Oh began life as an origami girl, much loved by her mother/creator. When Little Oh’s mother takes her to the market, Little Oh is separated from her mother. After many adventures, and with the help of a crane, Little Oh returns home. But it is the wrong house. With presence of mind, Little Oh turns herself into a paper heart, and the man of the house takes her to her home. A gorgeously illustrated tale based on traditional Japanese culture. Ages 7+. AC.

My Wish for Tomorrow: Words and Pictures from Children Around the World: In Celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations

William Morrow; Hb ISBN 068814456X
With a forward by Nelson Mandela, an introduction by Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and published in partnership with Jim Henson Publishing – this is an amazing book. Children from 39 countries participated in this project – either writing or illustrating their wishes. Some provide a real glimpse into their life, such as Michael’s wish for snow (he’s from Namibia), or Fortunate from Zimbabwe who wishes for a house. Some are personal, like Navin who wishes to behave better! Useful as starting point for discussion. Ages 7+. AC.



The Royal Bee

Frances Park and Ginger Park
 Illustrated by
 Christopher Zhong-Yuan Zhang

Boyd's Mills Press, 2003; Pb
 ISBN 1563978679

This tale of a young Korean boy who wants to attend school is based upon the authors' grandfather's story. Song-ho listens at the door of the school, wanting to learn, wanting to make a better life for himself and his mother. When winter comes Master Min provides Song-ho the opportunity to join the school, instead of huddling outside. Eventually his hard works pays off when the rich children choose him to represent the school in The Royal Bee. A wonderfully heartfelt story of ambition, hope and courage. The oil paint illustrations vividly depict the historic and cultural setting of the tale. Ages 7 and over. AC.



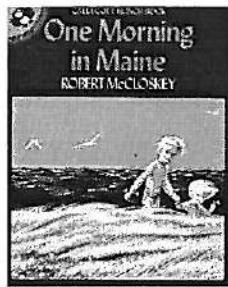
The Tie Man's Miracle: a Chanukah Tale

Steven Schnur, ill Stephen T. Johnson

William Morrow, 1995; Hb
 ISBN 0614065054

Stunning in its simplicity, this tale gently introduces children to the Holocaust and some of the traditions of Chanukah. On the last night

of Chanukah the old tie man, Mr Hoffman, comes to sell his ties. Seth's parents encourage him to stay for their celebrations and, in the process of answering Seth's nosy questions, he tells the story of his family and a traditional tale from his village. After Mr Hoffman leaves, Seth wishes for him to be reunited with his family and Seth waits and hopes for the miracle to occur. The watercolour illustrations bring character and individuality to the people. Ages 7 and over. AC.



One morning in Maine

By Robert McCloskey
 Picture Puffins, 1976

ISBN 0140501746

First published in 1952, this classic story remains in print. Sal is brushing her teeth when a tooth comes loose. She wants to keep it so that she can make a wish. But when her tooth falls out, unnoticed while she is digging for clams with her father, Sal must find another way to make her wish come true. An engaging story about family and community. The black and white pen and ink drawings clearly depict coastal life in Maine in the late 40s / early 50s.

A Caldecott Honour Book (1953). Age 7+. BF

Selafina

Catherine Hannken
 Ill Trish Bowles
 Mallinson Rendel, Hb, 2003
 Selafina missed her grandmother sorely when the elderly woman returned to

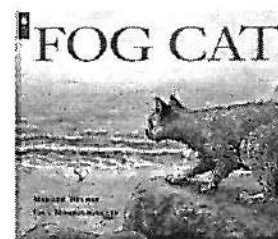
Samoa; she had been too shy to dance with her at her farewell party. Now Nana was coming back to New Zealand for Selafina's tenth birthday and the little girl was determined to learn the siva as a special surprise, but it wasn't an easy dance for her to master. Trish Bowles illustrations capture the warmth of this family in this picture book for primary school children. FP

Where the Forest Meets the Sea

Jeannie Baker

Walker, Pb, 1989

Jeannie Baker's meticulous use of three dimensional natural collage materials accentuates the poignancy of a small boy's trip to an isolated beach verging on the tropical rain forest of North Queensland. As he wanders into the rainforest he speculates on the aboriginal children who might have lived there in times past, and when he returns to the beach on what may happen in the future. Baker helps young readers to gain an understanding of the importance of protecting precious environments by overlaying this scene with a ghostly apparition of how a future development could look. Thoughtful reading for primary school students onwards. FP



Fog Cat

by Marilyn Helmer

ill. Paul Mombourquette
 Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1999

ISBN 1550747916

Set in a Nova Scotian coastal village typical of Canada's maritime provinces.

This is a tender story about a young girl's relationship with her grandfather and the realization of her sense of place and belonging through her concern for a cat.

The summer that Hannah goes to live with her grandfather she spies an elusive stray cat, which appears and vanishes in the seasonal fog. She names it Fog Cat, and determines to tame it. After months of patient coaxing, and the lure of tidbits of fish and a warm hearth, she wins its trust. Fog Cat moves in with Hannah and her grandfather for the winter. With the arrival of spring, Fog Cat is gone again but not without leaving behind a more lasting companion for Hannah - a kitten of her own. 7+. BF



The Day Gogo Went To Vote

by Elinor Batezat Sisulu
illustrated by Sharon Wilson
Little Brown and Company,
1996

ISBN 0316702676

Told from the perspective of a young child, this story documents the historic events of April 1994 when blacks cast their votes for the first time in South African elections.

Thembi and her great-grandmother are inseparable. Gogo is very old and hasn't left the house for many years. But when she learns that black South Africans will be allowed to vote in the upcoming election, Gogo is determined to cast her vote and insists on bringing Thembi with her. The oldest

voter in the township, Gogo emerges from the voting booth to the sound of applause and the glare of camera flashes. The rich pastel illustrations ably convey the momentousness of the occasion.

First Peoples Series

Lerner Publications, 2002-2003; all Hb

This series is a great introduction to indigenous cultures from around the world. These series doesn't focus just on the history, but also the environment and the adaptation of traditional lifeways into 'modern' culture. Ages 8+. AC.

Titles in the series:

The Aboriginal Peoples of Australia by Anne Bartlett; ISBN 0822548542

The Ainu of Japan by Barbara Aoki Poisson; ISBN 0822541769

The Aymara of South America by James Eagen; ISBN 0822541742

The Bedouin of the Middle East by Elizabeth Losleben; ISBN 0822506637

The Cree of North America by Deborah Robinson; ISBN 0822541785

The Hmong of Southeast Asia by Sandra Millett; ISBN 0822548526

The Inuit of Canada by Danielle Corriveau; ISBN 082254850X

The Kurds of Asia by Anthony C. LoBaido, Yumi Ng, & Paul A. Rozario; ISBN 0822506645

The Maori of New Zealand by Steve Theuissen; ISBN 0822506653

The Masai of Africa by Lisa McQuail; ISBN 0822548550

The Mohawks of North America by Connie Kirk; ISBN 0822548534

The Navajo of North America by Gerald Knowles; ISBN 0822506629

The Sami of Northern Europe by Deborah Robinson; ISBN 0822541750
The San of Africa by Linda Parker; ISBN 0822541777
The Yanomami of South America by Raya Tahan; ISBN 0822548518
The Zulu of Africa by Nita Gleimius, Emma Mthimunye, and Evelina Suban; ISBN 0822506610



How Tia Lola came to visit stay

Julia Alvarez

Dell Yearling, 2002; Hb
0440418704

Miguel and Juanita have moved to Vermont with their mami, after their parents' separation. When Mami realises she needs an adult around to mind the children while she's at work she invites Tia Lola, her aunt, to visit. Tia Lola brings touches of her home, the Dominican Republic, to the Vermont countryside, and into the lives of the children. At first embarrassed by his outrageous great-aunt, Miguel learns to appreciate and love her. A wonderfully understated story with vibrant and well-drawn characters. Ages 8 and over. AC

If the World Were a Village: a Book about the World's People

David J. Smith, ill Shelagh Armstrong.

A & C Black, 2004; Pb ISBN 0713668806

An amazing introduction to the disparities of our world. By shrinking the population of the world down to 100 people, this book puts various

statistics into perspective. Thought provoking, it comes with teaching notes, making this a valuable class resource. Ages 8 and over. AC.



Six Words, Many Turtles, and Three Days in Hong Kong

Patricia McMahon, photographs by Susan G. Drinker

Houghton Mifflin, 1997; Hb ISBN 0395686210

Although written before the hand over of Hong Kong, this book provides an insight into the lives of Chinese living within Hong Kong at that time. This is refreshing as, too often, we've only been exposed to stories of ex-pat British settlers. Tsz Yan is eight-years-old and the author and photographer document her life over three days – Friday to Sunday. Her way of life is at once different and familiar. The idea of there being so many school children that they attend in shifts is a concept difficult to grasp. The strength of family ties is emphasised. A great read for ages 8 and over. AC.



The Waterhole

Graeme Base
Viking 2001
Hb ISBN 0670889288

Graeme Base has produced another outstanding sophisticated picture book

that invites readers to explore the natural world on many levels. The central focus on a diminishing waterhole draws attention to the delicate balance of nature that exists around the world, from lush rain forests to arid desert regions. Showcasing the diversity of the world's wildlife, Base's stunning artwork also contains hidden elements to delight the observant reader. KA.

No Gun for Asmir
Christobel Mattingley
Penguin Books 1993
ISBN 0-14-036729-2

Asmir and his little brother and mother must leave their home in Sarajevo to escape the war. They leave Muris, Asmir's father behind so he can help in the hospitals. They fly to Belgrade and then begin the long drive to a new home in Vienna. This true story shows the anguish and pain of war, and the separation for families. It shows the adaptability of children and how the family settles into their new life. Asmir in Vienna follows with more about their life, waiting eagerly for when Muris can join them. Ages 9+. RT

Zlata's Diary
Zlata Filipovic
Puffin 1995
ISBN 0-14-037463-9

A true account from Zlata, a young girl who keeps a diary of her experiences and feelings during the war in Sarajevo, in 1992/1993. The ongoing power cuts and hardships of life at this time give a real look at life in this country at that time. Suitable ages 9+. RT

The Burnt Stick
Anthony Hill
Puffin 1996
ISBN 0-14-036929-5
John Jagammara is a half Aborigine. The white people

are coming to take him away from his mother and family to grow up as a white boy. The story is a powerful one of love and the pain of a parent's separation from her child. Also, the rights and wrongs of one culture imposing their beliefs and thoughts on others. RT



A People Apart

Kathleen Kenna; photographs by Andrew Stawicki.
Houghton Mifflin, 1996; Hb ISBN 0395673445

A look into a very different way of life – that of Old Order Mennonites in America. The introduction gives a historical background to the Order, including the difference between Mennonites and Amish. The insight and photographs are a rare glimpse into this culture as many had never been photographed, nor spoken to any non-Mennonites. Ages 10 and over. AC.



Year of No Rain

Alice Mead
Farrar Straus Giroux, 2003;
Hb ISBN 0374372888

It's 1999 and life in Sudan is just getting harder. Between the constant warfare and the drought, Stephen's village is lucky to survive. When soldiers raid, soon after an aeroplane drop of relief supplies, Stephen and two other boys are sent to hide

until the soldiers leave – they could be captured and made to join their force. Returning to the village days later the boys find devastation and Stephen, the body of his mother. Alone they begin walking to find help and, maybe, a refugee camp where Stephen can attend school. This is a close-up look at life in a war zone, one seldom heard of in the rest of the world. Ages 10+. AC.



Countdown

Ben Mikaelson
Disney Press, 1997; Pb
0786812087

Elliot can't believe his luck when he wins the lottery to become the first junior astronaut and actually go into space on a NASA mission. Meanwhile Vincent struggles to reconcile his Masai heritage and the things he is learning from Sambeke, a Masai trained as a Western doctor. Elliot's role on the mission is to be the contact for amateur radio operators around the world. One of those operators is Sambeke. Vincent and Elliot's moral arguments are published worldwide, inspiring intense debate. The two 14-year-olds have a chance to mean face-to-face when, due to an emergency, the shuttle is forced to land in Dakar. Watched by the world they greet each other as friends, after realising that they share more commonalities than differences. Ages 10+. AC.



Shiva's Fire

Suzanne Fisher Staples
Red Fox, 2001; Pb ISBN
0099409631

On the day Parvati was born a devastating cyclone hits her village, killing hundreds. As she grows her behaviour is unusual enough that the villagers begin to blame her for their losses. As she grows her dharma becomes known – to dance of recreation and death, like Shiva. 10+. AC.



Nips XI

Ruth Starke
Lothian, 2000
Pb ISBN 0734401132

Lan wants to be a true-blue Aussie, so he forms a cricket team for Multicultural Day. His team includes Chinese, Vietnamese, Thai, Indonesian, Malaysian, Arab, Pakistani, etc. Against all odds, the team succeeds and ends up playing the favourites. It's a very funny sports book, with hidden themes of tolerance and integration that apply to both sides, the Aussies and the new immigrants. Best for intermediate ages. (The sequel is *Nips Go National*)
LO

Hana's Suitcase, a true story

by Karen Levine
Allen & Unwin, Crows Nest,
NSW; 2003
1-74114-167-2

Fumiko Ishioka, the Director of the Tokyo Holocaust Centre in Japan, is an amazing young woman dedicated to teaching young Japanese people about the events of the Holocaust, and how they have the power "to create peace in the future". This is the story of how she acquired a battered old suitcase and began the difficult search for its owner. Her search covered three continents and brought peace to a family living in Toronto, Canada. A fascinating story of sadness and joy, ages 10+. AL

Hannah's Winter

Kierin Meehan
Puffin 2001
ISBN 0141000449

13 year old Hannah is reluctant to accompany her mother to Japan for the winter because she will miss her first term at secondary school in Australia. She soon becomes involved with solving a mystery involving a ghostly Japanese child, which could be said to make this a fantasy, but the setting of the story gives an insight into everyday life in a Japanese family. 10+
HB



My Girragundji

Meme McDonald and Boori Pryor
Allen & Unwin, 1998
ISBN 1864488182

This is the first of three books based on the life of aboriginal writer and storyteller, Boori Pryor. The story relates the childhood experiences of a young boy growing up

between two worlds, his relationship with family members, problems with bullying at school, and his budding confidence when talking to girls.

Girragundji is a green tree frog whom the boy believes has been sent to him by his ancestors to help protect his spirit. It speaks to him and gives him courage to overcome his fears and become more confident. Told in direct, authentic voice and full of humour and vivid description, this is an easy read at only 75 pages. The font size varies throughout to reflect the mood of the story. Contains black and white photographs throughout. Age 10+. BF

A Little Piece of Ground

Elizabeth Laird
Macmillan, 2003
Pb ISBN 0330436791

This brave and important book has already caused a controversy. It looks at 12-year-old Karim, who lives in an Israeli-occupied town in Palestine. All he wants to do is play soccer and lead a normal life – but in an occupied town, life is far from normal. Karim has a terrifying experience when he's trapped in an abandoned car beyond curfew time – and an Israeli tank parks itself nearby... Essential reading for anyone trying to understand the Palestinian conflict. 11 and over. LO

Little Soldier

Bernard Ashley
Orchard Books, 1999
ISBN 1860398790

This book for teenagers tells about Kaninda, who becomes involved with rebels in Africa when his family are massacred. He's eventually picked up by the Red Cross, who send him to London to live. But he's determined to kill another boy at his school

who's from the opposing side, and also to get back to his homeland. It's a slick, streetwise look at the difficulties of a displaced youngster. 11 and over. LO



The Eagle's Shadow

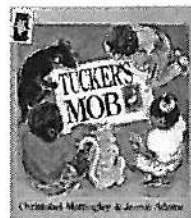
Nora Martin
Scholastic, 1997
ISBN 0590360876

In 1946, while her emotionally distant father is in occupied Japan, a 12-year-old girl spends a year with her mother's relatives in a Tlingit Indian village in Alaska. She begins to love and respect her heritage as she confronts the secret of her mother's disappearance. A simple, well-written story full of fascinating detail about the Tlingit way of life. 11+. LO

The Frozen Waterfall

Gaye Hicyilmaz
Faber & Faber 1993
ISBN 0571194958

12 year old Selda moves from Turkey to Switzerland where she has to cope with a new language and culture plus the unthinking discrimination shown to immigrants. This is an absorbing story, beginning in Turkey where the women of the family have been separated from their father and brothers until there is enough money for them to go to Switzerland and then showing the European way of life through the eyes of a child who is used to a totally different education system and cultural values. 11+ HB



Tucker's Mob

Christobel Mattingley,
illustrated by Jeanie Adams
Sydney: Omnibus Books,
1992

ISBN 1862911665

This story is set in the Barunga aboriginal community near Katherine in the Northern Territory, Australia. Tucker, the cat, lives with Sunny and Sam and Sue and the rest of the mob: Bella the black dog, and the big bird Brolga. Tucker likes to go to school with Sunny and Sue but the teacher always put him outside. But one day, after Sam makes a book about him in class, Tucker becomes a very special school cat. The wax crayon and water colour illustrations are vibrant and expressive, an effective medium to convey the everyday life of Tucker's aboriginal family. BF

Go and Come Back

Joan Abelove
DK Publishing 1998
ISBN 0789424762

Puffin ISBN 0141306947
The story is told from the point of view of Alicia, a young girl of the Isabo tribe in a Peruvian jungle village where two American anthropologists have come to observe the tribe. Alicia's matter of fact observations and comparisons of personal hygiene, sexual mores, eating habits and social conventions make fascinating reading. The vast difference between their way of life and Western civilisation is highlighted by the death of a baby which Alicia has been caring for. Her matter of fact acceptance of the child's death is alien to

the American women who expect her to grieve for longer but the death of children is something which happens often and is accepted as part of the pattern of life. 11+ HB

Secrets in the Fire

Henning Mankell
Allen & Unwin 2000
ISBN 1865081817
Henning Mankell is best known for his detective novels but he spent some time in Mozambique and this Novel and its sequel are based on a true story. Sofia is 10 when she steps on a landmine and loses both her legs. The story of how Sofia copes with the loss of her sister in the same accident, hospitalisation and separation from her family highlights the huge differences in opportunities and quality of life which exist in other parts of the world. 12+ HB

Playing with Fire

Henning Mankell
Allen & Unwin 2002
ISBN 1865087149
Sofia takes in sewing to supplement her mother's income but wants her own life including a boyfriend and a career. Her experience in hospital following the loss of her legs has made her aware of the ignorance which surrounds her and she wants to be a doctor and help fight diseases such as Aids. Teenagers in New Zealand won't be able to imagine what it is like to live in such circumstances but will identify with Sofia's hopes and dreams. 12+ HB

Deadly Unna

Phillip Gwynne

Penguin 1998

ISBN 0141300493
This novel is set in a small coastal town in Australia. The 14 year old central character is not interested in much apart from football at the beginning of the book but his friendship with Dumby Red, an Aborigine who is killed in a fight, forces him to look at the racism which exists in his town. He decides to act according to his own conscience and is the only white person to attend Dumby Red's funeral. The sequel, **Nukkin Ya**, Penguin 2000, ISBN 0141309431, continues Gary's story as he falls in love with Clarence, the sister of Dumby Red, and finds himself increasingly out of step with the rest of his family. 12+ HB.

My canary yellow star

Eva Wiseman
Tundra Books, Ontario; 2001
0-88776-533-5
It is March 19, 1944 and the German army has entered Budapest. The first sign for Marta of the horrific changes ahead is when the Jewish school she attends is closed down. Then her gentle, physician father is conscripted to dig trenches for the Germans, and her whole society is systematically broken down. This is a novel along the lines of "The diary of Anne Frank"- Marta shares her fears for herself and her family, her loves and her fight for survival in a country where the normal rules of society have broken down. Though this is a novel, the information about the extraordinary Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg is true. Ages 12+. AL

Daughter of the Wind

Suzanne Fisher Staples
Walker Books 2002

ISBN 0744590116

Shabanu lives with her family in Pakistan's Cholistan Desert. At twelve years old, Shabanu is already betrothed, while her sister, Phulan, a year older, is about to be married. Shabanu and her family are camel herders. Shabanu loves the camels and the life of the desert, she loves the freedom and resents the fact that soon she must leave her childish ways and begin to wear the *chador* of a woman. An evocative novel about a girl's coming on age in desert Pakistan. Suitable for ages 12 and above. LH

Ties that bind, ties that break

Lensey Namioka
Dell Laurel-Leaf, Random House, New York; 2000
0-440-41599-3
The fashions of different societies over generations have caused significant health problems for women - the tight corsets of Victorian women, stretched lips and necks of African women, female circumcision in the Middle East, stiletto heels and pointed shoes in America, and foot binding in China. This novel tells of a young Chinese girl who fights the binding of her feet and is supported by her father. Though this means the cancellation of her engagement, bullying at school and derision from her society, she fights for her right to be free. Though a novel, "Ties that bind..." reads like a true story and gives fascinating insights into attitudes in China during the early 1900s. Recommended age 12+ AL

Borany's Story

Borany Kanal and Adrienne Jansen
Learning Media, Ministry of Education, Wellington; 1991

0-478-02789-3

Borany and her family lived in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, until the Khmer Rouge took over the city and sent over two million people to live in the countryside. This is Borany's story of her family's battle to survive in a country torn apart by war. They had to move many times over the years following the fall of Phnom Penh, and many members of her family died. After reaching the refugee camp in Thailand, Khao-I-Dang, they met a Cambodian woman from New Zealand. This was their first step in gaining refugee status and being brought to New Zealand to live. A story of survival that will stir the hearts of many readers and lead to a greater understanding and acceptance of our new New Zealanders. Ages 12+. AL

Goodnight Mister Tom

by Michelle Magorian
Puffin Modern Classics,
London; 1996
0-140-37233-4

London during the Second World War is a dangerous place to be, and the children of the city are moved into the countryside to be billeted with strangers. Tom Oakley, a bachelor in his sixties, is allocated William Beech, a sickly boy from an abused and unloving background. Though undoubtedly sad, this is a wonderful story of developing friendship and trust, and is recommended for ages 12+.

This was sensitively adapted into a TV drama starring the late John Thaw.
AL

Candles at Dawn

Serpil Ural
Translation by Betty Toker
Limelight Press 2004
Pb ISBN 0957935277



Ellie has lots of questions about Australia's part in World War 1. Why did so many

young Australians enlist so readily to fight alongside the British forces – including her great grandfather Frank. Meanwhile in the Turkish village of Eccabat, on the Gallipoli Peninsula, Zeynep has similar questions about the war and why Australian and New Zealand forces came to fight the Turks, including her own great grandfather, Hasan, at Gallipoli.

Ellie's mother, intrigued by her daughter's questions, decides that they should make a pilgrimage to Gallipoli. They arrive at Zeynep's mother's bed and breakfast, and the two girls quickly become friends. They experience the ANZAC commemorative services at Gallipoli together. A fascinating look at war, national identity and friendship across cultures. Ural's book won the Grand Prize for Children's Literature in Turkey in 1997. 12yrs+. KA

Willow Tree and Olive

Irini Savvides
Hodder Headline 2001
ISBN 07336136063
Olive is in her final year of school in Australia, and making plans for university when repressed memories of childhood abuse surface. Following her subsequent breakdown she goes to Greece to stay with family friends and comes to terms with her Greek heritage as well as accepting what has happened and finding strength to

move on. This novel sensitively portrays the struggle the children of migrant families have to be accepted and to accept themselves and value their own cultures. 13+ HB

(Un)arranged Marriage

Bali Rai
Corgi, 2001; Pb ISBN
0552547344

This book is another look at a teenager struggling to live within two cultures. Manny is not interested in his family's traditional life as Punjabi Sikhs. Instead Manny considers himself to be an English boy – he's into football and his best friend is Black-Jamaican. In his efforts to be true to himself Manny breaks completely from his family and their traditions. This book makes you aware that it's not only girls who can be forced into marriage. Ages 15+. AC.



Ashanti to Zulu: African Traditions

By Margaret Musgrove
Illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon

Puffin Pied Piper, 1976
ISBN 0140546049
Presented in A-Z format this book offer an authentic portrait of 26 African tribes. The text and stunning illustrations encapsulate the enormous variety of the customs and traditions of the peoples of Africa, as well as the vast diversity of the land itself. The last page includes a map of Africa and the location of each tribal group
Winner of the Caldecott Medal 1977. BF.