



book list

Children's Literature Charitable Trust of New Zealand

te kaupapa o te korero

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Books in translation

The universe is made of stories, not atoms. Roger Penrose.

Those of us brought up reading Grimms' tales, Hans Christian Andersen, Asterix, Tintin, Moomins and Pippi Longstocking – amongst many, many others – probably never thought that they were originally written in another language.

These days many more books are available in translation. One of the benefits of this is that the English-reading world are introduced to different ways of thinking. Illustrative style also differs from country to country. So, both text and art provide a insight into different cultures, history and ways of life.

For the last five years, USBBY – the US section of IBBY – has compiled an honour list of international books. You can view the list on their site [www.usbby.org].

Reviewers: Kerry Aluf, Sanya Baker, Helen Beckingsale, Tina Collins, Annie Coppell.

If you would like to join our group of reviewers - you can! Read all about it on our website.

The booklist is available online at www.storylines.org.nz – you will need to log on with your Storylines account to view the booklist.

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Storylines Children's Literature Charitable Trust of New Zealand

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For younger readers

Hans Christian Andersen's Fairy Tales
Selected and illustrated by Lisbeth Zwerger

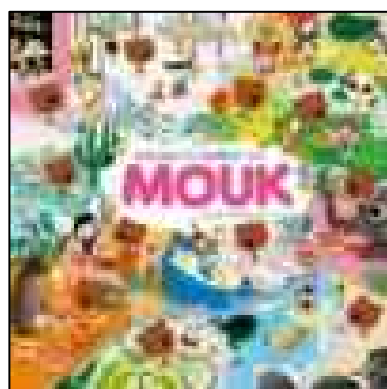
This English edition translated by Anthea Bell; Penguin Young Readers Group 1991; ISBN 9780698400351
First published one year after Lisbeth Zwerger won the Hans Christian Andersen medal for her body of work as a children's book illustrator, this beautiful translated edition was reissued in 2006 in celebration of Andersen's 200th birthday and has remained in print ever since.

Zwerger's watercolour-and-ink works add another dimension to the magic of these 11 tales – some of which are well known while others less so. Her illustrations hark back to classic children's book illustrations of a century ago with a zestful energy that will delight today's children. Along with 'The Little Match Girl', 'The Emperor's New Clothes' and 'Thumbeline', Zwerger has included 'The Jumpers', 'The Nightingale' and 'The Rose Tree Regiment'; the latter stories which our family, at least, met for the first time within these pages. A treasure to be enjoyed by anyone aged 4+. SB.



Around the World with Mouk: A Trail of Adventure

March Boutavant
English edition translated by Linda Burgess; Gecko Press 2008; ISBN 9781877467011
Originally published in French.



Mouk, a little bear, sets off around the

world, meeting new friends, and sending postcards home. This is a great interactive book for all readers, with lots of information about the countries Mouk visits. 4+. AC.

The Bear with the Sword

David Cali, illustrated by Gianucca Foli
English edition published by Wilkins Farago 2010; ISBN 9780980607048
Originally published in Italy as *l'Orso con la Spada*; ZOOlibri 2008

The bear with the sword keeps on cutting things just because he can. When he has cut down the whole forest he builds himself a fortress and when it is flooded he goes in search of the culprit so he can cut them in two with his sword. He eventually realises that the one who cut down the forest triggered off a chain of events which caused the flood. This ecological fable is relevant to events happening all over the world and emphasises the importance of making amends when our actions cause trouble for others. Teachers' notes are available at the publisher's website [www.wilkinsfarago.com.au/index.php]. 4+. HB.



Mama Robot

David Cali,
illustrated by Anna Laura Cantone
English edition translated by Marcel Danesi;
Tundra Books 2008; ISBN 9780887768736

Originally published in Italy as *Voglio una Mamma-Robot*; edizioni ARKA
A young boy decides to make a robot



mother because his mother is too busy at work to spend time with him. When he's done, he realises that there's a problem – he can't hug his robot mother, as she's not soft like his real mother. The illustrations are mixed media, with very spiky-looking pen and ink. 4+. AC.

Guji-Guji

Chih-Yuan Chen

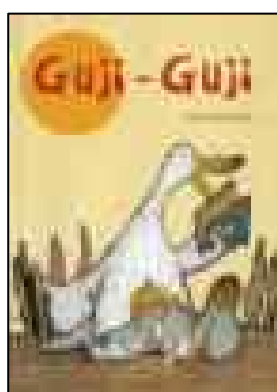
English edition Gecko Press 2007

(Kane/Millar 2004); ISBN

9781877467431

Originally published in Taiwan by Hsin Yi Publications 2003

This story was inspired by a Korean friend of the author who was adopted by a non-Korean family and grew up in a community where he looked 'different'. The story is written 'in the hope that children all over the world can learn to accept different people and things.' Guji-Guji is a crocodile, whose egg rolled into a duck's nest. Mother Duck didn't notice. She was reading. Although three crocodiles try to enlist his help in catching the ducks to eat, he thinks of a way to save his family and continues to live happily as a crocoduck. The muted colour illustrations are delightful, particularly those that depict mother duck, glasses on beak, absorbed in her book. HB.



The Black Book of Colors

Menena Cottin and Rosana Faría

English edition translated by Elisa Amado; Groundwood Books / House of Anansi Press 2008; ISBN

9780888998736

Originally published in Mexico, in Spanish, as *El Libro Negro de los Colores*; Ediciones Tecolote 2006. An amazing tactile book designed to give sighted people some idea of what it

is like to be blind. The pages are matte black – the only visible colour is the white of the text. The text is translated into Braille and the illustrations are raised and shiny. The text is simple, yet thought-provoking – [Thomas] says that green tastes like lemon ice cream and smells like grass that's just been cut. 4+. AC.

The Big Red Squirrel and the Little Rhinoceros

Mischa Damjan, illustrated by Ralph Steadman

English edition published by Pavilion 2009, ISBN 9781843651307

Originally published in German by Nord-Süd Verlag AG 1965

This colourful picture book tells of the difficulties encountered by a group of animals when the little animals wish to be bigger because of the threat posed to them by the larger animals. When they are magically transformed all the animals, big and small, struggle with the changes. They are relieved to be returned to their original sizes and resolve to live happily together. 3+. HB.



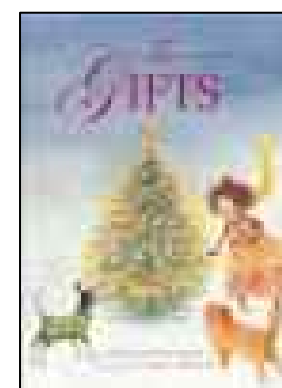
The Gifts

Regina Fackelmayer, illustrated by Christa Unzner

English edition published by North-South Books 2009; ISBN 9780735822658

Originally published in Switzerland as *Ein Weihnachtsbaum für Mia*; Nord-Süd Verlag AG 2009

A Christmas story with fairy tale overtones in which Mia goes shopping and leaves behind her Christmas tree when she stops to help an old man who has dropped his sack of



presents. There is a happy ending when the old man and his grandson, who Mia has also helped, arrive at the door with her tree, decorated and lit with candles. 3+. HB.

Pitschi, The kitten Who Always Wanted to be Something Else: A Sad Story that Ends Well

Hans Fischer

English edition translated by Marianne Martens; North-South Books 2010

(Harcourt Brace 1953); ISBN

978073582278

Originally published in Switzerland as Pitschi; Artemis Verlag 194

A delightful tale of a kitten which doesn't want to play with the other kittens but goes in search of a new identity. Her attempts to be like other animals result in a fall into



the duck pond, a cold wet night in the rabbit hutch and a very sick kitten. The story ends with a big party to cheer her up. Hans Fischer was a popular post war Swiss book illustrator and here uses stone lithography, drawing the pictures directly on large stone, one for each colour. 4+. HB.

Oops!

Jean-Luc Fromental, illustrated Joëlle Jolivet

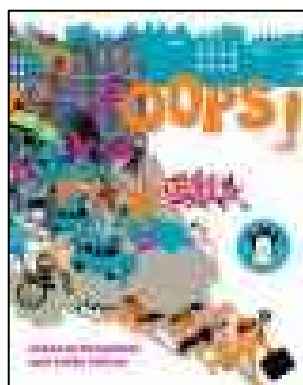
English edition translated by Thomas Connors; Harry N. Abrams 2010; ISBN

9780810987494

Originally published in French by Hélicium 2009

Fun and chaos abound in this oversized picture book.

The text tells the story of a family rushing to get to the airport and not miss their flight – while the illustrations show the mayhem that



follows from a simple action: the slippery soap out of the window. There are pop stars, elephants, the secret service, firemen and aliens! The illustrations are cartoon-like and retro, with a funky colour palette. Fun to share with chaotic 4+. AC.

Oh Hogwash, Sweet Pea!

Ngāreta Gabel, illustrated by Ali Teo and Astrid Jensen.

English edition translated and adapted by Hannah Rainforth; Huia 2003; ISBN 1877283967.

Originally published as Tekiteora, Kei Hea ō Hu?; Huia 2003.

Te reo edition won Te Kura Pounamu Award 2003.

English language edition won New Zealand Post Children's Choice Award 2004.

Each day Sweet Pea's parents ask where her shoes are. And each day, Sweet Pea has a different



explanation. Her parents don't believe her – well, a cat using them to land his plane in clouds, isn't that possible. But, in the end, Sweet Pea is proven right. Vivid mixed-media illustrations, and use of text, makes this is a bright and modern production. A great book made even more notable for the fact it was written in te reo and then translated in English. More please! AC.

The Giantess

Eveline Hasler, illustrated by Renate Seelig

English edition translated by Laura McKenna; Kane/iller Books 1997; ISBN 0916291766

Originally published in Germany as *Die Riesin*; Verlag Heinrich Ellermann 1996 Emmeline is a giantess who lives at the

edge of the forest, keeping away from people, as she remembers once scaring a woman. A young woodsman builds a house next door and begins to smile at her. He invites her to the carnival – saying she could dress up. Emmeline seizes the opportunity to ‘dress-up’ as a giantess and be with people. There, things are not quite what she expected. A gentle tale of finding your own place. 5+. AC.

What Do You Want?

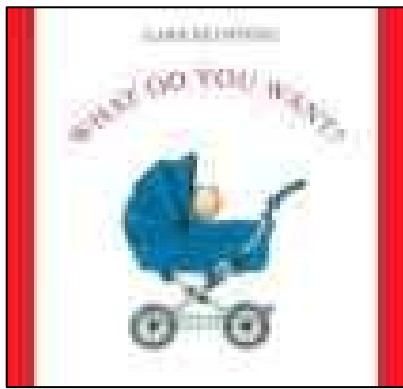
Lars Klinting

English edition translated by Maria Lundin; Groundwood Books 2006; ISBN 9780888996367

Originally published in Sweden as *Tuppen Vill Ha*; Eriksson & Lindgren 2003

This is a simple picture book with the beginning of a phrase on one page and its completion on the following page.

The bumblebee wants... its flower.



Minimal text, realistic illustrations in soft colours, small format and good quality heavy paper make this a good choice for very young children. HB.

Constance and Tiny

Pierre Le Gall, illustrated by Eric Héliot

English edition translated by Shannon Rowan and Robert Agis; Sterling 2009; ISBN 9781402766480

Originally published in French

The contradiction between text and illustration is the main appeal of this title.

Constance's version of the truth is very, very different to the reality shown in the illustrations as ungrateful Constance, with her big and evil cat Tiny, run away from her loving and super-indulgent parents. The ironic humour will be appreciated by 4+. AC.

Waiting for Mummy

Tae-Jun Lee, illustrated by Dong-Sung Kim

English edition Wilkins Fargo 2006; ISBN 0958557144

Originally published in Korean in 1938, and reissued with these illustrations in 2004.

It is cold and a little boy waits at a tram stop for his mother. As each tram arrives, the boy asks the driver Is my mummy on the tram? The third driver helps a little, and tells him to stay until his mother



comes. It is windy and cold, and beginning to get dark, and to snow, and still he waits. That's when the text stops – but don't stop turning the pages! You need to 'read' on until the very last page. This book is haunting in its simplicity, yet heartfelt and emotional. The illustrations have been painted on han-ji (traditional Korean paper) using traditional muck-sun (Chinese ink line) techniques.

Teachers' notes and more information are available on the publisher's website [www.wilkinsfargo.com.au/index.php]. 4+. AC.

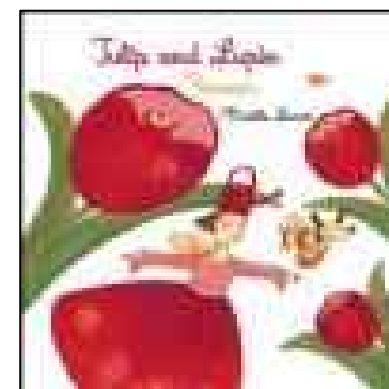
Tulip and Lupin Forever

Mireille Levert

English edition translated by Elisa Amada; Groundwoods Books / Anansi Press 2009; ISBN

9780888999146

Originally published in French as *Capucine et Lupin: Pour Toujours* Tulip is a watering fairy and Lupin is a dog-bee. Tulip and Lupin spend all their time together, but dog-bees don't live as long as watering fairies, and Tulip grieves when Lupin dies. One day she

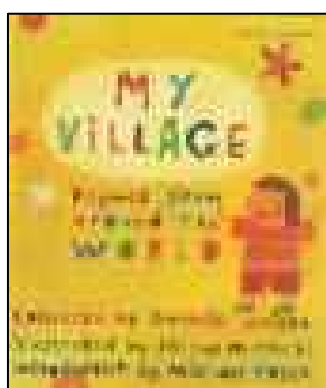


decides it is time to move on, and sets off exploring. After an adventure, she realises that she will always miss Lupin, but she feels better. Homesick, she returns home and finds a baby dog-bee, whom she will love and train. 5+. AC.

My Village: Rhymes from Around the World

Collected by Danielle Wright; illustrated by Mique Moriuchi; multiple translators; Gecko Press 2008; ISBN 9781877467103

A glorious collection of rhymes for children – think nursery rhymes – from around the world, translated into English and collected together. Each rhyme is accompanied by its original text. There are kites from Japan; tapioca from Fiji; donkeys from Ireland; a baby's bathtime in India; and more treasures. For all ages. AC.

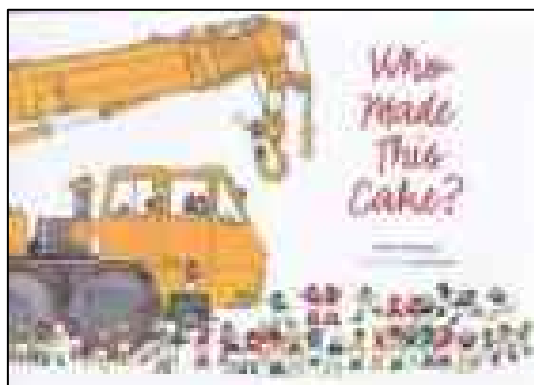


Who Made This Cake?

Chihiro Nakagawa, illustrated Junji Koyose

English translation by the author; Front Street 2008; ISBN 9781590785959
Originally published in Japan by Tokuma Shoten Publishing 2007

A construction crew move in to make a cake. The kitchen is inundated with small machinery and even tinier people – about a tenth of the size of the cake. A fabulous imagining of the baking process. 3+. AC.



Who's Hiding?

Satoru Onishi
English edition Kane/Miller, or Gecko Press 2008; ISBN 9781877467134

Originally published in Japan by Poplar Press 1993

A simple premise, with very simple text, this book is a delight. On each double-page spread one animal is doing something different and you have to spot them. The animals are blocky and cartoon-like, yet the changes can be challenging to see at a glance, especially when you're asked *Who's angry?* 2+. AC.



The Ladder

Halfdan Rasmussen, illustrated by Pierre Pratt
English edition translated by Marilyn Nelson; Candlewick Press 2005; ISBN 0763622826

Translations of poetry can be a bit hit-and-miss, but this Danish poem has been sympathetically – and brilliantly – made available to English-speakers. A carpenter's ladder sets off on a surreal adventure. As he does so, various people climb him – and vanish up into the sky (where his carpenter disappeared to). Luckily a storm comes, and they're all returned. 4+. AC.



Big Cat, Small Cat

Ami Rubinger.
English edition translated by Ray Baitner; Abbeville Kids 2008; ISBN 9780789210296

Originally published in Hebrew

A concept book which has illustrations of cats with accompanying rhyming couplets about them, inviting children to fill in



words demonstrating opposites, like tall and short, nice and mean, young and

old. HB.

Albert & Lila

Rafik Schami, illustrated by Els Cools and Oliver Streich

English edition translated by Anthea Bell; North-South Books 1999; ISBN 0735811822

Originally published in Switzerland as *Albin und Lila*; Nord-Süd Verlag AG 1999
The animals in the farmyard are happy and polite to each other. But the pigs don't play with the chickens, and the chickens don't play with the pigs. Albert is a white pig – and none of the other pigs play with him. Lila is an old chicken, who has been chased away by the rooster. The two form a strong friendship, and work together to get rid of the fox, who comes and terrifies the chickens. A lovely tale of unexpected friendship. 4+. AC.



Hello, Sailor

André Sollie, illustrated by Ingrid Godon. English edition published by Macmillan Children's Books 2003; ISBN 0333992903

Originally published in the Netherlands by Querido's Uitgeverij BV
Matt lives in a lighthouse, keeping watch for ships, but especially for Sailor, who has promised to return home. None of Matt's visitors believe that Sailor will return. On Matt's birthday he has a

For middle readers

Grandpa's Angel

Jutta Bauer

English edition by Walker Books 2005; ISBN 1844280349

Original edition published in Germany as *Opas Engel*; CARLSEN Verlag GmbH 2001

A young boy visits his Grandpa in

party, but still waits for Sailor – who returns late that night. The next morning, Matt's friends arrive and there is no Matt – so they begin to wait for him.

This book raised some controversy when it was first released in English, as it has been seen to have homosexual overtones.

However, I feel that this has more to do with the English title, and an over-reading of the text, as I have always read it as being about a strong friendship. 5+. AC.



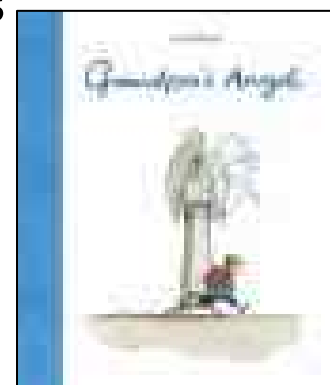
Who's Driving?

Leo Timmer

English edition translated by Bill Nagelkerke; Gecko Press 2006; ISBN 0958272026

Also available in pop-up format. Originally published in Belgium as *Wie Rijdt?*; Claris Uitgeverij 2005
A group of animals approaches different vehicles and the reader is asked to guess who would be driving each one. Some are easier to guess than others, Elephant in fireman's clothing is an obvious choice for the fire engine, for instance. A fun guessing-game for 2+. AC.

hospital, and listens to his stories – how nothing could ever harm him. The story tells of all his adventures. But the illustrations show exactly how he survived – with the help of his angel. A very dumpy,



housefrau of an angel – at times exasperated with her charge. At times, saddened by the world around them, as it descends into the chaos of the Second World War. As the boy leaves the hospital, the angel follows. Simple pen and ink illustrations perfectly complement the emotion of the text. A touching story of belief and hope. 7+. AC.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland
Lewis Carroll

This edition illustrated by POP
English edition translated by Camellia Nich; Dark House Books 2010; ISBN 9781595822666.

Edition adapted by Michiyo Hayano and published in Japan by POPLAR Publishing 2006.

Yes, a translation of a translation – which results in a simplified edition, suitable for introducing Alice to younger audiences.



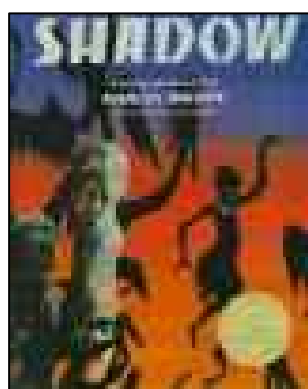
The illustrations are in Japanese anime-style (big eyes, no mouth) familiar from cartoons and manga (Japanese comics). And, if you look carefully, you may notice a similarity between Alice's Queen and the current Queen of England. 6+. AC.

Shadow

Blaise Cendrars

Translated and illustrated by Marcia Brown; Charles Scribner's Sons 1982; ISBN 0684172267

Originally published in French as 'La Féticheuse' from *Petits Contes Nègres pour les Enfants des Blancs*; editions denoël Caldecott Medal 1983



The original poem was inspired by conversations with storytellers and shamans in Africa. This Shadow is so much more than our idea of a shadow. This Shadow is wrapped into the environment, into the lives of the people. Shadow is magic. Shadow is a dance. Shadow is all. A thought-provoking look into a different world. The illustrations are stunning and atmospheric. 7+. AC.

Models

Lillo Greco

English edition translated by Ruth Thomson; Franklin Watts 2006; ISBN 9780749669065

Originally published in French by Casternan 2002

Perfect for children who love making stuff. Perfect for parents who have to help with the projects, as the activities are simple, and can be made with easily found materials. 6+. AC.



Garmann's Summer

Stian Hole

English edition translated by Don Bartlett; Eerdmans Books for Young Readers 2008; ISBN 9780802853394

Originally published in Norway as *Garmanns Sommer*, Cappelen's Forlag 2006.

It is nearly the end of Garmann's summer – and nearly time for him to start school. It is also time for the aunts to visit for a few days.

There are three of them – and they're all little and bring presents for Garmann. As they visit, they share stories and reassure Garmann about his new life at school.

Amazing collage illustrations accompany the text – and both text and illustrations make you think differently about life and aging. 7+. AC.



Life-Size Zoo: From Tiny Rodents to Gigantic Elephants, an Actual-Size Animal Encyclopedia

Photographer Toyofumi Fukuda
English edition adapted by Kristin Earhart; Seven Footer Kids 2009; ISBN 9781934734209

Originally published in Japan as *Honto No Ookisa Doubutsu En*; Gakken 2008
Editorial supervisor of Japanese edition, Teruyuki Komiya, Japanese translation by Makiko Oku

A random collection of creatures – with photos taken in Japanese zoos –

allowing readers up close to the animals. The text offers more sensory input that is possible in just the – admittedly amazing – photos.

Smaller animals squish onto one page, others – like the giraffe with stuck-out tongue – require fold-out pages. A delight for all inquisitive 5+. AC.



The Red Bird

Astrid Lindgren, illustrated by Marit Törnqvist

English edition translated by Patricia Crampton; Arthur A Levine / Scholastic 2005; ISBN 0439627966.

Originally published in Sweden as *Sunnanäng*; Saltkrän AB in 1959
With these illustrations published by Rabén Sjögren Bokförlag 2003
Matthew and Anna used to live in Sunnymead, but in the Days of Poverty they come to live with a farmer in Myra. Everything is grey and there is no time for play – only work, work, work – fed by cold potatoes in herring brine. The only thing that keeps the two going is the promise of school in winter. But school isn't wonderful, either. Only the red bird brings them hope, and colour – the red bird which leads them back to

Sunnymead. Emotional reading for 7+. AC.

Dance Steps [Ballet Academy; Book One]

Beatrice Masini
English edition translated by Laura Watkinson; Piccadilly 2009; ISBN 9781848120228

Originally published in Italian Zoe is desperate to be a ballerina – but the end-of-year show at the Ballet Academy raises some problems. Zoe's best friend, Leda, is growing too tall and Laila keeps teasing them. First in a series of books perfect for wannabe ballerinas 7+. AC. A more unisex series in translation, for this age group, are the *Geronimo Stilton* books.

The Two Bullies

Junko Morimoto.

English edition translated by Isao Morimoto; Crown Publishers / Random House 1997; ISBN 0517800616

CBC Picture Book of the Year 1998
Ni-ou is the self-proclaimed strongest fellow in Japan. When he hears about Dokkoi, the strongest man in China, Ni-ou sets off to challenge him. On the way, the god Hachiman (disguised as a priest) gives him a file to cut through anything. Anyway, long story short – the two don't actually meet – but each feels as though the other is the strongest. Beware of reading this story from the traditional start – it actually starts right after the endpages. Great atmospheric illustrations on a wonderful tan-coloured background, which provides an earthiness to the pictures. 6+. AC.

Good-Bye, Vivi!

Antoine Schneider, illustrated by Maja Dusíková

English edition translated by J. Alison James; North-South Books 1998; ISBN

1558589856.

Originally published in Switzerland as *Leb Wohl, Chaja!*; Nord-Süd Verlag AG 1998.

Granny moves in with Molly and Will and their parents, bringing with her Vivi, her canary. The family finds its way in settling in together, adapting to the changes. As time goes on, Vivi ages and – eventually – dies. Granny tells Will that, yes, she will die – but that he will remember her, just like he remembers Vivi. Of course, that day comes, and together the remaining family members share stories of Granny and Vivi. A gentle, reassuring tale. I do have a quibble – in the illustrations it is obvious that Vivi is a budgie – so just a little niggle, but you never know, you might be sharing this book with some nit-

picking bird lover. 6+. AC.

Dinosaurs Galore

Masayuki Sebe

English edition published by Gecko Press 2010; ISBN 9781877467592 (hbk) or ISBN 9781877467561 (pbk)

Originally published in Japan as *Kyoryu Puzzle*; Kaisei-Sha Publishing 1993

This bright, graphic picture book, originally published in Japanese, provides puzzles and games to of varying levels of difficulty, some quite sophisticated, and sure to keep children happily occupied. Included are matching games, coded messages, hidden animals and mazes, and fortunately the answers are found at the back of the book. Attractive and fun for 6+. CB.

For upper primary and intermediate readers

The Crow-Girl [The Children of Crow Cove Book One]

Bodil Bredsdorff

English edition translated by Faith Inqwersen; Farrar, Straus and Giroux 2006; ISBN 9780374400033.

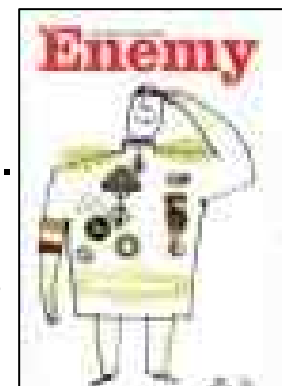


Originally published in Danish as *Krageungen: Børnene i Kragevig 1*] This novel has a fairy tale feel to it, in that it is set in no particular time and the child in the story is un-named and lives alone with her grandmother. Following her grandmother's death she leaves home and is exploited by a greedy couple who take her in and expect her to work very hard for no recompense. Following the crows she meets others whom she can help and who befriend her, and eventually she establishes a community of friends in the cove where she lived with her grandmother. A satisfying read for 9+ and the beginning of a series. HB. *The Enemy* Davide Cali, illustrated Serge Bloch.

English edited translated by Justine Werner; Wilkins Farago Ltd 2007; ISBN 9780958557184

Originally published in French as *L'ennemi*; Éditions Sarbacane 2007

A soldier, trained and prepared for war, lives in his hole – waiting for enemy fire. All he knows is that the enemy isn't human – he kills women and children. But it has been months, and his food is running out. Can he sneak out of his hole and escape? Can he stop the war? A profoundly moving story of war, and the stories told about the enemy. The illustrations are simple line drawings, with collage elements that make them three-dimensional. Published in association with Amnesty International. Teachers' notes are available at the publisher's website [www.wilkinsfarago.com.au/index.php]. 9+. AC.



That's Life, Lily

Valérie Dayre

English edition translated by Theo Cuffe;
Faber 2008; ISBN
9780571237975

Originally published in French
It's August – summer holiday
time in Europe, and Lily
HATES being stuck in the
back of the car, and is fed up
with her parents. Somehow she – and a
dog – end up on the side of the
motorway. The reader is gradually made
aware that something very odd has
been going on, and we may not be able
to trust our narrator, Lily. 9+. AC.

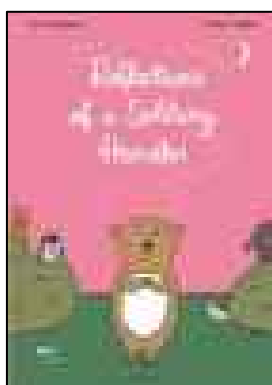


Reflections of a Solitary Hamster

Astrid Desbordes, illustrated by Pauline
Martin

English edited translated by Linda
Burgess; Gecko Press 2009; ISBN
9781877467455

Originally published in
French as *Les Reveries d'un
Hamster Solitaire*; Albin
Michel Jeunesse 2008
Hamster is incredibly self-
centred, and completely
oblivious to how the other
forest animals are reacting and
behaving. Luckily, chapters in this large-
format graphic novel allow other animals
to share Hamster's spotlight. A fun and
engaging read – but if your
temperament is anything like Hamster's,
you may not understand the subtle
humour. 10+. AC.



*Master Pieces Up Close: Western
Paintings from 14th to 20th Centuries*

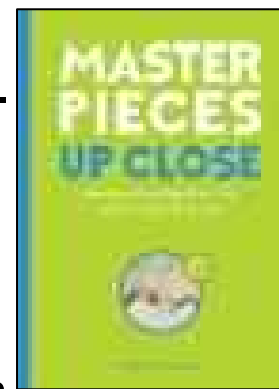
Claire d'Harcourt

English edition translated by Shoshanna
Kirk; Chronicle Books 2006; ISBN
9780811854030

Originally published in French as *Chefs
D'œuvre à la Loupe*; Éditions de Seuil

2004

One in a series of books
introducing and exploring art.
This is a super look-and-find
as readers are invited to find
hidden details in some
famous art works. Each big
double-page spread includes
the main picture, then little details
hidden under flaps. A book to
experience as much as to read and
learn from. 8+. AC.



The Adventure of Life

Jean-Benoît Durand; illustrated by Robin
Gindre

English edition translated by Jean
Anderson; Gecko Press 2010; ISBN
9781877467509

Originally published in French as *La Vie
à Petits Pas*

Life from the Big Bang onwards in a
quirky exploration of life, evolution,
cosmology and more. 9+. AC.

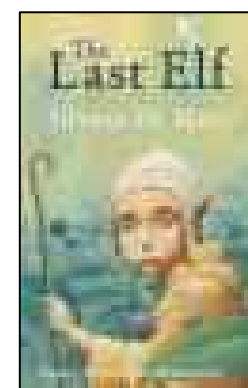
The Last Elf

Silvana De Mari

English edition published by Bloomsbury
2007; ISBN 9780747577881

Originally published in Italy 2004

This is a delightful standalone
fantasy for older children. It
could be described as an
allegory or fable as the elf is
the last of his people after a
systematic genocide by a
dictatorial human who herded
the elves into camps. The elf
is still a child and sole survivor of the
floods that swept away the last camp.
He has some unusual ideas about
humans, so isn't sure what to expect
when he runs into a woman with her
dog. There's lots of humour, a little
magic, a prophecy and a dragon as well
as one of the cutest heroes ever. KA.



Toby Alone

Timothée de Fombelle, illustrated by François Place
English edition translated by Sarah Ardizzone; Walker Books 2008; ISBN 9781406307269

Originally published in France 2006

Only 1.5mm tall, young Toby is one of the Tree People who inhabit a huge oak tree. Their whole existence is wrapped in a miniature world of the one tree.

Toby is on the run, he's not sure what's happened to his parents, but he knows he has to head south. The story tracks back and forth in quite a pleasurable way, though it might be a little difficult for children to follow the twists brought on by this type of narrative style. Beautifully illustrated throughout by François Place. Fans of Roald Dahl's children's books will love this. KA.

There is also a sequel - *Toby and the Secrets of the Tree*; Walker Books 2010; ISBN 9781406325454.

The Book of Everything

Guus Kuijer

English edition translated by John Nieuwenhuizen; Young Picador 2006; ISBN 9781405054713

Originally published in Holland by Querido 2005

Thomas and his family live in fear of his father. All Thomas wishes to be when he grows up is happy. Thomas befriends the 'witch' next door, a girl with a false leg and his own Jesus – a friendly, chatty Jesus and not the punisher of his father's beliefs. Thomas writes everything down in his 'Book of Everything' – his way of dealing with his father's abuse. Rich in symbolism and magical realism. 9+. AC.

Eep!

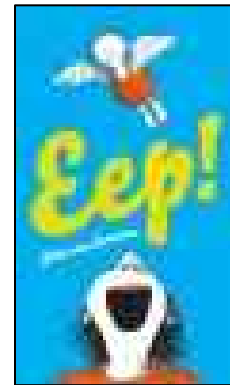
Joke van Leeuwen

English edition published by Gecko

Press 2010; ISBN 9781877467578

Originally published in the Netherlands as *Iep!*; Querido 1996

Warren and Tina are a childless older couple, Warren spends his days birdwatching, with his book of birds and binoculars. One day he comes across something strange – but... is it a girl-in-the-form-of-a-bird or a bird-in-the-form-of-a-girl? He takes her home and they call her Beedy, but Beedy has wings and needs to fly. This is a quirky and heart-warming story that appeals to the child in everyone. Accompanying the story are delightful illustrations by van Leeuwen. 9+. KA.



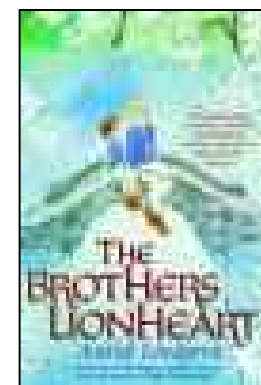
The Brothers Lionheart

Astrid Lindgren, illustrated by Ilon Wikland

English edition translated by Joan Tate; Oxford University Press 2009; ISBN 9780192729040

Originally published in Sweden 1973

A new edition of Lindgren's much-loved story of two brothers, Jonathan and Karl and their adventures in the heavenly land of Nangiyala. Reunited after their tragic deaths, the sickly Karl is finally able to walk, run, and ride horses like he always dreamed about. 9+. KA.



Ecology and the Environment: Step-by-Step

François Michel, illustrated by Marc Boutavant

English edition translated by Jean Anderson; Gecko Press 2009; ISBN 9781877467295

Original edition published in France as *L'écologie à Petits Pas*; Actes Sud 2000 and 2007

Just as it says on the cover – a great

step-by-step introduction to ecology and the environment – how everything fits together. Changes in font styles and sizes, and the size and layout of the illustrations – lead you through the information. If you just need quick and bite-sized pieces of information, look for the larger font size. Great for 8+. AC.

Dog

Daniel Pennac

English edition translated by Sarah Adams; Walker Books 2009; ISBN 9781406322743

Originally published in French as *Cabot-Caboche*; Éditions Nathan 1982
Half drowned at birth, abandoned on a rubbish tip and chased by dog-catchers;



Dog's had a tough puppyhood. He decides it's time to find and train himself an owner. This is a tale of a dog's life, from his point of view, and his journey to be accepted as part of a family. A funny and touching story of adventure, survival and friendship; hinting at the commitment required in owning a pet and the shared love and happiness an animal can bring. 8+. TC.

The Mask Wearer [Amos Daragon Book One]

Bryan Perro

English edition translated by Kathy Elgin; Scribo / The Salariya Book Company 2009; ISBN 9781906714352.



Originally published in French by Les Intouchables, Canada 2003

Amos Daragon is 10-years-old, and is one of the chosen – chosen to battle evil. As he sets out on his quest to find all the masks, various fantasy and fable creatures and situations happen – as is the case with all epic fantasy. First in a planned series. 9+. AC.

The Pasta Detectives

Andrea Steinhöfel, illustrated by Steven Wells

English edition translated by Chantal Wright; Chicken House 2010; ISBN 9781906427276

Originally published in Germany 2008
This is the first of three books about Rico and Oscar to be translated into English. Meet Rico, he's a 'proditty', a bit like being a child prodigy, but also like the opposite. He thinks a lot but not so quickly. His new friend Oscar is a child prodigy and can solve problems very fast. Together they manage to solve the biggest child kidnapping case Berlin has seen in many years. Steinhöfel's unlikely hero, Rico, is a very endearing character. He's resourceful and brave, determined to overcome his constant confusion. 8+. KA.

My Friend Percy & the Sheik

Ulf Stark

English edition published by Gecko Press 2006; ISBN 0958272018

Originally published in Sweden as *Min Vän Shejken I Stureby*; Bonnier Carlsen Bokförlaget 1995

The second book about Ulf and his best friend Percy, told in a series of inter-linked vignettes. This time, Ulf's father has invited a real-life sheik over for dinner; Percy might have to move; and Ulf wants to hypnotise Marianne so he can kiss her. Although their lives may be lived in Sweden, some experiences – and worries – are universal. Although the text itself isn't that challenging for this age group, some of the language and situations make this more suitable for 9+. AC.



The Shadows of Ghadames

Joelle Stolz

English edition translated by Catherine Temerson; Delacorte 2004; ISBN 0385731043

Originally published in French by Bayard Editions Jeunesse 1999

Winner of the Mildred L. Batchelder Award 2005

From the very first page the reader enters a very different way of life and becomes absorbed in the world of late 19th-century Libya. Malika is almost 12-years-old and must prepare herself for a life spent entirely on the rooftops of Ghadames, as adult women are not allowed on the streets or outside the city walls, and 12 is nearing marriageable age. The insights into this way of life are fascinating despite there not being much of a plot and it would be enjoyed by girls of 10+. HB.

Mimus

Lilli Thal

English edition translated by John Brownjohn; Allen & Unwin 2005; ISBN 1741147026

Shortlisted Marsh Award 2007

Originally published in German

A fantasy adventure story set in an alternate middle ages where two kingdoms have been engaged in a protracted war. Prince Florin thinks he is called to a peace celebration and finds that instead he is apprenticed to Mimus, court jester of the enemy king. Florin must learn to survive in harsh conditions and resolve the situation both for himself and his kingdom. 11+ HB



The Last Black Cat

Eugene Trivizas

English edition Egmont Books 2005; ISBN 1405212810

Originally published in Greece 2001

The Guardians of the Good Luck have rounded up their supporters and declared open season on black cats – harbingers of bad luck. Backed by the island nation's politicians (who need someone to blame for their ineptitude at governance), plus some scheming businessmen, the 'black cat eradication' scheme is soon backed by the superstitious island population. As the population of black cats dwindles to the last few, including our intrepid unnamed hero, the businessmen's scheme begins to take shape. Not a book for the fainthearted, there are echoes of the unjust treatment of 'undesirables' under Nazi rule. KA.

The Happiness of Kati

Jane Vejjajiva

English edition translated by Prudence Borthwick; Allen & Unwin 2006; ISBN 9781741147537

Originally published in Thailand 2005

Kati, a young girl, lives with her grandparents in a small Thai village. The chapter sub-headings show that she misses her mother and that there is an unspoken gap in her life. Then Kati is asked if she would like to visit her terminally ill mother. The story is sensitively told, the adults are compassionate and helpful but leave Kati to make her own decisions. Simple and poetic in style, this is a sad but also uplifting story. 9+. KA.



Guardian of the Spirit [Moribito; Book One]

Nahoko Uehashi

English edition translated by Cathy Hirano; Arthur A Levine Books 2008 / Scholastic 2009; ISBN 0545005426 / 0545005434

Batchelder Award 2009.

Originally published in Japan as *Seirei no Moribito*; Kaisei-Sha Publishers 1996
This is a fast-paced fantasy which should appeal to manga fans. Balsa, the heroine is an itinerant bodyguard, charged with the task of protecting the son of the Mikado who is possessed by either a water demon or a beneficent water spirit, depending on whose story you believe – that of the native Yakoo, or the ruling Yogo. Balsa has her work cut out to keep Prince Chagum safe and her adventures make great reading for 11+. HB.

Guardian of the Darkness [Moribito; Book Two]
Nahoko Uehashi

For teens

Castle on the Border
Margot Benary-Isbert
English edition translated by Richard & Clara Winston; Harcourt Brace 1956; ISBN 0152149996
Originally published in German as *Schloss an der Grenze* 1956
Set in post-war Germany, this older book is worthwhile hunting down as it gives a different perspective – that of the average German after the war. Leni, an actress, moves in with her elderly aunt and uncle to help them make an old castle habitable for winter. Leni finds a troop of actors to help in her endeavours. The castle inhabitants provide refuge for those fleeing to West Germany. AC.



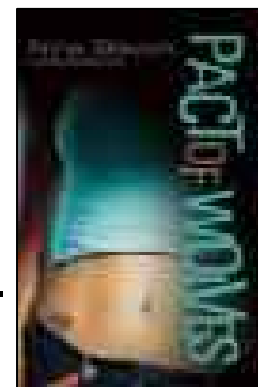
Pact of Wolves
Nina Blazon
English edition translated by Sue Innes; Allen & Unwin 2008; ISBN 9781741753905
Originally published in Germany as *Der Bund de Wölfe*; Sauerländer Verlag

English edition published by Arthur A. Levine Books / Scholastic 2009; ISBN 9780545102957

Originally published in Japan as *Yami no Moribito*; Kaiei-Sha Publishers 1999
Batchelder Honor Book 2010

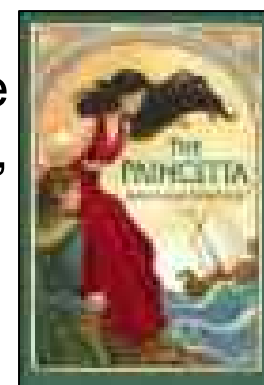
This is the second book in Uehashi's Moribito fantasy series about Balsa, the woman warrior bodyguard. Balsa's character is fleshed out much more and as she finally travels from exile to her homeland more about her past is revealed. Myths and political intrigues abound in this exciting adventure as Moribito uncovers betrayal and conspiracy surrounding the mysterious cave-dwelling mountain spirit. KA.

2006
Blanka's boarding school has undercurrents, a dark history – and a really freaky secret society. When she finds a dead body at the bottom of the library stairs, Blanka is sucked into the underworld of the school. A creepy fantasy horror for older teens. AC.



The Princetta
Anne-Laure Bondoux
English edition translated by Anthea Bell; Bloomsbury 2006; ISBN 9781582349244
Originally published in France as *La Princetta et le Capitaine*; Hachette Livre 2004

Malva, Princetta of Ganicia, is 15 and desperate to avoid her arranged marriage. On its eve she, and her maid Philomena, escape. Betrayed, the two girls struggle to survive. Their paths cross that of Orpheus, who has set out to rescue the



princess. A swashbuckling adventure. AC.

Emil and Karl

Yankev Glatshetyn

English edition translated by Jeffrey Shandler; Scholastic 2007; ISBN 9780439943932

Originally published in Yiddish as *Emil un Karl*; Farlag M. S. Sklarsky 1940

What sets this book apart from other Holocaust reads is that it was written as World War Two broke out. In the 1930s Glatshetyn, a Yiddish writer, returned to his native Poland after 20 years absence and was shaken by the change in attitudes in European society towards the Jewish people and the rise of Hitler. On returning to the US he wrote *Emil and Karl* for Jewish children in the Yiddish schools.



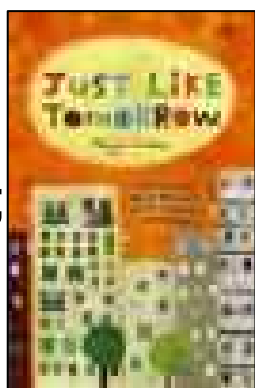
Emil is Jewish, Karl is not, but his parents are Socialists. They are best friends and forced onto the streets in 1938 Vienna when both lose their parents. Totally vulnerable and only nine-years-old, they see and experience the bitter hatred the townspeople hold for the Jews. This remarkable book was based on many events reported in newspapers at the time. KA.

Just Like Tomorrow

Faiza Guene

English edition translated by Sarah Adams; Random House 2006; ISBN 9781862301580

Originally published in France as *Kiffe Kiffe Demain*; Hachette Littératures, 2004 Guene brings to life a fiery and spirited Doria, a girl who lives in Paradise, a housing estate full of North African immigrants in Paris. Her



father has run back to Morocco and her illiterate mother is stuck in a deadbeat job. As the year unfolds towards her 16th birthday Doria and her mother start to take charge of their lives. A sparkling novel by a promising young writer. KA.

I am David

Anne Holm

English edition translated by LW Kingsland; reissued Egmont 2000 (first published 1965; ISBN 0749701366

Originally published in Danish as *David*; Gyldendal 1963



This is now a classic, one I first met at school – and is one of the few set-texts that didn't put me off reading.

David escapes from a concentration camp and flees across Europe. For most of his life, he has lived in concentration camps, giving him a young body, but an old soul and heart. He travels alone, always alert for them – and never sure where he would ever fit in. Even when offered a home, he can't adjust and keeps moving on. AC.

An Innocent Soldier

Josef Holub.

English edition translated by Michael Hofmann; Scholastic 2007; ISBN 9780439627726

Originally published in Germany 2002 Holub tells the story of 16-year-old farmhand, Adam, who is enlisted in the Wurttemberg division by his master, in the place of the farmer's own son who has received his conscription papers. He forms a friendship with another young boy of noble birth. It's 1812 and they are part of Napoleon's Grande Army journeying to Moscow and then surviving to be one of the 300 Wurttemberger soldiers to return from the 15,000 that set out less than a year earlier. This grand tale of friendship

portrays the hardship and futility of war.
KA.

Over a thousand Hills I Walk With You

Hanna Jansen

English edition translated by Elizabeth D Crawford; published by Andersen Press 2007; ISBN 978182706732

Originally published in Germany 2002
Writer Hanna Jansen and her husband have adopted 12 children, most of them refugees from war-torn countries. One of these children is Jeanne d'Arc Umubyeyi, a young girl from Rwanda, the sole survivor of her family from the 1994 genocide of the Tutsi population. This book is based on Jeanne's story when, at the age of eight, she is witness to the genocide of her people.

The book that follows was written with the help of my daughter Jeanne d'Arc, who wanted to remember and tell. I have listened to her again and again and afterward written her story.... As well as I am able to feel it. I dedicate my work to Jeanne's first family and to their memory.

Each chapter is prefaced with a few sentences describing Jeanne's present day life in the Jansen family and it reassures that she is now adjusted and revelling in her new life as part of a loving supportive family. The story is told in Jeanne's voice, the voice of a child. This was a very moving book to read. It tells of terrible events and how a young child survived. KA.

The Summer Book

Tove Jansson

English edition translated by Thomas Teal; Sort Of Books 2003; ISBN 9780954221713

Originally published in Finland as *Sommerboken* 1972.

A celebration of the natural world and living a simple life on a tiny island in the

Gulf of Finland. It's a reflection of Jansson's later life and the plot centres on an ailing grandmother and her young grand-daughter, Sophia, who has come to spend the summer on the island after the recent loss of her mother. This edition includes an introduction by Esther Freud who has visited the island and met the real life Sophia. KA.

Silverhorse

Lene Kaaberbøl

English edition published by MacMillan 2007; ISBN 9781405090476

Originally published in Denmark as *Sølvhesten* by Klematis 1992

This is an exciting dark fantasy for younger teens involving remarkable silver horses, hellhorses only ridden by the trained bredanari, keepers of the peace. Once Kat sees a hellhorse for the first time, she longs to ride it and dreams of becoming a bredanari like the scarred woman rider who arrives at the family inn.

Katriona, lives in Breda, a land that has always been ruled by women, where only women can own property and the majority of men live a nomadic life. Kat is unruly and has a fiery temper that is always getting her in trouble but she's stunned when her mother chooses to send her away in order to keep peace at the inn.12+. KA.

The sequel is equally as exciting.

Midnight (English edition published by MacMillan 2009; ISBN 978-0330444873; originally published as *Sermelinen* by Klematis 1994).

The Color of Earth [The Story of Life on the Golden Fields; Volume One]

Kim Dong Hwa

English edition translated by Lauren Na; First Second / Roaring Brook 2009;



ISBN 9781596434585

Originally published in Korea in 2003
A coming-of-age tale that transcends cultures and times. This is the first in a trilogy of manhwa (Korean comics) telling the story of Ehwa as she grows up and learns about life and sex. She falls in love and supports her widowed mother in her own relationship. This first volume tells of Ehwa's life from aged seven until her early teens. Told in vignettes, with flowers liberally used in the illustrations, this is a gentle-paced joy to read for girls 12+. AC.

The Wave Runners [The Waver Runner trilogy; Book One]

Kai Meyer

English edition published by Egmont Books 2007; ISBN 9781405216357

Originally published in Germany as *Die Wellenläufer* by Loewe Verlag GmbH 2003



The Wave Runners' storyline coasts along like an action-packed Pirates of the Caribbean adventure. Jolly and Munk are the last two remaining pollywiggles, children who are able to walk on water – and valuable beyond measure. There are evil forces afoot in the Caribbean as well as pirates after revenge. and Jolly and Munk are in the thick of the action alongside their companion, the Ghost Trader. The book leaves you on tenterhooks but thankfully all three books in the trilogy are available already. KA.

Trouble in My Head: A Young Girl's Fight with Depression

Mathilde Monaque

English edition translated by Lorenza Garcia; Vermilion / Random House 2007; ISBN 9780091917234

Originally published in France by Les

Arènes 2006

At 14 the author suffered from depression and has now documented her struggles, her treatment, and what she feels caused her illness – all to help others like her.

It's a pretty rugged read, but worth it for its distinction between adult and teen depression. AC.

Very! Very! Sweet Volume 1

JiSang Shin and Geo

English edition translated by Jackie Oh; Yen Press / Hachette Book Group 2008; ISBN 978075952865.

Originally published in Korea by Seoul Cultural Publishers 2006

Tsuyoshi is spoiled – a total pain – so his grandfather ships him off to Korea, revealing the deep secret that the family is actually Korean, and not Japanese.

While he rooms with Kang, he has to deal with learning a new language and culture. One of his new neighbours is Mi-Hwa, who is fatherless and with older, annoying, siblings. An intriguing look into some deep cultural differences and issues. AC.



My Girlfriend's a Geek Volume 1

Rize Shinba Pentabu

English edition translated by Stephen Paul; Yen Press / Hachette Book Group 2010; ISBN 9780759531734

Originally published in Japan as

Fujyoshi Kanojo Vol. 1;

Enterbrain Inc 2007

Taiga is broke and wants a job and a hot girlfriend. But the hot girl he – finally – gets enough courage to ask out is a fujoshi (comics/animation geek) he wonders what he's let himself

in for. Follow Taiga through the early stages of their relationship – as he, and



the readers, are at a loss as Yuiko seems to be speaking a completely different language. The vagrancies of a growing relationship are intriguing, as they are far more formal than we are used to in New Zealand. Older teens. AC.

The Book of Time

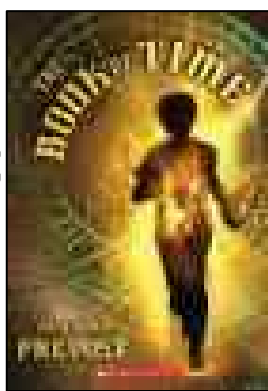
Guillaume Prevost.

English edition translated by William Rodarmor; Arthur Lowe 2007 / Scholastic 2008; ISBN 9781407103426 / ISBN 9780439883795

Originally published in French as *La Pierre*

Sculptee; Gallimard Jeunesse 2006

This is the first in a time travel, adventure trilogy in which 14 year old Sam goes in search of his missing father. Using a coin which fits into a stone statue he finds himself in a medieval monastery on the island of Iona, and then in a Viking village in Scotland. Eventually he discovers where and when his father is leading him to another journey through the ages in book two: *The Gate of Days*. 11+. HB.



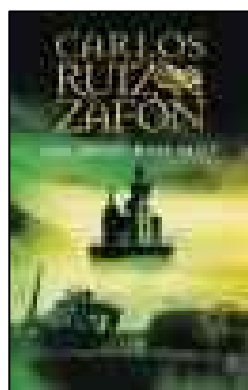
The Prince of Mist

Carlos Ruiz Zafón

English edition translated by Lucia Graves; Text Publishing 2010; ISBN 9781921656354

Originally published in Spanish

When his clockmaker father moves Max's family out of the city to an old house by the sea, Max has no idea that he is destined to play a role in the workings of a very old mystery in which even the progress of time is uncertain. Soon after the family's arrival, Max and his sister Alicia become afflicted with strange and disturbing



dreams and Max's sense of unease is only increased once his new friend Roland takes him out to visit the Orpheus, a wrecked ship lying underwater in the bay. Max begins to suspect there is some relationship between his new friend, Roland's tight-lipped light-house keeper grandfather and the strange statues in the abandoned garden next door to his new home. And who is the Prince of the Mist?

This haunting, gothic fantasy has enough mystery, atmosphere and spooky thrills to satisfy any fan of the supernatural aged 13+. Translated with undoubted skill, this is a beautifully written tale from a much-loved writer in Spanish. SB.

Centre of My World

Andreas Steinhöfel

English edition Andersen Press 2006; ISBN 9781842705865

Originally published in Germany 1998 This is a beautifully written coming-of-age novel for older teens that delves into the human need for relationships and love. Phil is 17 and, along with his twin sister, has always been considered an outsider in the small German town that they grew up in. This is because of their mother, Glass, an American, arrived in the town the night they were born. She inherited Visible, a grand old home, though in complete disrepair, and also lived fast and loose with the men in her life to the disapproval of the townsfolk, the Little People, Those out There. Now Phil must negotiate the tricky path of first love with Nicholas, a boy that he adores. Does Nicholas feel the same about him, does he have to?

This is a sumptuous novel that takes its time for the reader to relish the setting. KA.

A Bottle in the Gaza Sea (also published as *Message in a Bottle*).

Valérie Zenatti

English edition translated by Adriana Hunter; Bloomsbury 2008; ISBN 9781599902005

Originally published in France as *Une Bouteille dans la Mer de Gaza* in 2005

The narrative is built around an unlikely correspondence between a teenage Israeli girl and a young man from Gaza. Shaken by news of a bomb blast at Cafe Hillel, her favourite haunt, and the death of a young woman the night before her wedding, Tal looks back over the past 10 years of the peace process and then decides to try to make contact with the enemy. She gives her brother, an IDF soldier stationed in Gaza, a letter in a bottle to throw in the sea there. And so begins the emails between Bakbouk (bottle) and Gazaman. This manages to

bring an honest and refreshing focus on a difficult political stalemate. KA.

When I was a Soldier: One Girl's Real Story.

Valérie Zenatti.

English edition translated by Adriana Hunter; Bloomsbury 2005; ISBN 0747575665

Originally published in France as *Quand J'étais Soldate*; L'Ecole des Loisirs 2002

Valérie and her family emigrated to Israel, from France, when she was 13. At 18, she is the first of her friends to be called for compulsory military service and learns that it is as the adults say – the army changes everything. Through the process of the book, and her service, she moves from teen self-absorption – what shall I wear – to imponderables – why am I fighting. AC.