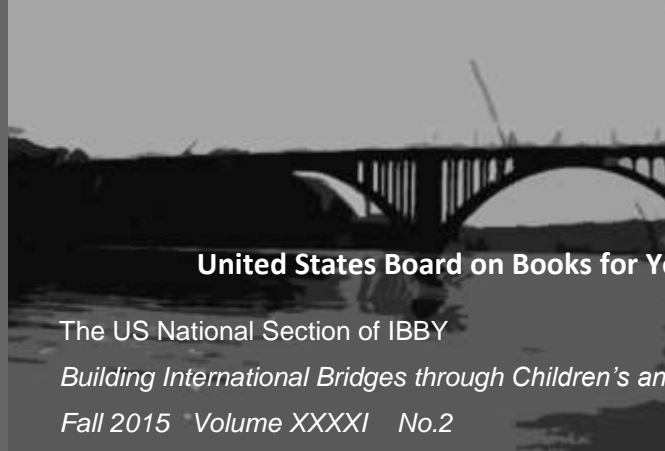


bridges

A PUBLICATION
OF USBBY



United States Board on Books for Young People

The US National Section of IBBY

Building International Bridges through Children's and Young Adult Literature

Fall 2015 Volume XXXXI No.2

11TH IBBY REGIONAL CONFERENCE

New York City
October 16-18, 2015

Save the
Date!

***Through the Looking Glass:
Exploring the Wonderland of
International Children's Literature***

In conjunction with
The Léman Manhattan Preparatory School
Located in the historic
Bank of America headquarters,
Broad Street Ballroom and
Cunard Cruise Line buildings
Lower Manhattan



USBBY gives thankful
acknowledgement to author and
illustrator Chris Raschka for our
unique USBBY logo.

WHAT IS USBBY?

The United States Board on Books for Young People is the United States Section of the International Board on Books for Young People and is a place for those interested in national and international activities related to children's literature. USBBY publishes a semi-annual newsletter for its members, maintains an active website, sponsors regional conferences which feature speakers of international interest, and co-sponsors sessions held at conferences of the American Library Association, the International Literacy Association, and the National Council of Teachers of English. The USBBY provides a discounted rate to members for subscriptions to *Bookbird*, a quarterly international journal on literature for children. It encourages the provision of high quality literature for young people throughout the world, and it cooperates with organizations which have similar objectives.

USBBY Board of Directors

Janelle Mathis, President (through 2015)
Therese Bigelow, President-elect (through 2015)
Kathy East, Past President (through 2015)
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Brenda Dales (through 2016)
Marion Rocco (through 2016)
Yoo Kyung Sung (through 2015)
Ed Sullivan (through 2015)

Appointed Directors

Allison Devlin, CBC (through 2015)
Elizabeth Fithian, CBC (through 2016)
Jennifer Graff, NCTE (through 2015)
Susan Polos, ALA (through 2016)
Lauren Liang, ILA (through 2017)
Ruth Lowery, NCTE (through 2016)
Wendy Steadman Stephens, ALA (through 2016)
Terrell A. Young, ILA (through 2016)

USBBY Secretariat

(Center for Teaching through Children's Books)

Junko Yokota, CTCB Director

Other Appointments

Nancy L. Hadaway, *Bridges* Editor
Björn Sundmark, Editor, *Bookbird*
Valerie Coughlin, *Bookbird*, Inc. Board President
Glenna Sloan, *Bookbird* Correspondent
V. Ellis Vance, Liaison to IBBY Executive Committee

TO JOIN

To join USBBY and to receive your copy of *Bridges*, please send a check for \$50.00 or more, depending on the membership option you select, to USBBY Membership, c/o: Ellis Vance, 5503 N. El Adobe Dr., Fresno, CA 93711-2363. Annual dues for the various options are listed with the membership form on the back cover of this publication. You may also join online at www.usbby.org.

SUBMITTING ARTICLES AND NEWS TO BRIDGES

The editor considers email announcements, manuscripts, and press releases related to national and international children's literature. Please double-space and incorporate references into text. Submit electronically using Microsoft Word format if possible. Supply complete titles of books with bibliographic references. Include author's name, address, and affiliation on the first page of the manuscript. Deadlines for submissions are July 15 and January 15. Editor contact information: Dr. Nancy L. Hadaway, Email: hadaway@uta.edu



From the USBBY President Janelle Mathis

Fall 2015

Dear USBBY Members,

As you read this, our IBBY Regional Conference in New York City will be nearing and for those who have attended previous regional conferences, your anticipation is most certainly gathering momentum. If you have registered or taken time to look at the program, you realize the scope of this conference in international speakers, content, and literature along with other resources. The hours of strategic planning by our Program Committee chaired by Doris Gebel reveals yet another IBBY Regional Conference not to be missed. At the June USBBY Board meeting, we introduced ourselves by sharing a few words that described for us personally this event. Among the memorable descriptors were: *community, intimacy, small scale allowing all to be together, connections to people and authors, rich information to take back to classes, depth, focus, professional enrichment, validation of personal work, collaboration, and personal engagement*, among others. USBBY looks forward to your being part of creating the community that will undoubtedly be formed in October with children's literature at its heart and young people around the world as its ultimate objective. I want to thank Doris and others serving on the program and local arrangements committees who have put so many hours into planning and organizing this event that brings together international speakers and participants in a setting rich with literary history and framed around a theme that celebrates children's literature past to present: *Through the Looking Glass: Exploring the Wonderland of International Children's Literature*. As you make plans for the conference, please note the unique pre and post conference opportunities! Both program and local arrangements committees have gone to great lengths to make the New York City IBBY Regional an experience that will have a permanent place in your life-changing memories.

At ALA this past June, USBBY had the wonderful opportunity to represent the IBBY Foundation in presenting a check for \$10,000 to Reforma to assist in providing books and resources for the children presently detained at the US/Mexican border. I had the honor to present the check to Oralia Garza de Cortez and Reforma's president, Silvia Cisneros, who have been leaders of this Children in Crisis Project. The project began in June 2014 with the goal of raising funds for books and backpacks for young refugees in detention centers across the country who awaited immigration processing or deportation. This presentation from the IBBY Foundation was given at Reforma's ALA session where individuals shared their ongoing work to help fulfill emotional and mental needs of these children through literature and other resources. In August a planning group with representation from Reforma, IBBY, USBBY, and Mexico IBBY are meeting to create a framework for best accomplishing and extending the goals of this project. Reforma continues to accept donations for this growing initiative and USBBY will continue to be involved as plans develop. Further information will be provided to our membership.

As USBBY looks for opportunities to involve more people and extend our work with international literature and young people, I would like to mention one initiative that can be quite significant to many of us. Lauren Liang has diligently worked to have a doctoral student group organized within USBBY. This group will meet at our regional conference in the fall and will also volunteer to assist as needed. I know that many of us have graduate students who would like to be more involved in our professional organizations. Providing a way they can organize and connect across geographical areas and schools through USBBY can be a powerful support for their professional interests as well as supporting the future of USBBY. Be sure to check the program for the doctoral student meeting if you know students attending. If you wish to be included in future plans regarding the doctoral student group, please contact Lauren Liang (lauren.liang@utah.edu).

I am looking forward to some of the busiest and most exciting upcoming months of serving as USBBY President, but since this is my last *Bridges* letter as president, I wanted to thank all of the board members from the past two years who have given time and expertise in support of our work. Since each board member has specific roles that are critical to the functioning of USBBY, as well as involvement in general planning and decision making, their work is greatly appreciated. A special thank you goes to past president Kathy East for continued support and suggestions and Executive Director Ellis Vance, a backbone of our organization whose passion for IBBY is continuously obvious. Katie and Junko at the Secretariat have been always ready to assist, and our newsletter vibrantly comes to us online through Nancy Hadaway's efforts so many thanks to these individuals. Of course, our membership, especially those who fill specific committee roles, *is* USBBY and watching our impact extend through the state ambassadors program and other membership initiatives is its own reward. I know I will have opportunity to thank folks at our meeting in October, both formally and in person, but at this busy time, I have become even more attuned to and humbled by the phrase, "It takes a village. . ."

I hope to see you in New York City in October and if you are attending NCTE, remember our co-sponsored session there, described in this newsletter and on the USBBY website.

Sincerely,

Janelle Mathis
USBBY President 2014-2015

Gift Cards Available for Donations to USBBY's Special Projects

For special occasions, speaker's gifts, or other times when you wish to honor someone, consider a donation to one of USBBY's projects such as the Children in Crisis Fund. Special cards have been created to send to recipients acknowledging your gift in their honor. For further information or to make a donation, please contact Ellis Vance at Executive.Director@usbby.org.

Executive Director Update

Submitted by V. Ellis Vance, USBBY Executive Director

The REFORMA Children in Crisis (CIC) newsletter and website asked for reflections so that they could include them in a special newsletter to share with supporters. Patsy Aldana shared the following.

Reflections about Reforma

The visit to the refugee children currently housed in various locations along the Rio Grande Valley was moving and energising. These children are not migrants looking for work but genuine refugees under United Nations conventions and they should be allowed to stay in the USA in safety. Their home communities are intolerably dangerous and parents have had to take the heart wrenching decision to help them leave home so that they can live at peace and build a decent life.

Once the children leave the border on their way to relatives where they will await refugee hearings that will determine whether they can stay or go home they are in urgent need of support.

They need legal help without which they have little chance of being accepted as legitimate refugees and allowed to stay.

They are in urgent need of information, support to attend school, and trauma therapy as they have endured an extremely perilous journey reaching their destination.

They need the comfort and solace of books in their own language, about their own culture and their own now lost worlds. And they need to begin to learn the new language of this new world.

And they need to be recognised for what they are—legitimate claimants for refugee status. We need to publicise their plight.

Libraries can play a crucial role in helping them to find refuge and safety and comfort as well as helping to provide them with information. The US library system has been a beacon of support to people as they came to this country as newcomers and were essential in helping them to integrate into their new country. For Irish, Italian, Jewish, Mexican and other immigrant populations libraries have been there. It is my great hope that libraries will be there for these children who are in such desperate need.

IBBY is committed to continue to work on their behalf.

Patsy Aldana, Chair IBBY Foundation



School Library Awareness Effort

Beth Yoke, CAE, Executive Director, Young Adult Library Services Association submitted the following information.

Throughout the fall of 2015, Congress will be working on a new federal education bill. The last education bill (No Child Left Behind) did not specifically include school libraries as an essential service, and as a result students suffered because schools cut library budgets, eliminated library staff positions, and/or closed school libraries outright. Right now we have a window of opportunity to right that wrong and help America's youth. Congress needs to hear from as many people as possible about the importance of school libraries in supporting youth success. If you feel it's appropriate, can you please share the messages below with your constituents? Or, if you have other thoughts on how to raise awareness about this issue with your audience, please let me know.

In addition, please let me know if there is any way that YALSA can support the great work that you and your organization do. We are happy to share information about your organization with our 5,100 members via our weekly e-news. Just have a 200 word max blurb sent to Anna Lam at alam@ala.org. The e-news goes out every Wednesday. You can also Tweet @yalsa and we'll retweet your message to our 32,000+ followers. Another option is to send us materials to distribute at our upcoming YA Services Symposium November 6 – 8 in Portland, OR.

Facebook post or email: Studies show that strong school libraries are a driver of student achievement. Over the next few weeks Congress is working on a new education bill that would provide federal funding for the nation's schools. Congress needs to hear from as many people as possible that it's vital to include school libraries in this new bill. The American Library Association is calling on individuals from across the nation to call, email and/or Tweet their member of Congress. Your messages will be the evidence Congress needs to take action for America's youth and ensure school libraries adequately funded. Visit this web page for 5 easy ways that you can help make a difference for youth: <http://tinyurl.com/Act4SchoolLibraries>. For more resources to help you support students and school libraries visit www.ala.org/aasl/advocacy. Thank you so much for taking some of your time to help children and teens by supporting school libraries!

Tweets: Kids need #SchoolLibraries! ow.ly/Sf4IT -contact Congress 2 ask 4 support 4 school libs via this easy site ow.ly/S0kdw
Kids need #SchoolLibraries! Visit this site for 5 easy ways you can support kids & libraries <http://ow.ly/Sx56A>

Nominations for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award 2016

The list of nominated candidates for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award 2016 will be presented at the Frankfurt Book Fair.

The program is a co-operation with the Frankfurt Book Fair and begins at 4.00 pm with a presentation of this year's laureate, the South African promoting reading organisation PRAESA, Project for the Study of Alternative Education in South Africa. After the presentation the nomination list will be available on the award website. A list of the nominating bodies for 2016 is published on www.alma.se/en.

For questions and interviews in Frankfurt with Jury Chairman Boel Westin and PRAESA representative Carole Bloch please contact Communications Officer Helene Andersson.



For Immediate Release
Fri, 06/26/2015

Contact: Patricia Aldana (IBBY Foundation), aldanalibros@rogers.com

IBBY FOUNDATION GRANTS \$10K TO SUPPORT READING BY MIGRANT CHILDREN DETAINED IN U.S.

"Sixty million people around the world become refugees every year. Half of them are children. But this doesn't only happen in faraway places. It is happening right here—in the United States. Close to a hundred thousand children from Central America make the very dangerous trip to try and find safety and a way to survive in the United States. *Coyotes*, people whom they pay to 'help' them make the trip often betray and abandon them. And when they finally make it to the border, thousands of them are turned back or arrested.

"Many of the children who come to the United States alone are now sitting in detention centers for months along the Mexican border waiting to hear their fate. They are, in fact, prisoners.

"Every one of us who lives in the Americas, except for the indigenous peoples, came here seeking either refuge or a new opportunity.

"What do those of us who have safe and comfortable lives owe to people who do not?"

(Patricia Aldana, President, IBBY Foundation)

The U.S. organization REFORMA, the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking, distributes books and backpacks to unaccompanied refugee children being detained in the southwestern United States through its Children in Crisis Project.

At its April 2015 board meeting, the IBBY Foundation approved a grant of \$10,000 to support REFORMA's efforts. A check for this amount is being presented to REFORMA by Prof. Janelle Mathis, president of USBBY, the United States National Section of IBBY, at the REFORMA President's Program, 1 to 2:30 p.m., Saturday, June 27, 2015, during the Annual Conference of the American Library Association in San Francisco.

Those being detained are mostly Spanish-speaking children escaping violence in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras and coming to the United States. While recent news coverage of this crisis has focused on the legal, medical, and emergency-response needs of these often-unaccompanied children, there are few if any news stories that report on their social-emotional

and information needs. A view of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention centers shows children waiting in large storage-like facilities with no activities to occupy their minds through learning and play while they are being processed. They frequently have no knowledge of where they are going or if they will reach their families already in the United States.

In response to this current need affecting as many as 70,000 children, REFORMA has implemented the Children in Crisis Project and is actively soliciting donations to support the delivery of children's books in Spanish to detention centers in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, as well as to shelters and group homes around the country where these children are sent after being processed. In the second phase of the project, REFORMA will be coordinating backpacks containing books as well as paper, pencils, erasers, crayons and a writing journal for children to use during the journey toward their destination. These will be distributed via the caregivers who are providing shelter to these children after their processing.

IBBY, the International Board on Books for Young People, is a non-profit organization founded in Zurich in 1953. It represents an international network of people from all over the world who are committed to bringing books and children together. Today, it comprises 75 National Sections, including the United States, Canada, and Mexico. It represents countries with well-developed book publishing and literacy programs, as well as many other countries in the world with only a few dedicated professionals who are doing pioneer work in children's book publishing and promotion.

IBBY has experience around the world working with children in post-conflict and post-natural-disaster situations using books and reading to help them overcome the trauma that they have endured. IBBY has actively supported bibliotherapy projects for children in crisis across the world, including Indonesia following the 2004 tsunami, Gaza, Haiti, Afghanistan, Japan, and the refugee island of Lampedusa lying in the Mediterranean between Africa and Europe.

A working group has been set up to work out details and explore further collaboration with REFORMA, including applying for grants from government sources and other foundations. The working group will include members of REFORMA, the IBBY Foundation, USBBY, IBBY Mexico, and other organizations working to alleviate the crisis of the refugee children in the southwestern United States.

We urge everyone to join REFORMA and the IBBY Foundation by making a tax-free donation at the REFORMA Children in Crisis Project website, <http://refugeechildren.wix.com/refugee-children#!donate/c1ghi>.



The IBBY Foundation's \$10,000 grant to support REFORMA's efforts was presented to REFORMA by Janelle Mathis, president of USBBY, the United States National Section of IBBY, at the REFORMA President's Program, Saturday, June 27, 2015, during the Annual Conference of the American Library Association in San Francisco.



**CELEBRATING
USBY Members
with 25 continuous years or more of membership**

Members since 1985 (30 years):

Junko Yokota

Members since 1987 (28 years):

Deborah Pope

Dorothy Solomon

Ann Beneduce

Margaret Jensen

Katherine Paterson

Carl Tomlinson

Members since 1988 (27 years):

Betsy Hearne

Amy Kellman

Barbara Maxwell

Susan Stan

Barbara Barstow

Roslyn Beitler

Rebecca Burgess

Grace Ruth

Barbara Lehman

M. Jerry Weiss

Anne Pellowski

Alida Cutts

Members since 1989 (26 years):

Susan Patron

Maureen White

Holly Willett

Eliza Dresang

Laura Robb

Spotlight on Longtime USBBY Member Anne Pellowski

I was lucky enough to meet and work with Jella Lepman, the founder of IBBY. I attended my first IBBY Congress in 1955, in Vienna, while I was in Munich on a Fulbright Scholarship.

So I was very pleased to note, when I joined ALA and the then Children's Services Division, (now ALSC), that I was automatically a member of the US Section. Actually, I believe that all of us who were members of CSD at that time, and are now members of USBBY, are the longest members.

I did not think twice about joining USBBY individually when it became a distinct national section on its own, separate from CSD and the Children's Book Council.

I have found it to be an effective means of keeping in touch with those in the US who have the same goals for IBBY as I do. In particular, it put me in touch with persons interested in going to IBBY member countries, (or to those wanting to be members) to work on projects related to book development. It has allowed me to share some unusual trips with various USBBY members as we carried out some of those projects.

Certainly the most memorable was a group trip in which more than a dozen USBBY members (and others) went to Vendaland in South Africa, prior to the IBBY Congress in Cape Town. I think all of us felt a special rapport in those three days, as we tried to assist some 40 local women in making the first picture books in the Venda language. Watching Vera Williams, the author/illustrator, as she subtly guided the women to make their books more attractive and with a better "flow," was an experience I would never have had if I had not been a USBBY member.

Other trips for such projects during which USBBY members shared exhilarating experiences include: Ginny Moore Kruse (Peru); Bill Teale and Gail Bush (Haiti); Marilyn Larusso and Elaine Thomas (Indonesia); Helen Kay Kennedy (Zambia); Jenny Gillespie (Kenya); Doris Gebel and Susan Stan (Nicaragua); Janet Lee (Ethiopia); and Susan Stan again (Ecuador).

I have also found the USBBY conferences interesting and helpful in keeping up with the field of international children's literature because of the mix of international and US speakers and participants.

In short, USBBY and its members are a major part of my life.

Bookbird: A Journal of International Children's Literature

Bookbird is open to any topic in the field of international children's literature. The editor will also include themed issues and will post calls for manuscripts on the IBBY website.

Manuscript format: Word for Windows as an email attachment; Manuscript length: Up to 4000 words
Editorial contact information: Please send a copy of your manuscript to the editor, Björn Sundmark (bjorn.sundmark@mah.se)

-CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS from the Editors of *The Dragon Lode*

Ruth Lowery and Deborah Thompson at thedragonlode@gmail.com

For more information go to

http://www.clrsig.org/dragon_lode_manuscripts.php

Spring 2016 Celebrating Poetry

As a genre, poetry is an enigmatic big tent. Inside this big tent one can find, among others, Byron, Keats, Brooks, Whitman, Tennyson, Dickinson, Giovanni, and Neruda. Also inside are Grimes, Hoberman, Sidman, Wong, Greenfield, Lewis, Livingston, and many other outstanding children's poets. Although some adult critics think poetry for children lacks "gravitas," the actual difference is only the audiences for which the poetry is written—adult readers versus child readers. For this issue of *The Dragon Lode*, we will explore the wonders of the spoken word—poetry in all shapes and lengths—limericks, biographical poetry, concrete, ballads, and the growing field of informational poetry. How is poetry faring in the age of the Common Core? Have children's preferences changed? And what about co-mingling poetry with other genres—does the mix enhance or detract from the poems? We invite your manuscripts that explore the wonderful world of poetry. **Submission deadline: October 31, 2015.**

Fall 2016 The Future of Reading for Pleasure

What has happened to children's reading for pleasure in the age of the Common Core, high stakes testing, leveling and racing to the top? Statistics reveal some improvement in elementary reading test scores, but at what price? In a work daringly entitled *Readicide*, Kelly Gallagher explored the many ways in which we smother children's love of reading for pleasure in our well-meaning but often misguided attempts to improve test scores.

Teaching complex texts, close reading, using more informational texts and test-taking activities have become the *raison d'être* for teaching reading in grades K-6. Has being overly concerned with test scores made us forget that good books are for reading and not doing "things" with them such as teaching synonyms, author's purpose or main idea? How can we ensure that our students will neither be illiterate or aliterate? We invite manuscripts that address the issues of overanalyzing children's books and the challenges of creating life-long readers in a test-driven world.

Submission deadline: May 1, 2016.

The 35th IBBY International Congress Literature in a Multi-Literate World Auckland, New Zealand <http://www.ibbycongress2016.org/>

The Congress celebrates the multiplicity of language, literacy and literature in the world today. Throughout the world, literacy and literature are in many languages and many scripts, yet expression of ideas, imagination and emotion captured in very different contexts can be expressed universally.

Nearly two decades into the 21st century it is time to reflect on and to redefine what it means to be literate and what young people's literature might 'look like' in a future where story is conveyed, not only through written and oral modes but also, increasingly, through visual, gestural, spatial and digital modes.

This Congress offers a forum for delegates from throughout the world to discuss the challenges and offer solutions.

The Congress has three sub-themes.

1. Global, local and indigenous literature
2. Diverse literary forms and formats
3. Engaging readers

ANNOUNCEMENT
Annual Membership Meeting and
Slate of Candidates for Election

The USBBY Nominating Committee is proposing the following Slate of Candidates to be voted on at USBBY's Annual Membership Meeting on Sunday, October 18 during the 11th annual IBBY Regional Conference in New York.

Elected Directors-at-Large

Ed Sullivan is a librarian, book reviewer, and writer from Oak Ridge, Tennessee. He is an active member of the American Library Association, International Literacy Association, and National Council of Teachers of English. He presently serves on ALA's Rainbow List selection committee and is finishing a term on the Outstanding International Children's Books Committee. A member of USBBY since 1998, Ed has served the organization on the Membership Committee, as an ALA representative to the board, contributing to the next edition of the *Bridges to Understanding* series, as a Tennessee ambassador, and as an elected board member for the past two years. Ed wants to continue serving on the USBBY board to further help grow its membership, strengthen ties with other professional organizations, and raise awareness of its many resources for promoting international children's literature.

Yoo Kyung Sung is an associate professor at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, NM. She teaches a range of children's literature courses. She has been a committee member of Notable Books for a Global Society Book (NBGSB) of the International Literacy Association (ILA) since 2014. She finished serving a term on NCTE's committee on Notable Children's Books in Language Arts (NCBLA) in 2013. A member of the USBBY since 2007, Yoo Kyung has been serving on the Asahi Reading Promotion Award Committee and the Membership Committee for USBBY and is a board member of the Worlds of Words (WOW). She is the founder of the Adolescents and Children's Literature Inquiry Project (ACLIP) in the Albuquerque area. She has served as a board member of USBBY (United States Board on Books for Young People) since 2013. She is an editorial board member of the *Journal of Children's Literature*. In serving on the board, Yoo Kyung looks forward to helping USBBY grow its leadership to raise awareness of global and international children's literature in local, national, and global communities. Yoo Kyung has been a friend of the Korean Board of Books for Young People (KBBY) through her IBBY Congress paper session. She seeks out connectivity between two IBBY national sections to promote unknown and untranslated children's literature in new ways. Her next article, "Representations of North Korean defectors in South Korean children's books," will be published in the Korean children's literature journal, *Changbi Review of Children's Literature* in the Fall 2015 issue.

Thanks to the USBBY Nominating Committee for this slate of candidates.

Chair: Kathy East
Member: Barbara Lehman
Member: Prisca Martens

How to apply for the Bridge to Understanding Award

Applications and criteria for the 2015 Bridge to Understanding Award are available at www.usbby.org or from the USBBY secretariat at Secretariat@usbby.org. Phone: (224) 233-2030. To be considered the program must occur during the year 2015.

Deadline for submissions is January 31, 2016.

USBBY, the United States National Section of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), is dedicated to promoting high quality literature for young people throughout the world.

IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Award

Announcement from IBBY website

The IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Award, initiated by the International Board on Books for Young People and sponsored by the Japanese newspaper company the Asahi Shimbun, is presented to projects run by groups or institutions that are judged to be making a lasting contribution to reading promotion for children and young people. The Award is given every two years to two projects and presented to the winners at the biennial IBBY Congress.

Nominations to the IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Award 2016

- IBBY Argentina, *Puntos de lectura para imaginar* (Reading points to imagine), Mar del Plata, Buenos Aires
- IBBY Brazil, *Clube Cultural Dragão Azul* (Cultural Club Blue Dragon), Petrópolis, Rio de Janeiro
- IBBY Canada, *Vermont Square Parent-Child Mother Goose Program*, Toronto
- IBBY China, *Shenzhen Children's Library: Night at the Children's Library*, Shenzhen City, Guangdong Province
- IBBY Iran, *Read with Me*, nationwide
- IBBY Mexico, *Germinalia AC: The Reading Honeycombs*, San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas
- IBBY Netherlands, *O Mundo: A Little World Library*, Antwerp, Belgium
- IBBY New Zealand, *Duffy Books in Homes*, nationwide
- IBBY Slovenia, *Library of the Blind and Partially Sighted*, Ljubljana
- IBBY Sweden, *Kelompok Pecinta Bacaan Anak (KPBA)*, Jakarta, Indonesia
- IBBY Switzerland, IBBY Denmark, IBBY France and IBBY Germany, *Big Brother Mouse*, Luang Prabang City, Laos

The winning projects will be announced at the IBBY press conference at the Bologna Children's Book Fair on Monday, 4 April 2016 and the presentation will be made in Auckland at the 35th IBBY World Congress in August 2016. Representatives of the winning projects will be asked to make a presentation at the Congress.

What is the Bridge to Understanding Award?

This prestigious award was established in memory of Arlene Pillar, an educator who served USBBY as newsletter editor from 1984 until 1990.

The award recognizes a program that promotes reading as a way to expand understanding of one or more cultures or countries outside of the United States. Preference is given to programs that focus on contemporary life and culture.

Organizations eligible for this award include schools, libraries, scout troops, clubs and bookstores. The program may be a one-time event or an ongoing series that serves children ranging in age from kindergarten through tenth grade.

This award carries a monetary prize of \$1,000 and a certificate.

State Ambassadors Promote USBBY and Global Literature

Submitted by Evie Freeman and Kathy Short

The USBBY State Ambassador program promotes the use of literature to build international understanding and spreads the word about USBBY as a professional organization. Currently, 38 state ambassadors in 25 states share global books in a myriad of ways and reach university students, teachers, librarians, children and their parents across the country. During the 2014-2015 school year, they were engaged in a host of activities on behalf of IBBY, USBBY, and global children's literature. With international connections, Jamie Naidoo (Alabama) completed a fellowship at the International Youth Library in Munich, Germany during Fall 2014 and Robin Gibson (Ohio) visited her library's sister library in Gislaved, Sweden. On her return to the Westerville Public Library, Robin Gibson (Ohio) created an interactive Sweden display (see photos).



Robin Gibson's Interactive Sweden display

To celebrate 2015 International Children’s Book Day (ICBD), Ernie Bond (Maryland) created two displays of international children’s books with one focused on Muslim Journeys and the other on Brazilian Books. Nancy Ryan (Florida) extended the celebration to International Children’s Book Week. Throughout the week, her university students gave book talks or created trailers for books they wanted to promote. Other university students were also involved with ICBD such as Lauren Liang’s (Utah) undergraduate students who presented on a variety of Hans Christian Andersen Medal award-winners. Ruth McKoy Lowery (Ohio) and her colleague engaged undergraduate students by asking them to create posters of international authors and their books. These posters were displayed in the hallway and students enjoyed sample snacks from different countries (see photos).



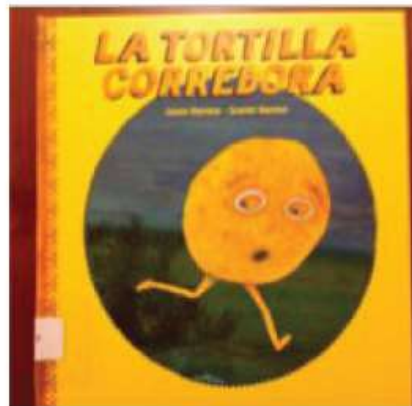
Ruth McKoy Lowery (Ohio) and her colleague asked undergraduate students to create posters of international authors and their books

Children also participated in celebrations. At Magellan International School, Marion Rocco (Texas) shared books that were originally written in another language and translated into English with kindergarten and first grade students. Holly Johnson (Ohio) and colleagues read books from the Outstanding International Book List to 2nd graders and led the children in a discussion about the books. Jean Schoettler (California) participated at various elementary schools sharing books from many cultures and illustrating posters to celebrate ICBD. At Friends Seminary in Manhattan, Constance Vidor (New York) invited parents to read aloud stories in various global languages (see inset/photos).

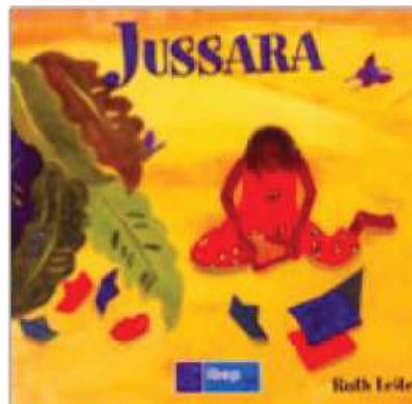
International Children's Book Day at Friends Seminary April 2, 2015

At Friends Seminary we celebrate this day every year with an assembly at which parents read aloud stories in various global languages. This year we heard:

The Runaway Tortilla a story from Chile read in Spanish and English by special parent guest reader Santi Domenech



Jussara, a story from Brazil read in Portuguese and English by special parent guest reader Patricia Machado



The Puri That Ran Away from the Frying Pan, a story from India read in Hindi and English by special parent guest reader Nandini Chirimar



To conclude, Constance Vidor told the story of *Mama Cat Teaches Her Kittens the Value of Knowing More Than One Language*.



State Ambassadors disseminated information about USBBY and IBBY at various venues and on professional listserves. Materials were distributed at local and state meetings and events by Ernie Bond (Maryland), Victoria Jones (Missouri), Meg Pyterek (Illinois), Jean Schoettler and Dawn Menge (California). Constance Vidor (New York) and Robin Gibson (Ohio) shared information with librarians through their various listserves.

Sessions at local, state and national conferences are another way that State Ambassadors promote global books. Three of Nancy Ryan's (Florida) university students presented a workshop, "Building Bridges to Intercultural Understanding Through Children's Books," at Florida Fund for Minority Teachers symposium. Lauren Liang (Utah) taught a workshop for Granite School District secondary school teachers on using international literature with adolescents. Sessions were given by Cathay Kurkjian (Connecticut) at the Mount Saint Mary's College Conference, Marilyn Ward (Wisconsin) at the Racine-Kenosha Reading Council and the Wisconsin Council for the Social Studies Conference, and Diana Porter (Kentucky) at the Jesse Stuart local council of the Kentucky Reading Association, the University of Kentucky research symposium on diversity and inclusiveness, and the Kentucky Reading Association Annual Conference.

On the national level, Deborah Wooten (Tennessee) and Katie Raby (USBBY Secretariat) presented "Stories that Reach Around the World with the 2014 Outstanding International Honor Books" at the National Council of Teachers of English Annual Conference and Susan Corapi's (Illinois) session at the Whole Language Umbrella Conference included information about USBBY, the OIB lists, and other related resources about global literature. In addition to sessions at Kaigler Children's Book Festival in Hattiesburg, Mississippi and the Broward County, Florida Children's Literature Conference, Jamie Naidoo (Alabama) presented at the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions Conference in Cape Town, South Africa.

Other state ambassadors engage in reading promotion projects. Students at Wydown Middle School, where Victoria Jones (Missouri) works, raised money to purchase books for a kindergarten class in Columbia, South America and to build a library in a shipping container for a school in South Sudan.

State Ambassadors work directly with students, teachers, and parents. Lauren Liang (Utah) taught 3rd grade students and teachers at The McGillis School in Salt Lake City about international folklore and cultural authenticity. Author/illustrator Angela Dominguez participated at the Summer Reading Kick-Off at the Magellan International School Summer Reading Kick-Off. Marion Rocco (Texas) described how the USBBY International Book List was featured at this event. At the community college level, Karen Kabrich (Arizona) teaches a 6 credit learning community integrating children's literature and cultural diversity in education that allows student to engage in global literature at all levels of the curriculum. She mentors new children's literature instructors to ensure that global children's literature is part of their curriculum and recommends global children's books to enrich the library collection. Marilyn Ward (Wisconsin) maintains the website *OmniLibros: Children's Literature in the Global Age*, an annotated bibliography/blog for teachers, librarians, parents and young readers to select books that promote awareness across global cultures.

The featured State Ambassador this issue is Wendy Steadman Stephens from Alabama (see related article).

The State Ambassadors will meet together at the IBBY Regional Conference in New York to discuss ideas and plans for the future. If you are interested in becoming a state ambassador, please contact Evie Freeman (freeman.5@osu.edu) or Kathy Short (shortk@u.arizona.edu).

Thanks to our USBBY State Ambassadors

- **Alabama:** Jamie Naidoo and Wendy Steadman Stephens
- **Arizona:** Karen Kabrich and T. Gail Pritchard
- **California:** Joan Schoettler and Dawn Menge
- **Connecticut:** Cathy Kurkjian
- **Florida:** Nancy Ryan, Christiana Succar and Mary Ellen Oslick
- **Idaho:** Petros Panaou
- **Illinois:** Margaret Pyterek
- **Indiana:** Edi Campbell
- **Kansas:** Blinn Sheffield
- **Kentucky:** Diana Porter
- **Maryland:** Ernie Bond
- **Massachusetts:** Bindy Fleischman
- **Michigan:** Betsy Susan Morgan
- **Minnesota:** Renae Ekstrand
- **Mississippi:** Ellen Ruffin
- **Missouri:** Victoria Jones
- **New Mexico:** Yoo Kyung Sung
- **New York:** Alison Francis, Constance Vidor
- **Ohio:** Holly Johnson, Debby Gold, Robin Gibson and Ruth McKoy Lowery
- **Oregon:** Maureen Milton
- **Pennsylvania:** Mary Napoli
- **Tennessee:** Deb Wooten and Ed Sullivan
- **Texas:** Ragina Shearer, Suzanne Monroe, and Marion Rocco
- **Utah:** Lauren Liang
- **Vermont:** Martha Walke
- **Washington:** Margaret Chang, Susan Corapi, and Laurel Heger
- **Wisconsin:** Laretta Henderson and Marilyn Ward

If you would like to learn more about becoming a state ambassador contact Evie Freeman (freeman.5@osu.edu) or Kathy Short (shortk@u.arizona.edu)

STATE AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT

In this edition of *Bridges* we continue to showcase the wonderful work of our state ambassadors. This fall, the spotlight is on Wendy Stephens.



USBBY has been one of the most rewarding professional experiences I've had, and it has been a real privilege to participate in the State Ambassadors program as it gives me an official license to talk about USBBY and promote its mission among my colleagues.

I am fortunate enough to have a co-ambassador, Jamie Campbell Naidoo at the University of Alabama SLIS, who has been excellent at passing along the emailed state ambassador reports via that organization's listserv. Because I do a lot of networking outside the state, I set up a Google form where people who read my blog or who I meet at events can sign up to receive the USBBY information as well. That's found here:

<http://wendyontheweb.blogspot.com/2014/02/get-international.html>

Last summer, I designed the workshops I presented for our state and local technology conferences around a theme of “Around the World in Thirty Sites.” Those resources are available here: <https://sites.google.com/site/yourclassroomistheworld/> The page and the prezi I used to share the information include a lot of associated information, but it was mostly a vehicle to talk about my favorite organization.

I have managed to figure out ways to introduce USBBY in other contexts, too. As a Google Certified Teacher, I do a lot of technology professional development. This summer, I used the USBBY Outstanding International Books maps to showcase geographic information in a presentation of Google resources. It provided an excellent example of how pins can be coded for significance, in this case based on grade level. https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?authuser=0&hl=en&mid=z4i2F_WggJnU.kXVqwpYDp7WA

Outside of Alabama, I also work on raising awareness about USBBY through one-to-one conversations when I meet educators or academics with aligned work. This spring, I was sure to bring up the OIB list to a presenter with a session on lesser-known book awards at our state conference. This summer, I met a doctoral student who described looking at international picture books to characterize cultural norms around nontraditional families, and I told her about USBBY and how perfect her work would be for poster sessions at the upcoming Regional IBBY Conference in New York. At a recent Walden Woods workshop for teachers, I told two high school English teachers with strong interests in non-Western cultures about the organization and the ability to search for books from a particular culture.

I learned about USBBY through this sort of conversation, so hopefully I am interesting some new members in joining and even participating in a formal capacity. If you are considering State Ambassadorship, I would relish the opportunity to act as a conduit between the organization and practitioners who might not know about USBBY yet...

Thanks to USBBY State Ambassador Wendy Stephens for all her efforts to promote technology and literature to build international understanding!

Planning Ahead

Upcoming IBBY Congresses

2016: Auckland, New Zealand will host the 35th IBBY Congress, August 18-21, 2016. The theme of the 35th IBBY Congress is *Literature in a Multi-Literate World*.

2018: Istanbul, Turkey will host the 36th IBBY Congress with the theme "East Meets West with Children's Books and Tales."

2020: Moscow, Russia will host the 37th Congress with the theme: The Great Big World through Children's Books: National and Foreign."

WHAT IS IBBY?

The International Board on Books for Young People was begun in 1953. IBBY's mission is to promote international understanding through children's books; to give children everywhere the opportunity to have access to books with high literary and artistic standards; to encourage the publication and distribution of quality children's books, especially in developing countries; to provide support and training for those involved with children and children's literature; and to stimulate research and scholarly works in the field of children's literature.

The organization is composed of 61 National Sections operating on both national and international levels. IBBY's policies and programs are determined by its Executive Committee—ten people from different countries and a President elected by the National Sections during the biennial General Assembly held at each IBBY Congress.

IBBY's activities include:

- The Hans Christian Andersen Awards
- The IBBY Honour List, a biennial selection of outstanding, recently published books honoring writers, illustrators, and translators
- IBBY Congresses
- IBBY workshops and seminars for developing countries
- The IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Award
- The IBBY Documentation Centre of Books for Disabled Children and Young People
- Publication of *Bookbird*, IBBY's quarterly journal
- The annual celebration of International Children's Book Day on April 2

Calling all USBBY Students, Recent Graduates and First Time Members!

Are you attending the IBBY Regional Conference in New York City? Please join a special "lunch bunch" led by board members Lauren Liang, Marion Rocco and Wendy Stephens during Saturday lunch to network, chat and learn more about the opportunities available to you as an active member of USBBY. We look forward to meeting you!

We encourage you as well to consider volunteering at the conference! Volunteers are needed to help with breakout groups, display tables, registration and more. Volunteering is a great way to be more actively involved and meet other members, presenters and authors. Please contact Doris Gebel at dorisgebel@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer.

Don't miss USBBY Co-Sponsored Sessions throughout the Year

American Library Association (ALA) Annual Co-Sponsored Session

USBBY holds a co-sponsored session at the Annual Convention of the American Library Association (ALA) featuring an international author or other expert in the field of literature for children and young adults.

International Literacy Association (ILA) Annual Co-Sponsored Session

USBBY holds a co-sponsored session at the Annual Convention of the International Literacy Association, held in the summer, featuring an international author or other expert in the field of literature for children and young adults.

National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Co-Sponsored Session

USBBY holds a co-sponsored session at the Annual Convention of the National Council of Teachers of English, held in November, featuring an international author or other expert in the field of literature for children and young adults.

USBBY Bibliography Edges Closer to Publication

by Annette Y. Goldsmith

Creating a bibliography takes a village – specifically, thirty-three annotators. With their help, co-editors Theo Heras and Susan Corapi and I have been pulling together Volume 5 in the USBBY international youth literature bibliography series, *Bridges to Understanding: All the World in a Book*. We expect to have roughly 600 entries covering imprints from 2010-2014 when the book is complete. Of the 536 entries identified by late July, there are 59 for 2010; 90 for 2011; 124 for 2012; 155 for 2013 (a good year!); and 108 for 2014.

The storytelling theme is clear throughout. We have two chapters that explore the power of storytelling in different ways: Anne Pellowski's important discussion of a storytelling study with schoolchildren; and a version of the riveting Dorothy Briley lecture that Beverley Naidoo gave at the Fresno conference. In my last report I mentioned that Klaas Verplancke donated the artwork for the book's cover, and Marianne Martens contributed a chapter on international children's literature and subversive cultural exchange; these, too, demonstrate the importance of storytelling within and across cultures.

The manuscript will be submitted late summer/early fall and we anticipate publication in the spring, for a June 2016 launch at the American Library Association annual conference in Orlando. Conference-goers at USBBY in New York in October can get a sneak preview of the book's content in a breakout session the editors are offering, called "The Art and Craft of a USBBY Bibliography." We hope to see many of you there!

HOW YOU CAN BECOME INVOLVED IN USBBY

Now is a good time to make known your interest in becoming actively involved in the work of USBBY. USBBY committee members accomplish their tasks through meetings held during ALA, IRA, and NCTE conventions, as well as via email, fax, and "snail mail."

Committee service opportunities include:

- Bridge to Understanding Award
- Hans Christian Andersen Award
- Membership
- Nominating Committee
- Organization and Bylaws
- Outstanding Books for Children with Disabilities
- Publicity and Promotion

Please communicate your interests to Secretariat, Center for Teaching through Children's Books, National Louis University, 5202 Old Orchard Road, Suite 300, Skokie, IL 60077, USA.

**USBBY/ALA Co-Sponsored Session
June 2015, San Francisco, California**
by Wendy Stephens, ALA/AASL Liaison to the USBBY Board of Directors

Dutch Picture Book Authors Dieter and Ingrid Schubert Share Their Journey and Their Work



On June 27, attendees at the American Library Association’s annual conference were treated to an author talk delivered by Ingrid Schubert, who delighted a capacity crowd with images and anecdotes related to the Schuberts’ thoughtful visual sensibilities and distinguished careers.

The German-born Schuberts opened with images of themselves from childhood. Dieter was born in the German Democratic Republic, and his family fled that country when he was a child with only hand luggage and a couple of toys. Ingrid is from Essen, in the Ruhr coal-mining region. She pointed out that in a posed picture she was writing with her right hand, though she favors her left and is in fact ambidextrous, something she showcases in school visits by writing with both hands simultaneously.

The married couple have spent the last 35 years living and working in Amsterdam, first studying and then practicing illustration and applied art. When family and friends worried that the young couple’s passion for art was unprofitable, “we refused to believe that because we are very stubborn,” said Ingrid. In both period pictures from their early adulthood and in their conference presentation, the couple’s closeness is evident. Dieter originally preferred sculpture, but then they began working collaboratively to weave visual stories, “singing from the same song sheet,” said Ingrid. In writing together, the initial sketches that develop setting and characters are produced in concert, but as a book evolves, Dieter tends to focus on expression and perspective while Ingrid maintains the development of a logical narrative.

The Schuberts discussed the German tradition of heavy-handed morality and stubborn children manifest in stories like *Struwwelpeter*. Today, in Dutch and German schools, their wordless and nearly wordless books are used as story prompts, as springboards for developing vocabulary, and in a gentler form of character education.

They focused their first book, *There Is A Crocodile Under My Bed*, about the common fear children experience around bedtime, even before they had daughters of their own. When they became parents, they were keen to keep their family's experiences private, but Ingrid notes that "children are not pioneers. They do not have a unique frame of reference. We all have been children and remember our fears and our joys."

Their personal life does inform the Schuberts' work. When their daughter Heather lost a particularly treasured toy, the year-long speculation around what happened to it found its way into *Where's My Monkey?* (1986). Their own dog inspired the central character in their USBBY Outstanding International Book title *The Umbrella* (2011).

Recently, the Schuberts reworked their debut title. In the new version of *There is A Crocodile Under My Bed*, the media is different, as the original was in colored pencil but the updated edition features a layered combination of acrylics, watercolor, and mixed media. The story also changed to reflect subsequent cultural shifts. In the 2015 version, it is the crocodile that is afraid. The child no longer shares a bath with the stranger but instead watches behind a snorkel mask while the batter-covered crocodile showers, and she no longer runs to her parents, but approaches the crocodile independently.

They also added a Sneak-inspired toy as a nod to the canonical *Where the Wild Things Are*, a book that is such a family touchstone that it inspired the aesthetic of their older daughter, a landscape architect. "It tells about things that children need but that frighten adults," said Ingrid.

The Schuberts avoided creative partnerships with other artists, but when one of their favorite writers, Janis Ian, proposed a collaboration for *The Tiny Mouse* (2013), the Schuberts developed the central character as a dandy, who they call "Karl" in reference to the fashion designer Lagerfeld, delighting in the inherent contradiction of the mouse's gilded room in a tiny house.

Their work is replete with culture references from The Netherlands and beyond. Van Gogh's starry night is captured in the scenes of a seasick mouse, and their crocodile delights in the Dutch tradition of making pancakes. The exploration of Australian aboriginal culture in Bruce Chatwin's *The Songlines* suggested many of the motifs for their newest work, *The Cheer-Up Bird* (2015), a collaboration with Dutch poet and writer Edward van de Vendel. That story involves a selfless bird spreading cheer around a fantasy kingdom, only to return to his own nest depleted until his own children restore him. *The Cheer-Up Bird* will be published simultaneously this summer in the U.S. and Europe.

The Schuberts acknowledge witnessing contemporary prejudices against picture books as even six year-olds are encouraged to abandon illustrated books for unrelieved text. They personally encountered adults who felt their work seemed more a hobby than a job, and their own daughter once told her teacher her parents "both stay at home, drinking tea every day, and making funny stories."

Nonetheless, they counter, today, "our daily lives are packed with pictures as far as the eye can see," said Ingrid, acknowledging that shrinking attention spans are a challenge among the limitless possibilities in the digital world, but saying, "in our opinion, it is not the only way." The time parents spend with their children, she hopes, is about more than knowledge transfer, it is about the creation of a sense of safety that produces a lasting impression.

English language versions of the Schuberts' work are available through the Lemniscaat imprint.

**USBBY/ILA Co-Sponsored Session
July 2015, St. Louis, Missouri
Ruta Sepetys
Learning About Lives Transformed:
Promoting International Understanding Through Historical Fiction
by Lauren Liang, ILA Liaison to the USBBY Board of Directors**

What an awesome way to end #ILA15 @RutaSepetys: "We know the names of the villains but not the names of the victims"

--Tweeted by middle school teacher Mary Gregor, July 20



For many at the ILA Annual Conference, the USBBY/ILA session was the perfect end to a busy weekend. The session this year was titled "Learning About Lives Transformed: Promoting International Understanding Through Historical Fiction" and focused on promoting international understanding through culturally authentic, historically accurate and engaging historical fiction for young adults. Author Ruta Sepetys, an internationally acclaimed author who has set her stories both in Eastern Europe and in the United States, explored this topic.

Sepetys spoke about the intensity of her research as well as the craft that goes into her excellent historical fiction. Accuracy and research are important hallmarks of outstanding historical fiction, particularly for American-published books whose events occur in a country outside of the United States. Well-researched and authentic books like Sepetys' can transform a reader's interest and understanding of a historical event or time period and place they may know little about, and increase readers' overall intercultural understanding. Sepetys shared several archival photographs related to the research for her upcoming novel, *Salt to the Sea* (Philomel, February 2016), and snippets from the many interviews she conducted in her research for this new book. Attendees were particularly captivated by a still intact bottle Sepetys held up that had been thrown from the port area of the *Wilhelm Gustloff*, bearing a message from one of many frightened refugees.

As Sepetys shared about the research that goes into each of her works, she also discussed the reception her books have received in other countries. While her books were written for an American

audience, they have been translated to several languages and are very popular across the globe. Sepetys fascinated the audience as she shared the varied interpretations of her books by young readers and adults of different cultural backgrounds and histories. She showed the covers of several international editions of *Between Shades of Gray* (Philomel, 2011) and *Out Of the Easy* (Philomel, 2013), and explained what editors in various countries told her what the books were “about”; in one country the book is a story of identity, in one a story of civic responsibility, etc. The varying interpretations were quite different, and yet each made sense in light of the culture nuances in that area. Sepetys’ examples highlighted how creating meaning from the text was dependent on the cultural lens used by the reader, and how she feels that “what is important is the reader’s interpretation and not the author’s explanation. The reader is always right.”

Sepetys then discussed her focus on historical events that have remained hidden. She spoke to the importance of preserving the stories that are hidden and perhaps painful to remember, and to the larger idea of the importance of learning about others’ stories. Her call to listen to others’ stories, to embrace the personal narratives of those around us, was moving and full of powerful examples that had the audience spellbound. She ended with the important role educators play in helping to bring books about historical events to students: “You are not just educators, you are lamplighters of hope, knowledge and inspiration. By sharing stories, especially about hidden history, you are extending one of the most powerful gifts we have as human beings—empathy—to tell another human being, I feel for you. You are not alone. You are not invisible. The world has not forgotten you.”

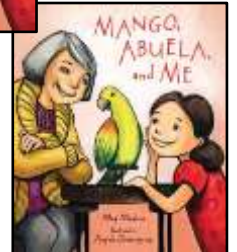
The session was held at 11 am on Monday morning, and thus was one of the very last sessions of the ILA conference. Despite this timing, the session was well attended. In a surprise ending, Sepetys brought advanced reading copies of her upcoming book *Salt to the Sea* and signed them for the delighted attendees.



Lauren Liang introduces Ruta Sepetys at the USBBY/ILA Co-Sponsored Session



SAVE THE DATE!
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2015
10:30-11:45AM
Minneapolis Convention Center

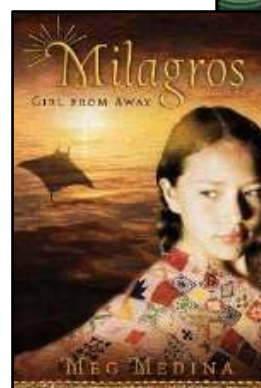
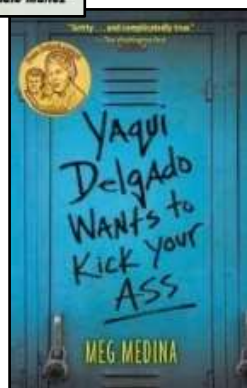
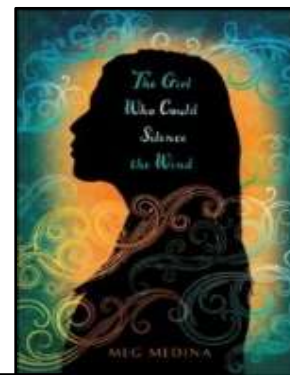
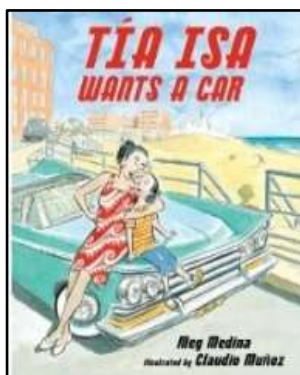


USBBY/NCTE Co-Sponsored Session
featuring award-winning author, Meg Medina!

Crafting Cultural Realities:
The Artistry and Accountability of Writing Literature for Youth
Submitted by Jennifer Graff,
NCTE Liaison to the USBBY Board of Directors

Come join award-winning author Meg Medina, Jennifer Graff, and Ruth Lowery in transformative conversations centered upon the nuanced art and craft of writing and translating literature for youth. Issues of linguistic plurality, challenging the status quo, and the powerful connections of culture will be discussed as we delve deeper into the relationships between reader, writer, and the world.

Meg Medina has received numerous literary awards including the 2011 Ezra Jack Keats New Writers award for *Tía Isa Wants a Car* and the 2014 Pura Belpré Award, the 2014 International Latino Book Award, and the 2014 Américas Award commendation for *Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass*. Her latest book, *Mango, Abuela and Me / Mango, Abuela y Yo* was released in both Spanish and English in August 2015. Meg is also the advisory committee chair of the We Need Diverse Books initiative. To read more about Meg’s ideas, experiences, and passion, visit her blog: <http://megmedina.com/>. Many thanks to Candlewick Press for sponsoring Meg’s participation in this session.



2016 Hans Christian Andersen Award Jury Announced News Release from IBBY Website

IBBY has announced the **2016 Hans Christian Andersen Award Jury**. The 2016 Jury, selected by IBBY's Executive Committee from nominations made by its national sections, comprises the following ten distinguished members from across the globe. Jury President **Patricia Aldana** (Toronto, Canada) will lead the Jury to select the winners of the 2016 Hans Christian Andersen awards. Other jury members include: **Kirsten Bystrup** from Frederiksværk, Denmark, **Reina Duarte** from Barcelona, Spain, **Andrej Ilc** from Ljubljana, Slovenia, **Yasmine Motawy** from Cairo, Egypt, **María Beatriz Medina** from Caracas, Venezuela, **Dolores Prades** from São Paulo, Brazil, **Lola Rubio** from Buenos Aires, Argentina, **Susan M. Stan** from Minneapolis, USA, **Qing Wu** from Beijing, China, and **Shohreh Yousefi** from Tehran, Iran.

The following nominees have been submitted for the **2016 Hans Christian Andersen Awards** by the National Sections of IBBY. For the 2016 Awards 28 authors and 29 illustrators have been nominated from 34 countries.

- Argentina: author **María Laura Devetach**; illustrator **Diego Bianki**
- Australia: author **Ursula Dubosarsky**; illustrator **Bronwyn Bancroft**
- Austria: author **Renate Welsh**; illustrator **Linda Wolfsgruber**
- Belgium: author **Bart Moeyaert**; illustrator **Rascal**
- Brazil: author **Marina Colasanti**; illustrator **Ciça Fittipaldi**
- Canada: author **Kenneth Oppel**; illustrator **Pierre Pratt**
- China: author **Cao Wenxuan**; illustrator **Zhu Chengliang**
- Colombia: illustrator **Claudia Rueda**
- Croatia: author **Miro Gavran**
- Denmark: author **Louis Jensen**; illustrator **Lilian Brøgger**
- Egypt: author **Affaf Tobbala**
- Estonia: author **Piret Raud**
- France: author **Timotheé de Fombelle**; illustrator **François Place**
- Germany: author **Mirjam Pressler**; illustrator **Rotraut Susanne Berner**
- Greece: author **Eleni Dikaiou**; illustrator **Lida Varvarousi**
- Iran: illustrator **Pejman Rahimizadeh**
- Italy: author **Chiara Carminati**; illustrator **Alessandro Sanna**
- Japan: author **Eiko Kadono**; illustrator **Ken Katayama**
- Republic of Korea: illustrator **Suzy Lee**
- Latvia: illustrator **Anita Paegle**
- Mexico: illustrator **Gabriel Pacheco**
- Netherlands: author **Ted van Lieshout**; illustrator **Marit Törnqvist**
- New Zealand: author **Joy Cowley**
- Norway: author **Toråge Bringsværd**; illustrator **Lisa Aisato**
- Palestine: author **Sonia Nimr**
- Russia: author **Andrey Usachev**; illustrator **Mikhail Fedorov**
- Slovakia: author **Daniel Hevier**; illustrator **Peter Uchnár**
- Slovenia: author **Svetlana Makarovič**; illustrator **Marjan Manček**
- Spain: author **Agustín Fernández Paz**; illustrator **Miguel Anxo Prado Plana**
- Sweden: illustrator **Eva Lindström**
- Switzerland: author **Franz Hohler**; illustrator **Etienne Delessert**
- Turkey: author **Gülçin Alpöge**; illustrator **Ferit Avci**
- UK: author **Elizabeth Laird**; illustrator **Chris Riddell**
- USA: author **Lois Lowry**; illustrator **Chris Raschka**

Building Global Partnerships

Currently, USBBY has partnerships with the national sections of **Haiti, Lebanon, Palestine, South Africa, and Zambia**. More news about our twinning partners is available in their newsletters posted on the USBBY website at <http://www.usbby.org/usbbypartners.html>.

Haiti

The Ayibby National Section reported the following activities.

- They are in the process of collecting books for Haitian children who have been deported from the Dominican Republic.
- They are once again using soccer books in summer camps. It is a great activity for the kids, especially the boys who are more reluctant to read.
- Six children were encouraged by one of Ayibby's members to illustrate a book on traditional games.
- Ayibby conducted a workshop on the importance of reading for parents and teachers.
- They also had the traditional exposition of books for children in Montrouis.

Lebanon

- LBBY continues their work with Syrian refugee children who are fleeing from the war areas in Syria. See the report that follows.

Palestine

- See the report that follows regarding the IBBY Gaza Appeal.

South Africa

- No new information has been shared.

Zambia

- **Elizabeth Giles joins the Zambia** for a long-term assignment as the Training Librarian.
- **Lubuto's delegation attended the 2015 IFLA conference** in Cape Town, South Africa in August.
- **The Library is collaborating with an Israeli educational technology company** to pilot a program with electronic readers in Zambian languages. These devices attach to picture books and "read" recorded titles aloud to children.
- **The Ministry of Education, Science, Vocational Training and Early Education and the Zambia Library Service** will now focus on staffing Lubuto libraries



Image and information from <http://www.ibby.org>

IBBY CHILDREN IN CRISIS PROJECT

IBBY regularly seeks donations for projects under its **Children in Crisis Fund** to provide support for children whose lives have been disrupted by war, civil disorder or natural disaster. IBBY believes that children who are suffering from natural disaster, displacement, war and its aftermath, desperately need books and stories as well as food, shelter, clothing and medicines. These are all necessities and are not mutually exclusive

Projects have been supported in the wake of natural disasters in Indonesia (2005 to 2009, tsunami), Peru (earthquake, 2007), China (2008, earthquake) Haiti (2009, hurricane and 2010, earthquake), Pakistan (2010, floods) and Japan (2011, earthquake).

War and conflict has given rise to projects in Afghanistan (2009), Colombia (2008 to 2010), and Lebanon (2007) and in Gaza, Palestine (2008) as well as the current appeals for funding for the reconstruction of libraries in Gaza and for programmes for Syrian children in Lebanon, described below.

Whatever the cause for children in crisis, the two main activities that are supported by the Fund are the therapeutic use of books and storytelling in the form of bibliotherapy, and the creation or replacement of collections of selected, appropriate books.

In addition, IBBY operates a **Solidarity Fund** to help IBBY Sections experiencing financial difficulties in less-developed or economically depressed countries.

A Report on the Syrian Children's Bibliotherapy Project in Lebanon

Julinda Abu Nasr (PhD), Program Director

LBBY July 7, 2015

After waiting almost three months we finally got the permit from the Ministry of Education to proceed with the Bibliotherapy project for the displaced Syrian children in Lebanon. Eighty children were recruited from the Jaber AhmadAl Sobah school in Ras Beirut and one hundred from the Burj Hammoud school to form the student body for the project launched by LBBY.

The program in Ras Beirut started on Friday April 10 and continued through the month of May because the school premises will not be available for our use after that date due to state exams. For this reason we had to increase the number of hours per day from three to five and limit our work to one group of children instead of two per day as we did last year. We also had to make use of holidays to give the number of sessions needed to complete the program. The four teachers and the coordinator who worked with me last year were contracted also for this year. Training was done to introduce the new additions to the program and to get them acquainted with the new books available.

Five new teachers and a coordinator were trained in the implementation of the project in the Burj Hammoud school. The program was delayed two weeks in this school for logistic reasons that had to do with the administration. The program in this school will hopefully go through July to complete. At the end of May a new permission had to be secured to continue the program. The meetings take place on Saturday since this is their day off. The others meet on Friday.

I personally supervise in both schools and am quite pleased with the results. I sit with the children in the classrooms, observe their behavior, listen to their anecdotes, notice their smiles and their tears when they get emotional relating their experiences. I work with individual children when there is a need for that. It would be extremely difficult to report all the pain these children are suffering but I will try to summarize some of the horror stories they related of incidents they witnessed. Some do get too emotional as they report the events and burst into tears while others choke and stop in the middle and some refuse to talk at all. The latter ones we encourage to write or draw the cause of their suffering and pain. As weeks go by and the children feel more secure in their surroundings, they seem to unwind and express themselves a little more freely.

Here are some of incidents that children between eight and thirteen have reported. I will quote some and paraphrase others. We have been listening to the reports in small doses since it is too painful for them and for us to dwell too long on these incidents in one day but we know that this helps get rid of the destructive feelings that are very dangerous if they continue to be bottled up. Actually this is the whole purpose of this project.

"I have seen a lot of death, blood, torn bodies on the roads as we were running away from one village to another before we came to Lebanon. The bombs make very loud noises and they were falling all over. I was very scared." A girl of 10.

"They shot my father and my brother in front of us." Through her tears and strained face, this eight year old could hardly finish the sentence to say that her father loved her and she misses him. The pain in her eyes is piercing.

"I saw the army cutting the fingers and then the hand of a man who was smoking. They told him this is against religion." A nine year old boy.

"They kidnapped my mother and my father and we do not know where they are. We stay with our grandparents here in Lebanon." A twelve year old girl who has four younger brothers and sisters.

"The fighters forced my mother, my sisters and me to stand, tied us with a rope and forced us to witness them cutting my father's head with a knife. My father worked for the government. When I started crying one man hit me with his gun on my head. I was very scared." A girl of nine.

"A big explosion took place when a bomb fell on our school. I will never forget this explosion ...It was so frightening! Many of my friends were wounded, some were killed and others lost their arms and /or legs. I lost my eye." A twelve year old girl.

"They were bombing the schools but I continued to go to school because I love school. Now I am very sad because I do not have my school anymore. I was willing to be a martyr for education!" A girl of nine.

"I saw a bullet go through my father's head when the army shot at the car as we were leaving Homs." A girl of ten.

"At night I see scary dreams and wake up screaming. My mother told me to think of nice things to be able to sleep." A girl of eight.

"Men with covered faces, carrying guns came in to our house, took my father, my older brother and sister. They took my mother's gold bracelets and told her in a very bad language to put a veil on and stop screaming. I cried and was very scared. My mother took us to our grandparents' house and then we came to Lebanon." A boy of nine.

"When I went to buy bread I saw people fighting over the bread and then a man was hit with a bullet in his head and fell dead on the ground. I saw a lot of blood and was very scared and started crying." A boy of ten.

Through his tears and choked voice a boy of nine reported how the army burnt his grandfather and grandmother with whom he was staying and he added through tears "I love them very much." The neighbors rescued him and his sister and sent them to his uncle's house who in turn sent them to Lebanon. Their parents had been killed a few weeks before.

At the end of the seventh week at the Jaber Ahmed El Sobah school and the last two hours of the session a gathering was planned for the children to distribute some gifts and books. Each group was asked to prepare some activity they would like to share with others in the form of poster, story, song, drama, poem.

It was delightful to see how excited they were in planning and later in performing. Through mixed reactions of enthusiasm and tears children presented patriotic songs that spoke of their love for country and their longing for home. Many choked in the process and could not finish the songs while others continued. It was touching to see as many boys crying as girls.

One of the groups prepared a poster on war and one of the boys wrote a story that he read to the others on the horrors of war that had deprived him of his parents, friends, home, country, school and had created so much fear. Another boy who was encouraged to talk about the black painted spaces in his poster could only

say through his sobs that “These are dark days.” I learned later that this 10 year old boy is the only survivor of a family of seven whose car was hit by a bomb as they were trying to escape from Aleppo. He was staying with some relatives in Lebanon. I often noticed that look of misery on his face but he seldom spoke even when encouraged to do so.

Another nine year old boy wanted to sing the Syrian National Anthem with his sister. He started with a lot of enthusiasm but unfortunately he could not finish it. He withdrew and went outside the room sobbing while his sister with a few other volunteers completed the song.

These are a few of the many sad and frightening stories that were told by children who have endured more than their share of fear, pain and suffering when they should be happily studying, playing, enjoying life and being prepared for a successful future. How I wish that their voices and tears could reach the rulers and decision makers who think that political problems can be solved through war, hate and fighting.

Below is a photo of some of the children whose pain and suffering we are hoping to alleviate by trying to plant a seed of love in their bruised hearts, draw a smile on their sad faces, show them a more human world through the stories we read, the affection we share and the willingness to listen sympathetically to their experiences. Opportunities for free expression of their emotions through tears, words, drawings, drama and physical expression are helping to drain many of these negative feelings. This has been made possible through the generous help of the IBBY family across the world and the dedicated work of the school teachers and some LBBY members and myself.



I cannot conclude this report without a word of deep appreciation and thankfulness to those IBBY friends who care and are helping us restore some of the joy of childhood these children have been deprived of. I believe that by helping these children we are serving humanity. May IBBY continue to grow to carry the torch of peace, understanding and love among human beings all over the world.

Children in Crisis/ IBBY Gaza Appeal Report February-May 2015



Workshop at Al Sikka Library

Despite the difficult and horrific situation Palestinian children and people have endured—the loss of beloved, the long siege, lack of basic needs and the destroyed houses and infrastructure—activities in libraries are continuing with great determination and zeal! The positive effect on the children is very encouraging and heartwarming.

This report shares information about the project including activities such as book discussions, drama, creative writing, and celebrations of social occasions and national holidays.

Activities Implemented at Al Sikka Library Beit Hanoun



Al Sikka Library Renovation

Celebration of International Children's Book Day

Celebration of the International Day for Children's Rights

Clothes Distribution: With the support and help from the United Palestinian Appeal children's clothes were distributed.

Celebrating Land Day: On Palestinian Land Day (March 30th) the children planted a number of trees which were provided through coordination with the al-Ataa Society. The trees were planted in the nearby garden. There was discussion about what Land Day means.

Psychodrama Training: The children were trained in activities in psychodrama to support them psychologically. They enjoyed the training and talked about some of the problems they face.

Hygiene Workshop: A health instructor from the UNRWA Clinic held a workshop for the children about personal hygiene and cleanliness of the surrounding environment.

Creative Writing: After reading a book about the neighborhood and home, the children completed an activity called Rain of Wishes. Here are some of the wishes that the children shared.

-Rahaf Amjad Hamad (9 years) wrote that she wishes that Beit Hanoun returns to the way it was before the war without destruction or displacement, and that everyone returns to their homes to rebuild them; and, that she would be able to play with her friends without fear.

-Hussam Ismail (13 years) wished that the clouds would rain different kinds of footballs and that we would have playgrounds and parks to enjoy.

-Anwar Fayyad Alomar (11 years) wrote that his wishes are to return to his home that the occupation destroyed to live in it after building it and to have electricity so that he can watch children's programs.

-The child Malak Hani wished that her fingers would return to her hand, and that she could draw like she used to draw before. She also wished that she could have places for playing and fun.

All of children's dreams included having electricity, pure water, a clean environment, playing safely, and being safe from wars and destruction.

In another activity, children shared reasons for their sadness including losing their homes or people they love or because of aggression and destruction.

-Baha' Nasser (10 years) wrote that he felt very sad when his brother Khalil died during the occupation of Beit Hanoun because the ambulance could not reach him. It was a sad day that he will not forget.

-Abeer Hamdeen (12 years): When my grandmother passed away I was very sad. I was also sad for the children of Palestine, especially Gaza. During the aggression on Beit Hanoun, we were displaced from our schools and our homes. We returned to find them destroyed. In addition, we were unable to celebrate the month of Ramadan and did not enjoy the feast because of the war.

Children shared "My Story" writing about their experiences during the aggression.

-Mona Wasef al Zaanin (13 years): The war days will not be forgotten for fear was everywhere. In the house we were bombarded and we ran to the school and there was more fear and direct bombardment, in the street and everywhere. So the days were difficult. We spent them without electricity and with salty water. I hope that there will be peace and war stays away from us.

-Hidaya Sihweil (12 years): During the war I was very afraid. I was sad because there was no medicine because of the siege and the closing of roads. I thank God that the war is over and I hope that such a war will not return.



There was an entertainment day for the children of the library and the children of the al Ataa Society planned by the librarian and volunteers of the al Ataa Society. There were cultural activities as the children were provided information about poets and writers such as Mahmoud Darwish, Ahmad Shawqi, Najib Mahfouz and Fadwa Toqan. There were also recreational activities—sports, games, and art. There were puppet clowns who played with the children and they performed a play about the difficult living conditions of the children.



The children received a number of simple symbolic handicraft gifts and friendly cards sent by the children of Pakistan. The children were very happy and they felt a connection to others in the world through these gifts. They shared their thanks.

-Anwar Fayyad I am (11 years): When our house was destroyed I felt lonely and no one encouraged me to return to my normal life but thanks to the support of the children of Pakistan with some of their simple handicraft I felt there is someone beside me.

-Malak Shabat: I am very happy with the gifts offered to us by the children of Pakistan. These gifts gave us a push to communicate with the world and to look to the future with more optimism in spite of all the difficulties and situations we are passing through. I hope there will be peace in all countries.

-Mona Wasef Al Zaanin (13 years): I send a word of love and appreciation and a salute, a salute of sisterhood and friendship, a salute from the heart to the heart, thank you from the bottom of my heart. I offer my thanks to the children of Pakistan who expressed their love and support for us and for peace.



Children Receive Friendship Gifts from Palestine

Activities implemented at Al Shawka Library-Rafah

Group Reading: Children are trained to read stories with a group. At the beginning of the training, the children were concerned about their ability read and discuss the story, especially the girls. With the training, the children were able to gain confidence and discuss the stories with the other children in the library. This activity motivates the children to read more stories and enjoy discussing them with others.

Story Discussions: Children discuss and comment on the stories they are reading, making changes to the titles and writing other scenes for the drawings in the story.

Free Drawing Workshop

Creative Storytelling: Illustrations from a story are photographed and distributed to children who then create stories. Their interaction in this activity is good and the elements of story are clarified.

Handicraft Workshop

Animation: Children choose a shape and personify it through illustrations.

Dynamic Animation: The children work in groups and each group is given a story to illustrate. Then, they cut out the illustrations. The child's voice is recorded while reading the story and the rest of the group moves the cutout illustrations on a white poster. Thus an animated story is created.

Computer Training

Free Reading

Film/Story Discussions: Children compare film versions of stories they have read.

Readers Theater: A number of stories are chosen to be read and discussed. Roles are distributed to the children who memorized their part. This motivated the children to read more stories in order to participate. This activity helps in reinforcing memory and creating an atmosphere of fun.

Field Trip: A group visited an elder in the community and she described life in Rafah in older times. The main source of living for her family was caring for sheep and agriculture. She also described the process of crushing lentil and how the women would gather in the evening to talk about their lives and the wheat season.



Sports Activities

Psychodrama: The children were trained in activities such as play movement and exercises which help in stress-release.

Poetry Construction: A group of poetry verses are chosen and cut into sentences or words and then distributed to the children, who try to construct these sentences/words into a whole poem.

Books, Glorious Books
The 2015 Outstanding International Books Committee
by Terry Hong, OIB Chair



With diversity so much in the spotlight in children’s publishing, USBBY’s Outstanding International Books Committee (OIBC) is circumnavigating the world through books to showcase compelling, memorable, downright entertaining titles for young readers across our multi-culti country. The 2015 OIB List featured books from all over Europe and Asia, with stories set in the Middle East, Russia, Africa, and beyond. The 2016 List promises to take us on equally fascinating global journeys, as well!

To bring you the most outstanding recommendations, I am so blessed to be chairing an outstanding committee of eight erudite readers – five professors, two librarians, and an independent scholar who also happens to be a Russian/English translator. They’re as international as the books we’re reading, by birth and experience both! Ready to meet them?

Let’s start with our four newbies, now a half year into a two-year appointment.

Olga Bukhina is our committee’s independent scholar and translator of children’s and young readers’ books – some of her English to Russian titles include *Harriet the Spy* by Louise Fitzhugh, *Rootabaga Stories* by Carl Sandburg, and *The Last Battle* by C.S. Lewis. She grew up in Moscow, but has been a New Yorker for almost two decades. Hers is a happy tale of two cities, even though she’s not so thrilled with Russian politics these days. Since 90% of her reading choices are children’s books, she joined a book group to force herself to read adult literature – but that didn’t help because the group’s last three choices were all about children!

Debra (“Debby”) Gold is the children’s librarian at the Cuyahoga County Public Library in Ohio, where she’s lived all her life. She still considers herself “a New Englander by osmosis.” She comes from a family of readers – she must have learned that skill by osmosis too, because she read before starting kindergarten in order to

keep up with her older sister! She's most fascinated with Holocaust literature for all age levels, as well as books about time travel. Escape much? Well ... when Debby's not reading, she swims at least once a week, convinced she must have been a mermaid in another life. She loves theater – both on and off the stage, and is a film fanatic, too. She fights the clean fight – for the environment and water, too. Probably all with a book in hand!

Petros Panaou is an assistant professor and director of the Literacy Center in the Department of Literacy, Language and Culture at Boise State University. He's a native of Cyprus, a former British colony, so he speaks a British English, albeit with a distinct Greek-Cypriot accent. He's also self-admittedly "fresh-off-the-boat," having moved to the U.S. just over a year ago. Petros comes to us with additional IBBY experience – he served as the secretary of the Cyprus section. He confesses to being a wannabe children's author, and reveals he's written a science fiction novel in Greek he hasn't yet shared with the world. Any agents out there? Come and get it!

Carol Hanson Sibley retired in 2014 from professor-ing at Minnesota State University Moorhead, which means she has more time than ever to read, right? She especially enjoys finding books to share with her three grandchildren. Carol grew up on a Wisconsin dairy farm and became an avid reader as a child, helped along by Beatrix Potter's *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*. She taught in Wisconsin and Switzerland before settling in Minnesota. Without her rigorous teaching schedule, she's got more time to feed her love of travel – she prepares for her trips by first reading all about the planned destination, of course! Once a professor, always a student, too!

As for our four second-year bibliophilic experts with whom I've already spent many delightful hours deliberating over books and sharing delicious meals, meet them here:

Holly Johnson is an associate dean in the Office of Innovation & Opportunity at the University of Cincinnati – which seems to mean she's got very limited office hours because she takes the innovative opportunity to traverse the world leading various literary projects. She recently served on the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award Committee, so she knows all about noteworthy international children's titles for sure! Thanks to her mother who read aloud to Holly and her siblings from the moment each was born, Holly hasn't stopped discussing and recommending books to family and friends since! If all goes according to plan, she plans to leave Cincinnati when she retires with only what will fit in her car – she's got nine years left to ditch (I mean share!) her belongings, including most of her beloved books.

Ramona ("Mona") Kerby is a professor and Coordinator of the School Library Program at McDaniel College. She's also another of our even more experienced readers, having served a two-year appointment on the ALSC Notable Books Committee. Originally from Texas (no, her lovely, lilting accent gives nothing away!), Mona's been a Marylander for two decades. Her educational literary career began as a kindergarten teacher until she moved up to be an elementary school librarian; she graduated into her latest incarnation as a one-woman department of three graduate programs. Cloning, perhaps, might be in her near future?

Ed (“Sully”) Sullivan is a self-proclaimed Rogue Librarian, currently based in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. He has a long history with USBBY, having served on Notable Books for a Global Society, an International Literacy Association special interest group. As if his books didn’t take enough space (he’s actually catalogued 6,500 titles in his personal library!), Ed also has an extensive collection of Converse Chuck Taylor All-Star High Tops – that’s all you’ll ever find on his feet – as well as at least a few hundred PEZ candy dispensers (even though he doesn’t eat the candy!). No Luddite is Ed, but he’ll die happy if he never owns a cell phone. He also has no patience for adult fiction, but biographies, memoirs, and nonfiction keep him endlessly entertained.

Barbara Ward is a literacy and literature professor at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington. She also has years of previous award experience, having served on IRA’s Notable Books for a Global Society and the Notable Children’s Books in the Language Arts for the Children’s Literature Assembly (CLA) of the National Council of Teachers of English. Before her move to the Pacific Northwest, she spent a quarter century living and teaching in New Orleans; she survived Hurricane Katrina, but lost everything she owned, including ALL of her books. She’s been steadily rebuilding her personal library ever since. Someday, she’s determined to do a driving tour crisscrossing the nation in search of special spots where writers have lived and written. Maybe we can all tag along!

And me? This is my third and final year on the OIBC! I guess I’m the wild card of bunch, as I’m not a librarian nor professor. I created and maintain Smithsonian BookDragon, a multi-culti book blog for the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center. I was the writer wrangler for *Girl Rising*, both a groundbreaking film and ongoing international campaign highlighting girls’ education. In spite of two unfinished PhDs (my mother still cringes), I taught for two years in Duke University’s Leadership in the Arts, a New York City-based performance and public policy program. I’ve co-authored two nonfiction books, *Eastern Standard Time: A Guide to Asian Influence on American Culture from Astro Boy to Zen Buddhism* and *What Do I Read Next? Multicultural Literature*, but I really, truly don’t have a novel in me as I’m often asked. My life is crazy drama enough!

We’re halfway through the year with our reading, although the deluge of books probably won’t come until the fall (shhhhh – don’t tell our newbies). And yes, we’ve already discovered some illuminating gems, but absolutely no spoilers here.

We’ll be meeting livetime in December, where we’ll have two-and-a-half-days of talking books, books, and more books. I promise I’ll occasionally let my fellow readers out for a few breaks and meals here and there, especially since we will all need to be hale and hearty to gather in Boston for ALA Midwinter when we announce our next fabulous list.

While you’re waiting for the big reveal, make sure to check out the last **10** years of Outstanding International Books on the USBBY site here: http://www.usbby.org/list_oibl.html.

Mark your calendars now for Friday, January 8, 2016. More details to come.

Until then, we’ll keep reading. And reading some more. We can’t wait to tell you about our books!

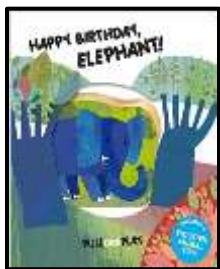
How Does This Translate? Jennifer M. Graff & Oksana Lushchevska

As summer draws to a close, we relish the time we've spent reading, discussing, and sharing stories set in locales around the world and stories that distinctly fulfill the label "summer reads." These stories, found in various genres and formats, are lighthearted, celebratory, humorous, adventurous, spooky, if not life-changing at times. We feel fortunate to be able to briefly "escape" from our daily routines when reading these books while also appreciating how "deceptively simple" and entertaining books enable us to not only enjoy life but also think about our connections as humans living in a tumultuous world. Other books we've read this summer serve as global guides of our past and present and remind us of not only how far we've come but also how far we have left to go for international peace and global understanding. We can't help but wonder what Jella Lepman would say about the current publication of international books for youth.

We conclude with our heartfelt thanks for our ongoing relationships with publishers dedicated to ensuring youth from around the world are able to read the same narratives despite the geographical distance. We wouldn't be able to discuss international books without their vision and support.

Translated Books for Younger Children

Clima, Gabriele. **Happy Birthday, Elephant!** Illustrated by Francesca Crovara. Sterling Children's Books, 2015.



ISBN 9781454915812. First published in 2013 by La Coccinella: Milan, Italy (Ages 3-5). It is an important day for Elephant: his birthday! Will his jungle friends share this special moment with him? Will Gazelle, Monkey, and Parrot congratulate him? Will they bring presents? This charming and playful board book invites readers to follow some of Elephant's worries prior to his birthday celebration. The positive ending of this short cumulative story will excite the young and result in a sigh of relief "Ahh!" or a loud shout "Surprise!" The bright amusing cut-outs and a pull-out wooden puzzle offer a great stimulus for both reading and play time.

De Kinder, Jan. **Red.** Translated from Flemish *Rood, of Waarom Pesten Niet Grappig Is* by Laura Watkinson.



Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2015. ISBN9780802854469. First published in 2013 by Uitgeverij De Eenhoorn bvba: Wielsbeke, Belgium (Ages 7-10).

We can never have enough books that tackle an ongoing epidemic around the world: bullying. Jan De Kinder faces bullying head on with this powerful narrative about how paralyzing peer pressure can be when one wants to stand against the bullying of classmates and the strength necessary to do so. A young girl is scared of the school bully, Paul. His "tongue is as sharp as a knife. And his fist is as hard as a brick. He's twice as strong as me. There's no way I can stand up to him on my own." As a result, the young girl and her peers sit on the sidelines while Paul bullies one of their friends, Tommy. It is only when the young girl has the courage to tell a teacher that others follow suit and De Kinder cleverly uses the color red to connote a range of emotions spanning embarrassment to anger while employing a variety of artistic media (pencil, charcoal, ink, aquarelle, acrylic, and collage) to accentuate the emotional toll bullying has on people, past and present.

Janisch, Heinz. **The King and the Sea.** Translated from the German *Der König und das Meer* by Sally-Ann Spenser. Illustrated by Wolf Erlbruch. Gecko Press, 2015. ISBN 9781877579943. First published in 2008 by Carl



Hanser Verlag: Munich, Germany. (Ages 7-10).

The King and the Sea offers a fresh account of a story about self-discovery. In 21 short, dynamic dialogue-style stories and child-like illustrations, Hainz Janisch and Wolf Erlbruch trace the King as he attempts to communicate with nature, the land and sea animals. He wants to show his magnificent power to whomever or whatever he meets. However, the King soon learns that nature also wields immeasurable strength: the rain can make his crown rusty and the clouds refuse to obey. No matter what he does, the King cannot

subdue nature! Recognizing his limited power and inability to control the world, the King decides to relax, and what better way to do that than by joyfully leaping into the sea?

Miura, Taro. **The Big Princess.** Translated from the Japanese *Okina Ohimesama* by Kaisei-sha Publishing Co, Ltd. through the Japan Foreign-Rights Centre. Walker Books Ltd, 2014. ISBN 9780763674595. First published in 2013 by Kaisei-sha Publishing Co, Ltd. First US edition 2015, Candlewick Press: Somerville, Massachusetts. (Ages 5-7).



Princess books continue to land on the bestseller lists and *The Big Princess* is no exception. This Japanese import adds to our collection of traditional tales with a loving story about the magic that transpires when king and queen are granted their greatest wish: to have a daughter. Of course, you can't have a princess story without magic spells and a quest. In this instance, the princess continues to grow and grow, and grow until she resembles a tall tower.

Thankfully, the king comes to the rescue with his unwavering love and inadvertent tickling, and the princess grows a bit smaller. Clean crisp lines, bright colors, a cleverly executed fold-out, and a few of Miura's daughter's drawings bring an even more whimsical feel to this tale that addresses body size stereotypes in an engaging way.

Saint John XXIII. **Just for Today.** Translated from the Italian *Solo Per Oggi* by Edizioni San Paolo s.r.l.: Milan Italy. Illustrated by Bimba Landmann. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers. First published in 2011 by Edizioni San Paolo s.r.l.: Milan Italy. (Ages 6-10).



People around the world often seek guidance on how to live life fully, humbly, and in the present. *Just for Today*, a collection of advice from Pope John XXIII prior to his canonization offers readers words of wisdom he tried to follow throughout his life. Each double page spread begins with "Just for today, I . . ." and concludes with a range of practices that honors the highest level of humanity and understanding. The exquisite illustrations by

Italian artist Bimba Landmann further enhance the spiritual tone of the book without becoming overly didactic. A brief biography of Saint John XXIII concludes this comforting picturebook.

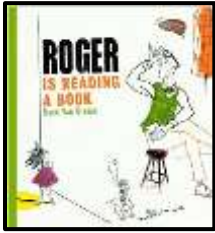
Stark, Ulf. **When Dad Showed Me the Universe.** Translated from Swedish *När papa visade mig världsalltet* by Julia Marshall. Illustrated by Eva Eriksson. Gecko Press, 2015. ISBN 9781927271810. First published in 1998 by Bonnier Carlsen: Stockholm, Sweden. (Ages 4-8).



Ulf Stark's *When Dad Showed Me the Universe*, illustrated by Eva Eriksson, narrates the story of a father's wish to show his young son the universe. Will everything go as he has planned? When the father takes the boy to a place where they can observe the various constellations and planets, he does not expect answering so many of his curious son's questions. Following the two characters through each double-spread, readers observe some local places such as a quiet park, small windy streets, and a variety of stores and houses.

Eriksson’s colorful and soft pencil illustrations nicely portray many interesting visual details. Stark and Eriksson’s blend of humor and philosophy in the final episodes might positively affect many readers; they will likely finish this literary experience with laughter!

Van Biesen, Koen. **Roger is Reading a Book**. Translated from Dutch *Buurman Leest Een Boek* by Laura Watkinson. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2015. ISBN 9780802854421. First published in 2013 by Uitgeverij De Eenhoorn bvba: Wielsbeke, Belgium. (Ages 5-7).



The trials and tribulations living in an apartment complex with thin walls are humorously showcased in this import from Belgium. Koen Van Biesen cleverly narrates the escapades of Emily, a young girl engaging in a variety of “noisy” hobbies and Roger, her male adult neighbor, who prefers to read in silence. How can Roger read when Emily is playing? How can Roger read when Emily is singing? Will Roger find a way to read with Emily around? And, what will Emily do upon receiving a “peace offering” from Roger? Short sentences, playful phrases and visual caricatures create a funny juxtaposition of interests between young children and adults. The bold, bright illustrations and a creative usage of lines adeptly convey the characters’ moods and enhance their personalities. This story will delight even the youngest of listeners!

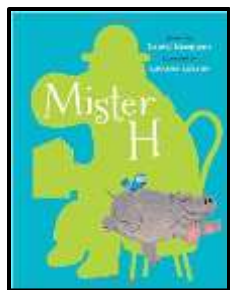
Translated Books for Older Children

Cohen-Janca, Irène. **Mister Doctor: Janusz Korczak and the Orphans of the Warsaw Ghetto**. Translated from Italian *L’Ultimo Viaggio*. Illustrated by Maurizio A.C. Quarello. Annick Press, 2015. ISBN 9781554517152. First published in 2015 by oreccio acerbo: Rome, Italy. (Ages 9-12).



Story is at the heart of *Mister Doctor*. This memorable and sensitive story is inspired by the real-life experience of Henryk Goldszmit, known by his pen name Janusz Korczak. Korczak was a writer, scholar, and prominent Jewish-Polish pediatrician during WWII who died in the Nazi extermination camps together with his young patients. Simon, a young orphan, offers a warm-hearted narration of the events during the Holocaust that led to Janusz Korczak’s tragic death while providing psychological insights into Korczak himself. Sepia-colored pages and black and white realistic, detailed drawings masterfully illuminate a complex time. This fictionalized biographical picturebook includes more information about Janusz Korczak, the children’s books he authored, and additional reading resources about the Holocaust for parents and teachers.

Nesquens, Daniel. **Mister H**. Translated from Spanish *El Señor H* by Lawrence Schimel. Illustrated by Luciano Lozano. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2015. ISBN 9780802854407. First published in 2011 by Editorial Bambù: Barcelona, Italy. (Ages 7-10).



Mister H is a charming illustrated chapter book that invites readers to follow the provocative escapades of Mister H, a hippopotamus. Mister H, who is in a zoo, wants to go back to his homeland – Africa. When he escapes from his cage, everyone is so busy that no one really notices him. Even in the restaurant, Mister H doesn’t receive much attention until he becomes involved in an incident with a troublesome lady. However, she treats him as if he is human without paying much attention to the fact that he is a hippo. When the lady leaves, the waitress thanks Mister H for his help, because she had grown tired of the lady’s behavior. This is an episode in which he really becomes noticeable and enjoys being himself. Although Mister H does not get to Africa, he learns that, sometimes, one needs to take advantage of second chances to achieve desirable outcomes. The last episode in this book is quite fulfilling. Some readers may consider the episodes of Mister H to be a social commentary about contemporary immigration and humanity.

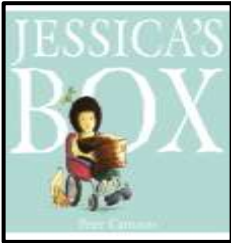
Sharafeddine, Fatima. **The Amazing Discoveries of Ibn Sina**. Translated from Arabic *Ibn Sina*. Illustrated by Intelag Mohammed Ali. Groundwood Books, 2015. ISBN 9781554987108. First published in 2013 by Kalimat: Sharjah, UAE. (Ages 7-11).



The Amazing Discoveries of Ibn Sina is a rich visual journey into the life of Ibn Sina, also known as Avicenna, a Persian medicine philosopher and writer of the Islamic Golden Age. The first-person narrator, young Ibn Sina, tells about his own path to his famous career. From school to the sultan's library, Ibn Sina seeks the opportunity to educate himself in order to treat sick people and learn how people differ from animals. His actions lead him to develop groundbreaking theories and discoveries in philosophy, mathematics, and medicine. The colorful illustrations are influenced by traditional Persian art. With a touch of timelessness, they refer readers to Persian geographical and cultural landscapes, costumes and food, and customs and traditions. This stunning picturebook is a result of Fatima Sharafeddine and Intelag Mohammed Ali's desire to diversify school curriculum with stories about internationally distinguished historical people and their achievements.

Global Books for Younger Children

Carnavas, Peter. **Jessica's Box**. Kane Miller, 2015. ISBN 9781610673471. First published in 2008 by New Frontier Publishing: Frenchs Forest, Australia. (Ages 5-7).



Can one make plenty of friends being new to a school? As Peter Carnavas shows, it is possible simply by being oneself! *Jessica's Box* is about a young girl's attempts to attract the attention of her peers in order to make friends. Each day, Jessica brings a box filled with special things, such as a teddy bear and cupcakes, to share with her classmates; however, she fails to make friends. Jessica feels miserable: "She just wanted to disappear." And disappear she does—right into her box—until a classmate finds her. From

there friendship blooms as they engage in a game of Hide and Seek. *Jessica's Box* is a lovely story about the diverse and special needs of people and reminds readers of not only not losing hope but also about thinking "outside of the box." It is of no surprise that *Jessica's Box* is a Children's Book Council of Australia Notable Book and was shortlisted for the Queensland Premier's Literary Award. Note that the cover of the US version is for the Cerebral Palsy Alliance. No mention beyond the cover image indicates Jessica has any identified disability.

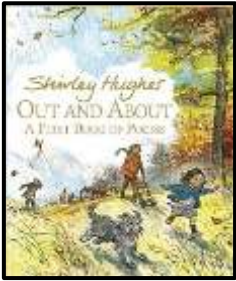
Dubuc, Marianne. **The Bus Ride**. Translated from the French *L'autobus* by Yvette Ghione. Kids Can Press, 2015. ISBN 9781771382090. First published in 2014 by Comme des géants: Montreal, Canada. (Ages 3-7).



The Bus Ride is an enchanting journey of the imagination that will entice readers of any age to continuously travel back and forth between the detailed illustrations on each double-page spread. Young Clara independently travels to her grandmother's house by bus for the first time. As the bus enters a forest, the girl narrates a series

of adventures with her fellow passengers: a wolf, turtle, rabbits, hedgehogs, a cat, among other animals. Clara's simple narration is often belied by the richly detailed illustrations. Emotional ups and downs, nonchalant observations and attentiveness, playfulness and fantasy: all these elements are combined in this lovely story reminiscent of Dubuc's earlier work, *Animal Masquerade*. The woven basket, red blanket, wolf bus companion, and the journey through a forest to meet grandmother might suggest to some readers a contemporary version of the classic fairy tale "Little Red Riding Hood."

Hughes, Shirley. **Out and About: A First Book of Poems.** Candlewick Press, 2015. ISBN 9780763676445. First published in 1988 by Walker Books Ltd: London, UK. (Ages 4-7).

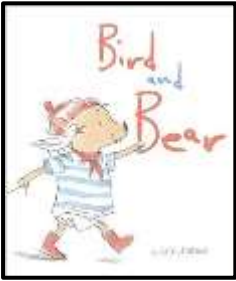


Out and About: A First Book of Poems is a collection of poems about a sister and a brother, Katie and Olly, who find many ways to enjoy the four seasons. The full-page illustrations offer a lot of fun for fluent readers and learners: the settings and actions are recognizable and specific to the seasons while the characters are both relatable and endearing.

Patterned, rhythmic lines in each poem will be easy to memorize and might even be immediately repeated: “I like mud./The slippy, sloppy, squelchy kind.../,” “I like water. /The shallow, splashy, paddly kind...,” “I like the wind./The soft, summery, gentle kind....”

This poetry collection will help develop a lifelong appreciation for poetry as a joyous, natural, and essential part of our lives. Readers who wish to return to simpler times or reminisce about the past will readily embrace this book whose 30th birthday is just around the corner.

James, Ann. **Bird and Bear.** Little Bee Books, 2015. ISBN 9781499800371. First published in 2013 by The Five Mile Press: Scoresby, Australia. (Ages 3-6).



Centered around Bear’s special day—his birthday—*Bird and Bear* highlights the strong bond of friendship, despite multiple differences in an endearing way. Bear and Bird might seem like unlikely friends with their preference for different clothes, foods and different terms for “birthday” (bearthday and hatchday); however, those differences fail to overshadow their love of adventure and learning about the world together. Their world becomes even more spectacular when they discover their own reflections in a mirror and the sea! The nautical color and pattern schemes accentuate Bird and Bear’s friendship as well as highlight their leisurely, coastal lifestyles. James’ clever use of prepositions throughout the story in bold print further captivate and educate young readers. *Bird and Bear* is sure to be a captivating story for many.

O’Leary, Sara. **This is Sadie.** Illustrated by Julie Morstad. Tundra Books, 2015. ISBN 9781770495326. First published in 2015 by Tundra Books: Toronto, Canada. (Ages 4-8).



This is Sadie celebrates the active imagination of the young. Capturing the energy and playfulness of the main protagonist, Sadie, the author’s storytelling represents a great variety of intertextual connections: Sadie is a little mermaid; Sadie is Alice in Wonderland; and, she is Mowgli raised by wolves! This picturebook is a real masterpiece for those who love classics and those who are just starting to explore them. Readers might expect to be so engaged that they will keep turning the pages, while repeating Sadie’s motto: “So many things to make and do and be.”

Petričić, Dušan. **My Family Tree and Me.** Kids Can Press, 2015. ISBN 9781771380492. First published in Canada and the US in 2015 by Kids Can Press: Toronto, Canada. (Ages 7-10).



It’s often fun to investigate your ancestral past and one effective means of inquiry is to create a family tree! Inspired by Aleksandar’s Cvetkovski’s approach to creating family trees, Dušan Petričić offers readers a clever way to learn about a young boy’s heritage. Reading this picturebook from the front, readers learn about the boy’s paternal ancestors, while reading the picturebook from the back, readers will learn about his maternal ancestors. Both families unite in the book’s middle. There, readers not only see the cultural and ethnic richness of the

family, they are reminded to not judge someone based on physical appearances. Additionally, each page turn illustrates family heritage and their contributions to the world through family portraits. This picturebook is sure to be genealogical gem for many.

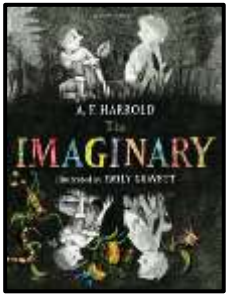
Global Books for Older Children

Almond, David and others. **The Great War: Stories Inspired by Items from the First World War.** Illustrated by Jim Kay. Candlewick Press, 2015. ISBN 9780763675547. First published in 2014 by Walker Books Ltd: London, UK. (Ages 10 and up).



The anthology *The Great War: Stories Inspired by Items from the First World War* consists of eleven poignant short stories written by award-winning authors on the basis of war artifacts such as photographs and objects: “Each object brings home the reality of war that is now fading from living memory – a war many hoped and believed would be a war to end all wars.” Jim Kay’s black-and-white evocative double-spread illustrations and a quote about the war separate each story in meaningful ways. The final two chapters of the book include descriptions of the war objects and information about the authors. There is so much to like about the book: the inspiring idea, the blend of stories, the non-fictional descriptions, the elegant design, etc. This anthology will have readers thinking deeply about history: life and death, heroism and human kindness, sensitivity and trauma.

Harrold, A. F. **The Imaginary.** Illustrated by Emily Gravett. Bloomsbury, 2015. ISBN 9780802738110. First published in the UK in 2014 by Bloomsbury: New York, NY. (Ages 8-10).



Imaginary friends are part and parcel of many children’s lives, like Amanda’s. She and her imaginary friend, Rudger, are having a great time together. However, one day, Amanda “forgets” Rudger, leaving him at the mercy of Mr. Bunting, a man who hunts imaginaries. Thankfully, Rudger meets other imaginaries; however, will he truly be safe if he and Amanda aren’t reunited? Only time will tell! This delightful story, filled with comical mishaps and suspenseful episodes, exemplifies what can happen when creativity meets pen and paper. Fans of Emily Gravett’s artistry will not be disappointed by the art masterfully integrated into the Harrold’s story.

Weetman, Nova. **Choose Your Own Ever After: A Hot Cold Summer.** Illustrated by Hardie Grant Egmont. Kane Miller, 2015. ISBN 9781610673549. First published in 2014 by Hardie Grant Egmont: Melbourne, Australia. (Ages 10-13).



Fourteen-year-old Frankie Jones has plans for the summer. She is in love with a boy and expects to spend some time with him. However, it turns out that he already has a girlfriend. Feeling brokenhearted and lonely, she can’t decide whether to spend time with her mother in London or go with her father and his girlfriend to the beach. What should Frankie do? Which would she prefer? A non-linear “choose your own” plot invites readers to co-create Frankie’s story. The readers go through many decisions and even choose an enjoyable ending. Nova Weetman neatly creates some interesting episodes and storylines, but overall the characters are typical teens. This is an intriguing story, but with a lack of fresh turns and twists in the plot and the characters’ lives overall. Overall, this is a relaxing summer read!

Books for Additional Reading Pleasure

(Note: country listing indicates the book's country of origin)

Hancocks, Helen. **William & the Missing Masterpiece**. Templar Books, 2015. ISBN 9780763675967. First published in 2014 by Templar Books: Dorking, UK. (Ages 4-8).

Isabella, Jude. **The Red Bicycle: The Extraordinary Story of One Ordinary Bicycle**. Illustrated by Simone Shin. Kids Can Press, 2015. ISBN 9781771380232. First published in 2015 by Kids Can Press: Toronto, Canada. (Ages 8-12).

Jönsson, Maria. **Astrid the Fly**. Translated from the Swedish *Spyflugan Astrid* by Christina Reiss. Holiday House, 2015. ISBN 9780823432004. First published in 2007 by Bonnier Carlsen: Stockholm, Sweden. (Ages 4-8).

Lobe, Mira. **Hoppelpopp and the Best Bunny**. Translated from the German *Dann Rufen Alle Hoppelpopp* by Cécilie Kovács. Illustrated by Angelika Kaufmann. Holiday House, 2015. ISBN 9780823432875. First published in 2010 by G&G Verlag GmbH: Vienna, Austria. (Ages 4-8).

Mackay, Janis. **The Selkie Girl**. Illustrated by Rushi Mhasane. Picture Kelpies, 2015. ISBN 9781782501305. First published in 2014 by Floris Books: Edinburgh, UK. (Ages 6-9).

Parr, Maria. **Adventures with Waffles**. Translated from the Norwegian *Vaffelhjarte* by Guy Pusey. Illustrated by Kate Forrester. Candlewick Press, 2015. First published in 2005 by Det Norske Samlaget: Oslo, Norway. (Ages 9-12).

Saxby, Claire. **Emu**. Illustrated by Graham Byrne. Candlewick Press, 2015. ISBN 9780763674793. First published in 2014 by Walker Books: Newtown, Australia. (Ages 8-12).

Stewart, Briony. **Here in the Garden**. Kane Miller, 2015. ISBN 9781610673488. First published in 2014 by University of Queensland Press: Brisbane, Australia. (Ages 4-8).

Young, Cybèle. **The Queen's Shadow: A Story About How Animals See**. Kids Can Press, 2015. ISBN 9781894786607. First published in 2015 by Kids Can Press: Toronto, Canada. (Ages 8-12).

2015 Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) (UK) Awards



Carnegie Medal: *Buffalo Soldier* by Tanya Landman, published by Walker Books

Kate Greenaway Medal: *Shackleton's Journey*, illustrated by William Grill, published by Walker Books

Canadian Library Association

2015 Book of the Year for Children Award

The Night Gardener, written by Jonathan Auxier (Penguin Canada)

2015 Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Illustrator's Award (Canada)

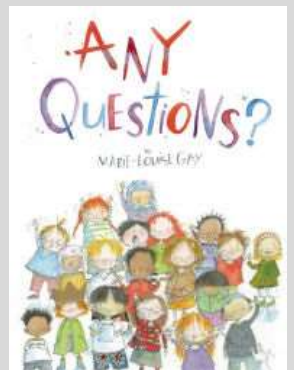
Any Questions?, illustrated and written by Marie-Louise Gay (Groundwood Books)

Honour Book

Dolphin SOS, illustrated by Julie Flett and written by Roy Miki & Slavia Miki, (Tradewind Books)

2015 Young Adult Canadian Book Award

This One Summer, written by Mariko Tamaki and illustrated by Jillian Tamaki (First Second)





The 2015 Ezra Jack Keats New Writer and New Illustrator Award for Children's Books



New Writer Award Winner: Chieri Uegaki for *Hana Hashimoto, Sixth Violin* (Kids Can Press)

New Illustrator Award Winner: Chris Haughton for *Shh! We Have a Plan* (Candlewick Press)

<p style="text-align: center;">2014 Governor General's Literary Awards (Canada)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Children's Literature (Text): <i>When Everything Feels like the Movies</i> by Raziel Reid (<u>Arsenal Pulp Press, Limited</u>)</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Children's Literature (Illustration): <i>This One Summer</i> illustrated by Mariko Tamaki (First Second)</p> 
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2015 NEW ZEALAND POST CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARDS WINNERS



New Zealand Post Margaret Mahy Book of the Year: *Singing Home the Whale* by Mandy Hager (Random House)

Best Picture Book: *Jim's Letters* by Glyn Harper & Jenny Cooper (Puffin)

Best Nonfiction: *Mōtiti Blue and the Oil Spill* by Debbie McCauley & Sarah Elworthy (Mauao)

Best Junior Fiction Award: *Monkey Boy* by Donovan Bixley (Scholastic)

Māori Language award: *Ngā Ki* by Sacha Cotter, translated by Kawata Teepa (Huia).

Best Young Adult Fiction: *Singing Home the Whale* by Mandy Hager (Random House)

Children's Choice Awards

Picture books

- *The Anzac Puppy* by Peter Millett (Scholastic)

Nonfiction

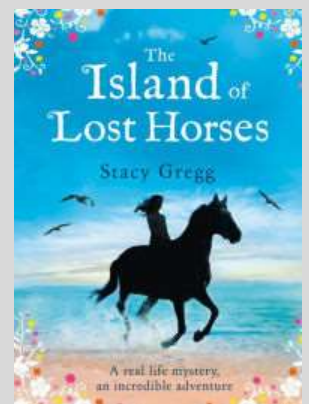
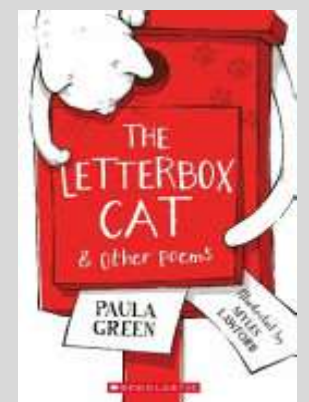
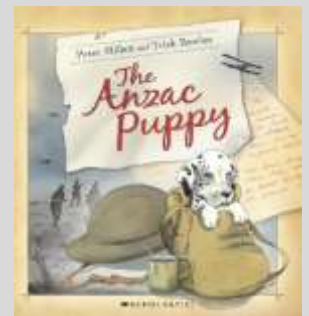
- *The Letterbox Cat & Other Poems* by Paula Green (Scholastic)

Junior fiction

- *Island of Lost Horses* by Stacy Gregg (HarperCollins)

Young adult

- *Night Vision* by Ella West (A&U)



Call for Manuscripts--*Journal of Children's Literature*

Diversity and Children's Literature (Fall 2016) DUE: FEBRUARY 1, 2016

In 1985, the Cooperative Children's Book Center began collecting annual statistics in regard to the publishing of children's literature about people of color, and these statistics suggest that change is slow to come about in the publishing field, despite the increasing racial diversity in our society. Nonetheless, there is recognition of the need to ensure greater diversity in children's literature, as evidenced, for example, by the recent grassroots campaign titled We Need Diverse Books (see www.weneeddiversebooks.org). We, too, believe that there should be more published and available children's literature depicting various groups outside the mainstream. We invite articles related to the diversity of children's literature in terms of race, disability, sexuality, religion, etc. Join us in compiling a thoughtful collection of articles on this important topic. For more information, go to <http://www.childrensliteratureassembly.org/journal.html>

CONFERENCES, MEETINGS, & WORKSHOPS

There are many opportunities for professional development related to literacy and children's and young adult literature. Here are just a few.

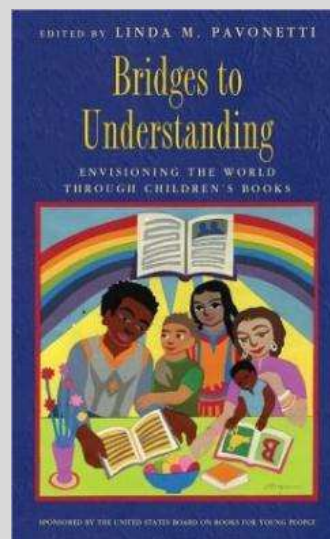
- **Highlights Foundation Workshops,** <http://www.highlightsfoundation.org/upcoming-workshops/>
- **YALSA's Young Adult Literature Symposium, November 6-8, 2015,** Portland, Oregon, <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/yasymposium>
- **National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE),** November 19-22, 2015, Minneapolis, MN www.ncte.org
- **American Library Association Midwinter Meeting,** January 8-12, 2016, Boston, MA <http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/index.cfm>
- **Society for Children's Book Writers and Illustrators,** 15th Annual Winter Conference, February 12-13, 2016 in New York City, <http://www.scbwi.org/>
- **Georgia's Children's Book Award and Children's Literature Conference,** March 18-19, 2016 <http://gcba.coe.uga.edu/>, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia
- **Western Washington University, Children's Literature Conference,** Spring 2016, Bellingham, WA, <http://www.ucl.com/>
- **20th European Conference on Reading,** July 3-6, 2017, Madrid, Spain <http://www.asociacionaele.org/INICIO/20th-European-Conference-of-Literacy/>

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Available Now

More information about *Bridges to Understanding: Envisioning the World through Children's Eyes*, the fourth volume sponsored by the United States Board on Books for Young People, following *Children's Books from Other Countries* (1998), *The World Through Children's Books* (2002), and *Crossing Boundaries* (2006) is available at the Scarecrow Press website at <http://www.scarecrowpress.com/>



CELEBRATIONS & EVENTS

There are many opportunities to celebrate literacy and emphasize the importance of reading children's and young adult literature.

International Literacy Day, September 8, 2016, first adopted by UNESCO in 1965. The purpose of International Literacy Day is to raise people's awareness of and concern for literacy issues in the world.
<http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/un/international-literacy-day!>

Banned Books Week, September 27-October 3, 2015, an annual event celebrating the freedom to read. For more information, go to <http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/banned/bannedbooksweek/index.cfm>

International School Library Month, October 2015
<http://www.iasl-online.org/advocacy/ism/index.html>

Teen Read Week, an initiative of the [Young Adult Library Services Association](http://www.yalsa.org) (YALSA) and celebrated October 18-24, 2015. For more information go to <http://www.ala.org/teenread>.

National Family Literacy Day, November 1, 2015. For ideas to celebrate National Family Literacy Day, check out International Literacy Associations' Read Write Think site at <http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/calendar-activities/celebrate-national-family-literacy-20681.html>

Digital Learning Day, February 17, 2016
<http://www.digitallearningday.org/site/default.aspx?PageID=11> focuses on the successful use of technology in the classroom.

Read across America, March 2, 2016, coincides with the birthday of Dr. Seuss.
<http://www.nea.org/grants/886.htm>

See the spring issue of *Bridges* for more upcoming events.

Reminder:

**El día de los niños/
El día de los libros**

Children's Day/Book Day

Join readers of all linguistic and cultural backgrounds on April 30, 2016 for El día de los niños/El día de los libros— a celebration of children, families, and reading. For information and resources to plan your own Día, visit <http://www.patmora.com/w/hats-dia/>

Share your experiences in celebrating this on-going and growing event!



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