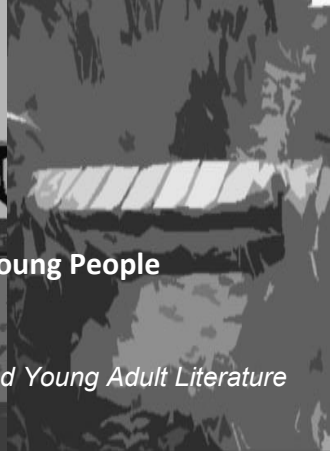
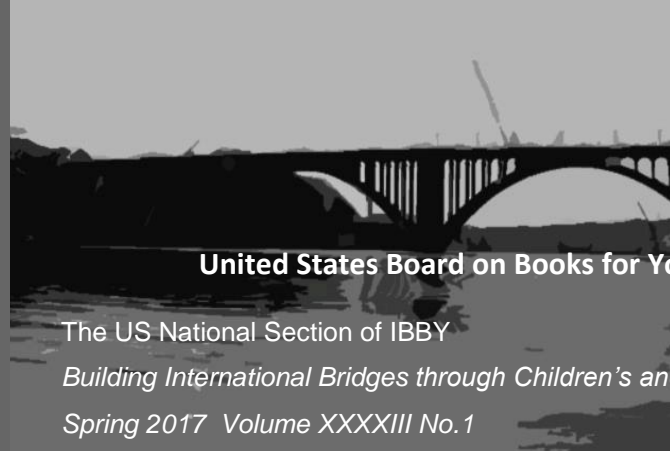


# bridges

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*

Spring 2017 Volume XXXXIII No. 1

## iBbY 12th IBBY Regional Conference

**“Radical Change Beyond Borders”**

**The Transforming Power of Children's Literature in a Digital Age**



**Save the Date!**

**October 20-22, 2017**  
**The HUB Center**  
**The University of Washington**  
**Seattle**

Watch for news and updates at

[www.usbby.org](http://www.usbby.org)

Registration will open in  
January 2017



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

Therese Bigelow, President (through 2017)  
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Shanetia Clark, NCTE (through 2018)

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#### (Center for Teaching through Children's Books)

Junko Yokota, CTCB Director  
Katie Raby, USBBY General Secretary  
Christina Moorehead, USBBY Office Manager

### 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 page of this publication. You may also join online at [www.usbby.org](http://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](mailto:hadaway@uta.edu)

## From the USBBY President Therese Bigelow

### Spring 2017

It has been an exciting year to be president of USBBY starting with the 2016 IBBY Congress in Auckland, New Zealand last August where I spent time interacting with members of our wider community of children's book lovers and ending with our nomination of Pam Munoz Ryan and Jerry Pinkney for the Hans Christian Andersen Award and Anne Pellowski and Eric Carle for the Astrid Lindgren Award. We also sent three titles to IBBY Italy for the third edition of the international project Silent books: Destination Lampedusa, the IBBY project that collects the best picture books published without words. Those books were *Draw!* by Raul Colon (Simon & Schuster), *The Farmer and the Clown* by Marla Frazee (Beach Lane Books) and *The Only Child* by Guojing (Random House Schwartz & Wade).

Planning continues for the 12th IBBY Regional Conference in Seattle October 20 - 22. Ed Sullivan and his committee have some stellar speakers lined up including author Cao Wenxuan 2016 winner of the Hans Christian Andersen Award. Candlewick Press just published the U.S. edition of *Bronze and Sunflower*. Cao will be delivering the Dorothy Briley Memorial Lecture on Saturday evening. Check the USBBY website for more information about the conference.

This past December, Ellis Vance and Junko Yokota spent some time going through the archives. One of the things they discovered was a letter dated September 9, 1977 by John Donovan in which he named the Executive Committee of the U.S. national section. The list includes Barbara Miller, Amy Kellman, Judith Whipple and Walter Lorraine as the EC, and ex-officio members: Augusta Baker, Ann Beneduce, Lillian Gerhardt, Virginia Haviland, Paul Heins, Isabella Jinnette, Anne Pellowski and Zena Sutherland. A discussion of these findings led to a board decision to honor Amy Kellman at the upcoming regional conference with a special citation as one of our founding members. We are hoping Amy will share some of her memories at the conference and in a future newsletter article.

In closing I want to mention that children around the world and on our border continue to live in dangerous situations, some in war torn countries, others in refugee camps. Check the USBBY and IBBY website for updates on projects designed to help these children with books. One project supported by REFORMA and the IBBY foundation is the IBBY/REFORMA Children in Crisis Project for Refugee Children on the U.S. Southern Border that focuses on unaccompanied children from Latin America. IBBY is holding a fund-raising auction of original artwork for the project. Go to [www.ibby.org](http://www.ibby.org) for more details and to see the work being auctioned.

**Therese Bigelow, USBBY President, 2016-2017**

## Executive Director Update

Submitted by V. Ellis Vance, USBBY Executive Director

### **12<sup>th</sup>IBBY Regional Conference, October 20-22, 2017, Seattle, Washington.**

Under the leadership of Therese Bigelow and her local team, plans are moving forward for the 12<sup>th</sup> IBBY Regional Conference to be held at the University of Washington in Seattle in the Fall of 2017. The Husky Union Building at the University of Washington is the location for most of the conference meetings and events.

**General session speakers** include an array of outstanding speakers from the U.S. and outside the U.S. Confirmed speakers are Sherman Alexie (USA), Karen Bass (Canada), Lisa Charleyboy (Canada), Sonja Danowski (Germany), Anita Eerdmans (USA), Sarah Ellis (Canada), Christy Jordan-Fenton and Margaret Pokiak-Fenton (Canada), Suzy Lee (Korea), Heather Lennon (USA), P.J. Lynch (Ireland), Cathryn Mercier (USA), Jerry Pinkney and Pam Munoz Ryan (USBYY nominees for the Hans Christian Andersen Award), Peter Sis (USA), Tucker Stone (USA), Shelley Tanaka (Canada) and Duncan Tonatiuh (USA). The Mountaineers Club will be the location for the **Briley Dinner and Lecture** featuring 2016 Hans Christian Andersen Award author, Cao Wenxuan (China).

In addition to these outstanding general session speakers, there will also be exciting **breakout sessions, poster sessions, and book discussion groups**. An additional feature this year will be a **story telling** session. The popular meeting with **local authors and illustrators** will again be held on Friday evening. Books will be available for sale during the conference and autographing sessions will be featured throughout the conference.

**Exhibits** will include the USBBY Outstanding International Books List, the 2016 Hans Christian Andersen Award winners and short list, the 2017 IBBY Honor List Books, the IBBY Collection of Books for Young People with Disabilities, the Hello Dear Enemy Collection from the International Youth Library in Munich, Germany, and a display of award winners from the Nami Island Illustrators Concours (Korea) and the Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava (BIB). For a list of the 2017 3<sup>rd</sup> Nami Island Concours winners, go to [www.namiconcours.com](http://www.namiconcours.com).

**The Hotel Deca**, a short walk from the conference venue, is the headquarters hotel. Conference early bird registration is now open on the USBBY website through July 1, at [www.usbby.org](http://www.usbby.org).

**You won't want to miss this outstanding 12<sup>th</sup> IBBY Regional Conference!**

### **USBYY Members News.**

Membership in USBBY continues to grow with renewing members and new members who join as a result of attending USBBY co-sponsored sessions at ALA, ILA, and NCTE, the work of the USBBY State Ambassadors Program, college and university professors who encourage their students to join and word of mouth of our members. For information about how you can get

involved in the Ambassadors Program, contact Kathy Short, [shortk@u.arizona.edu](mailto:shortk@u.arizona.edu) or Evie Freeman, [freeman.5@osu.edu](mailto:freeman.5@osu.edu). You are encouraged to be a part of the outstanding work of this group.

**If you are wondering about whether you need to renew your membership**, a personal email is sent a month prior to its expiration. Reminders are also sent following the initial notice. Of course, you can also email the Executive Director at [executive.director@usbby.org](mailto:executive.director@usbby.org) to see if you are a current member. You are encouraged to renew as soon as you receive the email notice in order to keep a current status in USBBY. All USBBY Board members and committee members are required to be current members in order to serve. Also, please remember that in order to register as a member on the IBBY Regional Conference Registration form, you must be a current member of USBBY. New members registering for the conference pay an additional fee that includes a one-year membership.

**USBBY welcomes the following new members in the beginning of 2017:**

Kristine Delfause, (New York), Susan Knell, Stacy Dillon (New York), Linda Wessels (Illinois), Pam Werr (Minnesota), Sandip LeeAnne Wilson (Maine), Donna Knoell (Kansas), Danielle Crickman (Massachusetts), Janet Wong (New Jersey), Jessica Whitelaw Schmucker (Pennsylvania), Kathleen Birkinshaw, Margaret Opatz (Utah), Kathryn Kelly (Montana), Ruth Bacon (Washington), and Elaine Aoki (Washington).

At a recent USBBY Board Meeting, the decision was made to add a new category of membership, **Children's Literature Centers and Special Collections**. This will be reflected on the revised membership form on the USBBY website, [www.usbby.org](http://www.usbby.org). We are excited to offer this new membership category to our family!

**IBBY Silent Books Project (IBBY Italia).**

IBBY National Sections, including USBBY, have once again been asked to support and collaborate on the third edition of international project **Silent Books: Destination Lampedusa**. The IBBY project collects the best picture books published without words from around the world. Books will be sent to the Children's Library at Lampedusa, the 2015 travelling exhibition currently touring Italy and the IBBY Collection of Silent Books for Documentation and Research housed in a library in Rome specializing in international art publications for children.

**IBBY Library of Dreams Fundraiser.**

The IBBY Children in Crisis Fund Project: The Library of Dreams, a library that opened in November of 2016 in San Jacinto, El Salvador, to promote reading and writing for children living under means and in vulnerable areas needs your support.

For information about the project and how you can help, go to the IBBY website, [www.ibby.org](http://www.ibby.org), News and Calendar, Latest News. Donations will be much appreciated!

### **IBBY/REFORMA Project: Children in Crisis on the U.S. Border.**

The IBBY Foundation is continuing to request donations for the Refugee Children on the U.S. Southern Border. The need is great for these children who have fled life-challenging situations in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. The organization REFORMA works with migrant children detained in the southwestern USA. It began soliciting children's books in Spanish to be delivered to the children in the detention centers in Texas and New Mexico and to the shelters and group homes around the country where these children are sent after being processed by the immigration services. In the second phase of the project they will distribute backpacks that will contain books as well as paper, pencils, erasers, crayons and a writing journal for children to use in their journey toward their destination. A specially designed English/Spanish library card has been added to the backpacks to introduce the children to the library system in the USA.

The artist Alfonso Ruano has donated all the illustrations from his highly regarded book, *Somos como las nubes / We Are Like the Clouds*, to support the IBBY/REFORMA Children in Crisis Project. The auction launched January 20 and closes at the Bologna Children's Book Fair on April 5, 2017. More information can be found on the IBBY website, [www.ibby.org](http://www.ibby.org).

Thank you to all USBBY members who continue to contribute to this important work!

### **IBBY'S Call-To-Action for Refugee Children.**

A Call-to-Action for Refugee Children was adopted at the IBBY World Congress in Auckland, New Zealand, August 21, 2016. The call-to-action follows. IBBY members and friends are encouraged to share it widely, to disseminate it to the media and at conferences and meetings.

### **IBBY'S CALL-TO-ACTION**

For sixty years the International Board on Books for Young People has followed the ideal that books build bridges between people. Books give us wings and can demolish the walls that are built on fear and intolerance.

This work is as important and relevant today as it was sixty years ago, particularly now when so many children around the world are facing enormous upheavals in their young lives. We are currently experiencing a global crisis and IBBY is unwavering in its support for those working for peace and understanding. We believe that every child has the right to read and we fully support the principles of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.

IBBY is committed to helping children in crisis, whether they are refugees in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Oceania, North America or Latin America. IBBY looks for solutions. There are many IBBY projects, including the wordless Silent Books, book packs and introducing the library networks, which all work to alleviate the trauma that these young people are faced with. We also need to show children from different communities around the world how to welcome their new neighbors and how to live together in harmony. We firmly believe that stories and libraries can inspire this necessary accord.

Today, we urge all professionals working in the field of children's literature to join us, take action and find solutions to help the children and young people who are caught up in this current turmoil.

### **Bookbird, IBBY's Journal.**

The first issue in 2017, Volume 55:1, is out for dissemination with the theme **Of Invisible and Wordless Picturebooks**. The second will be an issue on children writers and the third will look at non-fiction for children. *Bookbird* is launching an effort to support quality translations and is encouraging the sections to ask for assistance and guidance. The largest source of income for *Bookbird* is the download fee for academic articles (Project Muse). This practice has been increasing steadily and reflects on the high quality of the magazine. If you are not currently a subscriber of *Bookbird*, you can easily subscribe for the four issues a year on the USBBY membership form found at [www.usbby.org](http://www.usbby.org). You are also encouraged to download articles from *Bookbird* on Project Muse.

### **IBBY Open Forum at IBBY Congress in Auckland.**

At the Open Forum held during the 2016 Congress in Auckland, National Section leaders discussed the following important world issues:

- Growing concern among national sections to attract young members to IBBY.
- Importance of regional newsletters in strengthening collaboration between sections.
- Disappointment in the visa problems that prevented many from attending an IBBY World Congress. Importance of including Spanish as a Congress language.
- Importance of encouraging and supporting members to participate in regional conferences.
- The worldwide refugee crisis. IBBY has drafted and disseminated a worldwide call for action regarding refugees.

### **IBBY Regional Conferences in 2017.**

1st European Regional Conference, April 6, 2017, Bologna, Italy.

5th Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference, April 25-27, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

3rd Asia Oceania Regional Conference, May 9-12, 2017, Bangkok, Thailand.

4th African Regional Conference, August 22-24, 2017, Kampala, Uganda.

12th USBBY/IBBY Regional Conference, October 20-22, 2017, Seattle, Washington, USA

21<sup>st</sup> Congreso Internacional Lectura 2017, October 24-28, 2017, Havana, Cuba

**For more information and regional conference websites, go to [www.ibby.org](http://www.ibby.org), IBBY Worldwide, Regional Meetings.**



**IBBY REGIONAL UPDATE**  
**Submitted by Ed Sullivan**

Mark your calendars now for *Radical Change Beyond Borders: The Transforming Power of Children's Literature in a Digital Age*, the 12th IBBY Regional Conference, October 20-22, 2017, at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington.

The theme of the conference is "Radical Change Beyond Borders: The Transforming Power of Children's Literature in a Digital Age." Our outstanding lineup of conference speakers includes: Sonia Danowski from Germany, Suzy Lee from South Korea, Ireland's Children's Literature Laureate P.J. Lynch, Hans Christian Andersen Award-winner Cao Wenxuan from China, Sherman Alexie, David Jacobson, Uma Krishnaswami, Linda Sue Park, Jerry Pinkney, Pam Muñoz Ryan, and Peter Sis. There will be panels on such subjects as Asian-American protagonists, indigenous experiences in children's books, and publishing children's books in translation. For those arriving early on Friday, there are several preconference activities. Early bird registration ends on July 1. Information is available on the conference website. We look forward to seeing you in Seattle!





CAO WENXUAN  
PRESENTS AT  
THE DOROTHY BRILEY LECTURE  
IBBY REGIONAL, OCTOBER 2017, SEATTLE  
Submitted by Janelle Mathis



Cao Wenxuan was born in January 1954 in the rural area of Yancheng, where he lived until he was 20. He went to study at Peking University and is now a professor and Ph.D. supervisor of Chinese literature there. He is a member of the Chinese Writers Association, and the deputy president of Beijing Writers Association. His main works include *House with Thatched Roof*, *Bronze and Sunflower*, *Honor of Life*, *Red Tile and Black Tile*, *Genniao*, and *The Boy of Ximi*. Picture books include *Flight Bird's-nest*, *Feather*, and *An Umbrella over Berlin*. His academic works include *A Study of China's Literature Trends in the 1980s*, *The Second World – A Philosophical Interpretation of Literature and Art*, *Research on Chinese Literature Tendencies in the 1990s*, and *A Novel Door*. Many of his novels and short stories have been translated into English, French, Japanese, Korean, and other languages. His books won more than 40 national and international awards. He was awarded the Hans Christian Andersen Award in 2016.

## **2017 ASTRID LINDGREN MEMORIAL AWARD TO BE ANNOUNCED**

The announcement of the 2017 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA) takes place Tuesday April 4<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm CET at the National Library in Stockholm. Alice Bah Kuhnke, Minister for Culture and Democracy in Sweden is giving a speech and Jury Chairman Boel Westin will announce the laureate of 2017. The announcement will be followed by a presentation of the laureate by the jury.

The press conference will be broadcast live on [www.alma.se](http://www.alma.se) and via a link to Bologna Children's Book Fair, the leading international book fair for children and young people.

ALMA rewards authors, illustrators, storytellers and reading promoting individuals and organisations. For **this year's award, 226 candidates** from 60 countries are nominated. The list of nominated candidates is available at <http://www.alma.se/en/Nominations/Candidates/20171/> . **All continents are represented among the nominated writers, illustrators, reading promoters and storytellers.**

The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA) is the world's largest award for children's and young adult literature. The award, which amounts to SEK 5 million, is given annually to a single laureate or to several. Authors, illustrators, oral storytellers and reading promoters are eligible. The award is designed to promote interest in children's and young adult literature. The UN convention of rights of the child is the foundation of our work. An expert jury selects the laureate(s) from candidates nominated by institutions and organisations all over the world. The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award was founded by the Swedish government in 2002 and is administrated by the Swedish Arts Council.

## **THE HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN AWARD 2018 NOMINEES TO BE ANNOUNCED**

The full list of the 2018 nominees will be announced at the IBBY press conference on Monday, 3 April 2017 at the Bologna Children's Book Fair.

The Hans Christian Andersen Award is the highest international distinction given to authors and illustrators of books for young people. Given every other year by IBBY, the Hans Christian Andersen Awards recognize lifelong achievement and are given to an author and an illustrator whose complete works have made an important and lasting contribution to literature for young people.

For more information please visit the IBBY website at: <http://www.ibby.org>

# **THANKS**

## **TO ALL OUR PUBLISHER MEMBERS**

Abrams Books  
Bloomsbury  
Charlesbridge  
Chronicle Books  
Disney-Hyperion  
Kane Miller Book Publishing  
Kingfisher  
Macmillan  
Nobrow  
Perseus Books

### **USBBY Membership Levels**

There are several levels of membership in USBBY. Consider upgrading to a higher level in order to help with the many important USBBY initiatives.

<b>Basic</b>	<b>\$ 50</b>
<b>Sustaining</b>	<b>\$ 75</b>
<b>Donor</b>	<b>\$ 150</b>
<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>\$ 500</b>

## SPOTLIGHT ON LONGTIME USBBY MEMBER

### What USBBY Has Meant to Me

By Barbara A. Lehman



**Barbara in South Africa**

As a child, I lived in American Samoa and Tanzania (then Tanganyika) with my parents, and visited many African and Asian countries with them. My dad, in particular, was an inveterate traveler, and he and my mother dragged me with them as a somewhat rebellious teenager around the whole South American continent one summer. I also grew up in a church denomination (Mennonite) that specifically espouses and practices its global commitment. One could say that I inherited an international gene. Thus, as a beginning doctoral student at University of Virginia in 1983, when my advisor, Patricia Crook, encouraged me to join USBBY, I needed little persuasion.

It was one of the best decisions I ever made, and the rewards of professional friendships across the United States and around the world have been amazing and intensely satisfying. I attended my first USBBY conference in 1997 (the 2<sup>nd</sup> IBBY Regional Conference) in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and I was hooked! It was utterly different from any of the other professional conferences in which I regularly participated—small but inclusive and truly international in focus. The intimacy of sitting in the same room with the likes of Katherine Paterson and listening to speakers such as Naomi Shihab Nye or discussing books in small groups and conversing during coffee breaks, lunches, and dinners as a whole group left me a bit awed and entirely inspired. I have attended every regional conference since then and plan to continue doing so even though I am now retired from my career as a professor at Ohio State University.

In addition, I was invited by long-term members like Mary Lou White, Alida Cutts, and Joan Glazer to engage in various capacities. For example, I served on the USBBY Hans Christian Andersen Award and the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award nominating committees. In 2006, I joined the USBBY Board as the International Reading Association liaison and was elected president of USBBY, helping to organize and presiding over the 2011 IBBY Regional Conference in Fresno, California.



**Barbara with Christine McLeod (from Wales)  
at the IBBY World Congress in London**

Being involved in USBBY also led to connections in IBBY, our parent organization. From 2001-2004, I co-edited—along with Evelyn Freeman, Patricia Scharer (both also USBBY members), and Lilia Ratcheva from Bulgaria—*Bookbird*, IBBY's official journal. This work provided opportunities to attend, in addition to IBBY World Congresses, the Bologna Children's Book Fair and the Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava and to form international friendships and collaborations that last to this day. I currently serve as the children's book review postcards editor for the journal, a pleasurable task that keeps me in touch with many of the people I learned to know around the world.



**IBBY World Congress in London with (left to right) Janelle Mathis, Kathy Short, Evelyn Freeman, Cheryl Logan--all USBBY members**





**The U.S. delegation at the IBBY World Congress in London  
with Katherine Paterson front center**

Finally, involvement with and contacts in IBBY, such as Jay Heale (then chair of the Hans Christian Andersen Award jury), led to my year as a Fulbright Scholar in South Africa from 2004-2005, where I gained more IBBY friends, such as Carole Bloch and Jean Williams. With four South African co-editors, I collaborated on *Creating Books for the Young in the New South Africa* (2014, McFarland), a book of critical essays about the work of South African authors and illustrators of children's and young adult literature. I've had the privilege of doing work in Haiti and most recently living in Taiwan, and I continue to seek opportunities to widen my international experiences and deepen my global perspective.



**Barbara with Jay Heale in South Africa**

What began as a seed planted in childhood, continues to be nourished by international friends through USBBY. I could not do without them for the world!



**STUDENT PROFILE:  
WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS, MARGARET OPATZ AND KATHRYN KELLY!**

Margaret Opatz is currently a Language and Culture Coach in the Salt Lake City School District and will be starting her doctoral program in Reading and Literacy in the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Utah this fall. She is a former fourth grade and English Language Development teacher who worked in elementary and middle school classrooms for six years in South Korea, Arizona, and Utah. Margaret's interests include the intersectionality between language, culture, and identity in culturally responsive schools and classrooms. This includes work with literature that affirms and validates students' identities while opening their worlds to other cultures and ways of life.

Margaret's sister, Kathryn Kelly, joined Margaret at the USBBY Student Lunch Gathering at NCTE and became one of our newest USBBY members! Kathryn is a first and second grade teacher in Bigfork, Montana. Prior to working in Bigfork, Kathryn was a Montessori Preschool and upper elementary teacher. She also spent a year teaching English as a Second Language in South Korea. As a teacher, she is passionate about creating authentic opportunities for her students through real-world exploration and experiential learning. It's common to see Kathryn's class at the nursing home or snowshoeing in the mountains. Her students learn the importance of being a part of the community and the value in creating meaningful relationships.

For the past four years, Margaret and Kathryn have attended the NCTE Annual Convention together and plan to continue attending because of the inspirational experiences that fuel their passion as educators. We are hoping to see both of them this October in Seattle for the USBBY Regional Conference.



**USBBY members Margaret Opatz and Kathryn Kelly celebrating as Opatz receives the Bonnie Campbell Hill Literacy Leader Award at the CLA Breakfast, November 20, 2016.**

## ***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](mailto:bjorn.sundmark@mah.se))

### **NCTE 2016 STUDENT MEMBER GATHERING**

At NCTE in November, student members from USBBY gathered for an informal lunch meeting prior to attending the USBBY-NCTE cosponsored session with author/ illustrators Il Sung Na and Torben Kuhlmann. Student members, primarily doctoral students from the University of Georgia and the University of Utah at this gathering, chatted about their work and studies, and were soon joined by USBBY Board members. A light discussion of research interests and current USBBY projects ensued. Margaret Opatz from Utah won the Student Member Lunch Gathering raffle, securing one-year memberships for herself and her guest, Kathryn Kelly from Montana.

### **CALLING ALL STUDENTS ATTENDING THE USBBY REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN SEATTLE OCTOBER 2018**

Planning on a trip to Seattle for the exciting USBBY Regional Conference?

We will be holding a Student and New Member BYOBB (Bring Your Own Breakfast and favorite international Book) Gathering on Saturday morning. Watch your email for more information closer to the conference dates.

The conference committee is interested in having student members fill volunteer roles. They will be glad to offer a letter stating your volunteer role if needed for you to share with your university. Please contact

Lauren Liang at [lauren.liang@utah.edu](mailto:lauren.liang@utah.edu),  
Wendy Stephens at [wendysteadmanstephens@gmail.com](mailto:wendysteadmanstephens@gmail.com), or  
Marion Rocco at [marion.rocco@magellanschool.org](mailto:marion.rocco@magellanschool.org).

## How to apply for the Bridge to Understanding Award

Applications and criteria for the 2017 Bridge to Understanding Award are available at [www.usbby.org](http://www.usbby.org) or from the USBBY Secretariat at [Secretariat@usbby.org](mailto:Secretariat@usbby.org). Phone: (224) 233-2030. To be considered the program must occur during the year 2017.

**Deadline for submissions is January 31, 2018.**

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.

### SAVE THE DATE

**ALA Annual, Saturday, June 24, 2017**

Submitted by Susan Polos



### **Celebrate 25 Years of The Rainbow Fish with Marcus Pfister at ALA this Summer**

The 2017 co-sponsored ALA/USBBY program will be held at the American Library Association's Annual Conference on Saturday, June 24, 2017, in Chicago, from 5-6:30 pm. The program will be titled "Celebrating 25 years of The Rainbow Fish with Marcus Pfister." NorthSouth Books will sponsor refreshments.

Marcus Pfister was born in 1960 in Bern, Switzerland. He attended art school in Bern and was trained in graphic artistry. After working briefly for an advertising agency, Pfister began his career in picture books. Pfister's first picture book, *The Sleepy Owl*, was published in 1986 with NorthSouth Books, and in 1992 *The Rainbow Fish* was published to much acclaim.

*The Rainbow Fish* is the story of a beautiful fish who learns the value of sharing his beauty with others, giving all a chance to shine.

Pfister has received several international awards and his works have been translated into over 50 languages. Pfister and his family still live in Bern, where he continues to create more beloved children's books.

### **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.

## USBBY State Ambassadors

Submitted by Evie Freeman and Kathy Short

The purpose of the USBBY State Ambassadors program is to promote the use of literature to build international understanding and to spread the word about USBBY as a professional organization. We hope to involve more of our current members in activities related to our mission within their states as well as gain new members. These activities might include distributing information on state listservs, creating displays or presenting sessions at local conferences, organizing book discussion groups, or promoting International Children's Book Day.

In February, 2017, 28 states have ambassadors.

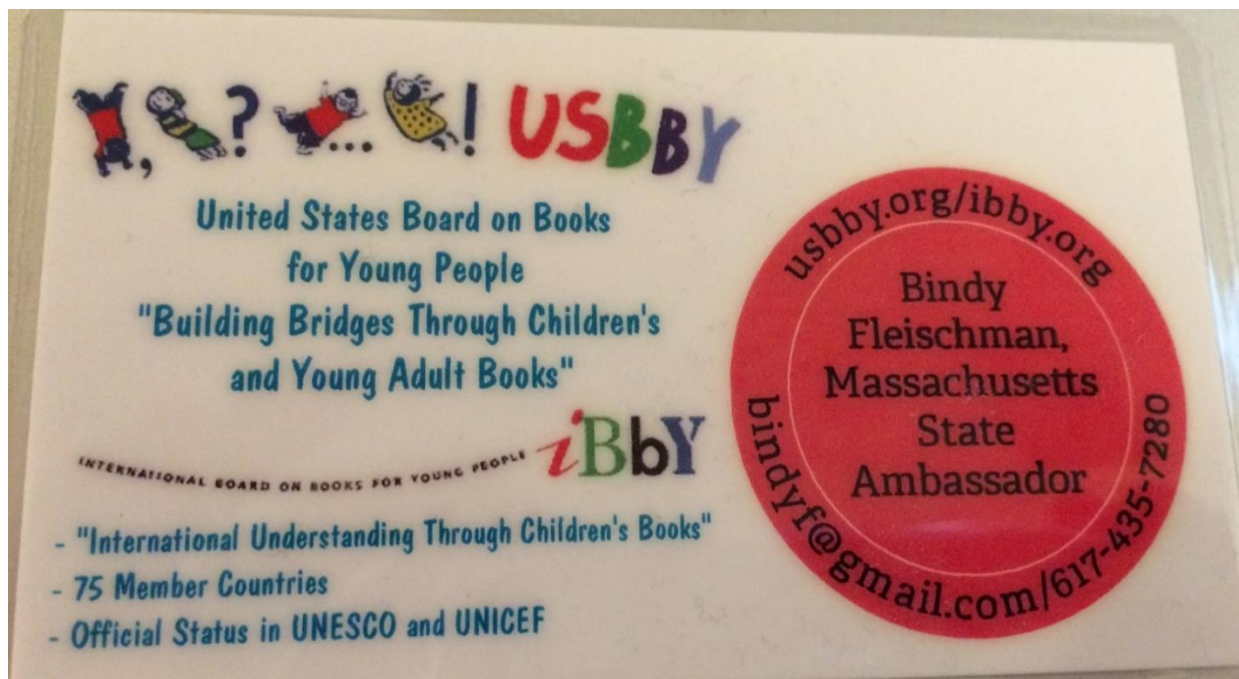
- Alabama: Jamie Naidoo ([jcnaidoo@slis.ua.edu](mailto:jcnaidoo@slis.ua.edu)) and Wendy Steadman Stephens ([wendysteadmanstephens@gmail.com](mailto:wendysteadmanstephens@gmail.com));
- Arizona: Karen Kabrich ([k@azkab.com](mailto:k@azkab.com));
- California: Joan Schoettler ([j-schoettler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:j-schoettler@sbcglobal.net)) and Dawn Menge ([queenvernitasvisitors@yahoo.com](mailto:queenvernitasvisitors@yahoo.com));
- Colorado: Johanna Ulloa Giron ([julloagiron2@gmail.com](mailto:julloagiron2@gmail.com));
- Connecticut: Cathy Kurkjian ([kurkjianc@ccsu.edu](mailto:kurkjianc@ccsu.edu));
- Florida: Nancy Ryan ([storydrum1@gmail.com](mailto:storydrum1@gmail.com)); Christiana Succar ([chsuccar@yahoo.com](mailto:chsuccar@yahoo.com)); Mary Ellen Oslick ([moslick@stetson.edu](mailto:moslick@stetson.edu)) and Kim Higdon ([kimberly.higdon@saintleo.edu](mailto:kimberly.higdon@saintleo.edu));
- Georgia: Danilo Baylen ([dbaylen@westga.edu](mailto:dbaylen@westga.edu)); Petros Panaou ([panaou.p@gmail.com](mailto:panaou.p@gmail.com));
- Illinois: Margaret Pyterek ([Peterborough48@gmail.com](mailto:Peterborough48@gmail.com)) and Susan Corapi ([scorapi@email.arizona.edu](mailto:scorapi@email.arizona.edu));
- Indiana: Edi Campbell ([edith.campbell@indstate.edu](mailto:edith.campbell@indstate.edu));
- Kentucky: Diana Porter ([Diana.Porter@eku.edu](mailto:Diana.Porter@eku.edu));
- Maryland: Shanetia Clark ([spclark@gmail.com](mailto:spclark@gmail.com));
- Massachusetts: Bindy Fleischman ([bindyf@gmail.com](mailto:bindyf@gmail.com));
- Michigan: Betsy Susan Morgan ([bmorgan@glenoaks.edu](mailto:bmorgan@glenoaks.edu));
- Mississippi: Ellen Ruffin ([ellen.ruffin@usm.edu](mailto:ellen.ruffin@usm.edu));
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- Oregon: Maureen Milton ([Milton.maureen@gmail.com](mailto:Milton.maureen@gmail.com));
- Tennessee: Deb Wooten ([dwooten1@utk.edu](mailto:dwooten1@utk.edu)) and Ed Sullivan ([sully@sully-writer.com](mailto:sully@sully-writer.com));
- Texas: Ragina Shearer ([ragina.s@gmail.com](mailto:ragina.s@gmail.com)), and Marion Rocco ([marion.rocco@austinisd.org](mailto:marion.rocco@austinisd.org));
- Utah: Lauren Liang ([Lauren.Liang@utah.edu](mailto:Lauren.Liang@utah.edu));
- Washington: Margaret Chang ([Margaret.chang@williams.edu](mailto:Margaret.chang@williams.edu)), and Laurel Heger ([laurelheger@yahoo.com](mailto:laurelheger@yahoo.com));
- West Virginia: Isaac Willis Larison ([larison@marshall.edu](mailto:larison@marshall.edu));
- Wisconsin: Marilyn Ward ([mward@carthage.edu](mailto:mward@carthage.edu)).

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

## STATE AMBASSADOR PROFILE

By Bindy Fleischman

In this edition of *Bridges* we continue to showcase the wonderful work of our state ambassadors. This spring the spotlight is on Bindy Fleischman.



I have been a member of USBBY/IBBY since 2002, and this is my second official year as Massachusetts State Ambassador. In that time, I have served on the Asahi Reading Promotion Award nominating committee, contributed a substantial number of reviews to the 4th volume of the *Bridges to Understanding* bibliography series, *Envisioning the World Through Children's Books*, attended biannual regional conferences, served on the 2017 Outstanding International Books list committee, and will co-chair the committee for the 2018 list selection.

I am currently the librarian at a Montessori school in the heart of Boston, serving over 300 children ages 2-12, whose families hail from over 15 different countries and cultures in any given year. Along with my 20+ professional years in the children's literature world, I also have a museum education background, with specific focus on Visual Thinking Strategies and its application across all academic and cognitive domains. I believe that the blend of these lenses—experiential education (Montessori, etc.), the theory of aesthetic development (VTS,) and the drive for stories from every culture (USBBY/IBBY)—informs my teaching, practice, conversations, long view, and next steps. The MOST effective channel I've had for my energy has been as State Ambassador.

Wearing the moniker of State Ambassador permits me to engage in the pursuit of high-level partnerships, talking to people from other global organizations such as Global Partnership for Education or various groups that serve students with special needs to connect them with the IBBY Collection of Books for Children with Disabilities in Toronto.



I am currently in talks with an agency, Gateways, that provides services for students with special needs in regular ed private schools in Greater Boston. We are in the early stages of fleshing out a way to build and house multiple lending libraries for these schools and their specialists, based on the biennial IBBY Selection of Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities. In addition, regarding my recent local activities with USBBY, I've been asked to lead a team to develop a small library for the children of recently adopted Syrian refugee families in my community. I also serve on an advisory group for the Leventhal Map Center at the Boston Public Library, which involves creating and enabling other educators to create map sets and lesson plans around literacy, geography, and history.

This spring I'll be partnering with the Massachusetts Reading Association (ILA) as one of the primary workshop providers at their annual conference in April and working to create awareness and activities with them throughout the state. I have submitted proposals for the annual Boston Book Festival in the fall and for programming with the Eric Carle Museum to reach the central and western part of the state.

I do what I can to give tangibles along with the elevator speech about USBBY itself. Early on as State Ambassador, I created business cards, so people would have a physical take-away. Now being on the OIB committee, I can also hand out the bookmarks to say, "Here's one more important thing that we do." I am always looking for opportunities to show people how our organization and theirs might dovetail.



**Bindy and Belgian author/illustrator Klaas Verplancke (l) and librarian Roxanne Feldman (r) at IBBY Regional New York**



## Planning Ahead Upcoming IBBY Congresses

**2018: Istanbul, Turkey** will host the 36<sup>th</sup> 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

### ATTENTION ALL USBBY Student Members

Student members should watch their emails for future gatherings at the upcoming ALA, ILA, and NCTE conferences and other opportunities to volunteer and participate in USBBY events and initiatives. We also strongly encourage student members to reach out to their State Ambassadors to take part in activities and projects within their state.

*Are you a recent graduate or a university professor who would like to be included in Student Group information? Please contact Lauren Liang at [lauren.liang@utah.edu](mailto:lauren.liang@utah.edu), Wendy Stephens at [wendysteadmanstephens@gmail.com](mailto:wendysteadmanstephens@gmail.com), or Marion Rocco at [marion.rocco@maqellanschool.org](mailto:marion.rocco@maqellanschool.org).*

## 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.

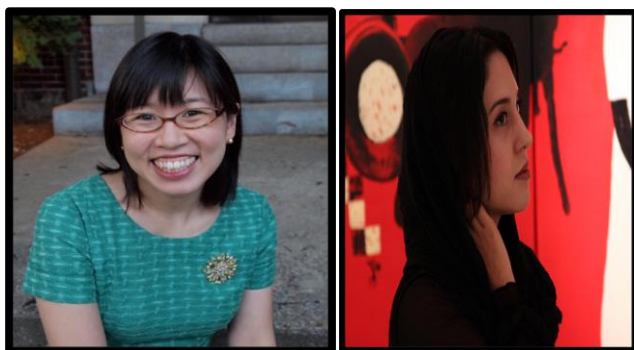
### USBBY Co-Sponsored Session at NCTE

Truth-Telling Narratives:

The Artistry of Folktales as International Storytelling

Featuring:

Grace Lin, sponsored by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers & Rashin Kheiriyeh, sponsored by NorthSouth Books



Folklore, as cultural narratives, enables many voices and experiences to be heard and understood. It is agentive in purpose and form. In this co-sponsored session, award-winning international authors and illustrators, Grace Lin and Rashin Kheiriyeh, will discuss the ways in which their use of folklore in their stories helps generate international and transnational understanding.

**Grace Lin's** novels and picturebooks have received numerous state and national awards and distinctions such as the 2010 Newbery Honor and the 2011 Theodore Seuss Geisel honor. She was also the 2016 National Book Award finalist for *When the Sea Turned to Silver*. **Rashin Kheiriyeh** has published sixty books in ten countries, including France, Japan, Spain, India, Iran, and the United States. She has won almost an equal number of awards, such as the 2014 IBBY Honor List, the New Horizon Award from Bologna Book Fair and the Golden Apple Award at the Biennial of Illustration Bratislava (BIB), Slovakia.

### 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.

**ALA Midwinter  
January, 2017**

**by Wendy Stephens, ALA/AASL Liaison to the USBBY Board of Directors**

On the night of the inauguration, a crowd gathered at the American Library Association Midwinter meeting to hear acclaimed storyteller Carmen Agra Deedy perform a spirited and personal story, looking back to the first day of first grade where she made a very special friend. Agra Deedy was born in Havana; her family immigrated to Georgia before she started school. With a collision of Caribbean and Southern motifs, her stories are rousing and fun, with exaggeration entangled with characterization and performance.

In addition to leading her audience in a resonant and spontaneous performance of the playground standby "See My Playmate," the acclaimed Pura Belpre honor and Jane Addams honor winner shared her new book *The Rooster Who Would Not Be Quiet* (Scholastic). Vibrantly illustrated by Eugene Yelchin (*Breaking Stalin's Nose*), the picture book is set to publish January 31 but has already garnered starred reviews in Kirkus and Publisher's Weekly. The story of an irrepressible barnyard rabble-rouser in the era of a dictatorial politician *The Rooster Who Would Not Be Quiet* is just the latest addition to Agra Deedy's body of work, one that includes storytime favorites such as *Martina the Beautiful Cockroach*, *The Library Dragon*, and *Fourteen Cows for America*.

Agra Deedy concluded a three-part Midwinter Meeting USBBY program. Jenny Lezarro from Cinco Puntos Press introduced the IBBY/REFORMA art auction that launched that Friday. Her slideshow showcased Alfonso Ruano's art to benefit the outreach project targeting detention camps through a narrative conveying one immigrant teen's journey from Central America. In a nice bit of serendipity, the book also appeared on that 2017 Outstanding International Books (OIB) List, released that night.

This year's Outstanding International Books announcement was chaired by Martha Walke and included members of this year's committee who spoke about books published in the past year from the list, grouped according to a range of themes. A slideshow showcased all the books recognized by the OIB committee.

USBBY Board Member Susan Polos organized this year's USBBY program for the ALA Midwinter Meeting, and Carmen Agra Deedy appeared thanks to the generosity of Scholastic Publishing, Emily Heddeson and Lizette Serrano.



**Carmen Deedy at ALA Midwinter**

**NCTE-USBBY Co-Sponsored Session  
November, 2016**

Advocating Global Authenticity: Creativity and Representation in Children's Literature  
Submitted by  
Ruth McKoy Lowery, The Ohio State University & Jennifer Graff, University of Georgia

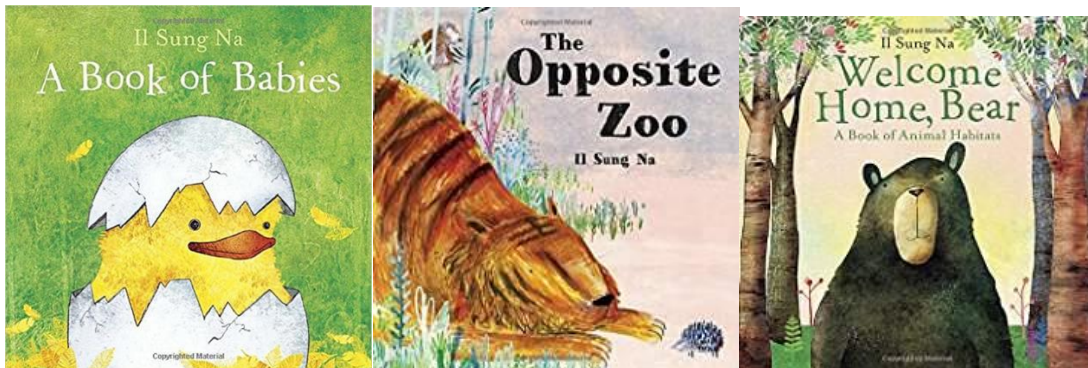


**(L-R Graff, Kuhlmann, Na and Lowery)**

On November 18, 2016 the NCTE/USBBY co-sponsored session at the NCTE conference in Atlanta, GA featured two remarkable international authors/illustrators, Il Sung Na and Torben Kuhlmann. The session opened with welcoming remarks by Therese Bigelow, President of USBBY, followed by a brief business meeting. Ruth Lowery, chair of the session, introduced the first speaker, Il Sung Na, and Jennifer Graff, session co-chair, introduced the second speaker, Torben Kuhlmann.

International author and illustrator, Il Sung Na, reflected on his passion for writing and illustrating books for young children, and shared illustrations from several of his works. Born in Seoul, South Korea, Il Sung Na developed his love for children's books when he moved to London to pursue a BFA in Illustration and Animation at Kingston University. He later moved to the United States where he completed his MFA in Illustration Practice at Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). He determined that the ability to be creative has always been with him from a young age. He browsed many bookstores and libraries and soon decided that he wanted to create his own picture books, books that would highlight the stories he wanted to share.

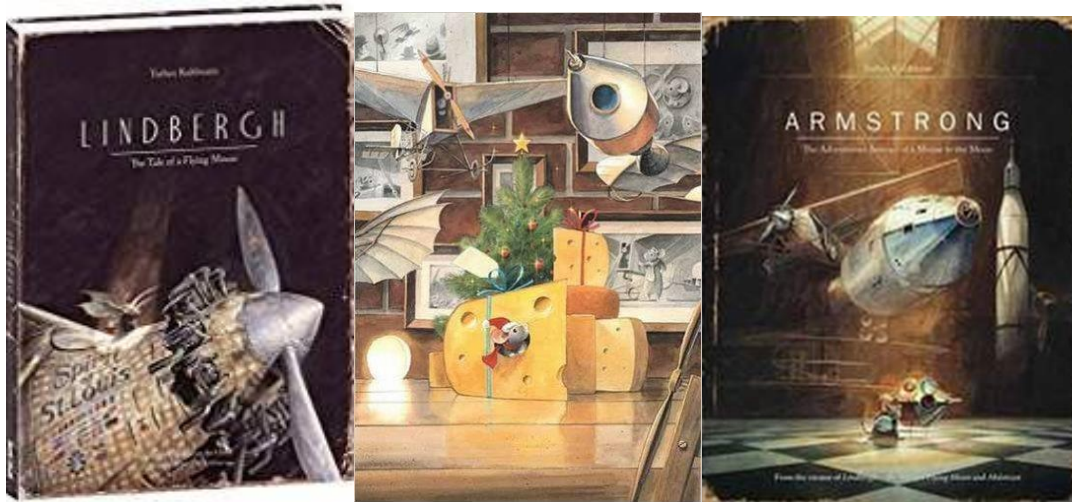
Sharing from samples of his work, Na shared the artistry in his creations as he highlighted the developmental stages of titles such as *A Book of Babies*; *Snow Rabbit, Spring Rabbit: A Book of Changing Seasons*; *The Opposite Zoo*; and *Welcome Home, Bear*. One of Na's newest books, *Welcome Home, Bear* relates the tale of Bear who has become disenchanted with his habitat thus he goes in search of a new home. He visits the habitats of different animals throughout the forest but soon realizes that he misses his own home. The beautiful pictures create a natural look and feel that easily identify the animal habitats described throughout. Il Sung Na has been the recipient of various book awards including, The Boston Globe's Best Children's Books for 2014, Kirkus Best Children's Books for 2011 and 2012, and Amazon's Best Books of 2015.





Our second featured speaker, international author and illustrator, Torben Kuhlmann, was born, and still lives, in Germany. His artistic abilities were realized as early as kindergarten and he took pride in creating his craft from building blocks to colored pencils and water colors. His work is quickly gaining international recognition and awards across children's book arenas as his intricate attention to details realize exquisite masterpieces.

Kuhlmann shared developmental stages of his craft from several of his award winning titles including, *Lindbergh: The Tale of a Flying Mouse*; *Moletown*; and his newest creation, *Armstrong: The Adventurous Journey of a Mouse to the Moon*. His inaugural book, *Lindbergh, The Tale of a Flying Mouse* weaves a tale of a mouse who discovers that all the other mice in his town have fled to America because of the invention of a mechanical mousetrap. When the mouse decides to follow his relatives, he realizes he cannot leave by the regular routes which are being guarded by enemy cats, so he decides to learn to fly. After several failed attempts and narrow escapes, he succeeds in flying to America. His historic feats later inspired a young boy, Charles Lindbergh, the famed American aviator, to follow in his paw steps. The beautiful illustrations are rendered in sepia earth tones and create a rich account of the mouse's travels. *Lindbergh* was a 2014 INDIEFAB Book of the Year award winner and Kuhlmann's illustrations were featured at the 2013 Bologna Children's Book Exhibition.



It was a true honor to have both authors/illustrators presenting at the USBBY 2016 NCTE co-sponsored session. The audience was treated to an in depth look at how Na and Kuhlmann produce their art.

### References

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- Kuhlmann, T. (2015). *Moletown*. New York, NY: NorthSouth Books.
- Kuhlmann, T. (2016). *Armstrong: The Adventurous Journey of a Mouse to the Moon*. New York, NY: NorthSouth.
- Na, I. S. (2013). *Snow Rabbit, Spring Rabbit: A Book of Changing Seasons*. New York, NY: Knopf Books.
- Na, I. S. (2015). *A Book of Babies*. New York, NY: Knopf Books.
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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.

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.

#### 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](mailto:Executive.Director@usbby.org).



**Journeys, Bridges, Transformations, and Discoveries!**  
**Presenting the 2017 USBBY Outstanding International Books List**

By Holly Johnson



Determining approximately 40 best books from over 350 books submissions is no easy undertaking, but the members of the 2017 Outstanding International Books committee took on the task, wrangled with some amazing entries, and determined that 41 should make USBBY's Outstanding International Books List. We received titles from publishers from many parts of the world, and the list presents a wide array of global, yet individual experiences.

When the committee met over a long weekend in mid-December 2016, our obvious love of reading (and particular books) created sincere and reflective conversations. The deliberations exceeded expectations and while individuals may have loved specific entries, the criteria for selection guided our discussions, and eventually, the 2017 OIB came into being with the 41 titles that present readers with journeys, bridges, transformations, and discoveries that will push their thinking about those with whom they share the world.

Half of this year's members – Kathy Isaacs, Mary Beth Dunhouse, Bindy Fleischman, and Martha Walke—joined returning members Olga Bukhina, Debra Gold, Petros Panaou, Carol Sibley, and me for this year's deliberations. For the 2018 list, new members will replace Petros, Carol, Olga, Debra, and me on the committee, and that group will be led by the incomparable Martha Walke.

As the publishing industry continues to respond to the need for books that represent a more international perspective, OIB committees will also continue to promote international titles among librarians, educators, parents, and readers. Just as with the lists from the past decade, this year's OIB list invites readers from the United States to journey beyond our geographic, cultural, and political borders to discover books from around the world and to bridge initial understandings with stories from or set in Brazil, Norway, the Netherlands, India, and more.

This year's OIB list is all about revisioning—looking again, valuing anew. This year's books bring us characters, settings, and experiences that have the ability to transform our thinking. The 2017 list is outstanding with books that will make us laugh, make us cry, make us think, and invite us to take action in our individual lives, our communities, and our society.

Explore, experiment, discover and transform. These Outstanding International Books contain that potential.

For further information, including all previous OIB lists, *School Library Journal* articles with book annotations, interactive maps of book locations and selections, please visit [http://www.usbby.org/list\\_oibl.html](http://www.usbby.org/list_oibl.html).

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**The 2017 USBBY Outstanding International Books Committee:** Holly Johnson (Chair), Cincinnati, OH; Olga Bukhina, New York, NY; Debra Gold, Beechwood, OH; Petros Panaou, Watkinsville, GA; Carol Sibley, Dilworth, MN; Bindy Fleischman, Newton, MA; Kathy Isaacs, Pasadena, MD; Martha Walke, So. Strafford, VT; Mary Beth Dunhouse, Boston, MA.

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The Hard-Working 2017 OIB Committee pauses for a Picture: Back Row (L-R) : Petros Panaou, Holly Johnson, Martha Walke, Kathy Isaacs  
Middle Row: Debra Gold, Bindy Fleischman,  
Front Row: Mary Beth Dunhouse, Carol Sibley, Olga Bukhina

## 2017 USBBY Outstanding International Books List

### Grades P-2

DEGENNARO, SUE. **The Pros and Cons of Being a Frog.** illus. by the author. Simon & Schuster (Australia)  
A keen interest in numbers and a penchant for costuming become the basis for not only a friendship but bridging and appreciating communication differences between a young girl and boy.

DUBUC, Marianne. **The Animals' Ark.** tr. from French. illus. by author. Kids Can Press. (Canada)  
This playful and humorous variation of Noah's ark finds a joyous group of animals becoming increasingly anxious as they run out of ways to entertain themselves in a crowded space. The sighting of land is certainly welcomed!

HIRST, Daisy. **The Girl with the Parrot on her Head.** illus. by the author. Candlewick Press. (England)  
After her best friend moves away, Isabel decides it's better to be by herself and develops a system of sorting all the things in her room into boxes. But the system is flawed: there is one box that is full of wolves...

HOHN, Nadia L. **Malaika's Costume.** illus. by Irene Luxbacher. Groundwood Books. (Canada/set in the Caribbean)  
Inspired by the colors of the Caribbean, this lively picturebook chronicles Malaika's life with her grandmother while her mother is in Canada trying to find work. Without the funds to buy a carnival costume, Malaika and her grandmother use their creativity to create the perfect outfit.

LANTHIER, Jennifer. **Hurry Up, Henry.** illus. by Isabelle Malenfant. Puffin Books/Penguin Books. (Canada)  
Always late, Henry stops to look at everything. His grandmother "gives" his hurry-up family an extra hour so they, too, can learn to appreciate that not everyone needs to go through a day at the same pace.

LEROY, Jean. **A Well-Mannered Young Wolf.** tr. from French. illus. by Matthieu Maudet. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers. (France)  
In this humorous trickster tale, a young, very polite but hungry wolf, encounters savvy prey. The book ends with a delightful ironic twist.

O'LEARY, Sara. **A Family is a Family is a Family.** illus. by Qin Leng. Groundwood Books. (Canada)  
When students must present something about their families, one girl doesn't want to talk at all. Only after she's heard about the diverse home lives of her twelve classmates does she share. Powerful illustrations and sparse text serve to validate the love she receives from her foster family.

ROCHA, Ruth. **Lines, Squiggles, Letters, Words.** tr. from Portuguese by Lynn Miller-Lochman. illus. by Madalena Matoso. Enchanted Lion Books. (Brazil)  
Young Pedro is mystified about the signs and objects in his neighborhood; when he starts school and learns his alphabet, he finds joy in recognizing the squiggles are letters and words! Wonderfully illustrated, readers follow Pedro as he makes his developmental journey.

SANNA, Francesca. **The Journey.** illus. by the author. Flying Eye Books/Nobrow. (UK)  
The Journey becomes that of any one of millions of refugee families who are forced to flee into the unknown. The pacing of the text and expressionistic art serve to show the young person's perspective of the intangible, unknowable, unfathomable and terrifying forces at play.

STARK, Ulf. **The Midsummer Tomte and the Little Rabbits.** tr. from Swedish by Susan Beard. illus. by Eva Eriksson. Floris Books (Sweden)

A delightful fairy-tale about a little gnome-tomte that helps rescue all the small animals of the forest, including rabbits, squirrels, mice, and hedgehogs during a summer flood that occurs just before their midsummer festival. The colorful illustrations aptly replicate their wonderful celebration and survival.

VISWANATH, Shobha. **The Blue Jackal.** illus. by Dileep Joshi. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers. (India) This retelling of an ancient Indian tale involves the jackal's rise to king and his comeuppance when he is discovered to be a fraud. White line drawing from the Warli tradition flow across the pages.

### Grades 3-5

ARGUETA, Jorge. **Somos Como Las Nubes/ We Are Like the Clouds.** tr. by Elisa Amado. illus. by Alfonso Ruano. Groundwood Books. (Canada).

A series of bilingual poems capturing the struggles, hopes, and fears of displaced children who migrate along the long journey from Central America to the southern border of the United States. Enhanced by captivating illustrations, the poems highlight multiple perspectives and the variety of individuals along the route.

CORNILLE, Didier. **Who Built That? Bridges: An Introduction to Ten Great Bridges and Their Designers.** tr. from French by Yolanda Stern Broad. illus. by the author. Princeton Architectural Press. (France).

An unusual format and detailed illustrations highlight ten bridges from around the world built from 1779 to 2013. Each section also highlights the engineers and architects responsible for these amazing structures.

FABER, Polly. **Mango & Bambang, the Not-a-Pig.** illus. By Clara Vulliamy. Candlewick Press. (UK)

Lonely but amiable and resourceful, urbanite Mango befriends a tapir who's lost his way in her city. In an "animal-comes-to-the-city" tradition, the interactions within Mango's neighborhood are fraught with misunderstandings and humor as neighbors encounter Tapir's peculiarities. Ultimately, Mango and Bambang's friendship proves delightful.

FENTON, Corinne. **Bob the Railway Dog: The True Story of an Adventurous Dog.** illus. by Andrew McLean. Candlewick. (Australia).

A delightful narrative based on actual events is the story of Bob, a stray dog adopted by a railway engineer in 1884. Befriending engineers along the railways, Bob travels from mining towns to farming towns and through Australia's smallest outposts and largest cities tracing the routes and expansion of railroads in the 19th century.

HURST, Elise. **Imagine a City.** illus. by the author. Doubleday. (Canada)

Follow two children as they enter a pen-and-ink literary wonderland where the imagination soars, characters and concepts from across classics in literature allow readers to imagine that the world of books is a place where anything is possible!

KRISHNASWAMI, Uma. **Book Uncle and Me.** illus. by Julianna Swaney. Groundwood Books. (Canada/set in India)

When book-loving Yasmin's favorite free library is threatened with shut down, a book and words from her teacher prompt her to get involved in local politics. An inspiring book that highlights young people's agency and the changes that come from community involvement.

KUHLMANN, Torben. **Armstrong: The Adventurous Journey of a Mouse to the Moon.** tr. from German by David Henry Wilson. illus. by the author. NorthSouth Books. (Germany)

A masterful picturebook chronicling a mouse that--convinced by his research that the moon is not cheese but stone--sets out to prove it by developing and flying his own space ship there in 1955, setting the stage for a later human journey.

KUHN, Camilla. **Samira and the Skeletons.** tr. from Norwegian by Don Bartlett. illus. by author. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers. (Norway)

A humorous story, wonderfully delivered through text and image. Samira is shaken when she learns at school that everyone has a skeleton inside them. She begins to see everyone as walking bones and even asks her mom to help her escape her own skeleton.

LAGERCRANTZ, Rose. **Life According to Dani.** tr. from Swedish by Julia Marshall. illus. by Eva Eriksson. Gecko Press. (Sweden)

Dani's carefree island vacation with her best friend is interrupted by the arrival of her father and his new girlfriend who Dani fears will replace her in his affections.

MARTINS, Isabel Minhós. **Don't Cross the Line.** tr. from Portuguese by Daniel Hahn. illus. by Bernardo P. Carvalho. Gecko Books. (Portugal).

A humorous, metafictional picturebook about totalitarianism, the freedom of movement, and peaceful revolution. A guard attempts to keep the right hand page of the book free for a general, but an increasingly large crowd gets restive. And then a ball breaks through the barrier/gutter, followed by two children! What could happen next?

MULLER, Gerda. **A Year in Our New Garden.** tr. from German. illus. by the author. Floris Books. (Germany)

A new family moves into a house that has a neglected garden. With the help of a boy next door they transform it into a small paradise in the middle of the city. Children learn a lot about gardening and the wonders of nature.

PARVELA, Timo. **Bicycling to the Moon.** tr. from Finnish by Ruth Urbom. illus. by Virpi Talvitie. Gecko Press (Finland)

The friendship of Barker and Purdy is humorously tested as this daredevil cat and cautious dog share their adventures in twenty interconnected stories.

PINFOLD, Levi. **Greenling.** illus. by the author. Templar Books/Candlewick Press. (Australia)

A faintly sinister but equally inspiring ecological fable about a baby the Barleycorns discover and nurture in their home in the Australian outback, and who, in turn, nourishes them for the entire growing season – but then what? Illustrations in the palette of the Outback create a visual wonder for any audience.

ROSSELL, Judith. **Withering-by-Sea.** illus. by the author. Atheneum/Simon and Schuster. (Australia)

In spite of the efforts of her three awful aunts, 11-year-old orphan Stella Montgomery finds high adventure in a Victorian sanitarium, where she acquires a mysterious, maybe magic-filled bottle, witnesses a murder, and then is kidnapped, trapped, and rescued. Making friends, and beginning to wonder about her true identity are also aspects of Stella's new environment.

SANABRIA, José. **As Time Went By**. tr. from German by NorthSouth. illus. by the author. NorthSouth Books. (Switzerland)

Told through the eyes of a once great luxury liner, this luminous narrative illustrates fragility and fluidity of social class, assumed or assigned, with immediacy and succinctness, to depict the ongoing perpetual cycle of human migration.

### Grades 6-8

BOGART, Jo Ellen. **The White Cat and the Monk: A Retelling of the Poem "Pangur Bán"**. illus. by Sydney Smith. Groundwood Books. (Canada)

A charming version of an ancient, simple poem in which a ninth century Irish monk compares his life of quiet search for knowledge to that of his cat who pursues its prey, illustrated in a way that recalls medieval manuscripts.

DAVIES, Linda. **Longbow Girl**. Chicken House/Scholastic. (UK)

Mystery, adventure, time travel, historical fiction, legend, a classic villain and a strong, female hero, class differences, athletics, all set against the backdrop of Wales, may seem like too many devices to include in one book, but Davies weaves these tropes together with captivating success.

HARDSTAFF, Jane. **The Executioner's Daughter**. Carolrhoda Books. (UK)

Twelve-year-old Moss has lived all her life in the Tower of London with her father, who serves as the executioner for King Henry VIII. She detests this life and runs away, meeting a new friend and the fearful Riverwitch that roams the River Thames.

LEA, Synne. **Night Guard**. tr. from Norwegian by John Irons. illus. by Stian Hole. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers. (Norway)

A wondrous and beautiful volume of expressionistic poems are paired with surreal illustrations to create a series of meditations on family relationships that explore isolation, fear, uncertainty and friendship.

LEWIS, Amanda West. **The Pact**. Red Deer Press. (Canada/set in Germany)

Peter Gruber and his friends join the Hitler Youth Movement as children in 1939. What starts as an adventurous extracurricular activity turns into a nightmare as the boys endure training, relocations, and destruction of their home city of Hamburg.

LUURTSEMA, Nat. **Goldfish**. Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan. (UK)

After failing swim trials for an Olympic training program, Louise Brown finds too much time on her hands and turns to coaching a trio of popular boys to water-based fame. Delightfully humorous, the protagonist's sense of the world is refreshing and honest.

STEVENSON, Robin. **Pride: Celebrating Diversity and Community**. Orca. (Canada)

Concise but astonishingly thorough summary of key events, change-makers and evolution of the PRIDE movement and those whose lives it enriches throughout North America and around the world. The richly colored photographs flank the text in a brilliant design reflective of a PRIDE parade itself.

SVINGEN, Arne. **The Ballad of a Broken Nose**. tr. from Norwegian by Kari Dickinson. Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster. (Norway)

A stirring narrative of young Bart, who copes with his dysfunctional single parent along with his public housing environment by singing arias in secret, taking boxing lessons in public, and opening himself up to friendship in unexpected places.



## Grades 9-12

ACIOLI, Socorro. **The Head of the Saint.** tr. from Portuguese by Daniel Hahn. Delacorte Press. (Brazil)  
Faith and magic intertwine in this story of Samuel living in the concrete head of a saint, answering the prayers of the villagers, trying to fulfill his mother's last wishes and also discover who is singing to him.

DOWNHAM, Jenny. **Unbecoming.** David Fickling Books/Scholastic (UK)  
Three generations of women – estranged grandmother, newly divorced mother, and a daughter who tries to find who she is and whom she loves. Katie and her special needs brother become involved in taking care of their grandmother, an elderly woman with the Alzheimer's disease.

HARDINGE, Frances. **The Lie Tree.** Amulet Books/Abrams (UK)  
Modest and well-mannered Faith Sunderly is burning with questions and curiosity. After her father's death which was no accident, she discovers a tree that bears fruit only when she whispers a lie to it. The fruit, in turn, delivers a hidden truth.

WILLIAMSON, Lisa. **The Art of Being Normal.** Margaret Ferguson Books/Farrar Straus Giroux. (UK)  
An engrossing narrative about two fourteen-year-olds living on the outskirts of London who form a special friendship as one is bullied and the other intervenes. They find they are both grappling with gender identity and the meaning of being "normal".

WOLTZ, Anna. **A Hundred Hours of Night.** tr. from Dutch by Laura Watkinson. Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic.  
(Netherlands)  
As Hurricane Sandy descends on New York City, 15-year-old Dutch runaway Emilia finds shelter and comfort with others facing similar personal dilemmas.

WRIGHT, David & BOUCHARD, Lu. **Away Running.** Orca. (Canada/set in France).  
Inspired by a tragic event in Paris and the authors' experiences, this is a captivating story about Freeman, a black football player from San Antonio, and Matt, a white quarterback from Montreal, who find themselves playing American football in a predominantly Muslim immigrant suburb that is rife with ethnic tensions and police brutality.

WUNG-SUNG, Jesper. **The Last Execution.** tr. from Danish by Lindy Falk van Rooyen. A Caitlyn Dlouhy Book/Atheneum. (Denmark)  
A gripping tale based on the last execution in Denmark, the events leading up to a 15-year-old boy's execution are seen from multiple and complex perspectives. Emotionally stirring and thought-provoking, this narrative is both timely and historic.

**PRESENTING**  
**The Practitioner's Column**

Welcome to Raven Cromwell, the new editor of this column. Raven ([raven.cromwell@gmail.com](mailto:raven.cromwell@gmail.com)) is a doctoral student in the Educational Psychology: Reading and Literacy department at the University of Utah. She is a student member of USBBY and is excited to be more involved with the organization through serving as editor of The Practitioner's Column. Her research interests involve the use of culturally diverse and culturally authentic children's and young adult literature in the classroom. Her hope is this column will assist teachers, librarians, and community members to consider the world when selecting books.



**The Practitioner's Column**  
**by Raven Cromwell**

Students gain much by learning about people and places that are different from them. Through international books, students can learn how they are different but also how they are the same as people in foreign countries. While meeting, speaking, and playing with people from other countries would foster the most understanding and form the strongest bonds, this is not always possible. Thank goodness we have books that allow students to journey around the world and interact with a variety of cultures.

Every year USBBY honors exceptional books originally published or created outside of the U.S. These books are placed on USBBY's Outstanding International Booklist (OIB), and the list is available to all teachers through the USBBY's website (<http://www.usbby.org>). The purpose of this column is to highlight some practical ways teachers can use these books in their classrooms. The goal is not just to get students reading but to get them reading internationally!

The following table organizes the books by central themes. In addition to the title, the year the book made the OIB, and the genre, the perceived ethnicity of the main character and the gender of the main character is included. The main character's ethnicity will be labeled as White, Parallel Culture, Animal, or Fantasy. The gender will be labeled as Female, Male, Transgender, or Unidentified. These codes are not meant to be an exhaustive list of all categories characters could fall into. Rather, these notes are included to aid teachers in finding books that match their purposes. While international books are diverse since they originated outside of the U.S., these books also have much diversity among themselves. Categories used are from Liang, Cromwell, & Jorgensen (2015).

## Genres

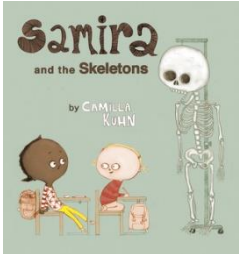
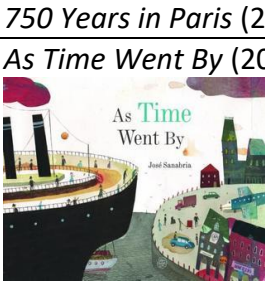


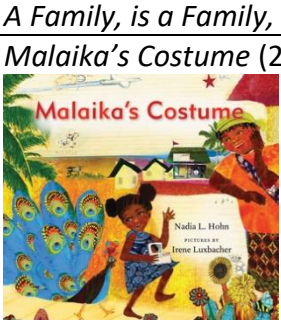
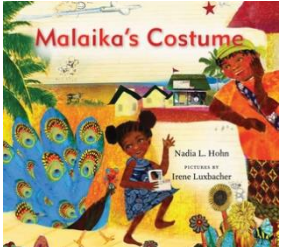
B: Biography/Memoir	Fo: Folklore	NF: Nonfiction	SF: Science Fiction
F: Fantasy	HF: Historical Fiction	PV: Poetry and Verse	

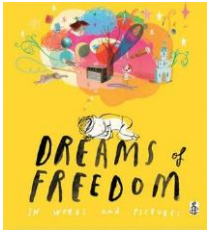

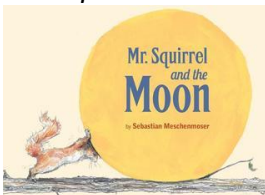
## Main Character: Ethnicity


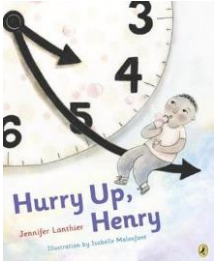
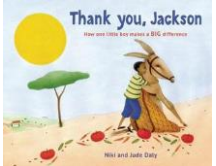
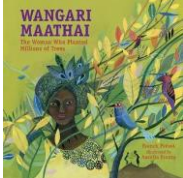
PC: Parallel Culture	A: Animal	NA: Not applicable
W: White	Fa: Fantasy	M: Multiple Main Characters

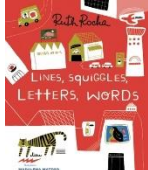
## Main Character: Gender

F: Female	T: Transgender	NA: Not applicable
M: Male	U: Unidentified	MC: Multiple Main Characters

Theme	Title	Genre	Ethnicity	Gender
Bodies	<i>Samira and the Skeletons</i> (2017) 	F	PC	F
Construction	<i>750 Years in Paris</i> (2016) 	NF	NA	NA
	<i>As Time Went By</i> (2017) 	HF	W	M
	<i>Who Built That? Bridges</i> (2017) 	NF	NA	NA
Family	<i>A Family, is a Family, is a Family</i> (2017) 	RF	MC	MC
	<i>Malaika's Costume</i> (2017) 	RF	PC	F

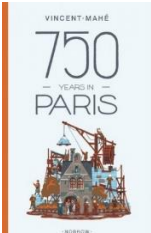
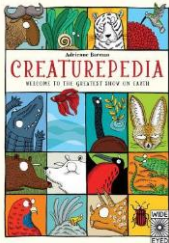
Freedom	<i>Dreams of Freedom</i> (2016) 	NF	NA	NA
Friendship	<i>The Girl with the Parrot on her Head</i> (2017)	F	PC	F
	<i>Pool</i> (2016) 	F	W	M
	<i>The Pros and Cons of Being a Frog</i> (2017)	RF	MC	MC
	<i>A Tale of Two Beasts</i> (2016)	F	MC	MC
	<i>Red</i> (2016)	RF	W	F
	<i>The Red Apple</i> (2016)	F	MC	MC
	<i>The White Cat and the Monk</i> (2017)	PV	W	M
Holocaust	<i>Mister Doctor</i> (2016) 	B	W	M
Humorous Situations	<i>Mr. Squirrel and the Moon</i> (2016) 	F	A	M
	<i>A Well-Mannered Young Wolf</i> (2017)	F	A	M
Imagination	<i>The House that Sonabai Built</i> (2016) 	B	PC	W
	<i>Imagine a City</i> (2017)	F	MC	MC

Immigrants/Refugees	<i>The Journey</i> (2017) 	RF	MC	MC
	<i>My Two Blankets</i> (2016)	RF	PC	F
	<i>We Are Like the Clouds</i> (2017)	PV	MC	MC
Independence	<i>Armstrong: The Adventurous Journey of a Mouse to the Moon</i> (2017)	F	A	M
	<i>The Blue Jackal</i> (2017)	Fo	A	M
	<i>Bob the Railway Dog</i> (2017)	B	A	M
	<i>The Bus Ride</i> (2016)	F	W	F
	<i>Hurry up, Henry</i> (2017) 	RF	PC	M
<i>I am Henry Finch</i> (2016)	F	A	M	
Kindness	<i>Gon, The Little Fox</i> (2016)	Fo	A	M
	<i>I am a Bear</i> (2016)	F	A	U
	<i>Like a Wolf</i> (2016)	F	A	M
	<i>The Midsummer Tomte and the Little Rabbits</i> (2017)	F	Fa	M
	<i>The Red Bicycle</i> (2016)	RF	MC	MC
	<i>Sidewalk Flowers</i> (2016)	RF	W	F
	<i>Thank you, Jackson</i> (2016) 	RF	PC	M
Nature	<i>Creaturepedia</i> (2016)	NF	NA	NA
	<i>Greenling</i> (2017)	Fo	Fa	M
	<i>A Year in Our New Garden</i> (2017)	RF	MC	MC
	<i>Wangari Maathai: The Woman who Planted Millions of Trees</i> (2016) 	B	PC	F

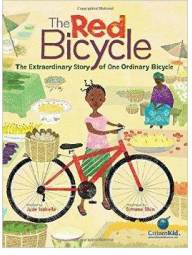
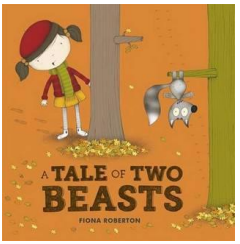
Reading	<i>Lines, Squiggles, Letters, and Words</i> (2017) 	RF	W	M
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\*Categories used are from Liang, Cromwell, & Jorgensen, 2015.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Title	Description	Activity
<p><i>750 Years in Paris</i></p> 	<p>Vincent Mahé's <i>750 Years in Paris</i> has a very simplistic formula. One side of the page is a bold-faced date, and the corresponding side is an illustration of a building. As the dates change, so does the building as it was first built, expanded on, partially burned, and renovated. Readers can see how time and history can affect one piece of a city. At the end of the book, a timeline is provided and a brief sentence explaining the major event that occurred.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use this book to introduce timelines.</li> <li>• Ask students to explore the historical events listed at the end of the book.</li> <li>• Assign students a historic building in their community and have them create its own timeline.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Creaturepedia</i></p> 	<p>Adrienne Barman's <i>Creaturepedia</i> is filled with over 600 brightly colored and comically illustrated creatures. The creatures' names wrap playfully around each creature and are sometimes accompanied by facts. The highlight of this book is the organization. Barman groups her creatures together by categories such as "The Blue Beauties," "The Show-Offs," and "The Endangered." This unique organization sorts creatures into unusual, never-before-seen groupings. For example, in "The Prickly Ones," the Bay Shrimp swims next to the Crested Porcupine. This book teaches students about a variety of animals and shows unique ways to group.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use this book to introduce sorting.</li> <li>• Ask students to write a report choosing one of the categories of creatures mentioned in the book or have them create their own.</li> <li>• Ask students to sort all the characters from books they have read into their own categories.</li> </ul>



<p><i>The Red Bicycle</i></p> 	<p>Jude Isabella’s <i>The Red Bicycle</i> follows the story of how one bicycle, donated by a boy in North America, changed the lives of two different people in Burkina Faso, Africa. First, the bike helps a girl and her grandmother produce more sorghum. With the extra money, the family can eat better and the children can attend school. The bike is then repurposed as a village ambulance, and the new owner can provide health services and deliver medicine to people in remote villages. The end of the book offers additional information on why bicycle donations are important and how children can get involved.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research one of the bicycle charities mentioned in the book and find out how your class can help.</li> <li>• Ask students to remember an object they donated to a charity or gave away. What new “life” can they imagine their object having?</li> <li>• Have students write a persuasive or argumentative essay stating why it is important to give to charity.</li> </ul>
<p><i>A Tale of Two Beasts</i></p> 	<p>Fiona Robertson shows there are always two sides to every story in <i>A Tale of Two Beasts</i>. In the first story, readers follow a girl into the woods. She finds a “beast” and takes him home to be her pet. In the second story, readers follow the same story but from the animal’s point-of-view. The animal tells a horrific story of being kidnapped and tortured by a “beast.” In the end, the animal and the girl become friends and happily race through the woods together as equals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use this book to introduce ideas of audience and perspectives.</li> <li>• Ask students to write a brief story of an encounter with a friend, family member, pet, or stranger. Then ask them to write the same story from the other person’s point-of-view.</li> </ul>

\*Liang, L., Cromwell, R., & Jorgensen, M. (2015). What they value and enjoy: An examination of characteristics in children's award-winning books 2010-14. In National Council of Teachers of English Annual Conference. Minneapolis, MN.

## How Does This Translate?

Petros Panaou, [ppanaou@uga.edu](mailto:ppanaou@uga.edu) & Jennifer Graff, [jgraff@uga.edu](mailto:jgraff@uga.edu)

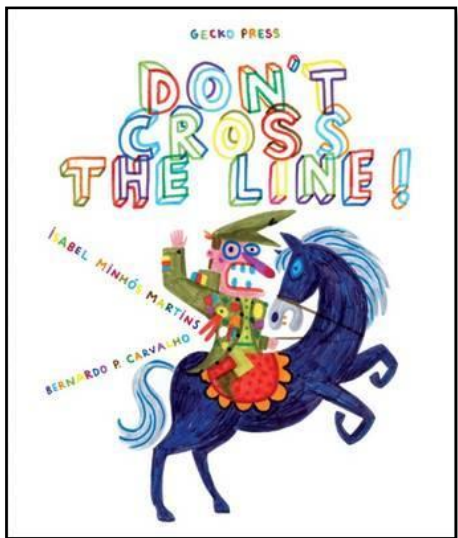
In its refreshed format, the “How Does This Translate?” column continues to review notable international publications for children and youth. The most important change is the style and content of these reviews, as we strive to offer views of the texts that are not readily available elsewhere. In this installment, for instance, we focus on powerful excerpts from the texts themselves, trying to capture the core of the stories and their main characters.

One in every four children currently living in the United States has at least one immigrant parent; that’s a total of 18.7 million children. And in Turkey alone, there are now more than 700,000 refugee school-age children. Half a million of them do not have access to school. Every day, new hate talk, policies, bans, despicable crimes, protests, court decisions, and debates explode around these children and their families. And while there is a lot of talk about them, against them, or for them, we rarely hear *from* them. In a world where immigrants and refugees are seldom heard, “How Does This Translate?” highlights diverse immigrant and refugee voices in some remarkable international books for children and youth. And while not all the authors and illustrators are immigrants or refugees, the perspective—and often the voices—are those of migrants, immigrants, refugees; of people who cross borders, overcome boundaries, merge cultures, or live somewhere in between.

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**MARTINS**, Isabel Minhós. *Don’t Cross the Line*. Tr. from Portuguese by Daniel Hahn. Illus. by Bernardo P. Carvalho. Gecko, 2016. (Portugal). ISBN 177657074X

*When a guard allows people to cross the line to the right-hand page of the book, a totalitarian leader orders his soldiers to arrest him. But the people who have crossed the line raise their voice to the General:*

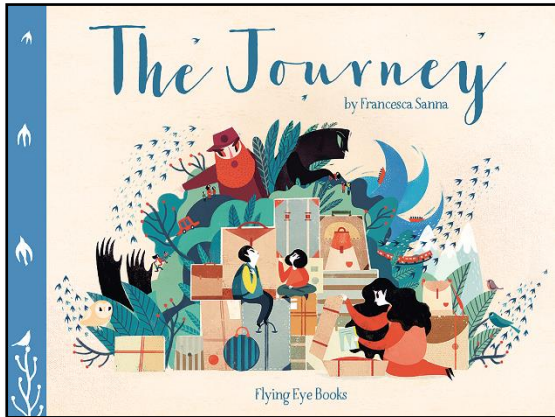


*No way!  
He’s our hero!  
This is not your story!  
This book’s for everybody!  
We’re part of this story  
too, you know...*

This award-winning author-illustrator team from Portugal has created a wonderfully subversive narrative, in which people that unite and resist peacefully subvert authoritarianism.

**SANNA**, Francesca. *The Journey*. Illus. by the author. Flying Eye, 2016. (UK). ISBN 1909263990

*A young child-narrator who is forced to flee with family members into the unknown still has hope:*

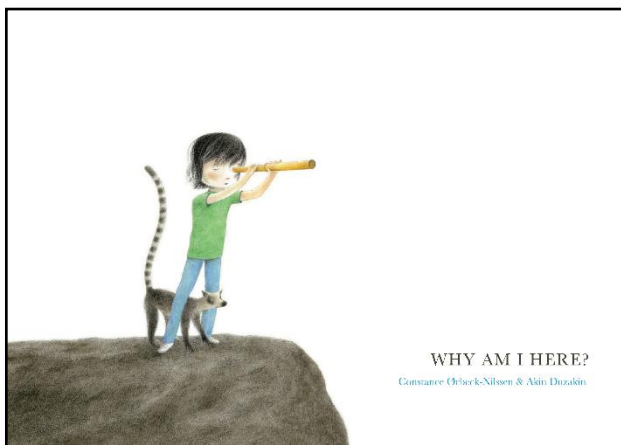


*I hope, one day, like these birds, we will find a new home. A home where we can be safe and begin our story again.*

Francesca Sanna is an Italian illustrator and graphic designer who lives and works in Switzerland. She successfully channels the voices of refugees she met at a refugee center in Italy. This is what she says about her book: “Almost every day on the news we hear the terms ‘migrants’ and ‘refugees’ but we rarely ever speak to or hear the personal journeys that they have had to take. This book is a collage of all those personal stories and the incredible strength of the people within them.”

**ØRBECK-NILSSEN**, Constance. *Why Am I Here?* Illustrated by Akin Duzakin. Eerdmans, 2016. (Norway). ISBN 080285477X

*A boy wonders how his life would be, if he were to live somewhere else, somewhere completely different:*

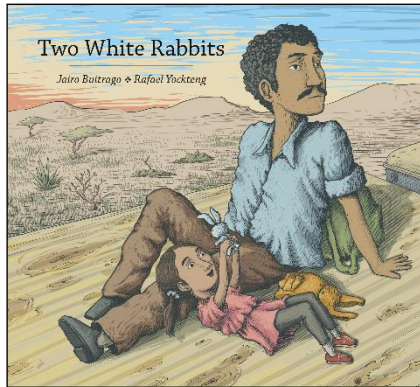


*What if I had to make my way with thousands of others to an unfamiliar place? Where no one knew how long we could stay.*

This deeply reflective picturebook does not feature the voice of a refugee; however, its child narrator/thinker is intensely empathetic when wondering how it would feel to be a refugee, searching for safety and a sense of home.

**BUITRAGO, Jairo. *Two White Rabbits*.** Tr. from Spanish by Elisa Amado. Illus. by Rafael Yockteng. Groundwood, 2015. (Canada/set in Mexico). ISBN 1554987415

*A young girl migrating, travelling toward the border with her father receives no answers to her question:*

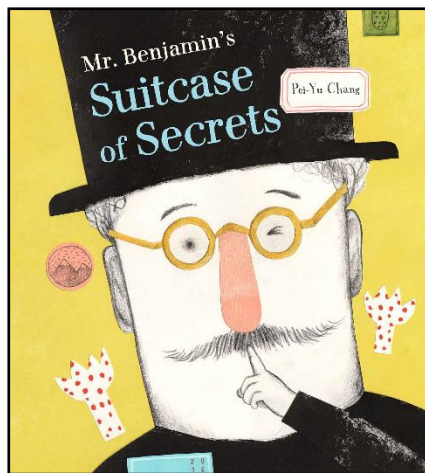


*“Where are we going?”  
I ask sometimes, but no  
one answers.*

Interestingly, in this brilliantly illustrated picturebook, while the text captures the young migrant’s perspective and voice, the images invite us to also consider the father’s perspective.

**CHANG, Pei-Yu. *Mr. Benjamin’s Suitcase of Secrets*.** Tr. from German by David Henry Wilson. Illus. by the author. NorthSouth, 2016. (Switzerland) ISBN 0735842809

*When his country decides that extraordinary ideas are dangerous, a philosopher tries to escape. This is what he says about the heavy suitcase he carries over the mountains:*

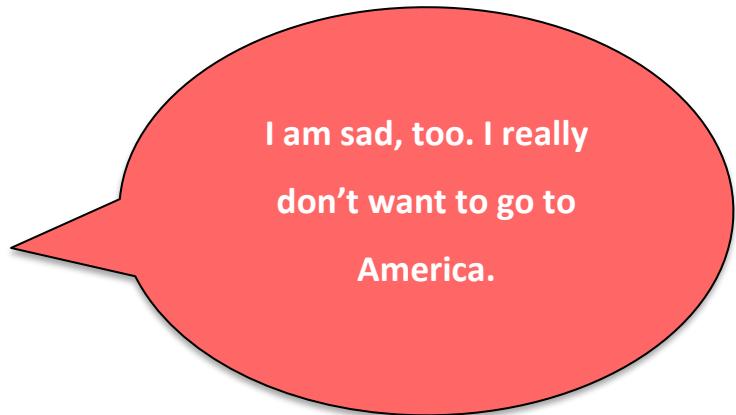
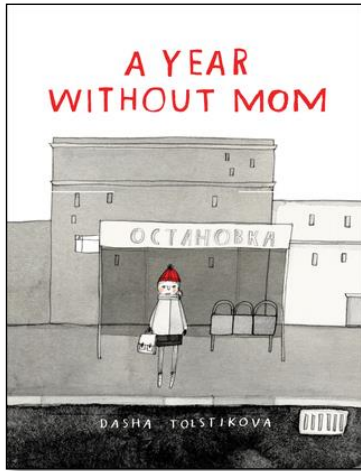


*The contents of this case  
can change everything.  
It’s the most important  
thing to me—more  
important than my life.*

This picturebook is loosely based on a true story about the German Jewish philosopher, cultural critic, and essayist Walter Benjamin. In the fall of 1940, the philosopher was eluding the Gestapo in an effort to travel from France, to Spain, to Portugal, and then find refuge in the U.S. He only made it to Spain because the Franco government had cancelled all transit visas. The picturebook concludes with Mr. Benjamin and his mysterious suitcase disappearing after a failed attempt to cross the border. In reality, on the night of September 25, 1940, expecting repatriation to Nazi hands, Walter Benjamin committed suicide. A completed manuscript that Benjamin was carrying in his suitcase disappeared after his death and has never been recovered.

**TOLSTIKOVA, Dasha. *A Year Without Mom*.** Illus. by author. Groundwood, 2015. (Canada/set in Russia and the U.S.) ISBN 1554986923

*Twelve-year-old Dasha, who is migrating from Russia to the United States to join her mother expresses her feelings:*

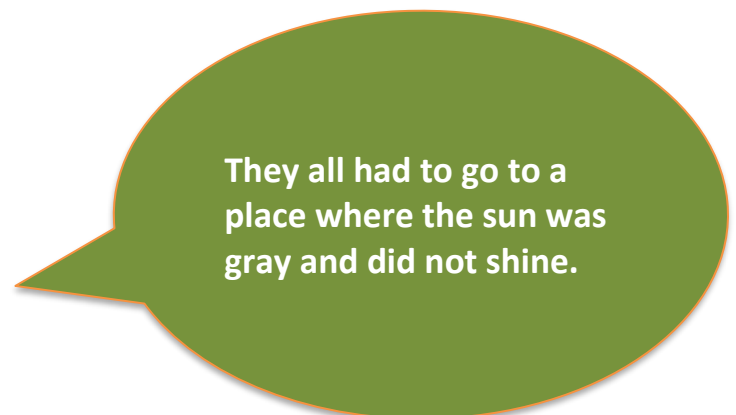
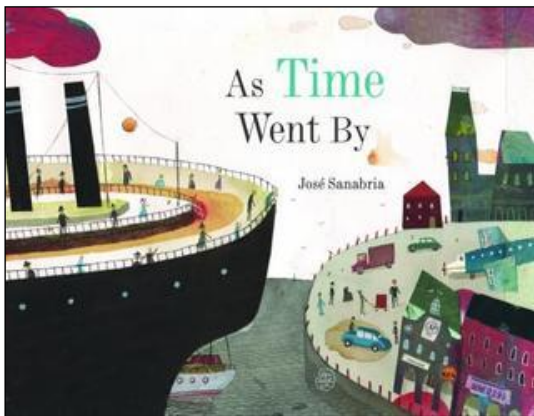


In this autobiographical graphic novel, author-illustrator Dasha Tolstikova remembers the challenges that came with being on the edge of adolescence without her mom in 1990s Moscow, and then the ones that came with having to join her in the U.S.

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**SANABRIA, José. *As Time Went By*.** Tr. from German. Illus. by the author. North-South, 2016. (Switzerland) ISBN 0735842485

*One morning, a man comes, says that he owns the village land, and pushes the residents out:*

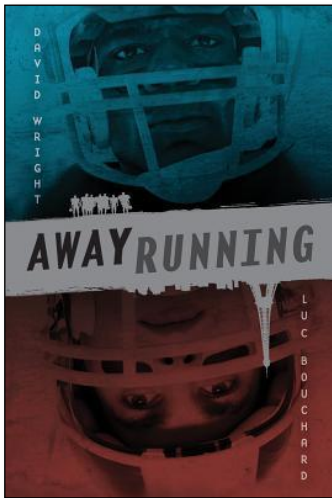


A picturebook in three parts, this highly visual narrative depicts the fluidity of social class and human migration. It is a celebration of the power of community and hope in the face of social struggles.



**WRIGHT, David & Lu Bouchard. *Away Running*.** Orca, 2016. (Canada/set in France) ISBN 1459810465

*After a Muslim immigrant youth in Paris dies because of discriminatory police practices, his father cannot stay silent:*

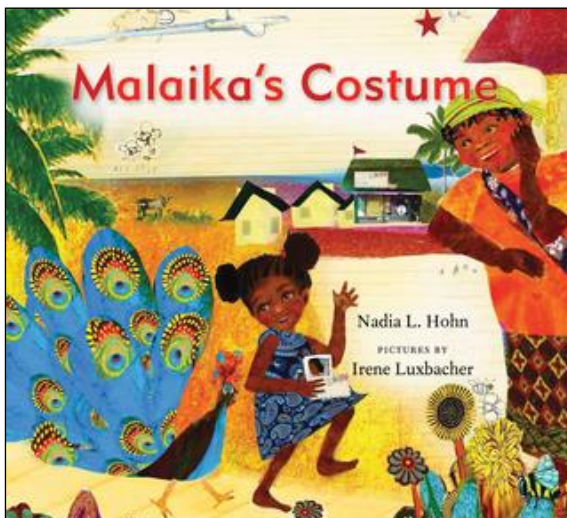


“I understand—” the mayor says, but Monsieur Oussekine cuts him off. “I don’t think you do. We have no more tears, but that doesn’t mean we have forgotten him.”

The story is experienced through the perspectives of Freeman, a black football player from San Antonio, and Matt, a white quarterback from Montreal; however, Freeman’s and Matt’s perspectives are informed by those of their Muslim fellow-players and friends, as they find themselves playing American football in a predominantly immigrant Parisian suburb that is rife with ethnic tensions and police brutality.

**HOHN, Nadia L. *Malaika’s Costume*.** Illus. by Irene Luxbacher. Groundwood, 2016. (Canada/set in the Caribbean) ISBN 9781443155

*Malaika is upset because her mom has not sent any money from Canada, so she cannot have a new carnival costume:*



I stop. I don’t know where else to go. Then I begin to hear a song that I know. It’s playing on someone’s stereo. It goes, “I started to beat pan at the age of six... Me grandmother tell me... It is true we are poor but we have dignity...”

Brightly colored by the hues of the Caribbean, this heart-warming story is narrated by the protagonist, a young girl in an unnamed English-speaking Caribbean country, who lives with grandma as her mom has immigrated to Canada to fend for her family.

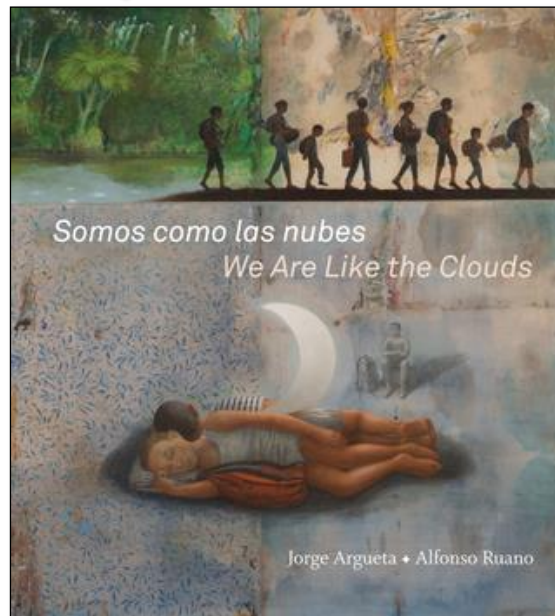


**ARGUETA, Jorge. *Somos Como Las Nubes/ We Are Like the Clouds*.** Tr. by Elisa Amado. Illus. by Alfonso Ruano. Groundwood, 2016. (Canada) ISBN 1554988497

*This is the voice of thousands of young people from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico, fleeing their countries because of extreme poverty and fear of violence:*

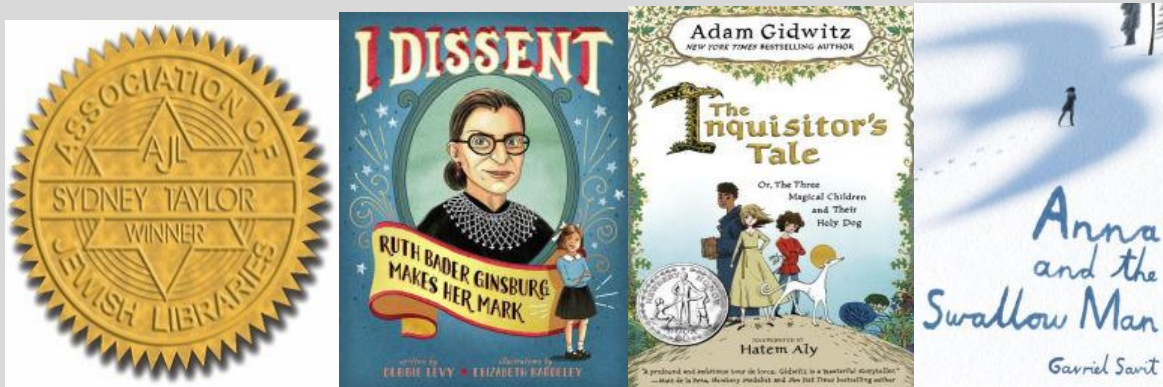
*Somos como las nubes.  
Somos como el viento.  
Somos como las mariposas.  
Somos como los ríos.  
Somos como el mar.*

*We are like the clouds.  
We are like the wind.  
We are like the butterflies.  
We are like the rivers.  
We are like the ocean.*



This is a series of bilingual poems and captivating illustrations that capture in first person voice the struggles, hopes, and fears of displaced children migrating from Central America to the southern border of the United States.

**The 2017 Sydney Taylor Book Awards  
Announced by the Association of Jewish Libraries**



**The Sydney Taylor Book Award Winner for Younger Readers:**

- *I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark* by Debbie Levy with illustrations by Elizabeth Baddeley (Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers)

**The Sydney Taylor Book Award Winner for Older Readers:**

- *The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, The Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog* by Adam Gidwitz with illustrations by Hatem Aly (Dutton Children's Books/Penguin Random House)

**The Sydney Taylor Book Award Winner for Teen Readers:**

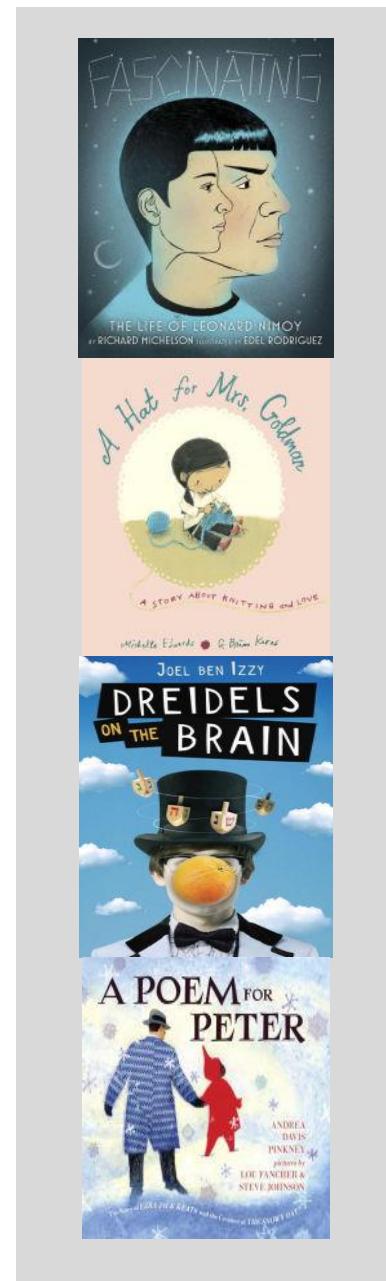
- *Anna and the Swallow Man* by Gavriel Savit (Alfred A. Knopf/Penguin Random House)

**Sydney Taylor Honor Books for Younger Readers:**

- *Fascinating: The Life of Leonard Nimoy* by Richard Michelson with illustrations by Edel Rodriguez (Alfred A. Knopf/Penguin Random House)
- *A Hat for Mrs. Goldman: A Story About Knitting and Love* by Michelle Edwards with illustrations by G. Brian Karas (Schwartz and Wade Books/ Penguin Random House)

**Sydney Taylor Honor Books for Older Readers:**

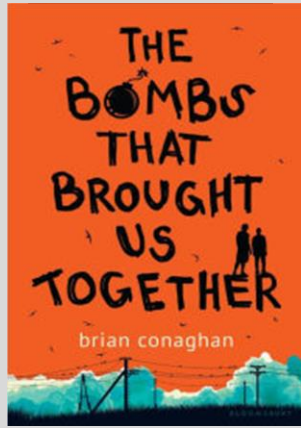
- *Dreidels on the Brain* by Joel Ben Izzy (Dial Books for Young Readers/Penguin Random House)
- *A Poem for Peter: The Story of Ezra Jack Keats and the Creation of the Snowy Day* by Andrea Davis Pinkney with illustrations by Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher (Viking Children's Books/Penguin Random House)



## AWARDS

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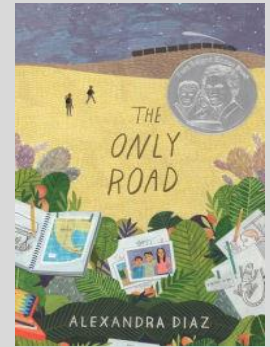
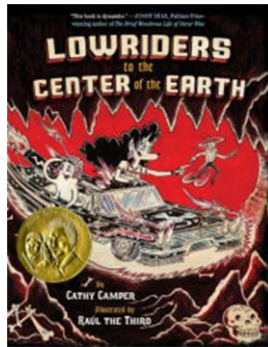
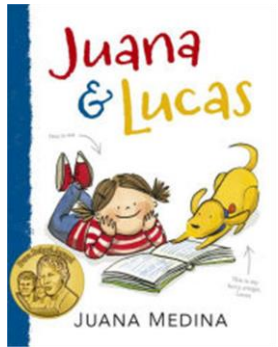


### 2016 COSTA BOOK AWARD

*The Bombs That Brought Us Together* by Brian Conaghan, published by Bloomsbury, won the 2016 Costa children's book award. The other books shortlisted for the award included:

- *Orangeboy* by Patrice Lawrence (Hodder Children's Books)
- *The Monstrous Child* by Francesca Simon (Faber & Faber/Profile Books)
- *Time Travelling with a Hamster* by Ross Welford (HarperCollins Children's Books)

### 2017 Pura Belpre



#### 2017 Author Award Winner

- *Juana & Lucas*, written and illustrated by Juana Medina and published by Candlewick Press

#### 2017 Illustrator Award Winner

- *Lowriders to the Center of the Earth*, illustrated by Raúl Gonzalez, written by Cathy Camper and published by Chronicle Books

#### 2017 Author Honor Book

- *The Only Road*, written by Alexandra Diaz and published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers/A Paula Wiseman Book

#### 2017 Illustrator Honor Books

- *Esquivel!: Space-Age Sound Artist*, illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh, written by Susan Wood and published by Charlesbridge
- *The Princess and the Warrior: A Tale of Two Volcanoes*, illustrated and written by Duncan Tonatiuh and published by Abrams Books for Young Readers





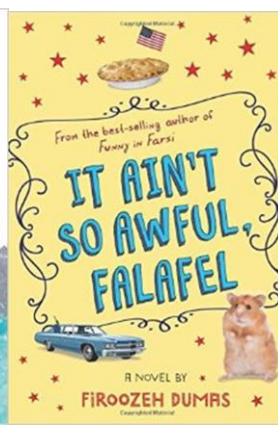
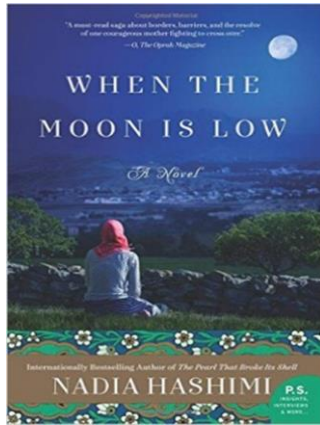
**2017  
Batchelder  
Award**



***Cry, Heart, But Never Break*** published by Enchanted Lion is the 2017 Batchelder Award winner. Originally published in Danish in 2001 as “Græd blot hjerte,” the book was written by Glenn Ringvold, illustrated by Charlotte Pardi and translated by Robert Moulthrop.

**2016 MEOC MIDDLE EAST BOOK AWARDS**

The 2016 Middle East Book Awards recognize quality publications in three categories: Picture Book, Youth Literature, and Youth Nonfiction.



**PICTURE BOOK**

- No award was given

**YOUTH LITERATURE WINNERS**

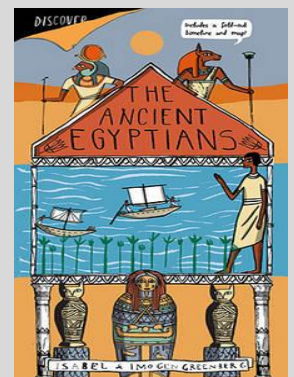
- ***When the Moon Is Low*** by Nadia Hashimi (William Morrow, an Imprint of HarperCollins)
- ***Dare to Disappoint: Growing Up In Turkey*** by Ozge Samanci (Farrar Straus Giroux Books for Young Readers)

**HONORABLE MENTION**

- ***It Ain't So Awful Falafel*** by Firoozeh Dumas (Clarion Books, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

**YOUTH NON-FICTION WINNERS**

- ***Golda Meir: A Strong, Determined Leader*** by David A. Adler (Puffin Books)
- ***The Ancient Egyptians (Discover)*** by Isabel and Imogen Greenberg (Frances Lincoln Children's Books)



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

The *Journal of Children's Literature* is a refereed journal devoted to teaching and scholarship in the field of children's literature. It is the product of the Children's Literature Assembly of NCTE and is published twice annually. To join CLA and subscribe to the *Journal of Children's Literature*, click on the Membership link.

**Call for Manuscripts:** The *Journal of Children's Literature*, a refereed publication of the Children's Literature Assembly of the National Council of Teachers of English, explores issues of current concern to scholars in the field of children's literature, teachers of children's literature, librarians, and classroom teachers—preschool through middle school. We invite potential authors to submit original manuscripts for publication in future issues. Submissions may be articles or interviews focusing on the creative process. Sections of the journal include:

**Concepts and Themes.** Articles in this section will be peer reviewed and can include articles focused on research, theory, content analysis, instruction, and critical issues in children's literature.

Please submit all manuscripts to the co-editors Donna Adomat, Karla Möller, and Angela Wiseman at [jcl@education.illinois.edu](mailto:jcl@education.illinois.edu).

## CONFERENCES, MEETINGS, & WORKSHOPS

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

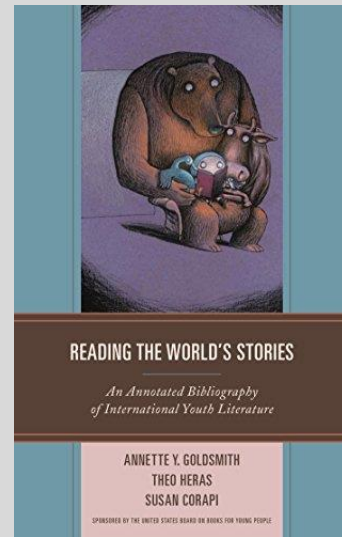
- **Highlights Foundation Workshops,** <http://www.highlightsfoundation.org/upcoming-workshops/>
- **5th Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference,** April 25-27, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- **3rd Asia Oceania Regional Conference,** May 9-12, 2017, Bangkok, Thailand
- **Children's Literature Association (CHLA),** June 22-24, 2017, Tampa, FL [www.childlitassn.org](http://www.childlitassn.org)
- **American Library Association Annual Conference,** June 22-27, 2017, Chicago, IL <http://2017.alaannual.org/>
- **International Reading Association,** July 15-17, 2017, Orlando, FL <https://literacyworldwide.org/conference/>
- **20<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Literacy,** July 3-6, 2017, Madrid, Spain <http://aelemadrid2017.com/en/xx-european-conference/>
- **4th African Regional Conference,** August 22-24, 2017, Kampala, Uganda
- **12th USBBY/IBBY Regional Conference,** October 20-22, 2017, Seattle, Washington, USA
- **21<sup>st</sup> Congresso Internacional Lectura 2017,** October 24-28, 2017, Havana, Cuba

Stay connected and  
find out the latest  
news about USBBY



## Available Now

The newest volume in the Bridges to Understanding series, *Reading the World's Stories: An Annotated Bibliography of International Youth Literature* is now available. This volume joins *Children's Books from Other Countries* (1998), *The World Through Children's Books* (2002), *Crossing Boundaries* (2006), and *Bridges to Understanding: Envisioning the World through Children's Eyes* (2011). Information about these volumes is available at <https://rowman.com/Scarecrow>



## CELEBRATIONS & EVENTS

Every spring and summer there are many opportunities to celebrate literacy and emphasize the importance of reading children's and young adult literature.

**International Children's Book Day**, April 2, 2017, check out the USBBY website at <http://www.usbby.org/icbd.html> for ideas about how you can participate and celebrate this day!

**Día de los niños/Día de los libros**, April 30, 2017 <http://dia.ala.org/>

**National Poetry Month**, April is National Poetry Month. Check out the many ideas for celebrating poetry at <https://www.poets.org/national-poetry-month/home>

**School Library Month**, April, 2017, is the American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) celebration of school librarians and their programs. Information can be found at <http://www.ala.org/aasl/slm>

**National Library Week**, April 9-15, 2017 sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country. Check out <http://www.ala.org/conferencesevents/celebrationweeks/natlibraryweek>

**National Readathon Day**, April 23, 2017 <http://www.readathonday.com>

**Children's Book Week**, May 1-7 2017, is the national celebration of books and reading for young people sponsored by the Children's Book Council.

See the fall 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, 2017 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/dia/>

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





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updated 7.20.16