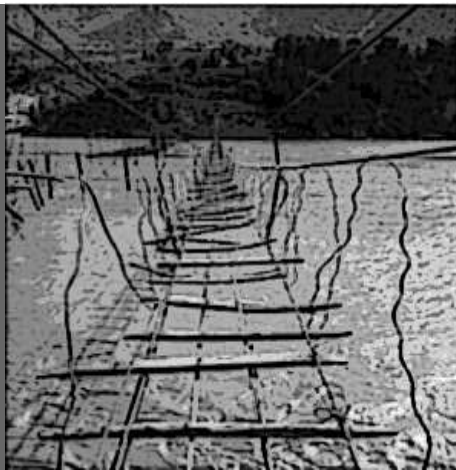


bridges

A PUBLICATION
OF USBBY



United States Board on Books for Young People

The US National Section of IBBY

Building International Bridges through Children's and Young Adult Literature

Fall 2014 Volume XXXX No.2

11TH IBBY REGIONAL CONFERENCE

New York City
October 16-18, 2015

Save the
Date!

The Wonderland of Children's Books

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



iBBY



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 Reading 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.

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TO JOIN

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

SUBMITTING ARTICLES AND NEWS TO BRIDGES

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



From the USBBY President Janelle Mathis

Fall 2014

Dear USBBY Members,

As this newsletter is published many of you are returning to schools where you serve in a variety of educational positions—all significant in getting stories through books into the hands of children as well as receiving the stories that these books illicit from young readers. Other members and interested people reading this are continuing their critical ongoing tasks as public librarians, publishers, and booksellers—making possible the role of teachers and school librarians but also sharing these books in a variety of ways at conferences, through digital sources, and face-to-face discussions. Those who share their stories with others, the creators of books across the world, continue to write and illustrate stories from their own lives and about the world around them providing joy, insight, companionship, and a sense of global community for young readers. And yet others of you dedicate time to the crucial task of supporting USBBY and IBBY through expertise and committee service, membership, and sharing our organization with others. USBBY, by nature of its important comprehensive mission, affords all members the opportunity to be actively involved within their own contexts while acknowledging their membership in a global community of people dedicated to international literature for children. So to all members I want to extend great appreciation for what you do daily in carrying out the mission of USBBY and IBBY.

As we look for opportunities to join in sharing our successes, challenges, concerns and new insights, several opportunities are before us. Every two years, IBBY holds a Congress at which members from around the world join for four days of exploring issues through diverse presentations and dialogue. We acknowledge those who have been in the forefront of publication and engaged in programs that bring literature to children in a variety of situations. We explore books on various IBBY honor lists. We celebrate the cultural traditions of the host country as well as the many cultures represented throughout the program. Indeed it is a time of acknowledging who we are as an organization. This year the 34th IBBY Congress was held in Mexico City from September 10 -13. Whether you were able to attend IBBY Mexico or not, you might want to plan ahead for 2016 when IBBY will be held in New Zealand.

USBBY holds an IBBY Regional Conference in the years between the IBBY Congress meetings. Many of you have attended the IBBY US Regional Meeting and can attest to the excellence in speakers, the continuous dialogue, the reinvigorating atmosphere and the community formed that will always be part of your memories. The next USBBY Regional Conference is to be held October 16-18, 2015, in New York City and will feature both international and national speakers. “The Wonderland of Children’s Books” is the theme for this event and within this newsletter you will find some exciting plans already in place from the committees currently involved under the leadership of Doris Gebel. Consider now adding this to your fall 2015 plans.

If you attend conventions for the American Library Association, International Reading Association or National Council of Teachers of English, you may be well aware of the opportunity to attend the co-sponsored sessions held at each event. Upcoming meetings already have an outstanding array of speakers, some of which are shared in this newsletter.

Our State Ambassador Program frequently includes activities at various sites that invite people to become involved with USBBY initiatives on a more local level, such as presentations at local meetings or book discussions around the Outstanding International Book list that a USBBY committee selects yearly. A list of State Ambassadors is available on our website as are other opportunities for involvement (<http://usbby.org/getinvolved.html>).

USBBY is an active organization due to the involvement and support of its members. Spreading word of its critical role in getting books into the hands of all children as well as the potential resources it offers is a way we can each be involved every day. Signing the petition for the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (information found on our website) as well as inviting new members are other examples of how you can support USBBY. As we strive to increase our membership, please share these many activities that are ongoing with others who wish to find a community where they can share their joy of literature with others around the world.

Again, I appreciate all our members do to sustain the USBBY/IBBY mission.

Sincerely,

Janelle Mathis
USBBY President 2014-2015

**Nominations Currently Being Accepted for the
Alida Cutts Lifetime Membership Award**

The Alida Cutts Lifetime Membership Award committee is requesting nominations for the next recipient of this award. As stated in the USBBY handbook:

This award, given in honor of Alida Cutts long-time USBBY Executive Director, provides a lifetime membership in USBBY. The award was initiated during Junko Yokota's presidency in 2001 and awarded for the first time in 2001. The award is presented at the banquet during the IBBY Regional Conference every two years.

Criteria for selection:

1. an individual who has given extraordinary service to USBBY over many years
2. an individual who is not currently a member of the Board of Directors.

The deadline for nominations is November 30, 2014 with a decision made to present to the board at the February 2015 meeting for approval. The award will be presented at the IBBY US Regional Conference in New York City in October 2015. Past winners of the award are:

2001-Alida Cutts; 2003-no award was given; 2005-Mary Lou White; 2007-Joan Glazer; 2009-Katherine Paterson and Ann Pellowski, 2011-Judy O'Malley and 2013-Carl Tomlinson.

If you wish to nominate an individual, please send your nomination and a short narrative of why this person is being nominated to Janelle Mathis (Janelle.mathis@unt.edu). Other committee members include Joan Atkinson and Deborah Wooten.

Executive Director Update

Submitted by V. Ellis Vance, USBBY Executive Director

USBBY Members Connect with the World.

World-renowned author and lifetime USBBY member, **Katherine Paterson**, has said that “It is not enough to simply teach children to read; we have to give them something worth reading. Something that will stretch their imaginations—something that will help them make sense of their own lives and encourage them to reach out toward people whose lives are quite different from their own.”

By joining the international network of people involved in IBBY National Sections you are connected to others who are committed to bringing books and children together. IBBY now has 80 national sections with new sections being organized every year. These sections are worldwide and in every continent except Antarctica.

USBBY has a goal of at least 500 members each year. Renewal notices are sent out via email several months in advance of membership expiration. Frequent reminders are sent out when members are late in renewing. In addition, you are invited to check with the Executive Director at Executive.Director@usbby.org if you are not sure whether your membership is current.

Membership cards will now reflect the Member Renewal Date rather than Membership Expiration Date. The Member Renewal Date is determined as the month a member first joined USBBY according to information in the database. The cards will also show a member’s Anniversary Date, the year a member first joined.

Members who have not renewed within a month of their renewal dates will be suspended from the active members’ list and will cease to receive email communication or other information.

In addition to individual members, USBBY welcomes new and continuing publisher and institutional members as well as authors and illustrators. These members are listed on the USBBY website.

We are also very pleased with the number of student members who are joining USBBY thanks to the efforts of teacher education professors in universities and colleges across the United States. Our young members are very important to us if the organization is to continue to grow and be healthy in the future. They will participate on our committees, help plan our biennial IBBY/USBBY Regional Conferences and serve as State Ambassadors and Board members. They are our future!

Speaking of the USBBY State Ambassadors Program, it was formed under the leadership of former President, **Kathy Short**, and current Secretary, **Evie Freeman**. Its purpose is to promote the use of literature to build international understanding and to spread the word about USBBY as a professional organization. The goal is to involve more USBBY members in activities related to our mission within their states as well as to gain new members. These activities can 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. USBBY currently has 43 state ambassadors representing 29 states. If you are interested in serving as a State Ambassador, contact Kathy at shortk@u.arizona.edu or Evie at freeman.5@osu.edu.

Because of the ambassadors program, USBBY continues to increase with new members. Seventeen new members have joined since January and beginning with this issue of *Bridges*, we want to welcome them into the USBBY family. They are: Joan Ramirez (New Jersey), Shanti Liverpool (Florida), Patricia McMahon (Texas),

Robin Kurtz (Louisiana), Amy Philpott (California), Margaret Papillon (Florida), Bri Johnson (New York), Diana Porter (Kentucky), Janet Mumford (British Columbia Canada), Leigh Neithardt (Ohio), Karen Eriksson (Washington), Jacqueline Narkiewicz (New York), Carolyn Sellers (Missouri), Allison Devlin (Pennsylvania), Judy Koch (California), Jennifer Buntjer (New Mexico), and Rachel Salas (California).

Congratulations to our State Ambassadors for their good work and welcome to our newest members. We hope that all will become involved in one of USBBY's many committees. A list of these committees can be found on the USBBY website, www.usbby.org.

11th IBBY Regional Conference, October 16-18 2015, New York City.

Plans for the New York City conference continue to grow under the leadership of Doris Gebel, Conference Program Chairperson and Constance Vidor, Local Arrangements Chairperson. **With the conference theme: *Celebrating the Wonderland of Children's Books***, there will be a direct connection to the celebration of the publishing of *Alice in Wonderland* 150 years ago. This will include *Alice* exhibitions at museums and other locations in New York City sponsored by the Lewis Carroll Society during the time of the conference. Because this is such a unique opportunity, USBBY is working with the Society to provide a direct link where information will be available for those who want to attend both events. Beginning in January 2015, as more information is received, USBBY members will be updated regularly regarding the schedule for both the conference and the exhibition. The conference link on the USBBY website, www.usbby.org, will provide a good source for all current conference information.

IBBY World Congress 2014: Mexico City, September 10-13.

Besides an extraordinary program of outstanding world-renowned speakers and special exhibits, many special events were scheduled. On Wednesday evening, there was a Welcome Ceremony and the 2014 Hans Christian Andersen Awards Dinner at the Biblioteca de Mexico honoring HCA winners **Roger Mello** (Brazil) for illustration and **Nahoko Uehashi** (Japan) for writing.

On Thursday, all USBBY members attending the Congress were invited to attend the IBBY Forum at the Fiesta Americana Reforma Hotel. The topic for discussion was ways to guarantee the financial stability and sustainability of your National Section through fund raising strategies and activities. **Evie Freeman**, USBBY Secretary and co-chairperson of the State Ambassadors Program, spoke about the Ambassadors Program as a way to build membership. Time will also be given for regional representatives to meet, discuss and share.

On Friday, a special session showcasing the 2014 IBBY Honour List was presented. The IBBY Honour List is a biennial selection of outstanding, recently published books, honoring writers, illustrators and translators from IBBY member countries. The IBBY Honour List is one of the most widespread and effective ways of furthering IBBY's objective of encouraging international understanding through children's literature. On Friday evening, at the Papalote Children's Museum, the 2014 IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Awards was presented at a Gala Reception. Receiving awards were **The Children's Book Bank** in Toronto (nominated by IBBY Canada) and **PRAESA (The Project for the Study of Alternative Education in South Africa)**, a project in Cape Town, South Africa (nominated by IBBY Sweden). Each received an award of \$10,000 provided by the Japanese newspaper company, Asahi Shimbun.

On Saturday, all participants were encouraged to attend the IBBY General Assembly where presentations were given about the work of IBBY around the world. A new IBBY Executive Committee (EC), to serve 2014-2016, was elected by the voting delegates from each eligible national section. President, **Janelle Mathis**, represented USBBY as our voting delegate. The new incoming EC was introduced and outgoing EC members were recognized for their contributions to IBBY. Outgoing were President, Ahmad Redza Ahmad Khairuddin

(Malaysia), Hans Christian Andersen Jury President, Maria Jesus Gil (Spain), Vice-Presidents, and EC members Hasmig Chahinian (France) and Linda Pavonetti (USA), Marilar Aleixandre (Spain), Gulcin Alpoge (Turkey), Nadia El Kholi (Egypt), and Kiyoko Matsuoka (Japan)

Candidates to be elected were Wally de Doncker (Belgium) IBBY President, Patricia Aldana (Canada) Hans Christian Andersen Jury President, and ten members to serve on the Executive Committee: Evelyn Freeman (USA), Azucena Galindo Ortega (Mexico), Ferelith Hordon (UK), Sunjidmaa Jamba (Mongolia), Marcella Karekye (Uganda), Angela Lebedeva (Russia), Aloss Ofori-Mensah (Ghana), Vagn Plenge (Denmark), Serpil Ural (Turkey), Timotea Vrablova (Slovakia), and Mingzhou Zhang (China). Also to be confirmed was IBBY Auditor, Frohlicher Treuhand (Switzerland).

The Congress concluded on Saturday evening with a Gala Concert at the beautiful Palacio de Bellas Artes and a Closing Ceremony/Cocktail at the Franz Mayer Museum.

More complete program information can be found on the congress website: www.ibbycongress2014.org.

Bookbird: IBBY's Journal of International Children's Literature.

The board of Bookbird, Inc. is delighted to announce the appointment of Dr Björn Sundmark as incoming editor, 2015 until 2018. He will succeed Dr Roxanne Harde (Canada), whose term of office as editor of *Bookbird* concludes in 2014.

Dr Sundmark is Associate Professor of English at the Faculty of Education, Malmö University, Sweden. He is currently research editor of *Barnboken*, an online children's literature journal published by the Swedish Institute of Children's Books and is a former editor of *Educare*, an educational research journal published by Malmö University. He also serves on the children's literature committee of the Swedish National Cultural Council. Björn is a member of IBBY, Sweden and is a current member of the Editorial Review Board of *Bookbird*. His publications include the study *Alice in the Oral-Literary Continuum* (Lund University Press), the co-edited volume *The Nation in Children's Literature* (Routledge) and several articles on Selma Lagerlöf, Lewis Carroll, Andrew Lang, Walter Scott and Hesba Stretton.

Commenting on his appointment, Dr Sundmark stated his commitment to maintaining the high publication standards of *Bookbird*, remarking that 'my vision for *Bookbird* begins with what it is: a rare bird combining the academic with the journalistic, a creature both international and regional, a publication for the expert as well as for the interested layperson. Most publications in the field are either oriented towards academia, publishing professionals or book lovers, but *Bookbird* caters successfully for members of the children's literature community, whatever their perspectives, throughout the world. I would like to keep it that way'.
Reprinted from the IBBY Website.

Both outgoing and incoming editors attended the IBBY Congress in Mexico City.

IBBY Yamada Projects.

Projects approved for funding in 2014 were in Bolivia, Ecuador, Indonesia, Lebanon, Mexico, Peru, and Zambia. Each project received 5,000 Swiss Francs. Since 2006, the IBBY-Yamada Fund has funded projects in the amount of over 375,000 Swiss Francs. Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Yamada (Japan), projects will continue to be funded for another five years. For more information on each funded project, go to the IBBY Website, www.ibby.org, under Activities, IBBY-Yamada Programme.

Donations are continuing to support the much needed project for Syrian Refugee Children in Lebanon and can be made at the IBBY website or on the USBBY donation website. An update about this project can be found in this issue of *Bridges*, sent to us by Julinda Abu Nasr, USBBY twinning partner in Lebanon.

IBBY Facebook.

The new IBBY Facebook page is continuing to thrive according to IBBY Executive Director, Liz Page. It has been successful in promoting IBBY-related news and events. According to the Facebook statistics, the users are 'liking' more posts and sharing news. Recent statistics show that 23% of the users are between 25-34 years old and this is seen as a positive reflection on the organization with the potential of new young members. National sections are requested to keep it up to date with their IBBY activities, comments, suggestions and links. The website is <https://www.facebook.com/ibby.international>.

**IN MEMORIAM
Walter Dean Myers**



Walter Dean Myers, children's and young adult book author, died July 1, 2014. He was 76 years old.

Myers had a noteworthy career. He wrote more than 100 books for children and young adults. His work included two Newbery Honor Books, three National Book Award Finalists, and six Coretta Scott King Award/Honor-winning books.

In 2010, Myers was the United States nominee for the Hans Christian Andersen Award.

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

Members since 1985 (29 years):

Junko Yokota

Members since 1987 (27 years):

Deborah Pope

Dorothy Solomon

Ann Beneduce

Margaret Jensen

Katherine Paterson

Carl Tomlinson

Members since 1988 (26 years):

Betsy Hearne

Amy Kellman

Barbara Maxwell

Susan Stan

Barbara Barstow

Roslyn Beitler

Rebecca Burgess

Grace Ruth

Barbara Lehman

M. Jerry Weiss

Anne Pellowski

Alida Cutts

Members since 1989 (25 years):

Susan Patron

Maureen White

Holly Willett

Eliza Dresang

Laura Robb

Spotlight on Longtime USBBY Member Junko Yokota



I grew up in Okinawa, Japan (then an occupied territory of the USA) in a neighborhood of families from many, many different countries. As a teacher, I was naturally intrigued with the idea of books from around the world. Imagine my delight in finding out about USBBY by reading the IRA program book in 1985 and seeing the cosponsored session description. There, I met Nancy Larrick and Ralph Steiger who warmly welcomed attendees. A month or so later, I walked with anticipation to a meeting I found announced in the ALA Conference book: USBBY Meeting. I quickly learned that it was a board meeting and that they were considering hosting an IBBY International Conference. But first, wouldn't I like to go to Japan, my homeland, for the next IBBY international congress? My mother paid my registration, I commuted from her home in the suburbs to Tokyo city center, and a long-time family friend kept my three-month-old baby during the meetings. My Japanese language came in handy as I escorted Nancy Larrick to Japanese gardens, took Mary Lou White, Alida Cutts and other USBBY members to the bookstore to meet Mitsumasa Anno, and found myself surrounded by like-minded people dedicated to promoting children's books as fodder for thinking and discussing rich stories with children around the world. I had found my professional home.

In 1986, I met Japanese author/illustrator Shigeo Watanabe. 25 years later, I met his son, Tetsuta Watanabe, who runs a Bunko (home library) out of his home in Australia, a connection made when his wife's book was among the ones I was studying for the Hans Christian Andersen Jury. Many paths cross over and over in surprising ways.

In the 30 years since then, I have served on numerous committees, the USBBY Board of Directors, as President, and now as Secretariat. I have served IBBY as a juror on the Hans Christian Andersen Award, and as Bookbird, Inc. Secretary. I feel fortunate to have friends and colleagues around the world who share the passion of the work we do together. Many friends from that early era are no longer with us: Nancy Larrick, Ralph Steiger, Margaret McElderry, Dorothy Briley, and many others. Others continue to be vitally involved in USBBY (yes -- you, Joan Glazer, Ann Pellowski, Jan Watkins and others!). Over the years, newer members continue to join and contribute selflessly. I look forward to what our futures in USBBY/IBBY hold for the years ahead.

I B B Y

1986



Nancy Larrick in front of Kodomo no Okiro -- "Children's Castle"

This was my first IBBY Congress. I had attended the USBBY Session at IRA where Nancy Larrick encouraged me to attend the Tokyo meeting.



Mitsumasa Anno at the exhibition of original art from All in a Day.



Mitsumasa Anno rummaging around in his shopping bag from St. Mary's Bakery ... for props to show throughout his keynote speech.



Shigeo Watanabe signing...



Flowers for Australian author Patricia Wrightson for the Andersen Award.





**Nancy
Larrick**



OPEN LETTER FROM IBBY FOUNDATION PRESIDENT
Patricia Aldana
(Reprinted with permission from the IBBY Website)

IBBY Statement Regarding the Current Situation in Gaza

The International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) was established shortly after the close of World War II. IBBY's founder, Jella Lepman, believed that books could build bridges of understanding and peace between people. The children needed to know what all good readers know: you are not alone; others have experiences, feelings and needs just like you do, and there is a whole world out there you know nothing about. The children of Gaza are trapped in a life that revolves around hate and oppression.

Since 2008 IBBY (the International Board on Books for Young People) has been supporting two new children's libraries in the Gaza Strip. One library is situated in the northern community of Beit Hanoun near the Israeli border. The other is in the south in the town of Rafah, close to the border crossing with Egypt. The funding for the libraries came from the great American children's author Katherine Paterson and her family foundation. The books selected by IBBY experts in the region took months to arrive. The librarians had to be trained long distance. People from the region could not visit Gaza and the residents of the Gaza Strip were forbidden by the Israelis to travel for their training.

But they did manage to open at last. And to re-open after the invasion of Gaza, even though some of the young users were killed.

Reports from our libraries were encouraging but no one from IBBY had actually ever had the chance to visit them. Finally in that hopeful but brief moment known as the Arab Spring there was an opening. In 2013 a small IBBY delegation travelled to the Egyptian side of the Rafah crossing and finally crossed over into Gaza. IBBY's President, President of the IBBY Foundation, the Executive Director, and the head of our Palestinian section took this exceptional opportunity of seeing those libraries with our own eyes. They exceeded our expectations.

We found Gaza a quite unexpected place. At that moment the tunnels were still operating. Qatar had provided construction materials to rebuild the smashed buildings and crippled infrastructure destroyed during the invasion. There was plenty of food on store shelves. It all seemed much better organized and less poverty-stricken than we had imagined.

But this first impression of peace and order quickly started to shred as we talked to the families and children who used the Rafah library. The older kids work in the fields after school to help to support their families. But the library loomed large in their lives. Whether after school or work children would walk often as far as a kilometre to get to the library. When they get there they have options.

Some choose to play football in a small enclosed yard that surrounds the library. Or they may go inside to read books, take turns on the sole computer, sing songs, write and illustrate stories, or just sit around chatting. When they are in the library they are safe. No one can come in and try to recruit them. They are free to choose their own books and write and say what they feel. Amazingly enough they reported that their favourite book was Cinderella! The children and their parents waited six hours for us to cross the border so that they could tell us how important this place had become for them. It was their sanctuary – the world outside the library simply wasn't safe.

The children in Beit Hanoun in the north were less easy-going, more nervous even though their parents told us that the kids were less agitated and restless when they came to the library. They told us a lot about how frightening it was to hear drones overhead because they all knew someone who had been killed in a supposedly “surgical, targeted” strike aimed only at militants. These kids had experienced the brunt of two invasions of Gaza. They claimed the second shorter invasion was worse because they knew what was in store for them. There are no bomb shelters in Gaza. Should one stay home when bombs started to fall or go out? They had friends and neighbours who died doing both.

Today these children’s worst fears have come true. The borders are closed tight again. Bombing has resumed. Rafah is being targeted. An invasion is possible. But the people living in Gaza cannot become refugees. They have nowhere to go. Nowhere to hide their children when they are being bombed. Even Syrians, terrible though their situation might be, can flee and seek refuge. Children and their families in Gaza are locked in while war is being made upon them. And as is always in true in a war, children are dying daily in disproportionate numbers.

Gaza residents are invisible. Anything, apparently, can be done to them with impunity. There is a stated policy justifying targeted killings, firing into houses, knowing that there will be “collateral damage”. Where else in the world is this considered acceptable? Does this not qualify as a crime against humanity?

IBBY’s libraries are now closed, who knows for how long. The children who relied on them as a safe space where they could read and write and play are forced to live in fear at home. A young man that we met on the bus as we were leaving Gaza was on his way to Egypt to meet his mother for the first time in 15 years. She had gone to visit relatives and never been allowed back leaving him with an indifferent father and a not very enthusiastic stepmother. He was unbearably excited at the idea of seeing his mother again, but terrified that an arbitrary Egyptian official wouldn’t let him in. He asked us why the Israelis hated him when he had never done anything to them. One wonders where he is right now.

With this brief, but first-hand impression of Gaza and its children, I hope that you will be moved enough to urge your heads of governments to listen to IBBY. 2014 marks the 25th anniversary of the **Convention on the Rights of the Child**. This offensive by the government of Israel is abhorrent to all people, especially to the children of Palestine.

Ahmad Redza Ahmad Khariruddin, President of IBBY, Malaysia; Patricia Aldana, President of the IBBY Foundation, member of the Order of Canada; Jehan Helou, President of IBBY Palestine; Liz Page, IBBY Executive Director, Switzerland

USBBY Note: The United States is one of three countries in the United Nations that has not signed the **Convention on the Rights of the Child**. The other two are Somalia and Sudan. This is not just embarrassing, but incomprehensible. Letters have been sent to the President, the Secretary of State, and the U.S. Representative to the United Nations. No replies have been received to date. **We ask our members to contact their senators and representatives in the U.S. Congress requesting that the United States becomes a signatory to this document.**



Before and after photographs of the IBBY Library in the Gaza Strip

NOTE: This website provides an IBBY update on what is happening in Gaza to our friends and twinning partner:
<http://www.ibby.org/index.php?id=257>

Bookbird: A Journal of International Children's Literature

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

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

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

Ruth Lowery and Deborah Thompson at

thedragonlode@gmail.com

For more information go to

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

Spring 2015: Moving Beyond the "All-White World" of Children's Books

For this issue, we seek manuscripts that not only focus on the "apartheid" of children's books published in the United States, but also on getting more international children's literature into the hands of child readers. USBBY and IBBY showcase a world of high quality international children's books that rarely get shelf space in the US— especially the schools and local bookstores. Why has the rapidly changing demographics of the United States not influenced a change in children's book publishing? How do we get more international books and books that focus on children of color into the hands of all of our children? What impact will more representative book choices have on children's literacy development and reading habits?

Submission deadline: October 31, 2014.

Fall 2015: What Is a Picture Book?

What is the place of our standard 32-page picture books and picture storybooks in this era of graphic novels and e-books? Are graphic novels even picture books? Are they illustrated books or comic books? Or are they an entirely different form of the picture book? Will e-books supplant traditional hard and soft cover picture books? Can one even call an e-book version of *Dr. De Soto* a picture book? We invite manuscripts that explore these questions as we examine the picture book in its twenty-first century iterations, and the influences (good or bad) these different iterations are having on children's reading ability and reading habits. **Deadline for Manuscripts: May 1, 2015.**

THANKS

to

Roxanne Harde

Outgoing Bookbird Editor

2011-2014

WELCOME

to

Björn Sundmark

Incoming Editor of *Bookbird*

2015 - 2018

Call for Papers for a special issue on Global Nonsense

Bookbird: A Journal of International Children's Literature invites contributions for a special issue exploring global nonsense literature. From Christian Morgenstern (Germany) to Sukumar Ray (India) to Kirsi Kunnas (Finland), nonsense literature is tied closely to local culture, historical events, artistic tradition, and linguistic interactions.

Full papers should be submitted to the editor, Björn Sundmark (bjorn.sundmark@mah.se), and guest editor, Michael Heyman (mheyman@berklee.edu) by 1 December 2014. Please see *Bookbird's* website at www.ibby.org/bookbird for full submission details.

ANNOUNCEMENT
Annual Membership Meeting and
Slate of Candidates for Election

The USBBY Nominating Committee is proposing the following Slate of Candidates to be voted on at USBBY's Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, November 22 during the USBBY-NCTE co-sponsored session at the NCTE Convention in Washington DC/National Harbor.

President-Elect

Therese Bigelow has worked in public libraries in Virginia, North Carolina and Missouri. Introduced to IBBY by Virginia Haviland, Therese has been a long-time member of USBBY and attended several World Congresses and IBBY Regional Conferences. She served as the chair of the 10th IBBY Regional Conference in St. Louis and is a past president of ALSC. She served for two years on the Books of International Interest Committee and welcomes the opportunity to serve as President-Elect.

Treasurer

Jim Stiles is a professor at Plymouth State University and is a longtime member of USBBY, serving two terms as an Elected Director-at-Large on the board. He has chaired the publicity committee and assisted with planning for two IBBY Regional conferences. Jim concludes his term as president of CLA for NCTE and would look forward to continuing to serve USBBY as treasurer.

Elected Directors-at-Large

Marion Rocco is the Early Childhood Librarian at the Magellan International School, a Spanish immersion International Baccalaureate school in Austin, TX. She is currently a member of the ALA Quicklists Consulting Committee and served on the 2014 ALA Batchelder Committee. Marion first joined USBBY in 2009 and traveled to the 2010 World Congress in Santiago de Compostela, Spain to present a poster on the art of the picture book. She has recently joined the team of USBBY State Ambassadors and looks forward to promoting international children's literature within the state of Texas.

Brenda Dales teaches children's and young adult literature in the Department of Teacher Education at Miami University in Ohio. She has been a USBBY member since 2009 and has served on the USBBY Outstanding International Books Committee as member and chair. She attended the IBBY regional conference in 2009, and attended plus presented a poster session in 2013. One of Brenda's passions is promoting international children's literature; she frequently presents on this topic and has contributed reviews to volume 5 of *Bridges to Understanding*. Brenda is also involved in ALSC.

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

Chair: Doris Gebel
Member: Linda Pavonetti
Member: Susan Stan

How to apply for the Bridge to Understanding Award

Applications and criteria for the 2015 Bridge to Understanding Award are available at www.usbby.org or from the USBBY secretariat at Secretariat@usbby.org. Phone: (224) 233-2030. To be considered the program must occur during the year 2014.

Deadline for submissions is January 31, 2015.

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

IBBY Announces the Winners of the 2014 IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Award Press Release from USBBY/IBBY websites

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

The Award is given every two years to two projects and presented to the winners at the biennial IBBY Congress. The IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Awards for 2014 go to The Children's Book Bank, Toronto, Canada and PRAESA, South Africa

The Children's Book Bank was founded in 2007 in Toronto with the mission of supporting children's literacy by recycling gently used children's books and distributing them, free of charge, to children living in high-needs neighbourhoods. The area where the Book Bank is located is one of Toronto's high density / low income neighbourhoods. It is also the first home to many new Canadians. There are 102 nationalities within a two kilometres radius of the Book Bank!

The Project for the Study of Alternative Education in South Africa, PRAESA is an independent unit for research and development, attached to the faculty of Humanities at the University of Cape Town. PRAESA was established in 1992 having emerged from the struggle against apartheid education. PRAESA organizes various projects for development of bilingualism and bi-literacy in early childhood education, as well as running activities developed to raise the status of African languages in society. It lobbies for language policy in education, especially the area of language policy within the education policy, and implementation at national and provincial government levels. Its focus is on a well-run mother tongue based bilingual system, that provides the best of both worlds for all children, where teachers and children communicate in a language they command and understand.

What is the Bridge to Understanding Award?

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

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

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

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

STATE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM BEGINS 4TH YEAR

Submitted by Evie Freeman and Kathy Short

The USBBY State Ambassador program began in June, 2011 with 14 State Ambassadors representing eight states. Today, there are 41 State Ambassadors representing 28 states. State Ambassadors are promoting international children's literature and the mission of USBBY in a variety of ways.

The USBBY list of Outstanding International Books (OIB) was the focus of several activities. Diana Porter (Kentucky) featured them in a column called "Book Look" in the Kentucky Reading Association newsletter. Meg Pyterek (Illinois) has distributed 2014 OIB bookmarks to many schools in northern Illinois. Constance Vidor (New York) hosted a "Read the World" discussion group for New York City Metro area librarians and educators with the Spring meeting focusing on the 2014 OIB list. Jamie Naidoo (Alabama) highlighted the list at the Kaigler Children's Book Festival in Hattiesburg, MS and the American Library Association Annual Conference. Wendy Stephens (Alabama) introduced USBBY and the OIB list at the Alabama School Library Association and the Alabama Educational Technology Conference.

State Ambassadors presented at local and state conferences. Diana Porter (Kentucky) will present "Looking for the Perfect Global Book? Look no Further!" at the Kentucky Reading Association Annual Conference in October. Deb Wooten (Tennessee) presented "The Votes are In: Students' Favorite Books from the Outstanding International Honor List" at the Tennessee Reading Association Annual Conference. Marilyn Ward (Wisconsin) will speak at the September meeting of the Racine-Kenosha Reading Council on "Explore the World with Books" during which she will also promote USBBY. Meg Pyterek (Illinois) prepared a visual display board and shared 2014 OIB bookmarks at the Illinois Reading Council and the Young Authors Conference. Robin Gibson (Ohio) presented "Bringing the World to Your Library: Using International Books in Everyday Practice" at the Ohio Library Council Central Chapter Conference.

In addition to state conferences, the ambassadors presented at national venues. Deb Wooten (Tennessee) presented "American Students' Responses to the Outstanding International Book Honor List" at the annual convention of the National Council of Teachers of English. Her co-presenter was Katie Raby who works for the USBBY Secretariat.

International Children's Book Day was celebrated during the month of April at the Westerville, Ohio Library with a display created by Robin Gibson (Ohio).



Photos courtesy of Robin Gibson can be accessed at <http://bkmuse7.tumblr.com/post/81544407557/the-new-globe-came-today-how-perfect-is-that>

Marilyn Ward (Wisconsin) has created OmniLibros: Children's Literature in the Global Age, an annotated bibliography/blog. Its purpose is to help teachers, librarians, parents, and young readers select and use recently published trade books that promote awareness across global cultures. So far, over 100 annotations have been posted. OmniLibros.com is visually appealing, easily navigable, and searchable. This wordpress site is still a work in progress and will be officially launched in mid-September. It is sponsored by the Center for Children's Literature at Carthage College, Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Jamie Naidoo (Alabama) has a new book that highlights the work of Jella Lepman in promoting cultural competence and the use of global literature (including USBBY and IBBY booklists) with children's digital apps as part of children's public library programming. His book is titled *Diversity Programming for Digital Youth: Promoting Cultural Competence in the Children's Library* (June 2014, Libraries Unlimited). Jamie also authored the 2014 ALA White Paper, "The Importance of Diversity in Library Programs and Material Collections for Children" which promotes the USBBY OIB list and IBBY.

Karen Kabrich (Arizona) identifies global/international children's books for her college library to order. She visits children's literature classes to promote USBBY and mentors new children's literature teachers to ensure that global children's literature is part of their curriculum. Constance Vidor (New York) shares information about USBBY events and resources with the Hudson Valley Library Association. Wendy Stephens (Alabama) created a distribution list for Alabama teachers and librarians to send information about USBBY and international children's literature. As a member of several New York state listserves for school librarians, Constance Vidor (New York) forwards the USBBY State Ambassador monthly email updates.

The activities of Florida State Ambassadors Nancy Ryan and Ruth Lowery are featured in this issue (see "Sharing Book Joy in the Sunshine State"). We congratulate Jamie Naidoo (Alabama) who has received a fellowship at the International Youth Library in Munich from October-December 2014.

These activities reflect only a few of the many ways our State Ambassadors are working within their states and nationally to promote the use of literature to build international understanding and spread the word about USBBY as a professional organization to encourage greater participation and awareness. The USBBY State Ambassador program is coordinated by Evie Freeman (freeman.5@osu.edu) and Kathy Short (shortk@u.arizona.edu). Contact Evie and Kathy if you are interested in becoming a state ambassador or have activities to report from your involvement within your state.

Thanks to our USBBY State Ambassadors

- **Alabama:** Jamie Naidoo and Wendy Steadman Stephens
- **Arizona:** Karen Kabrich and T. Gail Pritchard
- **Arkansas:** Mary Ellen Oslick
- **California:** Joan Schoettler
- **Connecticut:** Cathy Kurkjian
- **Florida:** Ruth McKoy Lowery, Nancy Ryan, and Christiana Succar
- **Illinois:** Margaret Pyterek
- **Indiana:** Edi Campbell
- **Kansas:** Blinn Sheffield
- **Kentucky:** Diana Porter
- **Maryland:** Ernie Bond
- **Massachusetts:** Bindy Fleischman
- **Michigan:** Betsy Susan Morgan
- **Mississippi:** Ellen Ruffin
- **Missouri:** Victoria Jones
- **Nevada:** Amelia Picklewiggle
- **New Jersey:** Joan Ramirez
- **New Mexico:** Yoo Kyung Sung
- **New York:** Connie Vidor, Alison Francis, and Alison O'Reilly
- **Ohio:** Renae Ekstrand, North Dakota; Holly Johnson, Debby Gold, and Robin Gibson
- **Oregon:** Maureen Milton
- **Pennsylvania:** Mary Napoli
- **Tennessee:** Deb Wooten and Ed Sullivan
- **Texas:** Ragina Shearer, Suzanne Monroe, and Marion Rocco
- **Utah:** Lauren Liang
- **Vermont:** Martha Walke
- **Washington:** Margaret Chang, Susan Corapi, and Laurel Heger
- **Wisconsin:** Laretta Henderson and Marilyn Ward

STATE AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT

In this edition of *Bridges* we continue to showcase the wonderful work of our state ambassadors. This fall, the spotlight is on Dr. Nancy Ryan, Associate Professor of Education, Saint Leo University in Gainesville, Florida and Dr. Ruth McKoy Lowery, Professor and Program Coordinator for The Ohio State University in Mansfield, OH.

Sharing Book Joy in the Sunshine State

by Nancy Ryan and Ruth Lowery



When we first began collaborating as USBBY state ambassadors, we decided to begin with a local International Children's Book Day (ICBD) event and see where it might lead in our quest to promote international understanding through children's books and spread the word about USBBY. Our inaugural event was intended to be small, but burgeoned as other lovers of children's books jumped aboard. On April 2, 2013, The University of Florida College of Education, Saint Leo University Education Department, Santa Fe College Library, PK Yonge Developmental Learning School, Alachua Library District, Center for Children's Literature and Culture, Friends of the Library and The International Center collaborated for the first time to sponsor a variety of ICBD events in Gainesville, FL. Barry Stewart Mann, storyteller extraordinaire, provided workshops throughout the day about the art of storytelling. He also shared "A World of Stories" at the public library and in several local schools. Czech-born author, Peter Sís, mesmerized educators, families and librarians as he talked about taking his ideas and creating "Books with Wings." Peter also visited with students at PK Yonge Developmental Learning School and spent time talking with curators at The Harn Museum. Over 600 people attended these events. This happy coincidence of people enabled us to develop relationships which have opened many opportunities for sharing book joy with children, our university students, teachers, librarians and parents during 2013-2014.



Peter Sís working with high school students at PK Yonge.

We have enjoyed working with local library district personnel to plan and facilitate multicultural and international author events. Our community enjoyed library-sponsored visits from Nikki Grimes, Grace Linn and Sharon Draper over the past year. Education majors from both our institutions have benefitted greatly from these opportunities as well!

Our pre-service teachers have also been involved in studying the literature of world cultures within their education courses. They read and critique children's books and then present them through online peer discussions using Glogster, a digital platform used widely in schools. The students have enjoyed sharing this activity in their practicum classrooms. In one of our universities, we have created a new course specifically designed to nurture culturally sensitive teachers. International children's books play an integral role in this new course, aimed at developing understanding, nurturing empathy and promoting intercultural sensitivity.



A pre-service teacher's Glogster project.

Our relationship with The International Center has expanded significantly since that first ICBD planning committee. Our university students served as facilitators of Viva l'Europe, an annual event in downtown Gainesville. This year, we were invited to send several education majors to the three-day Confucius Institute workshop, designed to expand teachers' understanding of China and ways to include Chinese culture and language into their classrooms. After attending this recent event, one of our undergraduate students wrote: "I am sending this email to thank you for affording me the opportunity to take part in such an amazing workshop this past weekend. I enjoyed every minute of the workshop. I have to say that I learned more than I ever thought I could in fifteen hours. This workshop has sparked my interests in incorporating Asian culture, as well as others, in my classroom." She has agreed to share highlights from the institute with her peers during senior seminar in the fall.

Over the past year, we have deepened our relationship with The Harn Museum. Students from both our universities facilitate children's art, music and movement activities during a themed Family Night each month. We have expanded this to include international storytelling as well. In working to update The Harn's curricular resources for use in elementary classrooms, we have been able to create booklists to deepen children's independent explorations. In the coming year, we look forward to suggesting resources for sale in the museum bookstore that dovetail with both upcoming and permanent exhibits. Museum docents have enjoyed reading fiction and non-fiction books we have suggested as they prepare for new tours.

In our local schools, we have become increasingly aware that teachers tend to use resources they know. We are often saddened to see a dearth of international children's books being promoted on posters of teacher favorites or showcased in hallway displays. For the upcoming year, we are piloting monthly international book discussions within the school district. Seven teachers, along with one of us, will each read the same book and come together to discuss it via Google hangout. We hope to expand our repertoire to engaging in author studies. If all goes well, we can support numerous teacher-facilitated book/author discussions throughout the state of Florida and, perhaps, around the world!

As we look at the upcoming year, we are enthusiastic about our work as ambassadors and look forward to welcoming more ambassadors to the state of Florida as Ruth moves to Ohio. What have we learned? Building Relationships + Promoting Global Understanding = Book JOY!



Spending summer days on the trampoline with Grace Lin.

Thanks to USBBY State Ambassadors Nancy Ryan and Ruth Lowery for all their efforts to promote the use of literature to build international understanding!

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Arne Nixon Center at California State University Fresno Announces Conference on Censorship

What: *The Naked Truth About Censored Literature for Young People*

Where: Arne Nixon Center for the Study of Children's Literature

The Henry Madden Library at California State University Fresno

When: April 10-12, 2015

For general information, location, call for proposals, topics, confirmed speakers, activities, and registration go to www.outlelawed2015.com.

Planning Ahead Upcoming IBBY Congresses

2016: Auckland, New Zealand will host the 35th IBBY Congress, August 30-September 3, 2016. The theme of the 35th IBBY Congress is *Literature in a Multi-Literate World*.

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

COMING NOVEMBER 2014

USBBY-NCTE Co-Sponsored Session James McMullan Global Explorations in Children's and Young Adult Literature: Multiple Ways of Knowing

James McMullan will present the research on his newest book, *Leaving China*. McMullan is an internationally recognized designer and illustrator, garnering recognition for his 70 posters created for the Lincoln Center Theater. He received the Society of Illustrators' prestigious Hamilton King Award. Jim and his wife, Kate McMullan, are the creators of the bestselling picture book series (*I Stink!*, *I'm Dirty!*).



The session will open with a presentation of the 2014 Outstanding International Books for Children and Young Adults. Participants will receive a handout of author information and a list of the 2014 Outstanding International Books for Children and Young Adults.

Submitted by Ruth Lowery

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 Reading Association (IRA) Annual Co-Sponsored Session

USBBY holds a co-sponsored session at the Annual Convention of the International Reading 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.

COMING JULY 2015

IRA-USBBY Co-Sponsored Session in St. Louis, Missouri

Ruta Sepetys

Learning About Lives Transformed: Promoting International Understanding Through Historical Fiction



Sepetys will discuss elements of craft involved in her creation of high-quality young adult historical fiction. She will focus on three areas: the research behind her works, issues of cultural authenticity, and the reception of her work in countries other than the United States.

Sepetys' debut novel, *Between Shades of Gray*, was a New York Times Bestseller. Thanks to Penguin Publishing for sponsoring this presentation. For more information about the author, check out <http://rutasepetys.com/>

Submitted by Lauren Liang

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.

**Deborah Ellis Speaks at the USBBY-IRA Co-Sponsored Session
May 2014**

Submitted by Terrell A. Young



Deborah Ellis, Sponsored by Greenwood Books

Deborah Ellis was the speaker at the USBBY Co-Sponsored Session at the 2014 International Reading Association Annual Convention held in New Orleans, Louisiana. The title of her session was “Reading for Power—Engaging Young Readers as a Force for Social Justice.”

Ellis began her presentation with a quote from Bernadette Devlin, “Power is hard to combine.” At first Ellis was not sure that she agreed with Devlin, but as she spent time interviewing Afghan women and girls in both refugee camps and prisons she realized how right Devlin is. Ellis stated, “People need power in order to have dignity. Hope is based on power.”

She discussed how the West funded the Taliban against the Russians. During that time the Taliban removed many teachers, especially those that were women. Ellis stated, “War makes us forget who we really are and what we can achieve.” For her book, *Kids of Kabul* (Groundwood, 2012), Ellis interviewed some incredible people. One girl she interviewed was in prison because she refused to marry an old man. The girl shared her dreams of getting an education.

Ellis noted that kids gain power through reading and writing. She stated, “Teachers’ work is both life changing and life saving.” Having books makes an incredible difference for kids. In Afghanistan, one or two years of schooling changed the way that people viewed the Taliban and its control over them.

The author shared that Parvana of the *Breadwinner* series is a composite of many girls’ experiences. Ellis discovered that many children in the refugee camps were the sole providers for their families.

Ellis also told about her two newest books, *Moon at Nine* (Pajama Press, 2014) and *The Cat At the Wall* (Groundwood, 2014), and how these books related to power. *Moon at Nine*, set in 1988 in Iran, is about two girls who fall in love and the consequences they face. Learning that the book is based on a true story makes it more heart wrenching. The other book, *The Cat at the Wall*, takes readers to Palestine and explores the pain of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The book weaves three stories together and is narrated by a cat that was once a teenage girl growing up in North America. In the first story, two Israeli soldiers enter an empty house to spy on the neighboring Palestinians and discover a young boy hiding there. In the next story, the cat reflects on the conflict she had with a teacher when she was a 13-year-old girl, and in the final story, the cat realizes what has happened to the young Palestinian boy's family.



President Janelle Mathis welcomes the audience to the USBBY-IRA Co-Sponsored Session



USBY Board Member Terrell Young introduces Deborah Ellis

**USBBY-ALA Co-Sponsored Session
June 2014, Las Vegas, Nevada**

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



Brian Conaghan presents at ALA 2014, Las Vegas

This June, in a corner of a remote ballroom of Caesar's Palace, Glaswegian native Brian Conaghan, beguiled a crowd comprised of USBBY stalwarts, enthusiastic young adult librarians, and intellectual freedom fighters at the USBBY program at the 2014 ALA Annual Conference.

The story of his protagonist Dylan Mint is deeply personal, as Conaghan related. Dylan, like Conaghan, has Tourette's Syndrome, but Conaghan gave voice to Dylan's struggle to control his symptoms, all the while contextualizing the condition for a teen grappling with so many other issues, while Conaghan himself was diagnosed as an adult. Dylan's struggle manifests in the metaphor that is the novel's title, *When Mr. Dog Bites*.

Though Conaghan now lives in Dublin, he describes his hometown of Glasgow as a city rife with sectarian and racial tensions, which lends another dimension to Dylan's deep friendship with his best pal Amir, who is Pakistani. After more literary pretensions, he said his decision to write the sort of book with genuine appeal for teens is a product of his own experience, reflecting his decision to leave school to work as a painter-decorator before returning to university. Conaghan's own work teaching at-risk youth informs his depiction of Dylan's love interest, Michelle Malloy. Michelle, like many of Conaghan's students, is oppositional-defiant, and has her own issues.

Conaghan shared the appeal of writing for teens with the USBBY group, saying that young people comprehensively analyze and inhabit texts, while adults tend to be more constrained in their reactions to literature. His book is laugh-out-loud funny, and while Conaghan says, "Glaswegians will joke about anything," but he notes that great humor often underpins great tragedy.

The realistic language from all characters provoked some controversy when the book was published in January in the UK, which warranted an article in Publisher's Weekly <http://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/childrens/childrens-industry-news/article/60954-ya-novel-when-mr-dog-bites-causes-stir.html> prior to its U.S. release this June. As Conaghan expressed, "When you're on the edges of society, the only weapon you have is your tongue."

Conaghan chose to read one of his book's most provocative passages to close his talk, the scene where Dylan invites Michelle to his house when his mother will be away with her boyfriend, and a predictably intimate scene ensues. Conaghan lingered afterwards to sign books and chat genially with his new and existing fans while attendees enjoyed the drinks and delicious nibbles generously provided by Bloomsbury Publishing.

When Mr. Dog Bites is replete with moments of almost Joycean lyricism, a real treat for the wide range of readers who will come to love Dylan, Amir, and Michelle Malloy, a character so compelling she will likely make another appearance in Conaghan's fiction.

Bloomsbury Children's Publishing representative and former USBBY Board Member Beth Eller arranged his appearance and recognized the broad appeal of Conaghan's charming stateside debut.



USBBY members celebrate author Brian Conaghan, his book, and his presentation at ALA



ALA Address
How Experiences Influenced Or Inspired The Book & Challenges Faced In Writing
Brian Conaghan

Quick Synopsis of *When Mr Dog Bites*

Most writers one time or another have all been told the same thing: **write what you are passionate about** and **write what you know**. Most writers, I'd wager, have their first 'UNPUBLISHED' manuscript sitting gathering cyber dust somewhere.

Well, I am no different.

In fact, I have a couple of 'unpublished novels' festering away in some computer files. What they each have in common is that they speak nothing of what I know nor do they focus on anything I am remotely passionate about. (*I bet you're just dying to read them.*) I doubt their destination will be a library shelf...but you never know!

So there I was hovering around a Dublin bookshop on a July afternoon in 2010 browsing the YA section (I was a secondary school English teacher at the time) when my Eureka moment struck. That's it, I said to myself. It's *teenagers* you should be writing about, Brian. After all you spend the majority of your working hours with them, you speak with them everyday and you were one yourself...a long time ago. There wasn't much I didn't know about teenagers.

The next day I sat down at my computer and rattled out the first chapter of what was to become *When Mr Dog Bites* quickly followed by the second chapter, then a third. I had a spring in my step. YES! I thought, I can do this.

The following morning I reread what I had written. My heart sank...the springs in my step had collapsed. My protagonist Dylan Mint troubled me, he didn't say or do anything remotely interesting. I'd go as far as saying he wasn't likable in any shape or form. I went for a walk, the mantra of *write what you know* reared its ugly head and wouldn't go away.

Write What You Know was all I heard for the rest of the day.

I found a quiet café and weighed up the pros and cons of placing Dylan Mint in my shoes – or the other way around – of giving him the same syndrome that I had. That being Tourette's Syndrome. *Write what you know*, right?

Like Dylan, Tourette's makes me tic, grunt, growl, bark, whistle, tuck my ears inside themselves, clench my fists and toes so hard that they hurt and shout random words/phrases in public and private. And, like Dylan, life can be full of stress, frustration, embarrassment and inner isolation. However, unlike Dylan each day for me is *not* a constant struggle to 'be normal.'

Greatest Challenge

To construct a character who was deemed by society to be different, have special needs, unfit for the mainstream education system and who hovered around the margins of society viewing it from afar BUT who was also not dissimilar to those teenage peers embedded within that very society. I wanted to create characters who were clever, funny, sensitive, honourable, compassionate; affable and young adults who had the same hang-ups, anxieties and unique way of looking at the world that most teenagers do.

But also I wanted to invent someone who couldn't be defined by his disability, someone who's thoughts, imagination and functioning couldn't be impeded by this syndrome.

Similar to the USBBY motto - *Building bridges of international understanding through children's and young adult books* - I too wanted to build my own bridges of sorts: of questioning what that sense of normality and disability actually means.

Deliberate Choices Made In Depicting The Characters And Their Behaviors

Kate Clanchy The Guardian

Glaswegians will tell jokes about anything, really, and to anyone: ironies so black you cannot believe they are ironies, jokes about the very worst thing in the world.

Initially the main choice was what level of Tourette's I would give Dylan: I chose to put Dylan in that 10-15 percentile. Therefore I knew from the outset that the language in the book would, at times, be rambunctious and often offensive.

Yes, there would be lots of swearing

Yes, there would be lots of profanity

Yes, there would be lots of inappropriate phrases and words

But, in my mind, if I wanted to portray these characters accurately, honestly and with the semblance of social and cultural truth, then I had to include these words.

For over a decade in my capacity as a secondary school English teacher I spent everyday of my working life with teenagers; overhearing their conversations and idle chat and listening to a discourse that was littered with swear words: words used to express humour, anger, emphasis, frustration, opinion, objection, foible etc...sure, we all do it, don't we?

Moreover, in my part of the world this is the reality of how language functions. I cannot hide behind the fact that the characters in my book do use bad language. They do use profanities and they do use objectionable words and phrases. Why? Well, aside from the issue of one character's Tourette's, I'm fully aware of the teenage voice in the town where *When Mr Dog Bites* is set.

I know this town really well:

I lived there.

I worked there.

I went to school there.

I spent all of my teenage years there.

All my family still live there.

So, to present an alternative discourse and speech pattern would've been dishonest and wholly misrepresentative on my part. The last thing I wanted to do was construct a sanitised version of these characters' reality.

Perhaps The Most Important Choice Made:

Was to include some of the more racially provocative terms. Certain characters, including Dylan and Amir, often use insensitive language, which we know is always going to offend someone somewhere.

That was not my intention.

With that said, I do believe that characters living in Dylan and Amir's world would definitely use this type of language as a way of expressing themselves whether that be for bravado, peer dominance, intolerance and sheer hatred purposes. Though some of the intent may not be malicious, it doesn't make the behavior right.

I thought long and hard about the use of hateful language throughout the writing and editing process and discussed it with both my agent and editor at Bloomsbury. Needless to say we all trod with a great deal of caution knowing how inflammatory this could be because the book would be primarily read by young people.

What I wanted to do was challenge racism and prejudice, by doing so I knew that I'd have used certain words that I, myself, wouldn't use in everyday speech; words that the vast majority of us understand to be highly irregular and offensive. And they are, but that's what racism is, that's the point. Surely it's incumbent upon artists, theatre-makers, teachers, librarians, politicians, parents, writers etc...to confront some of these ills of society?

What I Hope Readers Might Take Away From *Mr Dog*...

As a writer I am regularly asked the question, *what do I want readers to take away with them?* Well, I hope that despite their intermittent flawed behavior, readers will come to understand the characters in ***Mr Dog*...** are endeavouring to adapt to their environment, therefore I'd like them to empathise with their lives and struggles.

With ***Mr Dog*...** people presume that I want others to understand the trauma of what living with Tourette's is like. Unfortunately this is not the case. The last thing I wanted to write was a didactic novel.

Or, that writing this book was a major cathartic and liberating experience?

It wasn't. I had nothing to purge or purify myself from.

In truth my initial idea was rudimentary: Write a book about friendship between two teenage boys.

Subsequently I want my readers to acknowledge that teenagers – regardless of their developmental stage, their social and cultural environment – can be somewhat unified.

Unified in their similar thought processes.

Unified in their fears, aspirations, dreams and desires.

Even though, in *When Mr Dog Bites*, Dylan Mint is encouraged to believe that he stands out, that he's different...in a pejorative sense of the word...in my mind there is no significant difference between him and other teenagers his age. Dylan and other characters demonstrate an awkwardness that is recognizable in most pubescent teenagers, I'd argue.

I wanted to write about the EVERYMAN in teenager form.

I wanted to write a book about friendship, family, growing-up, camaraderie and love. But this teenager, Dylan Mint, just so happens to have Tourette's. I'd like to think this becomes less noteworthy as Dylan's journey progresses through the book. And that readers see the depths of the character before they're blinded by the exterior of the syndrome. And that characters are defined by what they say and do and not by what labels they lug around with them.

So a character has Tourette's: Big Deal.

So a character has autism: Big Deal.

So a character has ODD: Big Deal.

Those close to Dylan are well-acquainted and accepting of his Tourette's, just as people closest to me are. They are fully accepting of both our Mr Dog.

IBBY Press Release

IBBY Announces Winners of the 2014 Hans Christian Andersen Award #IBBYHCA

Reprinted from IBBY website

The Hans Christian Andersen Award Jury of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) named:

Nahoko Uehashi from Japan winner of the 2014 Hans Christian Andersen Author Award
Roger Mello from Brazil winner of the 2014 Hans Christian Andersen Illustrator Award



Hans Christian Andersen Award Winners

The Hans Christian Andersen Award #IBBYHCA, the most prestigious in international children's literature, has been awarded biennially to authors since 1956 and to illustrators since 1966 by the International Board on Books for Young People. It is given to an author and an illustrator whose complete works are judged to have made lasting contributions to children's literature. The Andersen medals and diplomas were presented to the winners at the 34th International IBBY Congress in Mexico City, Wednesday, 10 September 2014.

Nahoko Uehashi writes unique fantasy novels from the viewpoint of cultural anthropology. She believes one thing, that people from every corner of the world have in common is a love for telling stories. Her stories about honour and duty, fate and sacrifice, are refreshing as well as being authentically Japanese. Her fantasy worlds are loosely based on medieval Japan, while at the same time are very much worlds of her own making. Not content to simply create a landscape of geography and mythology, Uehashi includes allusions to the class system as well as the interaction between spiritual and moral dimensions.

Uehashi conceives worlds in which relationships exist among different planes: worlds seen as a network within the universe rather than merely as a space. She has an extraordinary ability to create different fantasy worlds and her work has tenderness and a great respect for nature and all sapient creatures.

Uehashi was selected from 28 authors nominated for the Award. The five finalists were **Ted van Lieshout** (Netherlands), **Houshang Moradi Kermani** (Iran), **Mirjam Pressler** (Germany), **Renate Welsh** (Austria), and **Jacqueline Woodson** (USA).

Roger Mello's illustrations provide avenues to explore the history and culture of Brazil. He does not

underestimate a child's ability to recognize and decode cultural phenomena and images. His illustrations allow children to be guided through stories by their imagination. Travel and discovery are important aspects of Mello's artistic expression and the rich content of his illustrations reflect his passion for folklore and for exploration of the world. Through his incredibly colourful and thrilling illustrated stories children gain deeper understanding both of their own culture and that of others around the world. He invites them to immerse themselves in different ways of life, thus establishing a respectful, appreciative understanding of other cultures. He shares his interests in Brazil and in international culture and ritual with his readers, taking them on a journey through time and space. His illustrations are innovative and inclusive, and they incorporate images that promote tolerance and respect for the world's cultures and traditions.

Mello was selected from 30 illustrators nominated for the Award. The five finalists were **François Place** (France), **Rotraut Susanne Berner** (Germany), **Øyvind Torseter** (Norway), **Eva Lindström** (Sweden), and **John Burningham** (UK).

The other author candidates were María Cristina Ramos (Argentina), Nadia Wheatley (Australia), Sevinj Nurugizi (Azerbaijan), Frank Andriat (Belgium), Joel Rufino dos Santos (Brazil), Kenneth Oppel (Canada), Hongying Yang (China), Lene Kaaberbøl (Denmark), Aino Pervik (Estonia), Kirsi Kunnas (Finland), Jean-Claude Mourlevat (France), Sofia Madouvalou (Greece), Eoin Colfer (Ireland), Bianca Pitzorno (Italy), Jin-Kyung Kim (Korea), Bjørn Sortland (Norway), António Torrado (Portugal), Vladislav Krapivin (Russia), Daniel Hevier (Slovakia), Polonca Kovac (Slovenia), Serpil Ural (Turkey) and Jacqueline Wilson (USA).

The other illustrator candidates were Isol (Argentina), Ron Brooks (Australia), Linda Wolfsgruber (Austria), Carll Cneut (Belgium), Philippe Béha (Canada), Liang Xiong (China), Svjetlan Junaković (Croatia), Charlotte Pardi (Denmark), Pekka Vuori (Finland), Daniela Stamatiadi (Greece), PJ Lynch (Ireland), Fabian Negrin (Italy), Ken Katayama (Japan), Byoung-Ho Han (Korea), Reinis Pētersons (Latvia), Marit Törnqvist (Netherlands), Teresa Lima (Portugal), Igor Oleinikov (Russia), Peter Uchnár (Slovakia), Alenka Sottler (Slovenia), Javier Zabala (Spain), Albertine (Switzerland), Saadet Ceylan (Turkey) and Bryan Collier (USA).

The ten members of the 2014 Jury, led by Jury President María Jesús Gil from Spain, are: Anastasia Arkhipova from Russia, Fanuel Hanan Díaz from Venezuela, Sabine Fuchs from Austria, Sangwook Kim from the Republic of Korea, Enrique Pérez Díaz from Cuba, Deborah Soria from Italy, Susan M. Stan from the USA, Sahah Tarhandeh from Iran, Erik Titusson from Sweden and Ayfer Gürdal Ünal from Turkey. Elda Nogueira from Brazil represented IBBY and Liz Page as Jury Secretary attended the meeting *ex officio*.



HCA Winners with the Press, Bologna Children's Book Fair, 24 March 2014

Building Global Partnerships

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

Haiti

- IBBY Haiti continues its work with children and families using bibliotherapy and the power of storytelling and reading to help them recover from the trauma experienced during the devastating earthquake.

Lebanon

- IBBY continues their work with Syrian refugee children who are fleeing from the war areas in Syria. See the special project described in this newsletter.

Palestine

The following is from a message from Liz Page, IBBY Executive Director. For the past five years IBBY has been supporting two children's libraries in Gaza through the IBBY Children in Crisis Fund. Therefore, it was with great dismay that the following message arrived this morning.

IBBY Libraries in Gaza/ Israeli Aggression, 19/7/2014

The two IBBY library areas that are border areas (Rafah and Beit Hanoun) have been heavily bombarded by Israeli military, thousands of Palestinians living there have been displaced. The two areas are now military zones after the Israeli land invasion. IBBY received this message from the librarian in Beit Hanoun, Abla Hassan, about the situation there before she was displaced two days. (It is getting worse).

The al-Ata' community based centre that hosts the library has been targeted and very badly damaged. The children's court yard has been destroyed as well as books, computers, windows and walls. As to houses of the children who use the library, three houses have been completely destroyed and thirty houses partially destroyed. The number of children or their family members killed is not known yet.

No known news about the library in al-Shawka – Rafah. All families are displaced including the librarian Mahmoud who left two days ago and described the situation it was 'horrific tens of civilians killed and tens of houses destroyed no specific news about the situation of the children using the library and the library building.

South Africa

The South African nominees for the 2014 IBBY Honor list are as follows.

- *Dreaming of Light* (Tafelberg) by Jayne Bauling
- *Leeus Met Letsels* (H&R) by Fanie Viljoen
- *The Herd Boy* (Jacana) by Niki Daly

Zambia

- **The new Mumuni Library** will officially open in November but children are already eagerly coming to the library and pulling books off the shelves so the staff decided to open the reading room a month early. A high percentage of the visitors to the new library are small children brought by their mothers or older siblings. Lubuto is working with the Nabukuyu community to develop early childhood programming based on Tonga traditions and stories.
- **LubutoDrama is an effective reading promotion.** Lubuto has been partnering with Barefeet to design LubutoDrama to develop scripts based on outstanding books. At the end of the drama, the library staff introduce the book which has been an effective way to promote reading.



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

IBBY CHILDREN IN CRISIS PROJECT

The following project was approved for Syrian refugee children in Lebanon:

The project addresses the needs of displaced Syrian children in elementary grade levels 4-5-6 in the Ras Beirut Integrated Public School. **Nasma Learning and Resource Center** will be responsible for the activities related to academic topics, namely, English and Math. **IBBY Lebanon** will be in charge of the behavioral management program that includes activities in reading, art, drama, music, rhythmic, and oral discussions. Social activities like trips, snacks and others will be the responsibility of both groups.

The objectives of the project are to:

1. Provide a therapeutic experience to help children drain some of the negative feelings, the residue of their exposure to so much violence.
2. Introduce socially accepted behavior through the use of exercises, story books, drama, conversation and art that will help children cope with anger, aggression, anxiety, fear, lack of tolerance, hate, bitterness and replace it with positive feelings and actions.
3. Train adults in implementing the program with the children.
4. Offer remedial work in the English language and math.
5. Contribute to building positive relations between Syrian and Lebanese students.

Donations are being requested to support this project in Lebanon and can be made at the IBBY website or on the USBBY donation website.

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@usbbby.org.

A Report on the Bibliotherapy Project for Displaced Syrian Children

Julinda Abu Nasr

Director of the Bibliotherapy Program
for Displaced Syrian Children in Lebanon
LBBY

The LBBY bibliotherapy program that was implemented in Lebanon on displaced Syrian children by Julinda Abu Nasr and four other teachers namely, Wassila Itani, Mona Kurjeh, Nafisa Turk, Myrna el Mughabbat, came to a close on the 17th of June, 2014. The program that spanned over a period of five months reached 240 children who were divided into two main groups, a morning group and an afternoon group. It was important to have small groups meet together to provide enough time for individual participation.

The group was a mosaic of girls and boys between the ages of 7-14. Some children were outspoken and expressed themselves loudly while others were withdrawn and passive; one had to gently urge them to speak or participate in organized activities. Others were very aggressive, physically and verbally and needed more attention and patience than others, while others were warm and loving expressing their affection by drawing pictures and dedicating them to their favorite teachers. They all enjoyed story reading and telling, they loved art work of any kind of which we had a variety. However, their favorite activity was acting, especially rough roles. They were good actors and actresses who enjoyed every minute of it and expressed themselves well.



The problems we faced through the whole period were minimal. We had to shift the timing of the session once while the school was trying to accommodate more children coming from Syria. This shift created some chaos due to the imbalance in the sizes of the groups, but the problem was taken care of quickly and both children and teachers adjusted to it without difficulty.

We were lucky to have a publisher, who is a member of LBBY, assisted by an NGO give each of the children two free books. Another treat we had for them was the visit of a well known illustrator who had a long session with them on drawing and illustrating. She selected the top seven best illustrations made by the children on paper plates she had provided and gave each one of them one of her books as a present. Another visiting author told and read some of her stories and discussed the stories with the children, which was lots of fun.



The climax of the program was the ceremony we had for the children during the last encounter. We invited a well known author to read for them a story she had written which was popular with the children. She did that with projections which was very interesting. In addition to the story the program included music, a slide show of the children's activities during the sessions, and some creative work by the children themselves. One presented a story he had written, another recited a poem by a Syrian poet about the importance of coexistence, and two boys sang a song they had written on friendship. There was a lot of laughter and fun which culminated in simple presents given to each one of them. They were so thrilled to get these presents because they came as a surprise.



For evaluating the effect of the program on the children we asked the other school teachers who were not part of our team to report any changes in the children's behavior in the classroom and in the playground. The positive reports we received from the teachers were very rewarding and encouraging. The majority of them reported a noticeable change in the children's behavior in general, especially in the classroom. The children were more articulate and less aggressive; they tried to solve their problems by talking about it rather than by fists and curses. They were more cooperative with adults and with other children. Their academic achievements had also improved because their concentration abilities in class proved to be better. They were less hyper and they were willing to listen while at the beginning one had to shout to get their attention.

Those of us who were working with the children could notice many of the behavioral changes reported. We were also satisfied to see the joy they were experiencing through their engagement in several activities of the program, through their regular attendance, through their early arrival to school, through their insistence on continuing the program, through their endearing comments to their teachers and through their optimistic art work as compared to the art work in the early weeks of the program.

In conclusion we can say that our efforts have been rewarded by making a little difference in the lives of traumatized children. I take this opportunity to thank each and every one of the IBBY family that assisted us in one way or another and especially those dear friends who generously sent donations that made the implementation of this program a reality. You were partners in helping us bring a smile to the face of an orphan, hope to a child whose childhood was stolen from him through the cruelty of adults who were misled themselves into the abyss of the misery of war.

Thank you IBBY family for your continued support and now we have enough money to implement the program with another group of children. We can be proud to be members of an organization that is a beacon of light to children and young people all around the world.

Reading Promotion Partners Meeting
Center for the Book, Library of Congress
Submitted by Maria Salvatore

Even the cold and snow on March 4, 2014 didn't chill the enthusiasm generated by attendees at the Reading Promotion Partners Meeting sponsored by the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress headed by Dr. John Cole.

Representatives from over two dozen private, not for profit, and governmental organizations came together in the Madison Building of the Library of Congress to share information and to network. After opening remarks, Dr. Cole called on participants to briefly introduce their organizations with the opportunity to highlight websites and address questions. In addition, the program and discussion featured information and ideas about several Library of Congress-related initiatives of special interest to partners.

It was my pleasure to represent USBBY, presenting basic information about its history and current activities. There was considerable interest in USBBY as a whole, many of its activities, and several questions about the Outstanding International Book (OIB) list. (All were seen on the website.)

A follow-up discussion has been held with one organization that is interested in exploring the possibility of using the OIB titles in conjunction with a summer reading program. It will be interesting if this comes to fruition.



Tom Ruppanner, CEO of the Read it LOUD! Foundation, chats with Robin Adelson, center, executive director of the Children's Book Council and Jane Meyers, president of the Lubuto Library Project. - John Cole From <http://www.loc.gov/loc/lcib/0805/detail/cfb01.html>

Reading Promotion Partners Participants

Africa Access: Harriet McGuire
American Booksellers Association: Matthew Zoni
American Writers Museum: Pamela Buckles
Everybody Wins! DC: Anne Owl & Jennifer Diamond
Institute of Museum and Library Services: Michele Farrell
International Reading Association: Margie Bell
Lubuto Library Project: Jane Meyers & Stephanie Rapp
National Endowment for the Humanities: Karen Kenton
National Writing Project: Ellen Fern
Reading is Fundamental: Jennifer Katz Moone
Reach Out and Read: Brian Gallagher
School Biz Match: Robyn Hickey
United States Board on Books for Young People: Maria Salvadore & Karen Leggett Abouraya
US Department of Education: Tony Fowler
US Department of Energy: Joshua Sneideman
US Department of Labor: Carl Fillichio & Katherine DiGiovanni

PRESS RELEASE

PEN Center USA Announces Winners of the 2014 Literary Awards



PEN Center USA, a literary nonprofit based in Beverly Hills, announced the winners of the 24th Annual Literary Awards, honoring the best writing in the western United States. The awards will be presented at the 24th Annual Literary Awards Festival on November 11, 2014. The winning writers, whose submissions were judged by distinguished panels of writers, editors, critics and journalists, will be awarded a \$1,000 cash prize. Among the winners is **Margarita Engle** (Young Adult/Children Award for *The Lighting Dreamer, Cuba's Greatest Abolitionist*).

**Official Opening of the IBBY Documentation Centre of
Books for Disabled Young People
Toronto Public Library
February 2014
By Linda Pavonetti**

The IBBY Documentation Centre of Books for Disabled Young People was established in 1985 at the Norwegian Institute for Special Education at the University of Oslo, under the direction of Nina Askvig. In the summer of 2002, Heidi Boiesen took over as Director and the collection moved to the Haug Municipal School and Resource Centre (HSRC) in Baerum, just outside Oslo.

The IBBY Executive Committee undertook a search for a new home for the collection when Heidi Boiesen announced she would retire after her work on the 2013 list was completed. On 18 March 2012 at its annual meetings in Bologna, the IBBY Executive Committee approved the proposal submitted by Toronto Public Library for the stewardship of the IBBY Documentation Centre of Books for Young People with Disabilities and the IBBY Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities collection.

In Spring 2013 the complete IBBY collection of books and documentation moved to the Children's Department of the North York Central Library at Toronto Public Library. The new Documentation Centre officially opened its doors to the public with a reception and ribbon cutting ceremony hosted by the Toronto City Librarian Jane Pyper on February 27, 2014. Special guests included Heidi Cortner Boiesen, former Director of the IBBY Documentation Centre in Norway; Patricia Aldana, President of IBBY Foundation; Elizabeth Page, IBBY Executive Director, and Linda M. Pavonetti, IBBY Vice President.

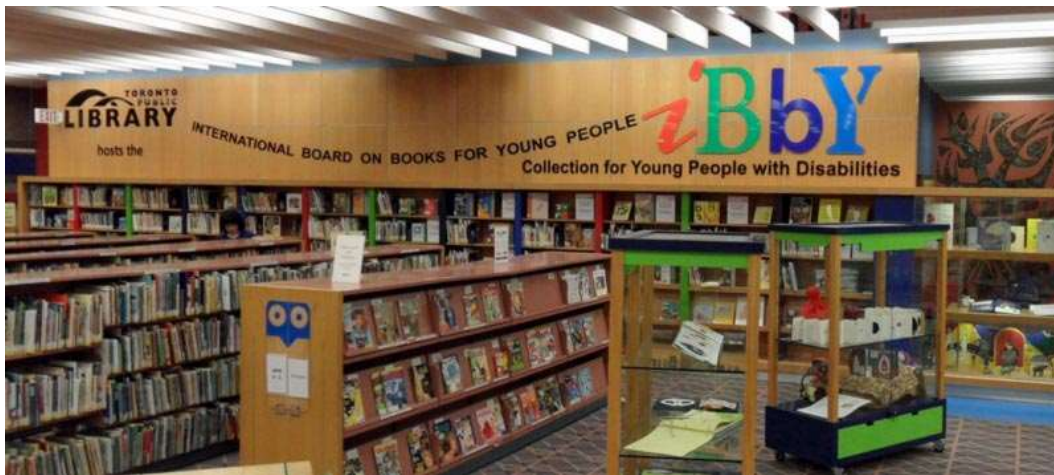


Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with IBBY Vice President, Linda Pavonetti

Online access to the IBBY Collection for Young People with Disabilities can be made through <http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/ibby> and is searchable by title, author, subject, format, keyword and language. Circulating copies of many of the recent IBBY outstanding titles in English are available from Toronto Public Library through interlibrary loan. Contact your local academic, school or public library to initiate the loan.

COLLECTION

The IBBY Documentation Centre features a large international collection of books for and about young people with disabilities. The books are selected by the IBBY National Sections, as well as by independent experts and publishers.



Highlights of the collection include:

- more than 3,000 multilingual books in over 40 languages
- special formats such as Blissymbolics, Picture Communication Symbols, Braille, sign language, tactile and textile books.
- fiction books from the regular production that portray children and teens with disabilities as characters in stories and novels
- books for adults with developmental delays, language disabilities or reading difficulties

The Documentation Centre offers:

- a variety of books for hands-on experiences in the library
- research opportunities in the development and evolution of children's and teen's literature in this specialized field
- inspiring examples of book design and construction in unique formats
- ideas and booklists for teachers, parents, caregivers and librarians
- outstanding books in the field for authors and illustrators to study

The IBBY Collection complements Toronto Public Library's materials in large print, talking books, audiobooks, descriptive and closed captioned videos, as well as inclusive programs and outreach visits, accessible spaces and adaptive technology.

Sharon Moynes, the Manager, Readers', Youth and Children's Services, North York Central Library and Leigh Turina, Children's Librarian, North York Central Library were instrumental in ensuring a smooth transition of the collection from Oslo to Toronto. They will manage the collection and interface with IBBY on selecting books for all future IBBY Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities lists and maintaining the entire collection. Every two years, they will select—in consultation with their children's and language experts—approximately 50 outstanding books for and about children and young people with disabilities from around the world. For the 2015 edition of the list, Toronto Public Library will oversee the submission and selection process. For more information, visit the TPL website at <http://torontopubliclibrary.typepad.com/north-york-central-blog/2014/03/books-of-wonder-books-with-wow.html>



A member of the visually impaired community reads greetings from Redza Khairuddin, IBBY President (see letter that follows), to the assembled group

Good Evening,

Warm greetings to all. I am truly disappointed that I am unable to join you today on this wonderful occasion of the launch of the IBBY Documentation Centre for Young People with Disabilities in Toronto. Even though I cannot be with you, the presence of IBBY Vice-President Linda Pavonetti, President of the IBBY Foundation Patsy Aldana and Executive Director Liz Page shows our deep and continuing commitment to this unique project.

The IBBY Documentation Centre opened in 1985 in its first home at the Institute for Special Education at the University of Oslo, moving on to the Haug Municipal School and Resource Centre, not far from Oslo, in 2002. We are very grateful for the excellent work and cooperation rendered by our colleagues namely Nina Askvig at the University of Oslo and Heidi Cortner Boiesen at the Haug School, in managing and developing the collection until now.

Today we are proud to witness the opening of the IBBY Documentation Centre in Toronto, as it becomes an integral part of the Children's Department at the North York Central Library under the auspices of the Toronto Public Library. The commitment of the Library to its stewardship of the IBBY Documentation Centre as well as to the ideals and mission of IBBY, will enable the Centre to continue with its objectives of gathering a large and international collection of books especially suited to children and young people who have special needs. The research opportunities will be manifold and the IBBY Documentation Centre will become an important hub for all those working in the field.

I would like to sincerely thank the Toronto Public Library and City Librarian Jane Pyper, for its generosity and willingness in hosting the IBBY Collection. Furthermore, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed in making this big move a reality, in particular Sharon Moynes, Manager of Readers', Youth and Children's Services at North York Central Library, and Leigh Turina, Children's Librarian at the North York Central Library; special thanks go to Heidi Boiesen, not only for her commitment and dedication to the Documentation Centre for the last twelve years, but also for her tremendous work of packing and shipping the entire collection – an impressive logistical achievement!

With the support of the Toronto Public Library the IBBY Documentation Centre for Young People with Disabilities will continue to be a great resource for all and a place of enjoyment for children.

On behalf of all the IBBY members from around the world: Congratulations!

Ahmad Redza Khairuddin
IBBY President
Kuala Lumpur, 27 February 2014

Book Yourself for “Book Fair Plus”!

by Janet Wong

The school year has just barely started. It’s too early to think about vacation. But you know people who are attending the IBBY Congress in Mexico City and you feel a twinge of envy. Don’t let it bring you down; spring into action!

Maybe you’ve been toying with the idea of visiting the Bologna Book Fair in March/April, but you’re worried that you can’t enjoy a trip to Italy when you’ve left your family at home. My solution? Take your family with you—and turn your trip into “Book Fair Plus.” The Bologna Book Fair coincides with many school’s spring break schedules, but if your children need to skip a little school, browsing through thousands of books from all over the world will make up for their missed days.

My family teases me for never dreaming of “regular vacations”—vacations that have nothing to do with books. It’s true: like most of us, I love going to conferences and book fairs. “What more could you want?” I ask my 21-year-old son. He says, “How about a Porsche?” For much less than the price of a Porsche, last spring my husband and I decided to treat our son to a family trip to Europe. Ask our son, and he’d say that we went on a “Motor Vehicles Tour” of Europe. (Don’t tell him it was really just “Book Fair Plus.”)

Bologna Book Fair

Writing about my experience at the Bologna Book Fair itself would require twice as much space as I have here—and, chances are, you know someone who has gone and who was a more diligent attendee than I. The main piece of wisdom that I can share is: you’re going to want to buy books in the bookstore section, where thousands of books are arranged on tables and shelves, sorted by language and topic. But check your wallet and make sure you have enough cash for that big stack of books. The store takes credit cards, yes—but only when the credit card machines are working. After waiting half an hour in line on my last day at the Fair, I found myself faced with a choice: all my carefully-selected French and Italian and German books—or empty pockets. I emptied my pockets, yet still needed to put a couple of books back. (And snatch up what you want when you see it; when you go back to the tables on the second day, your favorites might all be gone.)

The International Youth Library

The highlight of my trip was a visit to the International Youth Library (Internationale Jugendbibliothek; www.ijb.de), the largest international library in the world with 600,000 titles in more than 120 languages. Created in 1949, the library occupies the medieval Blutenburg Castle in an urban park about 20 minutes from downtown Munich.

I met Claudia Soeffner of the IYL’s English Language Section at the Bologna Book Fair, where she shared pages from the Poetry Calendar co-produced by the IYL. (Click to see the illustrated poem for each month in the 2015 calendar here: <http://arche-kalender-verlag.com/arche->

[kinder-kalender-2015.html](#).) I mentioned that I'd be visiting the IYL the following week—and good thing! Note to travelers: you need to make advance arrangements before you visit. Email ahead of time and request a guided tour in English (or other languages): fuehrungen@ijb.de.

On my tour, Claudia showed me the circulating books in the children's library (grouped by countries and languages) and the non-circulating books in the reading room or reference library, where guests and Fellows (more below) scribbled notes from four centuries' worth of books. After that, we climbed the stairs to the attic and the "Treasure Chamber," where I started chanting a mantra: *Oh my gosh, so beautiful, so beautiful!* We had arrived at the Binette Schroeder "Cabinet," an exhibition featuring Schroeder's art, books, collectibles, and a mechanical puppet theater that surely comes alive when people aren't watching. The whimsical but smart design and meticulous craftsmanship of the character-inspired "furniture" in this space provide reason enough alone to visit, especially if you are an author, illustrator, or collector who is considering leaving a high-profile body of work to a library or museum.

A note about the IYL Fellowship Program, a stipend program for up to fifteen people per year: if you are doing research in children's literature and would like to use the resources of the IYL for six weeks to three months, why not apply for a fellowship? A short video (<https://vimeo.com/71972723>) features some of the IYL's Fellows and guests from the US, UK, Poland, China, Italy, Brazil, Japan, and Iran, including Dr. Robert Schlagal of Appalachian State University, who calls the IYL "*das true Magic Kingdom.*" Deadline for applications: September 30. *Viel Glück!*

Now, for The Plus Part!

Are you ready? Sit back, grab an espresso, and get ready for "The Plus"! Here are favorite venues that we visited before, during, and after the Bologna Book Fair. To reach many of these attractions, we needed to drive—an uncommon choice among American tourists in Europe, but one that allowed us to save hundreds of dollars by staying in and eating at many "off-the-beaten-path" places. I hope that some of these experiences make it from our list to yours:

German car factories and museums

I am not a car enthusiast, but I fell in love with the humongous, hulking, precise, dexterous, cheery orange KUKA robots at the Mercedes factory. That was our first factory tour and I was hooked; I wanted to see them all. The speed! The efficiency! The noise—a symphony of engineering! We also visited the factories and museums of Audi, BMW, and Porsche (and my husband and son visited Ferrari while I was at the Bologna Book Fair). Which is the best car museum and factory combo? Hard to say, but I think the wienerschnitzel in the Audi cafeteria pushed that experience to the top!

The Unimog truck museum in Gaggenau, Germany

Unimogs were used in war, yes, but they've also been used in forestry, farming, fires—and parking lot obstacle courses! At the Unimog museum you can ride in a truck that has one wheel

up on a huge boulder, one wheel down in a ditch, a third wheel in the water, and the last one off the ground completely. Five minutes in a Unimog and you're a five-year-old again. Do this in the morning *before* you go to the nearby Friedrichsbad spa, so you can rest your jostled body in the mineral pools.

The historic Friedrichsbad spa in Baden-Baden, Germany

Imagine going from sauna to scrub to pool to pool to pool in a 17-stage cleansing ritual at the historic baths at Friedrichsbad. Your body—your naked body—is melting . . . when you glance across the room and see a big hairy guy striding—in all his naked glory—across the room. Yikes! Isn't this a "separate" day, not a "mixed" day? You glance again. Oh, my! Scurrying into a hidden pool 3 stages back, you resume your soak and then realize that all the other (European?) women didn't seem to mind Mr. Hairy one bit. You are the sole shy soul in the Women's Only Stage #11 pool. (Did I mention: VERY hairy?!)



Snapshots from The Book Fair Plus Tour, top left to bottom right: Unimog Museum, Claudia Söffner at the International Youth Library, Vitra Design, Lake Garda, Bologna Book Fair, Isetta at the BMW Museum

I could continue my travelogue for several pages; if you'd like to know more, just send me an email at janet@janetwong.com. I'll leave you now with this list of six additional destinations:

- 1) the Vitra art museum, architecture tour, and design center in Weil am Rhein, Germany (near Basel, Switzerland): a shrine to contemporary design
- 2) Lake Garda's twisty "James Bond 'Quantum of Solace' drives" and the nearby Parco Natura Viva in Bussolengo, Italy, an extraordinary little zoo
- 3) the Ducati motorcycle museum in Bologna, a motorcycle-racing mecca
- 4) Tuscan castles (such as the immaculate Castello di Torrechiara in Parma, Italy)
- 5) artisanal salumerias (like the Salumeria Gardoni in Torrechiara) where you can buy heaping platters of sliver-thin antipasti
- 6) seaside Etruscan ruins (Populonia, Italy)

Six additional places because six, in Chinese numerology, means "straight" or "directly"—and I am wishing you a straight and uncomplicated path from this article to Tripadvisor.com. (Yes, I know that there are 11-15 places here in total; let's say "11-15" means "airfares are cheapest in the fall.")

Let's close with these wise words from Maya Angelou: "Perhaps travel cannot prevent bigotry, but by demonstrating that all peoples cry, laugh, eat, worry, and die, it can introduce the idea that if we try and understand each other, we may even become friends." Here's a toast to friendships made through IBBY and USBBY, in Mexico City, Bologna, and beyond!

Janet Wong (www.janetwong.com) is the author of 30 books for young people and the publisher of The Poetry Friday Anthology series (with Sylvia Vardell; www.pomelobooks.com). She has been honored with her appointment to the NCTE Commission on Literature, the NCTE Excellence in Poetry Award Committee, and currently serves as chair of the IRA Notable Books for a Global Society Committee.



**A Year in Books:
The 2015 Outstanding International Books Committee
by Brenda Dales, OIB Chair**



Books in the kitchen, and books on the bed. Books in the hallway, and books, well, everywhere. Yes, being on USBBY's Outstanding International Books Committee (OIBC) is a reader's nirvana. Knowing there is always a book waiting for my attention is one of the thrills of being a part of the process.

The best part of chairing this committee, however, is having the opportunity to share ideas about books with equally enthusiastic bibliophiles. The 2015 OIB Committee represents a plethora of experience, knowledge, and expertise in the area of books for children and young adults. Let me share a little about these diligent readers.

First, let me acquaint you with the OIBC members who are serving the first year of their two-year appointment:

- **Holly Johnson** teaches and works in administration at the University of Cincinnati, has taught both children's and young adult literature, and admits she is partial to the young adult books. Holly is also involved in other projects and grants involving children's/YA literature, and is currently serving on the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award committee, as well. She loves to travel internationally, but one of her favorite places is an independent bookstore in the Cincinnati area.
- **Ramona ("Mona") Kerby** is a faculty member and Coordinator of the School Library Program at McDaniel College in Maryland. She teaches children's and young adult literature, and her passion leans toward literature for the younger ones. Mona just completed a two-year appointment on the ALSC Notable Books Committee.
- **Ed ("Sully") Sullivan** is located in Oak Ridge, Tennessee (close to Knoxville), and has a background in libraries and working with young people of all ages. Ed has been involved with USBBY for some time, and has also served on the Notable Books for a Global Society, a committee of the International Reading Association's Children's Literature and Reading Special Interest Group (CL-R SIG). In addition to being an avid reader, Ed is also a writer.
- **Barbara Ward** teaches literacy and literature courses at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington. Having lost everything—including all of her books—in the Hurricane Katrina disaster, Barbara demonstrates resilience and fortitude. Previously she served on the Notable Books for a Global Society for the

IRA/CL-R SIG and the Notable Children's Books in the Language Arts for the Children's Literature Assembly (CLA) of the National Council of Teachers of English.

I am indeed lucky and delighted to again read along with the following committee members who are in their second year on the committee:

- **Laretta Henderson** teaches youth literature in the library school at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. She loves to travel, and just crossed Paris off of her bucket list. Laretta's work in multicultural children's literature is one of her many strengths she brings to our work on the OIBC.
- **Terry Hong** is both a reader and runner (and manages to do both simultaneously at times, by listening to books), and is a book reviewer for the Smithsonian BookDragon at <http://bookdragon.si.edu/>. She has been published in any number of other papers and magazines, including *NYT* and *Library Journal*, and has co-authored two books. Among her many professional pursuits, Terry is an advisor and "writer wrangler" for *Girl Rising*. With a son in school in Park City, Utah, and a daughter in her last year of high school in D.C. this past school year, Terry spent much time on airplanes.
- **Terrell Young** teaches at Brigham Young University, and is a co-author of a current edition of a children's literature textbook, and an editor for *The Utah Journal of Literacy*. He organizes a two-day literature symposium for BYU and is the faculty advisor to the BYU Reading Council. Terry also loves to travel, and he enjoys gardening (with the exception of mowing the lawn), baking, cooking, and he especially enjoys time with his grandchildren and family.
- **Bobbie Xuereb** is a middle school librarian in a private school in California, and also substitutes in a public library. In her recent travels, she has been to South Africa and Ethiopia. Bobbie's background in art and art history, as well as her personal artistic flair, adds perspective to the committee.

Me? I teach children's and young adult literature at Miami University. Make that the cold Miami, in Ohio. I also love to travel, and this summer I drew the short straw and had to take five of our terrific undergraduate students to the Czech Republic for a workshop. Darn. Of course I found time to visit bookstores to see what young people there are reading, and in a public library I visited, a prominent poster was advertising John Green's current and wildly popular book which translates from Czech back to English as *Stars Not Wish Us*. Yes, international literature is everywhere.

As OIB committee members and fervent readers of international books published during this year, we will gather together in December for final deliberations to select the 2015 USBBY list of Outstanding International Books. Last year's committee read over 325 books, and it is possible we could exceed that number this year. We are well into our reading stride, and I have learned to always have a book close by. Sitting under the dryer at the hairdresser? . . . one of my favorite places to read. Waiting for someone to arrive for an appointment? . . . no problem, I have a book. Lights go on and gates come down as I approach a railroad crossing? . . . hooray! . . . more time to read!

You can learn more about OIB on this page at the USBBY website: http://www.usbby.org/list_oibl.html.

We will announce the 2015 Outstanding International Books list during the USBBY meeting at the ALA Midwinter Conference in Chicago. Please join us!

How Does This Translate? Oksana Lushevskva & Jennifer Graff

Since our last column, a myriad of global events have permeated our senses and remind us of the critical need for perspective. These events, some celebratory and some tragic, remind us of Jella Lepman's vision of international children's and young adult literature as a conduit for peace and international understanding. They also reinforce the critical need for perspective. As an integral aspect of life, *perspective*—included in curriculum standards and present in literary texts—serves as a portal to clarity, compassion and change.

Those involved in children's literature also advocate the necessity of *perspective*. While immersing ourselves in the richness of international literature, we often contemplate and discuss wonderings such as, "For whom is such literature written and how do we determine this?" "Whose voices are represented, whose are silenced, and why?" Additionally, we wonder "How do one's experiences help foster personal connections or disconnections with text?" How do we visualize our own cartography of life as well as invite, if not integrate, additional representational, cultural, literary landscapes and perspectives? Ultimately, when reading translated literature, how might we experience reading as described by Joyce Carol Oates: "Reading is the sole means by which we slip, involuntarily, often helplessly, into another's skin, another's voice, another's soul"?

The books shared in this issue resulted from our ongoing discussions of how we can support such reading experiences and aforementioned conversations with translated children's and young adult literature. Amidst such global instability, we wish to share books that enable us to think about the world as well as the nation-state, noting Gavatri Spivak's assertion that the East, West, North, and South "do meet on the world scale" and that we need to "reimagine the planet" (Spivak, 2012, p.339). With *perspective* in mind, we hope this latest collection of book reviews offers a partnership between the whimsical and humorous with the serious, provocative, and perhaps riotous. Pleasurable aesthetics meets thought-provoking content in this collection, and that union enables us to contemplate the ways in which authors, illustrators, and publishers are supporting the opportunity for literature to serve as a medium through which we may re-imagine and reconfigure life while representing countries and societies in both prosperity and crisis.

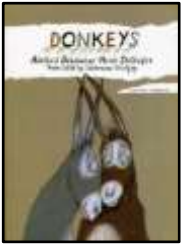
As before, we wish to express our gratitude to many publishers for their ongoing support of this column through book donations. We wouldn't be able to do this without their support. We also welcome any feedback from our readership. Please email us at <mailto:howdoesthistranslate@gmail.com> to share your opinions and considerations. We look forward to our conversations with you.

Lepman, J. (2002). *A bridge of children's books: The inspiring autobiography of a remarkable woman*. Dublin, Ireland: The O'Brien Press, Ltd.

Spivak, G. C. (2012). *An aesthetic education in the era of globalization*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Translated Books for Younger Children

Dahimène, Adelheid. **Donkeys**. Translated from the German *Esel* by Catherine Chidgey and adapted by Penelope Todd, Gecko Press. Illustrated by Heide Stöllinger. First published in the US by NorthSouth Books, Inc. in 2014. ISBN 978-0735841604. First published in Austria by Residenz Verlag im Niederösterreichischen Pressehaus Druck und Verlagsgesellschaft mbH. (Ages 6-12).



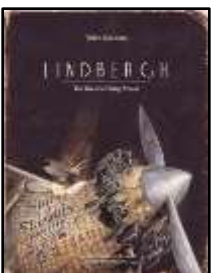
Twenty-five years of marriage is bound to result in a few arguments and some discontent. One day, Jenny and Jack decide that despite their long-lasting partnership, they each want to find a “better match.” However, their interactions with cows, billy goats, flamingos, and hippos among other animals, confirm just how well they “fit” together. They simply needed to regain perspective. Award-winning Austrian author and illustrator team, Dahimène and Stöllinger offer an engaging, if not off-beat, tale about taking things for granted and appreciating what you have.

Deneux, Xavier. **Jojo’s First Word Book**. Translated from the French *Mon Imagier* by Michael Schneider and Shoshanna Kirk. Twirl, 2014. ISBN 978-2848019437. First published in France in 2010 by Editions Tourbillion: Paris: France. (Ages 2-4).



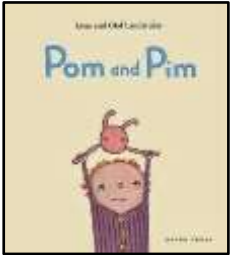
This board book’s exciting visual art helps expand younger readers’ knowledge about their surrounding worlds. Two bunnies, Jojo and Lulu, lead us on an exciting adventure of identifying daily household routines, commonly used objects and engaging outdoor activities. The words which accompany Deneux’s large, bright illustrations elicit an opportune time to consider the perspectives generated through language and image. Some illustrations include single-word labels, some include phrases; and some rely on the reader to identify them. This variance expands the possibilities for conversation between an adult and child and elicits curiosity about French-English translations. Additionally, one can consider which objects and activities are considered culturally specific or more universal in scope. Even if *Jojo’s First Word Book* didn’t have a handle attached to its spine, it would be a satisfying page-turner.

Kuhlmann, Torben. **Lindbergh: The Tale of a Flying Mouse**. English text by Suzanne Levesque. NorthSouth, 2014. ISBN 978-0735841673. First published in the United States, Great Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand in 2014 by NorthSouth : Zürich: Switzerland. (Ages 4-8).



Exile, migration, and Charles Lindbergh: a seemingly unlikely combination at first glance. Yet Torben Kuhlmann’s homage to Lindbergh adeptly unites the three into a captivating artistic story about courage, despair, and a desire to survive. Educated through humans’ newspapers, a curious mouse learns the reason for his friends’ exile from Hamburg, Germany: mousetraps. He, too, is forced to flee due to the hostile environment. Influenced by the “American Dream stories” many send home from the “new country,” the mouse sets his sights on New York. However, he must first figure out a way to avoid the dastardly mousetraps, cats, and bats. Learning to fly is just the ticket! Readers who accompany this unnamed mouse across the Atlantic Ocean and read F. Robert van der Lindel’s foreword will better understand the connections between the mouse and Charles Lindbergh as well as grapple with the complexities of immigration that continue to permeate our world.

Landström, Lena. **Pom and Pim**. Translated from the Swedish *Pom och Pim* by Julia Marshall. Illustrated by Olaf Landsröm. Gecko Press, 2014. ISBN 978-1877579660. (Ages 3-5).



With just twenty-five short sentences, this picturebook explores the outdoor escapades of Pim, a young girl, and her toy Pom. Pim and Pom experience some fortunes and misfortunes, such as falling down, finding money, eating ice cream, and getting sick, all of which take Pim on an emotional roller coaster. Perspective is central, as bad luck goes hand-in-hand with good luck and the positive continually juxtaposed with the negative.

Readers are invited to further identify with Pom and Pim through examining Olaf's gentle artwork. The detailed illustrations offer additional insights into Pim and Pom's dispositions as evolving residents of life. This book definitely encompasses a therapeutic spirit and could be a valuable read aloud for those grappling with a variety of life's dilemmas.

Moroni, Lisa. **Watch Out for the Crocodile**. Translated from the Swedish *Se Upp för Krokodilen!* by Julia Marshall. Gecko Press, 2014. ISBN 978-1877579905. First published in Sweden Bonnier Carlsen Bokförlaget: Stockholm: Sweden. (Ages 4-8).



"All Dad does is work... He is a very boring father." Not only is this the opening sentence, it is one often said by many children. Thankfully, we have vacations! On the first day of Tora's father's vacation, Tora envisions a fun-filled hiking experience in the forest;

however, her father's idea of fun—shopping—is not what she had in mind. While Tora's wish to camp is granted, their excursion starts off on the wrong foot. When her father is excited, Tora is bored and when Tora finds an exciting animal, her father is too busy looking at his GPS devices. Frustrated, Tora begins to re-imagine the forest as a place filled with wild animals and adventures. Unfortunately, her wild imagination gets the better of her and she seeks her father's comfort. Eriksson's watercolor illustrations evoke a playful tone for this adventure story and illuminate the differences between a child and adult's perceptions and comprehension of their time spent together.

Robert, Nadine. **Joseph Fipps**. Translated from the French *Joseph Fipps* by Claudia Bedrick. Illustrated by Genériéte Godbout. Enchanted Lion, 2014. ISBN 978-2848019437. First published in Montreal in 2012 by Les Éditions de La Pastèque: Montreal: Canada. (Ages 4-8).



Five-year-old Joseph Fipps is going through a "growth spurt" fueled by his desire for independence. Unfortunately for Joseph, his quest for independence often results in a scolding from his mother. During one temper tantrum, Joseph angrily demands a new mother. His mother's response sends him outdoors for a "time out" where he sulks.

Surrounded by nature, Joseph enters into an imaginary world that includes a walrus mother who calls him "little Griffin." However, he soon realizes that without his mother, he feels cold and lonely and wishes to reunite with her. Despite the occasional stilted language and the overly mature sentiments of Joseph, this book will appeal to many. Godbout's warm crayon and colored pencil illustrations and Robert's first-person narrative offer perspective on what "works" for international stories that speak to a universal concept: children's use of imagination when negotiating their emerging selves.

Romanyshyn, Romana & Lesiv, Andriy. **Stars and Poppy Seeds**. Translated from the Ukrainian by Oksana Lushchevska and Michael M. Naydan. The Old Lion Publishing House, 2014. ISBN 9786176790587. (Ages 4-8).



Dora, the daughter of well-known mathematicians, seems to take after her parents. She loves to count everything around her: poppy seeds, grains of rice, and polka dots on her dress, among other things. No matter if she is taking a walk or falling asleep, mathematical figures dance in her head. One day, while admiring the Milky Way, Dora encounters a perplexing puzzle: how can one count every particle of stardust? How might mathematics help her determine the answer? Thanks to her mother's mentorship, Dora learns that to achieve any dream, one needs to handle complicated tasks by accomplishing small steps. Romana Romanyshyn and Andriy Lesiv's illustrations of multiple mathematical, geometrical and astronomic features enable readers to readily connect the sciences with the humanities. *Stars and Poppy Seeds* was awarded the Bologna Ragazzi Award 2014 in the section of Opera Prima.

Sanna, Alessandro. **The River**. Translated from the Italian by Enchanted Lion. Enchanted Lion, 2014. ISBN 978-1592701490. (Ages 6-12).



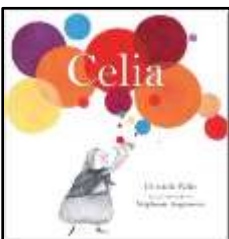
The River offers readers a visually captivating journey along the Po River that runs in the lowlands of northeastern Italy. Four seasons divide this iconic narrative, with each season identified by an introductory poem, specific color scheme, and seasonal activities. Collections of lush watercolor panels accentuate the emotional pull of not only the river but also the people living by and off the river banks. One can't help but feel emotionally connected to the natural world while relishing the opportunity to pause and reflect on the world as an ecosystem. *The River* is a stunning book that deserves honors and a place in any home or classroom library.

te Loo, Sanne. **The Mermaid's Shoes**. Translated from *De Schoenen Van de Zeemeermin* by Lemniscaat. Lemniscaat, 2014. ISBN 978-1935954354. First published in the Netherlands in 2012 by Rotterdam: The Netherlands. (Ages 4-8).



On her last day of vacation at the sea, Mia finds mermaid's shoes (also known as swimming fins) and feels as if she has discovered a part of herself. She takes the fins home as a reminder of her time at the sea and wears them whenever she wishes to return there. Yearning for her "home away from home," Mia searches for the sea within her city. Undeterred by the limitations of an aquarium, a museum, and a bridge across a river, she eventually discovers the perfect place: a city fountain (Copenhagen, anyone?). Unbeknownst to her, someone takes her picture and posts it online, resulting in either her initiating or joining an online community of international mermaids, both girls and boys.

Vallat, Christelle. **Celia**. Translated from the Belgium *Zelie* by Peter Pauper Press. Illustrated by Stéphanie Augusseau. Peter Pauper Press, 2014. ISBN 978-1441315366. First published in Belgium in 2012 by Alice Éditions: Brussel: Belgium. (Ages 4-8).

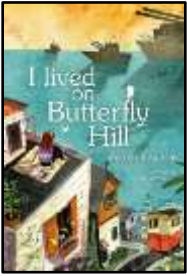


At one time or another everyone needs a reliable shoulder to lean on or an attentive ear to bend. Thankfully for one town they have Celia. Every Sunday, Celia listens to anyone and everyone who has a problem and helps them restore their joy. In return, the visitors give Celia seeds which she distributes around town in order to regenerate happiness. One day, a young boy seeking much needed guidance, loses his seed. Celia's altruistic self takes the boy under her wing and teaches him how to generate happiness through love, care, and patience. This poetic story metaphorically shows how happiness, through time, patience, and perspective, can grow in any environment. A fusion of

mixed media black-and-white and color illustrations offers a stunning opportunity to notice the characters' moods.

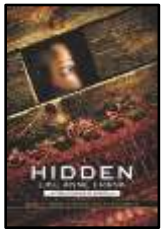
Translated Books for Older Children

Agosin, Marjorie. **I Lived on Butterfly Hill**. Translated from the Spanish by E. M. O'Connor. Illustrated by Lee White. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2014. ISBN 9781416953449. First published in 2014 by Atheneum Books for Young Readers. (Ages 12-14).



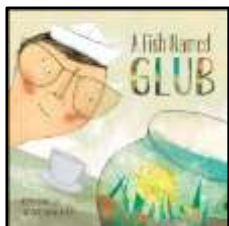
It is most welcome to find internationally themed books initially published in the US in languages other than English and then have them translated into English. Such is the case with award-winning poet, Marjorie Agosin's *I Lived on Butterfly Hill*. This 454-page, semi-autobiographical novel presents a personal insight of the turmoil the Chilean people experienced under Augusto Pinochet's dictatorship. As a family comprised of doctors, philanthropists and survivors of the Holocaust, eleven-year-old Celeste, her parents, and her grandmother are dedicated to helping their fellow Chileans: "We know the meaning of solidarity. We understand that what happens to a neighbor also happens to us." However, under Pinochet's rule, their pursuit of socioeconomic equity falters. Missing neighbors and lingering threats compel the family to separate, with Celeste's parents going into hiding and Celeste joining her aunt in Maine. Straddling multiple worlds, Celeste, her aunt, and her parents illustrate the emotional pendulum experienced by many torn apart from their family and country: joy and calamity, love and fear, calm and worry. Poetic interludes, lush descriptions of Chile, and tributes to the transformative work of Chilean poet, Pablo Neruda, invite readers to better understand Chile's past while also empathizing and celebrating people whose lives are dedicated to social justice no matter the cost.

Prins, Marcel, & Steenhuis, Peter Hank. **Hidden Like Anne Frank: 14 True Stories of Survival**. Translated from Ondergedoken als Anne Frank by Laura Warkinson. Arthur A. Levine Books, 2014. ISBN 978-0545543620. First published in 2011 by Marcel Prins and Peter Henk Steenhuis: Amsterdam: Netherlands. (Ages 12-14).



This collective memoir is based on the experiences of 14 Dutch who survived the Nazis' brutal crusade during WWII. The adults' recollections offer new and nuanced perspectives of children growing up in hiding during this horrific time. Such stories, visually supported by the survivors' personal photographs, bring to the surface unvoiced stories that add to the depth and complexity of living in a time of extreme prejudice and violence. Reading this book may compel one to ruminate about the multitude of stories still locked in the hearts and consciousness of other survivors. Additionally, readers might notice similarities between these stories and the coverage of humanitarian tragedies currently experienced around the world (i.e. Ukraine, Gaza, Syria, Egypt, Guatemala, and other Central American countries, to name a few). *Hidden Like Anne Frank: 14 True Stories of Survival* is a vital contribution to our understanding of how the triumphs and tragedies of war must continually be shared from generation to generation with the hope that such stories will help prevent the repetition of history.

Global Books for Younger Children



Bar-el, Dan. **A Fish Named Glub**. Illustrated by Josée Bisailon. Kids Can Press, 2014. ISBN 978-1554538126. First published in 2014 by Kids Can Press: Toronto: Canada. (Ages 4-8).

How is one able to tackle issues of identity through a story about a pet goldfish? Dan Bar-el answers this question through his latest picturebook, *A Fish Named Glub*. Glub lives in a

glass bowl in Foster’s diner. Questions such as “Who am I,” “Where is home,” “Where do I come from,” and “What do I need” are food for thought as Glub seeks both community and comfort. Relying on the only people with whom he has contact—Foster (the diner’s owner), and two frequent patrons (Jenny and Evelyn)—Glub gradually learns more about himself and that “home is where the heart is.” Similarly, Foster, Jenny, and Evelyn’s interactions with Glub help them become a family. In the end, all realize that expanding beyond one’s comfort zone can lead to new adventures and a bit of joy. The colorful mixed-media illustrations move the story and establish depth as well as set a visual rhythm and tension. *A Fish Named Glub* will most assuredly engage younger and older readers in a thoughtful conversation.

Davies, Nicola. **The Promise**. Illustrated by Laura Carlin. Candlewick Press, 2014. ISBN 978-0763666330. First published in England in 2013 by Walker: London: England. (Ages 6-12).



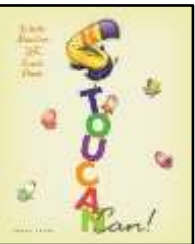
Promises: some are kept; some are broken. In some places, they seem nonexistent. Nicola Davies’ *The Promise* offers a social commentary about the price we pay for severing our relationship with the natural world. Cloaked in block gray font and muted hues of neutral colors, an unnamed girl describes her urban community. Characterized as “mean, hard and ugly” . . . where “nothing grew. Everything was broken. No one ever smiled”, the city offers the girl salvation through stealing. One day, she spies an “easy victim”—an elderly woman and her bag. The “victim’s” physical and emotional strength necessitates a negotiation whereby the girl promises to plant acorns in return for the bag. This promise not only transforms the girl’s heart, it also transforms the lives of many city residents around the country. Laura Carlin’s mixed media illustrations extend the plot by slowly expanding the color pallet as positivity and hope overtake pessimism and despair.

Gravett, Emily. **Matilda’s Cat**. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2014. ISBN 978-1442475274. First published in 2012 by Macmillan Children’s Books: London: Great Britain. (Ages 4-8).



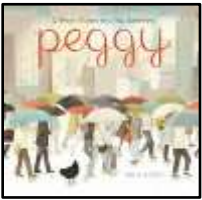
Matilda’s Cat presents a hilarious interaction between a willful girl named Matilda and her pet cat. Readers will easily grasp the playfulness of the verbal and visual narratives. While the written language describes the preferences of Matilda’s cat, the illustrations contradict said preferences and invite the reader to decide which story is the most truthful. Giggles and sighs accompany each page turn as Gravett asks readers to side with either Matilda and her antics or her cat’s subsequent reactions. In typical Gravett fashion, the final opening reveals what both love the best. Be sure to read the book to find out who or what that is.

Maclver, Julia. **Toucan Can!**. Illustrated by Sarah Davis. Gecko Press, 2014. ISBN 978-1877467530. First published in 2013 by Gecko Press: Wellington: New Zealand. (Ages 3-5).



Bright and cheerful, Toucan clearly can surprise anyone. He dances, sings, and bangs on a frying pan; he can do any number of things! Toucan can energize everyone around, so the other birds and animals do not only want to watch him act, they want to join him! This whimsical, rhyming poem illustrated with an array of vibrant colors invites young readers to mimic Toucan’s movements. Toucan can! Can you? This book is a poetic reminder that reading is a joy.

Walker, Anna. **Peggy: A Brave Chicken on a Big Adventure**. Clarion Books, 2014. ISBN 978-0544259003. First published in 2012 by Scholastic Australia: Gosword: Australia. (Ages 4-8).

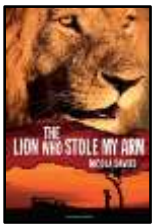


Using ink and photo collage illustrations, Anna Walker tells a simple yet moving story about involuntary migration and the desire to return home. Peggy, a hen, lives “in a small house on a quiet street” and enjoys her carefree life. When a gust of wind carries her to the city, she is lost and curious; everything looks very different and alien to her, and she misses home.

Noticing a person that carries a sunflower similar to one that grows in her yard, she follows the crowd to a train. However, the further Peggy goes the more lost she becomes. She finally observes pigeons from her yard and follows them home. This touching story with a happy ending draws readers to visually enjoy some geographical areas of Australia and simultaneously explore differences and similarities of rural and urban lifestyles.

Global Books for Older Children

Davies, Nicola. **The Lion Who Stole My Arm**. Illustrated by Annabel Wright. Candlewick Press, 2014. ISBN 978-0763666200. First published in 2013 by Walker Books Ltd: London: England. (Ages 7-10).



The Lion Who Stole My Arm is an illustrated chapter book addressing issues of conservation.

Based on Davies’ experiences in East Africa, this story conveys the complicated relationship between man and nature as well as science and tradition in contemporary times. On a hunting expedition, Pedru, the son of a legendary hunter in his village, loses his arm to a lion. Vowing retribution, Pedru dreams of tracking down and killing the lion. However, Pedru soon learns the “aggressive lion” is actually Puna, a collared lioness who is part of a conservation research project based at the Madune Carnivore Research Station. Intrigued and with the approval of the village elder, Pedru visits the Research Station to alert them to Puna’s position. His visit leads to more collaboration between the research scientists and Pedru’s village regarding not only increased awareness of lions and their behaviors but also lions’ adaptations to the environmental changes brought on by tourism, human encroachment, among other events. Infused with features of oral storytelling, Davies’ story is partnered well with an epilogue about the endangerment of lions and the Niassa Carnivore Project in Mozambique.

Hartnett, Sonya. **The Children of the King**. Candlewick Press, 2014. ISBN 978-0763667351. First published in 2012 by Penguin: London: England. (Ages 10 +).



“The war was a sprawling, catastrophic thing, an event that would change lives...” elucidates 12-year-old Cecily Lochwood, the narrator in Sonya Hartnett’s mystery novel *The Children of the King*. This novel includes two storylines that easily capture and sustain readers’ attention. The first storyline unfolds a lyrical canvas of children’s lives and their long-lasting hopes for peace during WWII. When France has fallen and the war is close to London, Cecily and her older brother Jeremy are sent from the capital to Heron Hall, a countryside house of their Uncle Peregrine. At Heron Hall, the children learn from their uncle’s bedtime stories how everything that happens has consequences. The second storyline develops from Uncle Peregrine’s stories of the past and its connection to the present. His stories “come to life” through the children’s discovery of Snow Castle on the premises of Heron Hall and the castle’s ghostly inhabitants. What can the past tell about the present? How are people’s lives connected? And, what does life in a time of a war mean? These are the main questions raised in *The Children of the King*. The book is also available as an e-book for Kindle as well as in an audible format.

Tamaki, Jillian, & Tamaki, Mariko. **This One Summer**. First Second, 2014. ISBN 978-1596437746. First Published by First Second, New York: NY. (Ages 12-18).



This One Summer is a brilliant graphic novel about Rose and Windy's friendship and maturation. Rose and her parents visit Awago Beach each summer for vacation; however, this summer, Rose's visit is far from enjoyable. Her parents are fighting all the time and Rose feels neglected due to her mother's preoccupation with her own difficulties. Rose clearly sees her mother in pain and wants to help her; yet, she also needs her mother to support her. What should Rose do? How will she handle her conflicting emotions and her mother's hardship? With the help of her friend Windy, Rose learns about adulthood and finally acknowledges what it means to have a real friend. By representing many details of the landscape of Awago, Tamaki creates a sense of locality and opens up dialogue about a number of diverse communities and the way of living in them. This nicely crafted story could readily invite creative minds to recreate their summer time through either visual or verbal narratives, or perhaps both.

Walker, Niki. **Why Do We Fight? Conflict, War, and Peace**. Owl Kids, 2013. ISBN 978-1926973869. First published in 2013 by Owl Kids: Toronto: Canada. (Ages 12-14).



Why do conflicts happen? Why can we not stop them? Is war unavoidable? Walker's book *Why Do We Fight? Conflict, War, and Peace* is a well thought out investigation of how we can create and sustain peace around the world. In five short chapters, Walker chronicles a variety of global conflicts and elucidates possible consequences for people and the Earth. She brings a number of historical and contemporary examples to illustrate the complexity of conflict and to enhance readers' comprehension. This nonfiction book is clearly organized, engaging, and filled with source-documented facts. Additional terminology is explained and presented in an understandable way. *Why Do We Fight? Conflict, War, and Peace* will definitely serve as a starting point to communicate more about the world, its people and their systems of beliefs. It is an interesting work to read in and out of the classroom.

Books for Additional Reading Pleasure

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

- Belloni, Giulia. **Anything is Possible**. Translated from the Italian Tutto e possibile by William Anselmi. Illustrated by Marco Trevisan. Owlkids Books, 2013. ISBN 9781926973913. First published in 2011 by Kite Edizioni: Padua, Italy. (Ages 4-7).
- Burningham, John. **Picnic**. Candlewick Press, 2014. ISBN 9780763669454. First published in 2013 by Random House, London, UK. (Ages 3-5).
- Cohen, Laurie. **The Flea**. Illustrated by Marjorie Beal. Translated from French Une Puce by Sarah Quinn. Owlkids Books, 2014. ISBN 9781771470568. First published in 2014 by Frimousse: Paris, France. (Ages 4-8).
- Dumont, Jean-Francois. **The Geese March in Step**. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2014. ISBN 9780802854438. First published in 2007 by Editions Flammarion: Paris, France. (Ages 4-8).
- Garland, Sally Anne. **Share**. Owlkids Books, 2014. ISBN 9781771470056. First published in 2013 by Caterpillar Books: London, UK. (Ages 3-7).
- Keens-Douglas, Richardo. **The Nutmeg Princess**. Illustrated by Annouchka Galouchko. Annick Press, 2014. ISBN 9781554515998. First published in 1992 by Annick Press: Toronto, Canada. (Ages 6-9).
- McKay, Sharon & Lafrance, Daniel. **War Brothers: The Graphic Novel**. Illustrated by Daniel Lafrance. Annick Press, 2013. ISBN 9781554514892. First published in 2008 by Puffin Canada: Toronto, Canada. (Ages 10-14).
- Saxby, Claire. **There Was an Old Sailor**. Illustrated by Cassandra Allen. Kids Can Press, 2014. ISBN 9781771380225. First published in 2010 by Walker Books: Sydney, Australia. (Ages 3-7).
- Sebe, Masayuki. **100 Hungry Monkeys!** Kids Can Press, 2014. ISBN 9781771380454. First published in 2014 by Kids Can Press: Toronto, Canada. (Ages 3-7).
- Thornhill, Jan. **Is This Panama? A Migration Story**. Illustrated by Soyeon Kim. Owlkids Books, 2013. ISBN 9781926973883. First published in 2013 by Owlkids Books: Toronto, Canada. (Ages 5-8).
- Zoboli, Giovanna. **The Big Book of Slumber**. Translated from the Italian Il grande libro dei pisolini by Antony Shugaar. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2014. ISBN 9780802854391. First published in 2013 by Topipittori: Milan, Italy. (Ages 4-7).

2014 Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) (UK) Awards



Carnegie Medal: *The Bunker Diary* by Kevin Brooks, published by Puffin Books



Kate Greenaway Medal: *This Is Not My Hat*, illustrated by Jon Klassen, published by Walker Books

Canadian Library Association

2014 Book of the Year for Children Award

Curse of the Dream Witch by Allan Stratton (Scholastic Canada Ltd.)

Honour Books

Metro Dogs of Moscow by Rachelle Delaney (Puffin Canada)

Prince Puggly of Spud and the Kingdom of Spiff by Robert Paul Weston (Puffin Canada)

2014 Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Illustrator's Award (Canada)

The Dark, illustrated by Jon Klassen and written by Lemony Snicket (HarperCollins Publishers Ltd)

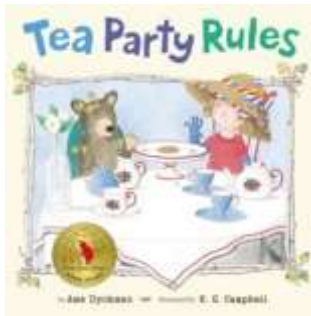
2014 Young Adult Canadian Book Award

Graffiti Knight by Karen Bass (Pajama Press)

Honour Book

The Unlikely Hero of Room 13B by Teresa Toten (Doubleday Canada)


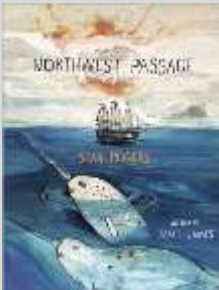
The 2014 Ezra Jack Keats New Writer and New Illustrator Award for Children's Books



New Writer Award Winner: Ame Dyckman for *Tea Party Rules* (Viking)

New Illustrator Award Winner: Christian Robinson for *Rain!* (Houghton Mifflin Books for Children)



<p style="text-align: center;">2013 Governor General's Literary Awards (Canada)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Children's Literature (Text): <i>The Unlikely Hero of Room 13B</i> by Teresa Toten (Doubleday Canada)</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Children's Literature (Illustration): <i>Northwest Passage</i> illustrated by Matt James (Groundwood Books)</p> 
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2014 NEW ZEALAND POST CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARDS WINNERS



New Zealand Post Margaret Mahy Book of the Year: *The Boring Book* by Vasanti Unka (Penguin Group (NZ), Puffin)

Children's Choice Award: *The Three Bears...Sort of* by Yvonne Morrison and Donovan Bixley (Scholastic New Zealand)

Best Picture Book: *The Boring Book* by Vasanti Unka (Penguin Group (NZ), Puffin)

Best Nonfiction: *The Beginner's Guide to Hunting and Fishing in New Zealand* by Paul Adamson (Random House New Zealand)

Best Junior Fiction Award: *Dunger* by Joy Cowley (Gecko Press)

Best First Book: *A Necklace of Souls* by R. L. Stedman (Harper Collins Publishers (NZ), HarperVoyager)

Best Young Adult Fiction: *Mortal Fire* by Elizabeth Knox (Gecko Press)

Young Adult Honor Award: *Bugs* by Whiti Hereaka (Huia Publishers)

Māori Language award: *Taka Ki Ro Wai* by Keri Kaa and Martin D. Page (Tania&Martin)



Call for Manuscripts

Children's Literature in the 21st Century: Changing Genres/Changing Formats (Fall 2015)

Since the publication of *Comenius's Orbis Sensualium Pictus*, children's literature has been in a state of evolution, but perhaps at no other time in its history have the changes been as dramatic as in this digital age. Genre lines are becoming increasingly blurred. Children clamor for graphic novels. Scholars debate how the digital world is shaping children's literature. New apps related to children's literature seem to appear on the market daily. Some of the (many) questions that might be explored in response to this call include: In what ways is children's literature changing? What do these changes mean for the future of children's literature? How do children respond to changing genres and changing formats? What promising instructional strategies support children's engagement in new formats or blurred genres? What practices prepare future teachers with the knowledge and strategies they will need to guide children's engagement with the children's literature of the 21st century? **Due: February 1, 2015.** For more information, go to <http://www.childrensliteratureassembly.org/journal.html>

CONFERENCES, MEETINGS, & WORKSHOPS

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

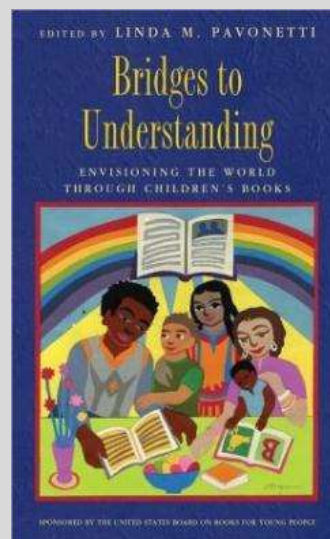
- **Highlights Foundation Workshops**, <http://www.highlightsfoundation.org/upcoming-workshops/>
- **YALSA's Young Adult Literature Symposium, November 14-16, 2014**, Austin, TX, <http://yalitsymposium12.ning.com/>
- **National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)**, November 20-24, Gaylord National Resort, Washington DC www.ncte.org
- **American Library Association Midwinter Meeting**, January 30-February 3, 2015, Chicago <http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/index.cfm>
- **Society for Children's Book Writers and Illustrators**, 15th Annual Winter Conference, February 6-8, 2015 in New York City, <http://www.scbwi.org/>
- **Georgia's Children's Book Award and Children's Literature Conference**, March 6-7, 2015, <http://gcbac.com/>, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia
- **Western Washington University, Children's Literature Conference**, Spring 2015, Bellingham, WA, <http://wwuclc.com/>
- **19th European Conference on Reading**, Literacy in the New Landscape of Communication: Research, Education and the Everyday, Klagenfurt, Austria, 14-17 July 2015 <http://www.literacyeurope.org/call-for-papers-for-the-upcoming-european-conference-on-literacy-2015-in-klagenfurt-austria/>

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



CELEBRATIONS & EVENTS

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

International Literacy Day, September 8, 2014, first adopted by UNESCO in 1965. The purpose of International Literacy Day is to raise people's awareness of and concern for literacy issues in the world. [http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/un/international-literacy-day!](http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/un/international-literacy-day/)

Banned Books Week, September 21-27, 2014, an annual event celebrating the freedom to read. For more information, go to <http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/banned/bannedbooksweek/index.cfm>. AASL has added Banned Websites Awareness Day on September 24, 2014 to bring attention to excessive blocking and filtering of websites.

Teen Read Week, an initiative of the [Young Adult Library Services Association \(YALSA\)](http://www.ala.org/teenread) and celebrated October 12-18, 2014. For more information go to <http://www.ala.org/teenread>.

National Family Literacy Day, November 1, 2014. For ideas to celebrate National Family Literacy Day, check out International Reading Associations' Read Write Think site at <http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/calendar-activities/celebrate-national-family-literacy-20681.html>

Digital Learning Day, February 4, 2015 <http://www.digitallearningday.org/splash> focuses on the successful use of technology in the classroom.

Read across America, March 2, 2015, coincides with the birthday of Dr. Seuss. <http://www.nea.org/grants/886.htm>

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

Reminder:

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

Children's Day/Book Day

Join readers of all linguistic and cultural backgrounds on April 30, 2015 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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