



IBBY SA

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IBBY SA Box 847 Howard Place 7450 South Africa

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Books for Africa newsletter email booksforafrica@iafrica.com

website www.ibbysa.org.za

- ✿ IBBY SA is the South African section of **IBBY**.
- ✿ IBBY is the **International Board on Books for Young People**.
- ✿ IBBY SA's area of interest is everything to do with **South African books for children and young people**.
- ✿ If you are a **member** of IBBY SA, you are also a **member** of IBBY.
- ✿ IBBY's **2004** World Congress was hosted by **IBBY SA in Cape Town**.
- ✿ The **2010** World Congress will be in **Santiago de Compostela, Spain**

Hartlik welkom! Geniet die nuusbrokkies en die artikels wat volg.

O amohelohile! Re tshepa hore o tla thabela ho bala pampitshana ena e fupereng tse thahasellisang le tse susumetsang.

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IBBY's Haiti Appeal

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To IBBY friends around the world, 15 January 2010

This week's earthquake in Haiti has left us all shaken and shocked: our friends are there. Yet another tragic disaster has hit the poorest country in the western hemisphere. We have already seen the nations of the world pledging help with basic medical and food aid.

But they need more than that.

For the past year our colleagues at IBBY Haiti have been running a Children in Crisis project to train teachers, librarians and carers how to use the healing power of storytelling and books after natural and environmental disasters, such as the series of enormous storms that hit Haiti in recent years and the collapse of a school that killed many children in 2008. The earthquake on 12 January 2010 has wreaked so much more havoc and brought death to thousands, and a very uncertain future to millions more.

We are trying to reach Jocelyne Trouillot and her colleagues at IBBY Haiti, but we have no news so far nor do we know anything about the children who have been participating in our programme. If we can

find her and she is in a position to start a new Children in Crisis response IBBY will of course support her 100%. Meanwhile, we will accept funds in trust for IBBY Haiti to help the surviving children and their families through the healing power of books and storytelling. At the very least we can try to make sure that they receive books in Creole, something that has been an important consideration in Jocelyne's work.

All donations are welcome. You can donate through the IBBY website by using a credit card or by making direct transfers using your bank: follow the link on our home page: <http://www.ibby.org>

We shall be sharing news with you as we get it. This tragedy has touched us all: Jocelyne is an active member of our IBBY family and as always the children are suffering the most. Half the population of Port-au-Prince are children!

Help us to help them. Thank you
Liz Page
Executive Director

International Board on Books for Young People
Bringing Books and Children Together

18 January 2010: Over the weekend our friend and colleague Jocelyne Trouillot made contact through email. It is such a relief to hear that she has survived! She writes:

I thank all of you of IBBY for your message. I had no access to internet until today and it is very shaky. I am now in a black out with only minutes left on the computer.

Universite Caraibe and most universities in Port au Prince are completely destroyed. Most schools, too. Thousands of school children and university students are under those buildings. Many cadavers have been removed from the streets by the state today. We have survivors. Thousands of houses have collapsed. Riche and poor and many middle class have lost families and houses. I cannot describe the horrors.

I have seen so many corpses today, many of my own students dead or injured, I don't want to describe it. Hopefully, my family is well. My house is partially destroyed but we hope to make it.

I hope to be able to coordinate some help next week. For now, we have to bury the dead. The children of Haiti will need some psychological help and bibliotherapy will certainly bring some heal. Schools will not reopen until September or October. The buildings and the teachers are not there. We will have to find other places. Many churches have been destroyed too.

Thank you again for your support.

By the way, most of the books in storage by us or directly at the schools have been destroyed. I asked today to get them on the debris but I understood the people were more concerned about the corpses that started to smell and to find some survivors.

We stay positive but for most of us, we will need some strong will.

Talk to you soon
Jocelyne

IBBY is full of remarkable people!

To help her we need to collect funds. She has been working on using books in Creole and training people in the use of books in healing: now she is back to square one and much build up her supply of books and team once again. Many of her colleagues will be coping with their own trauma and sorrows. There is a lot to do.

We are appealing to you today for support for the Haiti earthquake disaster. It is believed that the best way to do this is through donations to the Children in Crisis Fund. Therefore, IBBY will accept donations in trust for IBBY Haiti to help the surviving children and their families through the healing power of books and storytelling, bibliotherapy and the reconstruction of libraries.

To donate is simple: go to <http://www.ibby.org> and follow the path to Children in Crisis from the home page.

Thank you.

IBBY

Bookshop Interview

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Cape Town is very lucky to have a plethora of independent book shops. Over the next few months I will be visiting these and bringing you interviews with the people who are involved in the children's book side of these shops.

The Book Lounge–Veruschka Louw
This is one of my favourite bookshops in Cape Town. Before you even visit the lovingly restored old building with its old world feel, do visit the website. The interactive children's page is based on the large mural created by Julia Anastasopoulos. This intricate

cityscape draws one so effectively into the children's book corner and it reminds me of the Chris Riddell illustrations in that fabulous series of children's books, *Ottaline*.

Francis Thorndike of Pan Macmillan told me that Veruschka is 'a children's book guru' and I am happy to agree with her. She grew up in the tiny town of Willowmore in the Karoo and, encouraged by her mother who loved books, she was a regular visitor to the public library. As she says, 'You don't have to own books to become a keen reader!



Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl was the first book ever read to her and that was by her Grade 4 teacher. It became her first favourite book and it made her realise the huge importance of reading books to children. She also remembers being a big Nancy Drew fan.

Veruschka, what is your prediction for the next big trend in children's literature?

'Presently vampires are the big thing in children's and teen literature, I think they will be replaced by myths and legends. No more romance, lots of excitement.'

Present favourite series along these lines are Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson series and Terry Deary's *The Fire Thief*. If she's right, look out for more!

Are children reading less in this digital age?

'I think this is a parental thing' If parents love reading, then children will pick up the habit. The more digital the parents become, the more the kids will follow suit.'

She emphasises the huge importance of children's librarians: 'If the parents

aren't keen on books, then they are the last bastion.'

Who is your present favourite children's author?

'Jerry Spinelli, the author of, among others, *Stargirl*, *Loser* and his latest *Smiles to Go*. I find I can identify with the feeling of being different from others that is a feature of so many of his characters.'

What are your feelings about the South African books on offer for young adults and teens?

'SA teen books are like petrol stations in the Karoo, you are lucky if you find a good one – and the jacket designs are terrible!' (Publishers, take note!)

Sally Partridge, author of *Fuse* and *The Goblet Club*, is her present favourite SA teen author.

We have so many wonderful SA illustrated books; which is your present favourite?

My Oupa Hoenders by Flip Hattingh. 'Beautiful illustrations, rich text ... well done to Tafelberg for taking a chance and stepping out of their usual mould.'

eBooks, will they spell the end of books as we know them?

'Kindle is a gimmick, it will find its place, but real readers will always use paper,' she says.

Well, that's a relief!

My thanks to Veruschka for sharing her opinions and insights with us. Visit her at the Book Lounge for excellent, expert advice.

Till next month, happy reading.

– Kathy Madlener

Letter to the Editor

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The selections for the 'Five Best Books' feature in the last Newsletter were quite a roller-coaster ride. Some titles gave me a rush of nostalgia or happy recognition (*Swallows and Amazons* ...), others regret because I have never read them, and some were surprising (Hardy Boys?). But I noticed that on the whole English South African books were not well represented. To make up for that, here's my South African five – and I have also included verse and folktales, which didn't feature much.

- 1 ***South Wind*** by Juliet Konig (Juliet Marais Louw)
- 2 ***The Red Dust Soldiers*** by Jenny Seed

- 3 ***The Lion on the Path and Other African Stories*** by Hugh Tracey
- 4 ***Shadow of the Wild Hare*** by Marguerite Poland
- 5 ***The Joining*** by Peter Slingsby

I wish I had room for *Bau and the Baobab Tree* by Lesley Beake and *Skyline* by Patricia Pinnock. You'll have to wait until it is republished (as I am hoping it will be) to see why I would have liked to include *The Chronicles of Peach Grove Farm* by Nellie Fincher, published in Pietermaritzburg in 1910.
– *Elwyn Jenkins*

Percy FitzPatrick Prize Entries

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PRESS RELEASE INVITATION FOR ENTRIES FOR ENGLISH ACADEMY AWARDS IN 2010

NB. We've omitted the Olive Schreiner and Thomas Pringle Awards here. – Eds.

PERCY FITZPATRICK PRIZE

The prize is designed to encourage the writing of books for children to attract them to the habit of reading, to give them enjoyment and also to stretch their horizons imaginatively. It is awarded for an original literary work in English. The work must be a work of fiction designed to interest children aged between ten and fourteen years. Entries for the prize are invited from publishers and/or authors who have published children's books during **2008 and 2009.**

Entries for these prizes are invited from editors of journals, magazines and newspapers as well as from individual authors.

Works submitted must have been written by a resident of a Southern African country and published in Southern Africa.

Entrants are asked to submit three copies of their entries to the Academy's Administrative Officer at **P O Box 124, Wits, 2050**. Entries must be received by **31 May 2010**. Works submitted will be acknowledged but cannot be returned.

Each winner receives a cash prize and a certificate.

For more information, please contact the Administrative Officer on 011 717 9339 or at englishacademy@societies.wits.ac.za

Naomi Nkealah

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Kids' Lit Quiz 2010

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The Kids' Lit Quiz is an annual literature competition for children aged 10 to 13. It puts readers on the stage and lets them compete for fantastic prizes. The quiz has heats in New Zealand, the United



Kingdom, South Africa and China, and winning teams qualify for national and world finals. The Kids' Lit Quiz is not for profit and run entirely by volunteers. A school can enter up to two teams of four children.

The Kids' Lit Quiz is the brainchild of Wayne Mills, senior lecturer in the Faculty of Education at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. Wayne calls the quiz the sport of reading, and he developed the quiz because he so often saw at school prize-givings

children who were good at sport being rewarded but he seldom saw good readers being rewarded.



The Itinerary for the 2010 Kids' Lit Quiz is as follows:

Cape Town

Monday 8 February

Port Elizabeth

Tuesday 9 February

Joburg & Pretoria

Wednesday 10 February

Durban

Thursday 11 February

SA Finals

Friday 12 February in Durban

The World Finals will be held in Edinburgh on 14 August 2010.

VinnigVra Kompetisie / QuickQuiz Competition

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How could we ask people to *work* over the holiday season! Obviously, we received zzzipp replies to the last competition question. Here's the answer. The book featured most often among the lists of Top Fives was *Winnie the Pooh*, just a honey-dipped nose ahead of *Where the Wild Things Are*. So, nothing too surprising there.

Let's see if people are back in harness for this newsletter's question ...

Hierdie een is vir die liefhebbers van Suid-Afrikaanse gedigte:

Hy roep die kriekies
Hy roep die swart
stilte wat sing
soos die biesies ...

Wie is dit wat hier roep en wie het die gedig geskryf?

Stuur asb. jou antwoorde aan / Please email your response to

booksforafrica@iafrica.com

Onthou om ju posadres te gee / Include your postal address, in case you win a book!

Calendar 2010

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Month	Dates	Event
March	21	March to Parliament to lobby for libraries in schools. For details, see http://www.equaleducation.org.za/ or contact Richard Conyngham rich@equaleducation.org.za or 0765939310
March	23 - 25	Bologna Children's Book Fair
March	23	Winner of the Hans Christian Andersen Award announced at the Bologna Children's Book Fair
March	24	Winner of the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award announced in Vimmerby, Sweden
April	2	International Children's Book Day
April	12	Commonwealth Writers' Prize announced in Delhi, India
April	19 - 21	London Book Fair with South Africa as the Market Focus
April	23	25th anniversary of Beverley Naidoo's <i>Journey to Joburg</i> , a celebration organised by the Canon Collins Trust, the London School of Oriental & African Studies and the British Council at SOAS
May	14 - 16	Franschhoek Literary Festival
May	31	Closing date for submissions for the Percy FitzPatrick Prize (see above).
June	24	Winners of the Carnegie Medal and the Kate Greenaway Medal for 2010 announced
July - August	30 - 2	Cape Town Book Fair
August	7 - 9	Jozi Book Fair
September	9 - 12	IBBY World Congress in Santiago de Compostela
September	or after	Winner of the Percy FitzPatrick Prize announced

Reviews / Resensies

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For full reviews of the following books, please go to our website:
Vir die volle resensies van die volgende boeke, gaan asb. na ons webwerf:
www.ibbysa.org.za

You pay for the view : a collection of classic and new short stories, compiled by Sindiwe Magona (Maskew Miller Longman, 2009) – *Veronica Behm Croucher*

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