The 2020 USBBY Outstanding International Books List
OIB List Goal

The goal of this project is to produce an annual list of outstanding international books for children and young adults, grades PreK-12.

For this list, the term "international book" is used to describe a book published or distributed in the U.S. that originated or was first published in a country other than the U.S.
2020 USBBY Outstanding International Books Committee

Anamaría Anderson (Assistant Chair) - Arlington, VA
Bettie Parsons Barger - Charlotte, NC
Susan Corapi - Lake Zurich, IL
Deanna Day - Vancouver, WA
Patrick Gall (Chair) - Evanston, IL
Doris Gebel - Melfa, VA
Amy McClure - Dublin, OH
Mary Napoli - Hummelstown, PA
Quentin Russell - Athens, OH
OIB List Criteria
The committee looks for international books that:

• represent the best of children’s literature from other countries
• introduce readers in the U.S. to outstanding artists and writers from other countries
• help children in the U.S. see the world from other points of view
• provide a perspective or address a topic otherwise missing from children’s literature in the U.S.
• exhibit a distinct cultural flavor
• are accessible to readers in the U.S.
OIB List Criteria

The committee evaluates international books by the following elements:

- artistic and literary merit
- originality or creativity of approach
- distinctiveness of topic
- uniqueness of origin
- qualities that engage and appeal to children
The 2020 Outstanding International Books List is the 15th annual list!

All books on the 2020 OIB List were published or released in 2019.

Country names in parentheses indicate where a book was first or simultaneously published. Information after a slash indicates when the setting of a title definitively differs from its country of origin.

For more information, visit www.usbby.org.
Challenging Stereotypes & Social Norms

Curated by 2020 OIB committee member Bettie Parsons Barger
Grades PreK-2

Ximo Abadia

*The Farmer*

Trans. by Grace Maccarone & Kelly Loughman

Illus. by Ximo Abadia

Holiday House (Switzerland)
Grades PreK-2

Susan Avingaq & Maren Vsetula

The Pencil

Illus. by Charlene Chua

Inhabit Media (Canada)
Krystia Basil
A Sky Without Lines
Illus. by Laura Borràs
(minedition)
(Hong Kong/set along the US/Mexico border)

Grades PreK-2
Grades PreK-2

Julie Flett

*Birdsong*

Illus. by Julie Flett

Greystone Kids

(Canada)
Grades PreK-2

Daniel and Ismail

Juan Pablo Iglesias

Daniel and Ismail

Trans. by Ilan Stavans;

Eliezer Nowodworski

& Frieda Press-Danieli;

Randa Sayegh

Illus. by Alex Peris

Yonder

(Chile)
Hyeon-Ju Lee

The Happiest Tree: A Story of Growing Up

Illus. Hyeon-Ju Lee

Feiwel and Friends (Korea)
Grades PreK-2

Wendy Meddour

_Lubna and Pebble_

Illus. by Daniel Egnéus

Dial Books for Young Readers (UK)
Thukpa for All

Grades PreK-2

Praba Ram & Sheela Preuitt

Illus. by Shilpa Ranade

Karadi Tales Company

(India)
Grades PreK-2

One Fox: A Counting Book Thriller

Illus. by Kate Read

Peachtree Publishing Company

(UK)
Miguel Tanco

Count on Me

Illus. by Miguel Tanco

Tundra Books

(Canada)
Grades PreK-2

Fernando Vilela

Along the Tapajós

Trans. by Daniel Hahn

Illus. by Fernando Vilela

Amazon Crossing Kids (Brazil)
Solving Mysteries

Curated by 2020 OIB committee member Susan Corapi
Grades 3-5

Deborah Abela

*The Most Marvelous International Spelling Bee*

Sourcebooks Jabberwocky

(Australia)
Gerelchimeg Blackcrane

The Moose of Ewenki

Trans. by Helen Mixter

Illus. by Jiu Er

Greystone Kids (China)
Grades 3-5

Gro Dahle
*Angryman*

Trans. by Tara Chace

Illus. by Svein Nyhus

NorthSouth Books

(Norway)
Hetxw’ms Gyetxw
(Brett D. Huson)

The Grizzly Mother
Illus. by Natasha Donovan

HighWater Press
(Canada)

Grades 3-5
Grades 3-5

Michael Hutchinson

The Case of Windy Lake

Second Story Press

(Canada)
Vanishing Colors

Constance Ørbeck-Nilssen

Trans. by Kari Dickson

Illus. by Akin Duzakin

Eerdman Books for Young Readers

(Norway)
Katherine Rundell

*The Good Thieves*

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

(UK/set in US)
Heather Smith

_The Phone Booth in Mr. Hirota’s Garden_

Illus. by Rachel Wada

Orca Book Publishers

(Canada/set in Japan)
Riding a Donkey Backwards: Wise and Foolish Tales of Mulla Nasruddin

Illus. by Shirin Adl

Candlewick Press (UK)

Grades 3-5
Marjan Vafaeian
*The Parrot and the Merchant*
Trans. by Azita Rassi
Illus. by Marjan Vafaeian
Tiny Owl Publishing
(Iran)
Crossing Boundaries

Curated by 2020 OIB committee member Deanna Day
Jorge Argueta

Caravan to the North: Misael’s Long Walk

Trans. by Elizabeth Bell
Illus. by Manuel Monroy

Groundwood Books

(Canada/set in Central America)
Candy Gourlay

Bone Talk

Scholastic

(UK/set in the Philippines)
Michelle Kadarusman

*Girl of the Southern Sea*

Pajama Press

(Canada/set in Indonesia)

Grades 6-8
Grades 6-8

Alexandra Litvina

The Apartment: A Century of Russian History

Trans. by Antonina W. Bouis

Illus. by Anna Desnitskaya

Abrams Books for Young Readers

(Russia)
Roger Mello
Charcoal Boys
Trans. by Daniel Egnéus
Illus. by Roger Mello
Elsewhere Edition (Brazil)

Grades 6-8
Monique Polak

The Taste of Rain

Orca Book Publishers

(Canada/set in China)
Ailsa Ross

The Girl Who
Rode a Shark:
And Other Stories
of Daring Women

Illus. by
Amy Blackwell

Pajama Press
(Canada)
Lucy Strange

Our Castle by the Sea

Grades 6-8

Chicken House

(UK)
Grades 6-8

Silvia Vecchini

The Red Zone: An Earthquake Story

Trans. by Anna Barton

Illus. by Sualzo

Amulet Books (Italy)

When an earthquake destroys their quiet town, three friends must work together to build a new life amid the rubble.
Girls in STEM

Curated by 2020 OIB committee member Mary Napoli
Questions I Am Asked About the Holocaust

Hédi Fried

Questions I Am Asked About the Holocaust

Trans. by Alice E. Olsson

Scribe Publications (Sweden)
Grades 9-12

Ambelin Kwaymullina & Ezekiel Kwaymullina

The Things She’s Seen

Alfred A. Knopf
(Australia)
Andri Snær Magnason

The Casket of Time

Trans. by Björg Arnadóttir & Andrew Cauthery

Yonder

(Iceland)
Grades 9-12

Guilherme Petreca

Ye

Trans. by Andrea Rosenberg

Illus. by Guilherme Petreca

Top Shelf Productions

(Brazil)
Marcus Sedgwick & Julian Sedgwick

Voyages in the Underworld of Orpheus Black

Illus. by Alexis Deacon

Walker Books (UK)

Grades 9-12
Various authors

This Place: 150 Years Retold

Illus. by various artists

HighWater Press (Canada)
Dystopia with a Twist

Curated by 2020 OIB committee member Quentin Russell