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The United States Board on Books for Young People Announces the 2025 Outstanding International Books List

January 27, 2025 — The United States Board on Books for Young People (USBBY) announces its 2025 Outstanding International Books list featuring titles published in 2024. The annual Outstanding International Books list highlights exceptional books for children and young adults published or distributed in the United States that originated or were first published in a country other than the U.S.

This year's list includes 40 titles originating from 23 different countries that represent the best of children's literature from around the world. USBBY's goal is that these titles will help young people in the U.S. to see the world from diverse perspectives, introduce readers in the U.S. to outstanding artists and writers from other countries, help counteract stereotypes, bridge cultural gaps, build connections, and engage and prove accessible to young readers in the U.S.

These titles were selected by a committee with expertise in and passion for international children's and young adult literature.

The titles selected for this year's list as well as titles from previous lists can be found at: <https://www.usbby.org/outstanding-international-books.html> They are also listed below by grade range. Country names in parentheses indicate where the book was first or simultaneously published. A second country name in parentheses indicates book setting if it differs meaningfully from the country of publication.

PreK–2nd Grade

- **A Day with Mousse** by Claire Lebourg. tr. from French by Sophie Lewis. Transit Children's Editions. (France)
- **A Sleepless Night** by Micaela Chirif. illus. by Joaquín Camp. tr. from Spanish by Jordan Landsman. Transit Children's Editions. (Argentina)



- **Amu Nowruz and His Violets** by Hadi Mohammadi. illus. by Nooshin Safakhoo. tr. from Persian by Sara Khalili. Elsewhere Editions. (Iran)
- **Boozhoo! Hello!** by Mangeshig Pawis-Steckley. tr. from English to Anishinaabemowin by Mary Ann Corbiere. Greenwood Books. (Canada)
- **Grandma's Roof Garden** by Tang Wei. tr. from Chinese by Kelly Zhang. Levine Querido. (China)
- **Little Shrew** by Akiko Miyakoshi. tr. from Japanese by KAISEI-SHA Publishing Co. and Kids Can Press. Kids Can Press. (Japan)
- **Look! Look!** by Uma Krishnaswami. illus. by Uma Krishnaswamy. Greenwood Books. (Canada/India)
- **Marcelo, Martello, Marshmallow** by Ruth Rocha. illus. by Ana Matsusaki. tr. from Portuguese by Tal Goldfajn. Tapioca Stories. (Brazil)
- **Montezuma's Tantrum** by Nuria Gómez Benet. illus. by Santiago Solís Montes de Oca. tr. from Spanish by Elisa Amado. Aldana Libros/Greystone Books. (Spain/Mexico)
- **ninitohtênân / We Listen** by Caitlin Dale Nicholson with Leona Morin-Neilson tr. from English to Cree by Leona Morin-Neilson. Greenwood Books. (Canada)
- **Taro Gomi's Big Book of Words** by Taro Gomi. tr. from Japanese by KAISEI-SHA Publishing Co, Taro Gomi, and Naomi Kirsten. Chronicle Books. (Japan)
- **The Legend of Tiger and Tail-Flower** by Lee Gee Eun. tr from Korean by Aerin Park. Levine Querido. (South Korea)
- **The Slug and the Snail** by Oein DeBhairduin. illus. by Olya Anima. Little Island. (Ireland)
- **What Makes Us Human** by Victor D.O. Santos. illus. by Anna Forlati. tr. from Portuguese by Victor D.O. Santos. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers. (Brazil)

3rd–5th Grade

- **An Unexpected Light** by José Saramago. illus. by Armando Fonseca. tr. from Portuguese by Margaret Jull Costa. Triangle Square Books/Seven Stories Press. (Portugal)
- **Birds on the Brain** by Uma Krishnaswami. illus. by Julianna Swaney. Greenwood Books. (Canada/India)
- **Griso: The One and Only** by Roger Mello. tr. from Portuguese by Daniel Hahn. Elsewhere Editions. (Brazil)



- **John the Skeleton** by Laan Triinu. illus. by Marja-Liisa Plats tr. from Estonian by Adam Cullen. Restless Books/Yonder. (Estonia)
- **Loose Threads** by Isol. tr. from Spanish by Lawrence Schimel. Enchanted Lion. (Argentina)
- **Mishka** by Edward van de Vendel, & Anoush Elman. illus. by Annet Schaap.tr. from Dutch by Nancy Forest-Flier. Levine Querido. (Netherlands)
- **Taming Papa** by Mylène Goupil. tr. from French by Shelley Tanaka. Groundwood Books. (Canada)
- **The Duel: A Story about Peace** by Inês Viegas Oliveira. tr. from Portuguese by Rosa Churcher Clarke. Triangle Square Books/Seven Stories Press. (Portugal)
- **The Wildcat Behind Glass** by Alki Zei. tr. from Greek by Karen Emmerich. Restless Books/Yonder. (Greece)
- **Too Small Tola Makes It Count** by Atinuke. illus. by Onyinye Iwu. Candlewick. (United Kingdom/Nigeria)
- **Water: Discovering the Precious Resource All Around Us** by Olga Fadeeva. tr. from Russian by Lena Traer. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers. (Russia)
- **Vigdís: A Book About the World's First Female President** by Rán Flygenring. tr. from Icelandic by Jonas Moody. HELVETIQ. (Iceland)

6th–8th Grade

- **Call Me AI** by Wali Shah & Eric Walters. Orca Books. (Canada)
- **Island of Whispers** by Frances Hardinge. illus. by Emily Gravett. Amulet/Abrams Books. (United Kingdom)
- **Johnny, the Sea, and Me** by Melba Escobar. illus. by Elizabeth Builes. Melba. tr. from Spanish by Sara Lissa Paulson. Enchanted Lion. (Colombia)
- **Our Beautiful Darkness** by Ondjaki. illus. by António Jorge Gonçalves. tr. from Portuguese by Lyn Miller-Lachmann. Unruly/Enchanted Lion. (Brazil/Angola)
- **Save Our Forest!** by Nora Dåsnes. tr. from Norwegian by Lise Lærdal Bryn. Hippo Park/Astra Books for Young Readers. (Norway)
- **The Go-Between** by Jennifer Maruno. Red Deer Press. (Canada)
- **The Mailbox Tree** by Rebecca Lim & Kate Gordon. Walker Books. (Australia)
- **The Queen of Thieves: The Moonwind Mysteries** by Johan Rundberg. tr. from Swedish by A. A. Prime. Amazon Crossing Kids. (Sweden)



- **We Go to the Park** by Sara Stridsberg. illus. by Beatrice Alemagna. tr. from Swedish by B. J. Woodstein. Unruly/Enchanted Lion. (Sweden)
- **Wildful** by Kengo Kurimoto. Groundwood Books. (Canada)

9th–12th Grade

- **Crash Landing** by Li Charmaine Anne. Annick Press. (Canada)
- **Loud: Stories to Make Your Voice Heard** by Anna Cercignano, Elenora Antonioni, Maurizia Rubino, Francesca Torre, La Tram, Lucia Biagi, Vega Guerrieri, Caterina Ferrante, Laure Guglielmo, Davide Costa, ElisA2B, Carmen Guasco, Marta Macolino, & Alessia De Sio. tr. from Italian by Anna Barton. Dark Horse Comics. (Italy)
- **The Book of Denial** by Ricardo Chávez Castañeda. illus. by Alejandro Magallanes. tr. from Spanish by Lawrence Schimel. Unruly/Enchanted Lion. (Mexico)
- **Ukraine: Remember Also Me: Testimonies from the War** by George Butler. Candlewick Studio. (United Kingdom/Ukraine)

“OIB is a unique resource for teachers and librarians serving students P-12 and looks to integrate the highest quality international literature that authentically reflects local culture.” —
Wendy Stephens, USBBY President, 2024–25

About the United States Board on Books for Young People

The United States Board on Books for Young People (USBY) is a nonprofit organization devoted to building bridges of international understanding through children's and young adult books; it serves as the U.S. national section of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY). Learn more: usbby.org