

European resources: a guided tour

Eva Devos, IBBY Belgium, Flemish branch

Some things in our society are changing quite rapidly, but some things aren't.

The primary goals of public libraries for example: they are still education, information, individual improvement and recreation, by offering resources and services to the communities they serve.

The primary goals of schools are still facilitating learning, and the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs, and habits, to make children well equipped to function in modern day society.

But the communities libraries are serving and the society schools find themselves in: those are the things that are changing. One of the aspects of this change is the growing cultural and language diversity in our European societies. Today I think we have argued sufficiently the importance of the recognition of this language diversity, and the importance of reading in your mother language.

But for that to happen, schools and libraries have to diversify, to adapt the range of facilities they offer, their way of working, and their mentality.

Offering books in different languages is a small but important part of this.

But that can present some challenges – especially when it comes to selecting, acquiring and putting your books to use. In this short talk I will focus on selecting.

Chances are that if you are running a library or a school, you don't have a specialist in Bulgarian children's literature stand by. Or maybe your knowledge of Farsi isn't what it used to be. No worries! International networks like IBBY are the perfect starting points for your search. There are actually several initiatives that can help you choose books in languages you don't speak yourself.



The **IBBY Honour List** is a biennial selection of outstanding, recently published books, honouring writers, illustrators and translators from IBBY member countries. The titles are selected by the National Sections. Countries with a substantial and continuing production of children's books in more than one language, can submit a book for writing and translation in each official language. Important considerations in selecting the Honour List titles are that the books are representative of the best in children's literature from the country and that the books are suitable for publication throughout the world. The selection provides insight into the diverse cultural, political and social settings in which children live and grow and it can be used by all those involved

with developing educational and literacy programmes and publishing initiatives to develop exemplary "international" collections.

The IBBY Honour List catalogue can be found online and in print.

<http://ibby.org/awards-activities/awards/ibby-honour-list/>

CAMBODIA (Khmer)

Hok Sothik
Sothik, komapheap del trov ke dok haut
 (Sothik, a confiscated childhood)
 Il. Tian
 Phnom Penh: Sipat, 2017
 111pp, 125x190mm
 ISBN 978-99243-40-16-4, Ages: 12+
 Cambodia 1954-75, Khmer Rouge,
 autobiography



Sothik, komapheap del trov ke dok haut is the story of a strange and sad childhood in Cambodia during the civil war and bombing raids of the US military. When the author was three, the Khmer Rouge took over his village and everyday reality changed: bad became good, white became black and fools became scholars. Even the cows were to be addressed as 'comrade cows'.

Hok Sothik was born in 1967 in Arntong Sor in the Kampong Cham province of Cambodia. He studied Russian and French literature and civilisation and obtained Masters in Pedagogy and in Science of Education and Training. He held several positions in SIPAR before becoming its Director in 2004. He is also President of the Cambodian Library Association and Member of the Board of Directors of several NGOs working in Cambodia for the promotion of education and culture.

CANADA (French)

Sénéchal, Jean-François
Le boulevard
 (The boulevard)
 Ottawa: Leméac Éditeur, 2016
 301pp, 108x178mm
 ISBN 978-2-7609-4224-0, Ages: 13+
 Mother/son, mental disability



Abandoned by his mother, Chris is lonely and distraught. Thankfully, the boulevard is not far away, and with it, there are cars, a flea market and a bowling alley. In this unusual universe, he meets people who become the family he does not have. For Chris, this is the beginning of an adventure that helps him to better accept his intellectual disabilities and to claim his right to happiness.

Originally an anthropologist, Jean-François Sénéchal is now a writer, editor and screenwriter. His children's works include: *Le cri de Lila* (Lila's cries, 2013), which received the *Prix Jeunesse des libraires du Québec*; *Feu Fier*, (2014), which received the *Prix du Gouverneur général / Jeunesse – texte*; *L'enquête secrète de la rue* (The secret quest in the alley, 2015), which received the *Prix Jeunesse des libraires du Québec*. His most recent book is *L'enquête secrète du trésor perdu* (The secret quest for the lost treasure, 2017). *Le boulevard* was a finalist for the *Prix du livre jeunesse des Bibliothèques de Montréal* (2017) and a finalist for the *Prix Adolecteurs de la Librairie Monet* (2017).

CHILE (Spanish)

Larra, Lola
Al sur de la Alameda
 (South of the Alameda)
 Il. Vicente Reinosmontes
 Santiago: Ekaré Sur, 2015
 285pp, 160x230mm
 ISBN 978-84-942081-5-7, Ages: 15+
 Education policy, protest, school



In Chile, during the student movement in 2006, 35 high school students of a small private school south of the Alameda in Santiago decide to take over their school in solidarity with the public schools seeking better state education. Soon the classrooms, the yard and even the students all seem different when confronted with the student movement. Nicolás, the goalkeeper of the school's football team, becomes bored with the student meetings and the events of the takeover. The text and pictures combine to create a suspenseful story.

Claudia Larragabel (pen name Lola Larra) was born in Santiago and grew up in Caracas, Venezuela. She currently lives in Santiago and heads the small children's literature publishing house, Ekaré Sur. Claudia Larragabel worked for many years as a journalist in Madrid for newspapers and magazines, including *El País*, *Cinemanía*, *Rolling Stone* and *Vogue*. She has published short stories, chronicles and novels such as *Reir como ellos* (Laugh like them, 2004), *Reglas de Caballería* (Rules of cavalry, 2005), *Donde nunca es invierno* (Where it is never winter, 2008), *Puesta en escena* (Staging, 2010). *Al sur de la Alameda* has received various awards including the *Premio Municipal de Santiago* and *Los mejores del Banco del libro y premio Cuatrogatos*, and was selected for the 2014 White Ravens catalogue.

CHINA (Chinese)

Qin Wenjun
Xiao Qing Chun
 (Youthful moments)
 Il. Hua Zhangyi
 Beijing: CCPG, 2017
 176pp, 155x230mm
 ISBN 978-7-5148-3767-4, Ages: 7-10
 Diary, Cultural Revolution



Li Weiyl, although a role model, protested at the cruelty and unfairness in his school but at times chose to yield and tolerate humiliation to protect his friends. He was suspicious that his best friend Lao Ba had been hiding a secret from him. He sensed something more significant when Lao Ba told him that his secret involved a lost diary that was disguised as a songbook. If it fell to the hands of wrong people, they could use it to incriminate his family for their crimes. To help Lao Ba and his family avoid this disastrous situation, Li Weiyl asked his friends for help to locate the diary. Xiao Qing Chun is imbued with the author's real experience and memories of the Cultural Revolution. The book presents a graphic account of Shanghai city life in the 1960s.

Qin Wenjun was born in Shanghai in 1954 and has been a writer, editor and publisher of children's literature in China for over 35 years. Her series of novels about schoolboy Jia Li and schoolgirl Jia Mei, the first of which was published in 1991 in serial form in the *Ju Ren* magazine, were regarded as innovative and enlightened. The resulting novel, *Jia Li in Junior High* (1991), has sold over three million copies and was made into a film, a TV series, a stage play and a radio play. Other well-known works include *Dear 16-Year-Old Me: Up to the Mountains in Northeast China* (1988), *Prince's Long Night* (2012) and *Aroma's Little Garden* (2016). In addition to writing, editing, and publishing, Qin Wenjun is also an activist for children's literature and reading. For many years she has served as the President of the China-Japan Children's Literature & Fine Arts Exchange Association. Qin Wenjun was a candidate for the 2018 Hans Christian Andersen Award.

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Writing 9

1 HL - excerpt from the Writing section

JAPAN

Suzuki, Koji
Domu gataru
 (Dome story)
 Text: Arthur Binard
 Tokyo: Tamagawa University Press, 2017
 [34pp], 255x305mm
 ISBN 978-4-472-05991-9, Ages: 7+
 Japan 1945, Hiroshima, atomic bomb



The main character of this picture book is the Genbaku Dome, in Hiroshima that was the only structure left standing after the first atomic bomb was dropped in 1945. The dome was built in 1915 as the Hiroshima Prefecture Product Exhibition Building and is now officially the Hiroshima Peace Memorial. The story is written from the dome's point of view. It tells about the bustling times before the atomic bomb was dropped, the destruction and chain reactions of the explosion, and the long years of recovery. The dome itself remains static, but manages to keep a close eye on Japan and the rest of the world, worrying about global nuclear weapon testing and the development of nuclear power. The author, Arthur Binard is an American poet based in Japan. Arthur Binard and Koji Suzuki spent two years on the book, doing research and speaking with bomb survivors. Koji Suzuki's illustrations are both dynamic and exquisite. His abstract depictions of scattered bits of uranium too small to see with the naked eye make a particularly strong impression.

Koji Suzuki was born in Shizuoka in 1948. His works include original picture books, collections of drawings, manga, posters for films and dramatic products, stage designs and costumes, signs, package designs, wall paintings and more. He has even produced 'live paintings' of which his body was a part. Many of his picture books have won prizes, including his titles *Enso-Jan kisha ni noru* (Enso's first trip alone, 1986), *Yama no disko* (Disco on the mountain, 1989), which was selected for the 1990 IBBY Honour List, *Sarubirusa* (1991), and *Burakinkinda* (It's black, 2008).

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Baek Hee-na
Al-Sa-Tang
 (Magic candles)
 Text by the artist
 Seoul: Bear Books, 2017
 [44pp], 255x260mm
 ISBN 978-89-93242-30-0, Ages: 4-7
 Shyness, magic, empathy



Dong-Dong is a shy and timid boy. He is always hesitant to ask, "Will you play with me?" to a new friend, even though he really wants to. Sometimes he pretends that he is okay with playing alone. One day, Dong-Dong happens to get a bag of magical sweets. Each time he puts a sweet into his mouth he hears the deepest thoughts and feelings of other people, animals and things. Now he could listen to the whining of his dog Goo-Seul-Yi. After listening to his father's thoughts, Dong-Dong learns that although his father always pushes Dong-Dong to do this and that, in fact he truly loves Dong-Dong with all his heart. The experience of listening to diverse thoughts permits Dong-Dong to begin to understand and empathize with other people. And finally, he becomes confident enough to approach a new friend.

Baek Hee-na studied educational technology at Ewha Womans University and animation at the California Institute of the Arts in Valencia, CA (USA). She is the author and illustrator of *Cloud Bread* (2004), which was translated into several languages and made into an animated TV programme and musical. She was selected for the Bologna Illustrator's Exhibition 2005 for *Cloud Bread* and was selected for the 3rd Changwon Children's Literature Award and the 53rd Korea Book Award for *The bath fairy* (2012). She is also the author and illustrator of *The pink rope* (2007), *Moon sherbet* (2010), *Last night* (2011), *The blowfly in my dream* (2014) and *The strange mum* (2016). Baek Hee-na is a highly praised illustrator, in particular for her 3D illustration technique: she makes dolls using Sculpey (a polymer clay), creates and arranges sets and works on photo shoots.

LATVIA

Brasliņa, Elina
Tobiss, Čārījs un neredzamais spoks
 (Tobias, Charly and the invisible ghost)
 Text: Juris Zvirgzdiņš
 Riga: Pētergailis, 2017
 43pp, 165x235mm
 ISBN 978-9984-33-441-7, Ages: 6-12
 Teddy bear, adventure, ghost



Tobiss, Čārījs un neredzamais spoks describes one of the many adventures of Tobias the teddy bear, a beloved character created by Latvian children's book author Juris Zvirgzdiņš. In this story, Tobias and his friend Charley (also a toy bear) adopt an unwanted ghost. It soon becomes clear that the invisible creature is a dog and, as always, a number of curious events soon follow. The illustrations of the book are black and white. Although they were created digitally, Elina Brasliņa has endeavoured to imitate a traditional hand-drawn effect by using a number of customised brushes and scanned pencil, crayon and charcoal textures. Both the main and supporting characters are drawn with attention to detail, enhancing the quirkiness and humour that weaves throughout text.

Elina Brasliņa, born 1988, is an illustrator and graphic artist. She has illustrated several children's books written by Latvian authors and a collection of poems for children: *Moon Juice*, by the British author Kate Wakeling. She has twice received the Zelta Abele Award for Book Design: for *No Rīgas līdz Rīgai: Tobiss un Tama kļūst Eiropas bibliotēku ceļojumā* (From Riga to Riga: Tobias and Tama on the big European library trip, 2014) by Inguna Cepite and Juris Zvirgzdiņš and *Have a Nice Day: gandrīz miljā stāsts* (Have a nice day: almost love story, 2015) by Juris Zvirgzdiņš. She has been nominated several times for the Jānis Balviņš Prizē in Children's Literature and Book Art, which she received in 2017 for her illustrations for two of the *Atklāsies detektīvi* (Art detectives) books by Luīze Pastore and for Tobias, Čārījs un neredzamais spoks. She is currently working as a production designer on a feature length animation film with Atom Art studio.

LEBANON

Zahreddine, Hassan
Mudhat mahinon
 (Skillful pedestrians)
 Text: Nabha Mhaidi
 Beirut: Dar al Hadeeq, 2015
 23pp, 205x255mm
 ISBN 978-614-439-022-1, Ages: 9+
 City, traffic, pedestrian, observation



The little girl by the window is watching the pedestrians down on the street. She tries to attract their attention as they stand watching and waiting for the streetlight to change from red to green. She shouts and waits for them to turn their heads and notice her, she waves at them, but to no avail. They stand in the rain and keep focused on the streetlight, unaware of her existence. When the light changes, each goes their own way leaving a lonely child watching and calling to them without response on their part. The style of illustration is expressive, capturing the scene at each moment. The faces of the pedestrians show only interest in their planned destiny for the day.

Hassan Zahreddine is a printmaker and illustrator with a BA in Fine Arts (painting) from the Lebanese University in Beirut and from the Université du Québec à Montréal and an MA in printmaking from Concordia University in Montreal (Canada). He has participated in several individual and collective exhibitions in Canada, Lebanon, Japan, Italy, Spain, Poland and France. He has been a children's book illustrator since 2000 and participated in the exhibition of Arab Illustrators of Children's books at the Institut du Monde Arabe in France in 2003. He was shortlisted at the Bologna Illustrators' Exhibition in 2009 and 2011. He was nominated for the 2010 IBBY Honour List for *Al Asdig' al a'ada'* (Friends that are enemies, 2007) and won the Etsisat Award given by UAEBBY in 2012.

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Illustration 59

2 HL - Excerpt from the Illustration section

The **White Ravens** is an initiative from the Internationale JugendBibliothek, located in München in Germany. It is an annually published catalogue containing about 200 titles from about 50 countries. The titles are selected by the language specialists of the IJB, chosen from the big multilingual collection of the IJB.

<http://whiteravens.ijb.de/list>

The White Ravens

A Selection of International Children's and Youth Literature

Presented by > Internationale Jugendbibliothek / International Youth Library



BASIC SEARCH >

ADVANCED SEARCH ▾

Language <input type="text"/>	Country Russia
Subject 1 <input type="text"/>	Subject 2 <input type="text"/>
Person <input type="text"/>	Title <input type="text"/>
Publisher <input type="text"/>	ISBN <input type="text"/>
WR Issue 2018	<input type="button" value="SEARCH"/> <input type="button" value="RESET"/>

3 WR - advanced search

 <p>WHITE RAVENS 2018</p> <p>Russian / Russia</p> <p>Ja chotu zhit! (I want to live!)</p>	 <p>WHITE RAVENS 2018</p> <p>Russian / Russia</p> <p>Majak - smotri! (Mayak — (A lighthouse - Look!)</p>	 <p>WHITE RAVENS 2018</p> <p>Russian / Russia</p> <p>Polosatyj. Skazka dlja b... (Striped. A fairy tale fo...)</p>	 <p>WHITE RAVENS 2018</p> <p>Russian / Russia</p> <p>Teo - teatral'nyj kapita... (Teo the theatre captain)</p>
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4 WR - search results for 'Russia' and '2018'

Russian / Russia

Ja choču žít!
(*Ya khochu žít!*)
(*I want to live!*)

Amraeva, Adelija (Amraeva, Adelya) (text)
Moskva: Akvilegija-M, [2018] – 381 p.
(Series: Sovremennaja proza)
ISBN 978-5-906950-14-7


Suicide | Domestic violence | Resilience

White Ravens issue: 2018

Reading age: 12+

[OPAC >](#)

[← BACK TO LIST](#) [NEW SEARCH](#)



5 WR - Book information

Both the IBBY Honour list and the White Ravens were on view here in the Bologna Book Fair, at respectively the IBBY booth and the IJB booth. I hope you had the chance to have a look at those wonderful collections.

Another database that you might know already, is the **European IBBY Database**. Each European IBBY section is invited to add 5 new titles per year in the official language or languages of their country.

<https://www.ibby-europe.org>



IBBY Europe

Children's books in languages spoken in Europe

Selections of books
IBBY in Europe
IBBY Europe Newsletters
About IBBY
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Legal notice

Selected books in European languages

Greek Swedish Dutch German Armenian

Languages in Europe: children reading in a multilingual environment

For the second time, several IBBY sections from all over Europe joined forces to organise the **IBBY European Regional Conference** that took place on **Thursday, 4 April 2019** at the **Bologna Children's Book Fair**. The theme resonates across Europe: the right of a child to have access to books in his/her home language and to have support for their needs as multilingual learners. Our keynote speakers presented a theoretical overview of language acquisition and multilingualism, rooted in the contemporary European experience. There was also a focus on various initiatives that have taken place or that continue to develop in Europe and the world. Finally, participants had the opportunity to discuss the issues in smaller groups, exchange ideas and think of practical activities that can be done in our own countries or collaboratively.

This event took place with the support of the Bologna Children's Book Fair.

BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR

What's new?
Swedish
Lithuanian

6 ED – home page

Books selected by specialists

The National Sections of **IBBY in Europe** present a regularly updated selection of the best books for children in European languages. To access a selection, simply click on the language you're interested in.

Armenian	Basque	Catalan	Croatian	Czech	Danish	Dutch
English	Estonian	Finnish	French	Galician	German	Greek
Hungarian	Irish	Italian	Latvian	Lithuanian	Polish	Russian
Slovak	Slovenian	Spanish	Swedish	Turkish		

IBBY Europe also highlights books in the most common languages currently spoken by migrant or refugee children in Europe. These selections were made with the help of local children's literature specialists. This section will be added to and expanded in the future, and we urge you to **contact us** if you have suggestions for books to be included in this useful selection.

Arabic	Dari	Farsi	Pashto	Urdu
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A selection of **100 books for children and young people in Arabic** from different countries in the Arab-speaking world is now available in English. The list was originally in French and was collated by the Arab World Reading Committee of the journal *Takam Tikou*, which brings together professionals from different horizons: the French National Library / IBBY France, the Institute of the Arab world, Libraries of the City of Paris... Organised by genre and in alphabetical order by title in English, this guide also includes a few translations into Arabic of books originally published in different languages, to encourage the building of bridges between languages and cultures. This version in English was made possible through the collaboration between three national sections of the International Board on Books for Young People: **IBBY France**, **IBBY Ireland** and **IBBY UK**, all members of **IBBY Europe**. The PDF of the **version in English** can be downloaded [here](#). The pdf of the **version in French** can be downloaded [here](#).

7 ED - overview of available languages



The screenshot shows the IBBY Europe website interface. On the left is a navigation menu with links: 'Selections of books', 'IBBY in Europe', 'IBBY Europe Newsletters', 'About IBBY', 'Contact', and 'Legal notice'. The main content area is titled 'Children's books in languages spoken in Europe' and has a 'Home' breadcrumb. Under the heading 'Books in Dutch', there is a featured book 'Het boek van het leven' with a book cover image. Below the cover, the following details are listed: 'Language: Dutch', 'Category: Picture books', 'Title in English: The book of life', 'Author: Floortje Zwigman', 'Publisher: Lannoo', and 'Year of publication: 2019'. Below this, another book 'Tegenwoordig heet iedereen Sorry' is partially visible with a small portrait image and the text 'Language: Dutch'. On the right side of the page, there is a search bar, a 'Visit our Facebook page!' link, and a Facebook widget for 'IBBY Europe' with a 'Liked' button.

8 ED - language page

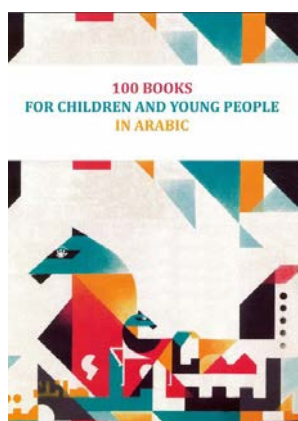
Tegenwoordig heet iedereen Sorry

Language: Dutch
 Title in English: Everyone's Sorry Nowadays
 Author: Bart Moeyaert
 Place of publication: Amsterdam
 Country: Netherlands
 Publisher: Querido
 Year of publication: 2018
 Pages: 128 p.
 Size: 12,5 x 20,5
 ISBN: 978-94-214-1515-4
 Category: Novels

The centre of attention at Bianca's home is her little brother Alan, who has a heart condition. Bianca does not say a word. Her father thinks she is unmanageable, while her mother thinks she is a girl that requires special treatment. Bianca herself is not sure how she feels or how she should keep her mind still. She would prefer not to belong to anyone. Until one hot afternoon in August, Billie King, her favourite actress, is sitting in the living room, sipping a cup of tea. With Billie King around, she is brave enough to take a decision that will give herself a new meaning to unmanageable. In his inimitable style, the Flemish author Moeyaert creates an oppressive atmosphere, in which smouldering tensions can erupt any moment. A book that will resonate with readers for a long time.

9 ED - book information

But European languages is one thing, but languages spoken in Europe is another. So two years ago, we decided to add books in the most common languages spoken by refugees in Europe. These languages are Arabic, obviously, Dari and Pashto (both languages from Afghanistan), Farsi, Iran, and Urdu, Pakistan. For this, we cooperated of course with specialists in and outside Europe. It was not the easiest task – as you can imagine, in war torn countries like Afghanistan, the production and publication of children's books is not at its height. We found a solution through the books of the American publisher Hoopoe books, who publishes bilingual books in Western and Afghan languages, and cooperates with Afghan reading organisations like for example IBBY Afghanistan.



Children's literature in the Arab world, however, is flourishing, and thanks to the Bibliothèque Nationale de France we can also offer on our European website a list of 100 recommendable titles in Arabic – both in an English version and in a French version.

For those of you who are more comfortable with German, the IJB has prepared a catalogue including covers, bibliographical data and reviews of 40 recent children's books from Arab countries. The catalogue is addressed to librarians, teachers, publishers and others. You can order it on the website of IJB.

So, these resources can help you select interesting books in different languages. The next step is acquiring them – often logistically a demanding task.

When the IJB worked on their catalogue of Arabic



books, they found a partner in a German library service, who functioned as an intermediary between German libraries and Arab publishers. The German libraries are lucky; ordering books at a foreign publisher can be quite an exhausting and expensive adventure. There are some specialized bookshops in Europe, like the Institute of the Arab World in Paris, but still it can be difficult. Cooperation on a regional or even national level should be the key word.

And when you have succeeded in acquiring your new collection, make sure you're reaching your public. Multilingual reading aloud sessions in libraries are fun and quite easy to organize. On the occasion of the Arab catalogue, the IJB organized panel talks in Arabic, with an interpreter in German, and is planning an illustrators exhibition. Whatever you do: make a fuss about it.

IBBY UK for example has the habit of borrowing the IBBY Honour List collection and letting it tour the country. To promote this collection they have made a lovely video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4AWS7WSpLHk>

To conclude this talk, I would like to emphasize the importance of our IBBY network in all of this. If you don't have the knowledge or the experience, somebody in the network is bound to have it. Connecting with people, sharing ideas, talking about difficulties and successes: it is the strength of every network, but in matters like this, you simply cannot do it on your own.

Questions? Ideas? Contact me at eva.devos@iedereenleest.be