New Books for Children from Israel

Spring 2010

The Institute for the Translation of Hebrew Literature
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Illustration on cover: © David Hall, from Amalia’s Father Goes to Australia by Eshkol Nevo

For further information on our authors, see our website: www.ithl.org.il
Amalia’s Father Goes to Australia

Amalia’s father is going to Australia, but Amalia can’t go with him. After he leaves, she is very sad—she doesn’t feel like painting or going out for a walk. And then there’s an unexpected knock on the door. She leaps to her feet, thinking: It’s Dad! But when she opens the door, she sees an amazing creature called the Whipped Cream Man. He turns out to be one of many strange characters that visit her in the next few days, like the Kissing Queen and the Jumpy Kangaroo. They all share happy moments with Amalia and make her forget about her father’s absence for a little while. So the week isn’t as terrible as she’d expected and, at the end, her dad comes back with the scooter he’d promised her!

Illustrations: David Hall

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE
Yona Tepper was born at Kibbutz Dafna in 1941 and studied education and creative drama. She taught for many years and later became school principal. She is currently editor for children and youth at Hakibbutz Hameuchad Publishing House. Tepper has published 44 books for children and youth. She has been awarded the Prime Minister’s Prize (2001), the Ze’ev Prize for Children’s Literature twice (1995, 2005) an IBBY Honor Citation (2007) and the Israel Ministry of Science and Culture Award (2008). Her books have been translated in several languages. Most recently: Who Is Passing By? in English (Kane Miller).

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

Who is Higher?

Hadas and Eyal are playing in the back yard. Hadas bounces on the trampoline while Eyal is on the swing—and each one claims he is “the highest!” So it becomes a competition. First they climb tall things around them, then they move into the world of fantasy. They imagine themselves climbing a giant, a giraffe, an elephant, even flying in a plane and a spaceship—all to be the “highest in the world!”

The children come back down to earth when Mom brings them a box with a surprise in it—a little, gray kitten. Take good care of it, she says, and don’t forget that to the kitten, you are absolute GIANTS.

In this delightful book, the children learn to replace competition with cooperation so that they can take care of the tiny kitten. The illustrations portray both reality and fantasy together—in a very special way!

Illustrations: Liora Grossman

MESSYTEDDY

Tamar’s Messyteddy is a stubborn little bear who causes a lot of trouble and has straw for brains. He pulls lots of pranks and sometimes makes a real mess of things. But is it really Messyteddy who snatched all the candy, brushed his teeth with the hairbrush and glued a noodle to Ron’s little backside?

Tamar, an untidy little girl, does things that she and her readers know she shouldn’t do, and she blames it all on Messyteddy. When she goes into the shower with her underwear on or bakes mud pies in the garden with dishes from the kitchen—it’s always Messyteddy’s fault!

But eventually she owns up to all her mischief and realizes that she loves Messyteddy so much partly because he doesn’t mind taking all the blame for her.

Illustrations: Dani Kerman

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE
Assaf Harel was born in Israel in 1972. He studied theater, music and architecture, and then moved to a career in television. Three of his TV series won the Israel Film and Television Academy’s “Best Comedy” award, and one of them, which he also directed, was Israel’s first animation series. Harel has also written a daily satire program, written and directed a documentary film on the fall of David Ben-Gurion and anchored a culture program on Israel’s Science Channel. The Balloon that Didn’t Know How to Fly is his first book.

Once upon a time there was a red balloon. It looked just like any other balloon, but—it didn’t know how to fly.

The little balloon’s parents got very worried because he was “not like all the others,” and they decided to send him to a special balloon school. There, the balloon goes through exhausting training, but he still can’t fly. His parents get anxious and take him to see a specialist, but that doesn’t help either. And then, one day, while the balloon’s parents are busy worrying, a gust of wind bursts in through the window and carries the little balloon right out and up into the air. Of course, his parents think it’s because of all they’ve done. But the little balloon just enjoys more than anything being up in the air!

Towards the surprising end of the book, the balloon reaches a prickly thorn patch and overhears a conversation between two thorn-parents. They’re worried that their son is “not like all the others” because he doesn’t know how to prick. In a fateful decision, the balloon decides to help the little thorn, his soul mate, even at a very heavy price.

Illustrations: Asher (Asi Simenhaus)

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE
 Uri Orlev

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Uri Orlev was born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1931 and spent the early years of World War II in the Warsaw Ghetto. His father was captured by the Russians and saw his sons again only in 1954 in Israel; his mother was killed by the Nazis. Smuggled out of the ghetto and hidden, Orlev and his younger brother were later sent to Bergen-Belsen. Orlev has published 29 books for children and youth. He also writes radio and TV scripts, and is a translator from Polish to Hebrew. His books have been published in 38 languages. Orlev has won many literary awards. Most recently: the Hans Christian Andersen Award (1996), the Yad Vashem Bruno Brandt Award (1997), the Ze’ev Prize for Lifetime Achievement (2002), the Andersen Award (Italy, 2003), the Premio Cento (Italy, 2003), the Best Youth Audio Book (Germany, 2006)—the last three prizes for Run, Boy, Run—and the Bialik Prize (2006).

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

NEW BOOKS FOR CHILDREN FROM ISRAEL • SPRING 2010

Uri Orlev

Shampoo on Tuesday

Jerusalem, Keter, 1988. 20 pp. • AGE 3-6

Synopsis

Three-year-old Michael really hates having his hair washed every Tuesday. He cries and screams. Then his sister Daniella has a good idea: why not put an end to his suffering and shave his head? So she takes him to Benny the Barber. But when Michael sees Benny shaving another boy’s head, he gets scared—he doesn’t want to be bald! So he promises Daniella never to cry any more when he has his hair washed. And when he doesn’t, he gets a reward!

Illustrations: Elisheva Ga’ash

Published in German, Korean, English, French, Japanese, Danish, Spanish (S. America), Chinese and Italian.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

The Lion Shirt

Tel Aviv, Massada, 1979; Jerusalem, Keter, 2000. 18 pp. • AGE 3-6

Synopsis

The birthday present Michael liked best was a shirt with a lion on it that his sister gave him. He liked it so much that he wore it to bed. At night, Michael wakes up and wants to look at his lion, but it has disappeared! He almost cries, but then he sees the lion sitting by his desk. The lion refuses to get back on the shirt: he claims he’s sick of being cute—he wants to be a scary lion! So Michael and his sister Daniela make scary faces to help him become scary, but he only laughs. But when Daniela shows him a photo of a roaring lion, he is impressed and roars so loud that the children get scared. After that, the contented lion agrees to get back on the shirt, and all ends well.

Illustrations: Michael Kishka

Published in Danish, English, French, German, Italian, Korean, Japanese and Spanish.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

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Daniela is a little girl. She’s bigger than the baby next door and bigger than the cat, but still... She’s smaller than the other kids in school and much, much smaller than her parents.

One night, Daniela wakes up and discovers that she is huge – she can barely fit into her bed! She goes over to her parents’ bed and... surprise! They are so tiny that she laughs out loud. Now Daniela can tyrannize them and treat them as if they were the children.

Next day, Daniella sends her parents off to work and decides to stay home (because if you’re big enough, you can decide for yourself!). She finds it very scary to be all alone at home. But then she wakes up and realizes it was all just a dream!

Illustrations: Jackie Gleich

Published in German, French, Dutch, Spanish, Spanish (S. America), Korean and Japanese.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE
**DORIT ORGAD**  
The Darkness Doesn’t Bite  
Tel Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad 2009. 23 pp. • AGE: 3-6

**SYNOPSIS**

“'It’s dark all of a sudden and I’m stuck here, under the bed!” I wept.
Roee knew how to reach me by the sound of my crying. He grabbed my hand and said with a smile: “There’s nothing to be afraid of. The darkness doesn’t bite!”

A new boy named Roee is about to come to Yuval’s kindergarten. The excitement grows when the kindergarten teacher tells the children that Roee cannot see. Intrigued, Yuval becomes friends with Roee and discovers that you don’t only see with your eyes—you can also “see” with your hands. Yuval learns how Roee plays and experiences day-to-day life.

One day, while Roee and Yuval are playing in the room, the light suddenly goes out and it gets very dark. Yuval cries and is frightened, but Roee, who is used to the dark, shows him there is no need to fear the dark because it “doesn’t bite.”

A story about accepting others, and what others can teach us.

**Illustrations: Miri Leshem-Peli**

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE
**Edna Kremer**

**Maybe When You’re Older**

Tel Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2008. 28 pp. • AGE 3-6

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**Synopsis**

Tal’s mother and father will not let him keep a pet. He finds a curly-haired dog and a mischievous cat, but his parents just keep saying, “No. Maybe when you’re older…” So when Tal’s friend gives him a little white mouse as a gift, he decides not to ask his parents for permission, but to hide it instead.

The mouse goes everywhere with Tal, causing all sorts of funny mishaps. And when it finally escapes from its hiding place, it wreaks havoc in the house. So of course Tal’s mother and father find out about it. Then Tal asks: “Can I keep it… before I’m a little older?”

Tal’s parents realize how much he wants to have a pet, and decide to compromise: Tal can keep his mouse, but only if it lives in a cage. (And his father even gives him a little female mouse, to keep the first one company).

**Illustrations:** Hilla Havkin

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE
Shlomit Cohen-Assif was born in Holon, Israel, and lives in Jerusalem. She is one of the most prominent Hebrew children’s poets. Her stories have been adapted for the stage and radio; they have also been the subject of dance and set to music. Cohen-Assif has written 46 children's stories, which have been included in numerous schoolbooks and anthologies, both in Israel and abroad. She has been awarded many prizes, including the Ze’ev Prize twice (1981, 1990), the ACUM Prize three times (1979, 1980, 1982), the ACUM Prize for Lifetime Achievement (1995), and the Prime Minister’s Prize twice (1984, 2001).

It happened in Dwarf Valley, in Shumby the dwarf’s house.
A white dove sat at the window from time to time and cooed: coo...coo...cooo

Shumby the dwarf finds the dove very intriguing and wants to see her from close up. He wants to cuddle and hug her too, but the dove keeps flying off, opting to hug the wind instead.

Shumby asks his Mom to buy him a dovecote, but Mom says that you don’t buy a dovecote—you build one! So, together with Shumby’s Grandpa the carpenter, everyone works to build a dovecote and put it on the roof. And the dove moves in gladly to nest.

However, when Shumby tries to stroke the dove in the house he built especially for her, she flies off again. He finally understands that he’ll have to be satisfied with the feather she leaves behind—and that some things can only be hugged from afar.

Illustrations: Gil-Ly Alon Curiel

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE
Noam is unhappy and starts crying. He stretches out his little finger and shouts: “That!...”

Daddy hurries to him, and tries to understand what he wants. He tries giving him a ball, a white teddy, a rubber snake, and lots of other things. But nothing works. Daddy is very frustrated. Why can’t he find what his son wants? What could the “that” be that Noam wants?

Desperate to calm Noam, Daddy picks him up and holds him in his arms, and suddenly, lo and behold, the crying stops! Noam finally got the “that” he wanted—his daddy!

Illustrations: Yossi Abolafia

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE
There are many things that make Ilan happy, but others make him sad—loss, for example. Ilan misses things that disappear and he decides to find a way of keeping them. So he stores stuff in a shoe box under his bed and when he wants to stop missing someone, he picks out something that reminds him of that person and immediately feels closer to them.

One day, a thought disappears from Ilan’s head. He’s quite upset because it’s about Tali, a girl in his class. Tali reads a lot, even during recess, but once in a while she lifts her head from her book, looks at something and smiles. And that something always turns out to be really interesting!

A few hours later, Ilan sees a special tree. He wants to share his thought with Tali, so he tries to stop it from disappearing. Ilan’s little sister notices that he’s stressed and reminds him—enviously!—that he’s already big and can write. So he writes it down and later he shows Tali the tree. And ever since then, they share many thoughts together.

This delightful book focuses on ideas that are usually the subject of poetry: the elusiveness of beauty, the fact that things are here one second and gone the next, and of course—on love.

Illustrations: Michal Bonano

English and French translations available
Tanina is a magical witch—everything she says comes true. She puts her cat Belly-Button through magical crises, turns herself into a falling leaf, releases characters and letters from books, and drives her two little sisters, Gol and Yat, absolutely crazy.

Tanina lives in a world of regular people. But her encounters with them end either in wonderment at their way of life (the best case) or in amusing catastrophe (the almost-worst case). There’s magic all around Tanina and despite being a fairly young witch, she excels in the art of witchcraft and takes full advantage of the perks that come with it. She is brimming with philosophical ideas and ingenuity, and insists on living her life the way she sees fit!

Over thirty years have passed since Tanina, created by writer and poet Nurit Zarchi, first appeared. This collection includes twenty one stories, some of which are being published for the first time. Beware: reading them is bewitching!

Illustrations: Odelia Livshitz
NIRA HARIEL

Tango Tales

Tel Aviv, Kinneret, Zmora-Bitan, Dvir / Zebra Pubs, 2010. 57 pp. • AGE 4–6

SYNOPSIS

Tango Bear was chosen to be the children’s Sabbath guest. Every Friday he’d say goodbye to his friends—Bingo the dog and Chopping the rabbit—and spend the weekend with one of the children from the kindergarten. Then he’d tell his friends about the wonderful things he’d seen outside. Sometimes funny things happened to him and sometimes dangerous things. At the amusement park, he almost gets forgotten on the lawn. He makes it all the way to the beach but hurts himself at a bonfire in the woods. At Daria’s house, he gets mixed up with an identical bear, and at Yuval’s he falls in love with a panda named Mishi. And then, one weekend, burglars break into the kindergarten, and his two friends finally have an interesting story to tell him!

In these delightful stories, the toys’ point of view gives children a whole new outlook on their world.

Illustrations: Raya Karas

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Nira Harel was born in Tel Aviv. She has taught, worked as journalist and broadcaster, produced study programs for the Ministry of Education, edited a children’s magazine and served as chief editor for children’s books at Am Oved Publishing House. At present, she is editor of a website that encourages children to read. Harel has published nearly 60 books for children and a book of feuilletons. She has been awarded the Ze’ev Prize (1986), an Andersen Honor Citation (1994), the Prix Éspace Enfants (France, 1998), a citation from the Fondation Espace Enfants (France, 2000), the Fania Bergstein Prize (2002) and the Prime Minister’s Prize (2007). Her books have been published abroad in 11 languages.
ONE quiet evening, an ordinary family sits at home, unaware of the scary, sad and in the end surprisingly happy adventure that awaits them.

Eylam is the first to spot two little eyes peeking out from under the TV. The next day, Mom discovers a tiny hole in the bread, so Dad is sent out to buy a trap with powerful glue. And then, in the night, they are awoken by squeaks to find a cute little mouse glued to the plate under the trap. Now they realize that their solution to the mouse problem was cruel. And they have a new one—how to save it!

So the next morning, they take the little mouse, now called Peanut, to the vet. Surprised, the vet advises them to feed Peanut until he is stronger and then gently cut the hairs stuck to the plate and set him free. But, he adds, Peanut must move his legs or else he’ll die of atrophy. Then little Lia comes up with a brilliant solution: they can cut the plate around Peanuts’ feet in the shape of skis and build slides for him in the living room! And so, Peanut becomes a super-sliding mouse!

As for the happy ending, well, read on…

Illustrations: Noam Nadav
Yali’s uncle, Mishi, is a backpacker who travels the world. He usually brings Yali wonderful presents—a boomerang from Australia, a Buddha statue from India, a stamp from China—but on his last trip he didn’t get him anything.

When Yali sits in his room after his uncle’s return, he suddenly hears a mysterious noise coming from the “backmish” (the family’s name for Mishi’s backpack). After searching and searching, he finds a little fairy named Yaya!

Yali and Yaya become friends. The two travel around the country but, to their surprise, they discover there are no fairies in Israel (although there are other marvelous things). Yaya gets sad that she has no “relatives” here, so Yali understands they will have to say goodbye when Mishi goes traveling again. When Yali tells Mishi there’s a fairy in his backpack, Mishi understands (he’s a special grown-up) and he promises to find Yaya a beautiful place fit for fairies.

Yaya and Yali are sad to say goodbye, but they’re also very happy that they got to meet each other.
Edna Kaplan-Hagler was born in Tel Aviv in 1942. For many years, she was one of Israel’s best-known criminal defense lawyers; later, she was appointed judge and Deputy President of the Tel Aviv-Jaffa District Court and handled some particularly complex criminal cases. In addition to many academic publications, she participated in numerous law committees appointed by the Minister of Justice. At present, she lectures on legal issues at various Israeli universities and teaches on a voluntary basis in schools and other educational frameworks. Kaplan-Hagler has been awarded the Pinchas Rosen Prize for Excellence in Legal Research as well as the Zeltner Prize. An active grandmother of seven, she has now written her first children’s book.

Nama the ant is 11 years old and all her friends in the ant colony come to celebrate her birthday. For them, this party is just like any other, but to Nama it means that she is finally old enough to solve the mystery of her parents’ disappearance.

In the famine after the Great Flood, Nama’s father volunteered to join a group that adventured out to search for food, and when he didn’t return her mother went to find him. But no one ever returned. The rest of the colony were sure they had drowned or been captured by the Yellow Ants, but Nama never lost faith. With courage, resourcefulness and a kind heart too, Nama manages to infiltrate the Yellow Kingdom and find her exhausted parents. She learns that peace is possible even between the fiercest enemies, that in times of need enemies sometimes turn out to be real friends. And that, however small, she can play an important part in changing the course of history.

Illustrations: David Gerstein

PARTIAL TRANSLATION AVAILABLE
**SYNOPSIS**

One day, in a far-off kingdom, the queen dies. The prince, of course, is very sad. So the palace servants go hunting for a baby elephant to cheer him up. The prince is delighted and decides to call him Luma-Luma. He even appoints a special minister, named Elephminister, to care for his every need.

But “because of the joy in his eyes, the prince didn’t see the sadness in the elephant’s eyes.” Eventually, however, he realizes that the baby elephant misses his mother, just like he does, so he comes up with a plan.

And then his friend, the palace gardener, tells him about the Bargools, a people who draw magical powers from a crystal ball. So the two set out to find a Bargool. When they meet one, the Bargool lends them his power for their spectacular rescue mission, and they take Luma-Luma, whose name is actually Titilin, back to the forest.

**Illustrations: Tamar Nahir-Yanai**

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**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Shlomit Cohen-Assif was born in Holon, Israel, and lives in Jerusalem. She is one of the most prominent Hebrew children's poets. Her stories have been adapted for the stage and radio; they have also been the subject of dance and set to music. Cohen-Assif has written 46 children's stories, which have been included in numerous schoolbooks and anthologies, both in Israel and abroad. She has been awarded many prizes, including the Ze’ev Prize twice (1981, 1990), the ACUM Prize three times (1979, 1980, 1982), the ACUM Prize for Lifetime Achievement (1995), and the Prime Minister’s Prize twice (1984, 2001).
TAMI SHEM-TOV

Matti’s Orange Revolution

Tel Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2000. 75 pp. • AGE 6-10

SYNOPSIS

A beautiful book about three very contemporary concerns—learning disabilities, pollution, and family relations, based on the author’s own experience with a learning disability as a child.

Matti, a third grader, cannot read or write. She tries to keep it a secret from her grandmother, but it isn’t easy because her Granny is losing her eyesight and needs Matti to read the newspaper to her. What Granny is looking for in particular is news about air pollution. As Matti cannot read, she uses her imagination and makes up stories to match the pictures in the paper.

One day her uncle folds an orange peel next to a lit match, and the juice catches fire. Matti immediately thinks that this might be the way to solve the problem of pollution, which affects her grandmother so badly. She is determined to write to the Prime Minister about her idea. But she cannot write! With the help of a special-needs teacher, and lots of work and motivation, Matti manages to write the letter and shows progress in her studies. And then, one day, she reads her grandmother a real article—about her and her idea! And this is how the orange revolution begins.

Illustrations: Rachela Sandbank
**TAMI SHEM-TOV**

**The God in the Machine**

Noga Communications / Kinneret, Zmora-Bitan, Dvir, 2009. 270 pp. • AGE 12 UP

Danny, a brilliant gamer and gifted hacker, prefers solving his problems by breaking into computers with such sophistication that it doesn’t cause any damage. His gamer friend Tom and he spend all their time by the computer, waiting impatiently to try out Deus, an AI program that is supposed to alter how people think about computers. In the beginning, everything goes well with Deus, but then things start to get messy: first Danny gets into trouble with the basketball captain, then with his teacher, then with the Principal, and finally with the greater forces of Deus itself. These forces draw him, and all the other students, into a dizzying mind game that jeopardizes the entire country.

Danny begins to understand the dangers of Deus, but his attempts to solve the problem through the computer only make things worse. Adisa, another hacker, comes to his aid and together they discover that Dr. Gold, one of the program’s developers, has taken it over and turned the brilliant discovery into a dangerous device.

Deus, a thrilling science-suspense story, is based on a successful Israeli TV series, awarded “Best Children’s TV Series of 2009” by the Israeli Film & Television Academy.

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**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Tami Shem-Tov was born in Kiryat Ono, Israel, in 1969, and lives in Tel Aviv. After working as a journalist for a number of years, she now writes full-time (screenplays as well as stories) and holds meetings with children. Shem-Tov has written three books for youth and a children’s play. Her first book, Just for Milli, was awarded the Ze’ev Prize (1999); her second, Matti’s Orange Revolution, has been adapted for the stage. Letters from Nowhere was awarded the Yad Vashem Prize (2007), and the Ze’ev Prize (2008).

Tami Shem-Tov’s moving book, Letters from Nowhere, has been published in Spanish (Planeta), Catalan (Columna), Dutch (Sirene), German (Fischer) and Italian (Piemme).
**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

**Reuven Miran** was born in 1944 and grew up in the Jezreel Valley. He received his MA in philosophy from the Sorbonne and has written novels, stories and film scripts. He is also a translator of French literature. Miran has received the Prime Minister’s Prize, the BBC World Service Prize, the ACUM Prize for Literary Achievement (1995), and the French Ministry of Culture Award for promoting French culture in Israel. In 2003, Miran founded Nahar Books, a new Israeli publishing house devoted to classic humanistic texts on freedom and human dignity.

**SYNOPSIS**

Anna, a 13-year-old girl, lives—or rather hides—in a basement in Tel Aviv. She lives in fear of being thrown out of the country even though she was born in Israel and Hebrew is her mother tongue. But because her parents came from far away, she is considered a “migrant worker,” a foreigner.

Her father has already been deported: arrested on the street, imprisoned and then put on a plane leaving the country. So Anna does not go out and tries to make as little noise as possible. Her mother leaves for work early each morning, under cover of darkness, despite her fear of the “hunters”—the deportation police. And Anna stays alone, with just a radio and a little night light that cannot be seen from the street.

So as not to feel too lonely, she climbs up on the bed and peeks out through a little skylight. She sees the legs of passersby and tries to imagine what the people look like.

Anna thinks about her situation and in her innocent way raises difficult moral questions about Israel’s policy towards foreign workers. As the author puts it, this book is intended for “every reader who seeks to live in a better, more just society.”

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE
Jacob Buchan was born in Austria and came to Israel with his parents at the age of two. He is a graduate of the Tel Aviv Art School. In addition to contributing short stories to magazines and newspapers, he worked as a shingle maker, graphic artist, steamroller operator in the Sinai, farmer, teacher, curator and producer of audiovisual programs. He lives with his family in a village in central Israel. The play Along the Walls based on his book Color Blind was awarded an Honorary Citation at the 1997 “Teatroneto” Festival. Buchan has received the Bernstein Prize (1997) and the Prime Minister’s Prize for Literature twice (1993; 2001).

Daniel, who has just had his bar mitzvah, is having a tough year and has to deal with several challenges and difficulties. He tries to join a popular group at school, struggles for social recognition against the most “in” boy in his class, and is in a car accident. In addition, his schoolmates take advantage of his talent for writing and demand that he write their papers for them. Finally, Daniel is haunted by a secret concerning his father’s absence, and his mother suddenly decides to move the family to the USA.

However, Daniel does not accept the move without a fight – he is deeply in love with a girl in his class named Gabriela. An incurable romantic, Daniel stows away on a ship traveling back to Israel and returns home a hero to be reunited with the girl he loves. And when he gets back, the secret that has bothered him for so long is finally resolved.

Throughout this complex year, Daniel learns a lot about himself, about friendship, the power and deception of love, and the force of sexual attraction.
Roni Givati

I Heard a Lonely Flute

Tel Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2010. 136 pp • AGE 12 UP

SYNOPSIS

Israel in the 1950s needs people with initiative to help all the immigrants arriving from post-war Europe as well as from Muslim countries.

Talia, an 18 year-old kibbutznik, volunteers for a year in the desert city of Beersheva. Here, for the first time, she encounters a downtrodden community whose members are nevertheless determined to make a life for themselves in their new country. Talia starts a Hebrew-language group and earns the trust of the women in the community.

Most important is her relationship with 16-year-old Emilia from Greece. Emilia, an introverted girl, has an unusual condition: at times, she bursts into tears and makes strange noises, so people make fun of her. But her outbursts do not deter Talia, who decides to bring her out of her shell. She gets Emilia to teach a few Hebrew classes; in turn, Emilia tells her about her childhood in wartime Greece and her parents’ death, and gets out of the house a little. Yet Talia ultimately fails: when Emilia has an outburst at the movies, Talia scolds her and ruins the trust between them.

However, they meet again four years later, and now Emilia is happily married to Ariel (who saw beyond her condition) and is dedicated to her work—taking care of children with special needs.
Shin Shifra was born in 1931 to a family that has lived in Jerusalem since the mid-19th century. She studied kabbala, literature and education at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv University; she also studied the Sumerian and Akkadian languages at Bar-Ilan University. Shifra has taught creative writing and now lectures on ancient near-eastern literature at Tel Aviv University. She has published poetry, fiction and translations of Sumerian and Akkadian literature. Shifra has received the Ze’ev Prize (2001), an Andersen Honor Citation (2001), the Amichai Prize for Poetry (2001), the President’s Prize (2004) and the Brenner Prize for Poetry (2008).

Anzu, the hero, is a legendary creature—half-eagle, half-lion. Sometimes he is a helper and friend, as in the story of the young soldier Lugalbanda, who used his wits to become a great king. But at other times he is a monster, as in his fight with the god of war Ninurta. Then, Anzu’s pride causes destruction, chaos and ruin.

The poet Shin Shifra has adapted three ancient legends written in Mesopotamia (today, Iraq) about 3,500 years ago. By using her imagination, she enables young people to identify with these fascinating tales from a time when gods, animals and humans lived side by side.

Illustrations: Cristina Kadmon
For synopses and further information, go to our website: www.ithl.org.il. Click on “Hebrew Authors” and enter the name of the author you want.

Yossi Abolafia
A Fishy Tale; Baldy Heights (with Yossi Abolafia)

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Tamar Adar
Cat, Sailor, Clown

Adula (Sabina Messeg)
Toys

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Yearnie, A Girl Born in a Dream; Alex Lerner, Daphna and Me; Aviya’s Summer

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Yossi Alphi
The King Went to Sleep

Yehuda Amichai
Things That Happened to Roni in New York; Numa’s Fat Tail

Eli Amir
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Irit Amit
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Tirza Atar
The Lion that Loved Strawberries

Yemima Avidar-Tchernowitz
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They Shot Ravens, Too

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Ilan Schoenfeld
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