New Books for Children from Israel
Spring 2014

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from Nurit Zarchi’s Two Giraffes in Space
Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2014

THE INSTITUTE FOR THE TRANSLATION OF HEBREW LITERATURE
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Yoram Kaniuk

Pierre

Tel Aviv, Yedioth Ahronoth, 2013. 76 pp.

AGE 9 UP

Our Pierre wasn’t born. He begat himself in a garbage can in Ramat Gan. My daughter found him. He was about a month old. A grey-black puppy shivering in the garbage can, sitting in the stench and looking out, from the despair that he was born into, through eyes that opened in her honor.

My daughter was the first person who not only looked at him but also saw him. She picked him up, stroked him and cried; and her tears—large and hot—washed him for the first time in his life. She took pity on him and immediately fell in love with him. He was wretched but funny, with the face of a clown.

Kaniuk wrote this moving novella about his beloved dog Pierre, who enjoyed twenty good years of life. It is a love story—the tale of his love for his best friend who was like a family member, and who knew how to return love as only a dog can. Pierre was no thoroughbred, not the kind of dog you buy in a pet store, yet children loved him and even people who hated dogs loved him. He was wise and amusing, without a single drop of nastiness. But he was also adventurous and didn’t like playing up to people. Kaniuk draws a portrait of his dead dog with humor and sadness, with endless compassion and sensitivity.

Pierre is a literary gem, suitable for adults and youngsters.

Illustrations: Keren Lee Vendriger

ENGLISH TRANSLATION IN PROGRESS

Yoram Kaniuk (1930-2013), one of Israel’s leading writers, was born in Tel Aviv. Wounded in Israel’s 1948 War of Independence, he moved to New York for 10 years. A novelist, painter and journalist, Kaniuk published over 20 novels and novellas as well as stories, non-fiction and books for children and youth. Among his many prizes: the Prix des Droits de l’Homme (France, 1997), the Bialik Prize (1999), the prestigious Prix Méditerranée Étranger (2000), the Newman Prize (2006), the France-Israel Foundation Award (2010), the Sapir Prize (2011) and the Italian WIZO Prize (2013). In 2012, Kaniuk received the prestigious French decoration of Officier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.

Kaniuk’s books have been published abroad in 20 languages, among which English (Harper & Row; Grove/Atlantic; NYRB Lit), French (Stock; Fayard), German (Paul List; Hanser; Aufbau), Italian (Einaudi; Giuntina), Dutch (Meulenhoff), Norwegian (Cappelens), Danish (Gyldendal), Arabic (Canaan, Damascus).

CLICK HERE FOR A COMPLETE LISTING ON THE ITHL WEBSITE.
Uri Orlev

Thoughts of Thirst


AGE 9 UP

“You know,” he said, “I am in love with this girl.”
I was taken aback. After all, we’d almost never talked before.
He went on: “You know, she drinks lemonade with her eyes closed and thinks thoughts of thirst.”

I closed my eyes and thought to myself that I’d like to meet a girl like that.
I’d ask her: ‘Are you thinking thoughts of thirst?’ Then we would both travel from opposite ends of the world to meet up in a certain place, and consumed by our longing, we would drink with our eyes shut.

The boy in this tale is like his friends but also different. Clear, flowing water stirs his imagination and he enjoys drinking it. Unlike his friends, he is able to think thoughts of thirst, and now he discovers that he is not the only one to think such thoughts. But what are thoughts of thirst, what does water symbolize? And how is all this connected to love?

This subtle and poetic story was written in 1952 when Uri Orlev was 21 and living in a kibbutz. It was included in an anthology of his stories that came out in 1968. Now for the first time, it has been published as a book, and although 60 years have passed since it was written, it has retained all its freshness and charm.

Illustrations: Inbal Leitner.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

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; his mother was killed by the Nazis. After escaping the ghetto, Orlev and his younger brother were hidden by Polish families, but later were sent to Bergen-Belsen. They were freed two years later and came to pre-state Israel.

Orlev has published over 30 books for children and youth, as well as fiction for adults. Among his many literary awards: the Hans Christian Andersen Author 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 Audio Book for Youth (Germany, 2006) – the last three prizes for Run, Boy, Run – and the Bialik Prize (2006). His books have been translated into 38 languages, among which: French (Flammarion; Gallimard; Actes Sud), German (Elefanten; Beltz & Gelberg), English (Houghton Mifflin; Puffin), Italian (Salani; Feltrinelli), Polish (WAB), Japanese (Kodan-sha; Iwanami Shoten).

I wonder where this gem has been hiding. […] Read it and then read it again, not only to yourself with your eyes but also aloud, so that your ears can enjoy it too. Pure poetry. A book for all ages that will slake the thirst for good literature.

Haaretz

Orlev stands out for his honest and convincing writing… An excellent depiction of a child’s sense of loneliness and alienation in a group.

Ha-Pinkas

NEW BOOKS FROM ISRAEL • 2014

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Dorit Orgad was born in Germany in 1936 and came to pre-state Israel as a young child. She has a PhD in Jewish philosophy from Bar-Ilan University. Orgad has taught at various schools and academic institutions. She now writes for the press and tutors writing groups. Orgad has published three adult books and over 60 books for children and youth. Her many awards include the Ze’ev Prize (1987), the Bernstein Prize (1987), the Hadassah Prize (2000), an Honor Citation from the WZO for her books about children from Ethiopia (2005), and the Verghereto Award (Italy, 2006). Her y/a book Kalkidan was nominated ‘Favorite Youth Novel’ by Israel’s Ministry of Education (2007), and received the Ministry of Culture Prize (2007). Orgad’s books have been published in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, Japanese, Serbian and Korean. Forthcoming in Chinese.

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Dorit Orgad

A Friend Not a Friend

Tel Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2013. 247 pp.
AGE 9-12

Ro’i lives with his mother—his father died in a road accident before he was born. He is popular at school until a new boy, Kishi, appears. At first Kishi tries to become his friend, but Ro’i doesn’t realize that Kishi is only using him in order to take his place in the class. During the Passover vacation, Ro’i flies to London to meet his ultra-Orthodox grandparents for the first time—years ago, they rejected their son’s marriage to Ro’i’s mother and never had any contact with her.

When he gets back to Israel, Ro’i finds that Kishi is now his enemy and has turned the class against him. Kishi, who is tall and strong and good at basketball, now makes fun of Ro’i, who is shorter. He makes him his punching bag, and none of Ro’i’s friends help him. So Ro’i has to cope on a number of fronts: with the class bully, with social isolation, and with the need to please his grandparents who are pressing him to return to London and take the place of their dead son. Thanks to his inner strength, his honesty and his faith in himself, Ro’i manages to overcome all the difficulties and conflicts. He regains his confidence and finds a true friend, a boy of Ethiopian origin. He also finds an understanding and sensitive girlfriend who loves animals just like him, and finally he meets a father figure—a kindly veterinarian who becomes friendly with his mother and gives new meaning to both her and Ro’i’s lives.

Illustrations: Avi Katz
Miron C. Izakson was born in 1956 to a family that was among the first orange growers in pre-state Israel. He studied law and Jewish philosophy at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and at Tel Aviv University. He was chairman for literature on the Israel Culture and Arts Council. At present, Izakson lectures on literature at Bar-Ilan University, and is a member of the board of Bar-Ilan University. He also serves as Honorary Consul for Luxembourg in Israel. Izakson has published many books of poetry and a number of novels, to widespread literary acclaim. Four of his poetry books have been set to music by various musicians and released as CDs. He has been awarded the President’s Prize (2001), the Natan Yonatan Prize for Poetry (2012) and the Brenner Prize for Poetry for This Time (2013).

Izakson’s books of poetry and fiction have been published in French, English, Norwegian and Russian.

Miron C. Izakson

Priorities
Letter to a Teacher

Tel Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2013. 104pp.
AGE 9 UP

Avi's homeroom teacher has asked all the youngsters to make a list of the things that they are interested in, in order of priority, and to write them down in the form of a letter—like in the olden days when people wrote letters to each other. So twelve-year-old Avi writes to his teacher, telling her about his thoughts and what is really important to him, like his search for identity; his relations with his Mom and Dad; his attitude towards Nili, who’s in his class and thinks he’s a little weird. And he also writes about the dreams that he has at night, about his fears, about the nature of time, the role of numbers in the world; the pleasure of writing, and more.

Through Avi’s letter, the book explores questions that people in general think about. But here, these issues are examined from the vantage point of an intelligent, sensitive adolescent with a sense of humor, who looks at the world around him and tries to face his innermost thoughts and feelings.

Illustrations: Danny Kerman

ENGLISH TRANSLATION IN PROGRESS
Tami Shem-Tov and Rachella Sandbank

A Concert in the Sand

Jerusalem, Keter, 213. 32 pp.

AGE 4-8

In the 1930s, in little Tel Aviv surrounded by sand dunes, the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra gave its first concert. The orchestra was founded by the famous violinist Bronislaw Huberman and its members were Jewish musicians who had been thrown out of orchestras in Germany when the Nazis came to power.

This moving event is told as a mystery story by Uri, a little boy. Uri’s grandmother, who speaks German, invites him to go for a walk through the city, and to follow some people dressed in black suits and carrying oddly shaped suitcases. “Does Grandma like playing spies?” Uri wonders. Then he sees that more and more people are following the group with strange suitcases, and even construction workers come down from their scaffolding to join the procession. One of the men in black, who looks important, speaks to Uri’s grandmother in German: he knew her back in Europe. “Good luck, Mr. Huberman!” people say to him. In the end they all come to a large hall. Then the men in black open their cases and take out various instruments, and a man waving a little stick gets up on the stage. He is the conductor, Arturo Toscanini. Uri listens to the magical music. The sounds touch his heart. And when he looks at his grandmother, he sees tears of excitement in her eyes.

Illustrations: Avi Ofer

Tami Shem-Tov was born in Israel in 1969 and lives in Tel Aviv. After working as a journalist for a number of years, she now writes full-time and holds meetings with children. Shem-Tov has written ten books for youth and children. She has received the Ze’ev Prize (1999), the Yad Vashem Prize (2007), the Ze’ev Prize (2008) and the German Children’s Literature Award (2010) for Letters from Nozber, the true story of a child in hiding in Holland during World War II. For I’m Not a Thief, about Janus Korczak’s famous orphanage, she was awarded the Lea Goldberg Prize (2013), an Andersen Honor Citation (2014) and the Public Libraries Award (2014).

Letters from Nozber has been published in Italian (Piemme), German (Fischer), Spanish (Planeta), Catalan (Columna), Dutch (Sirene) and Japanese (Iwanami Shoten).

Rachella Sandbank is a children’s book editor. For the past four years she has been the head of the children’s and YA department at Keter Books in Israel. A Concert in the Sand is her first book.

Click here for a complete listing of Tami Shem-Tov’s books on the ITHL website.
Lea Goldberg

Mr. Fibber, the Storyteller

AGÉ 4-8

These stories, in rhyme, about Mr. Fibber were first published in installments in the 1940s and soon became classics. Lea Goldberg’s Mr. Fibber is a teller of absurd and amusing tales along the lines of a Baron Munchhausen. He boasts about inventing a variety of weird contraptions that rescue him from any situation and he captivates his audience with his preposterous but enchanting and funny adventures.

Once, so he relates, he managed to squeeze himself into a lemonade jar in order to salvage a coin that had fallen inside. Someone put a lid on the jar, but he found an ingenious way to get out. In another story, he tells of a gigantic dog that is harnessed to a train, like a locomotive. The dog invites Mr. Fibber to board the train, and when it reaches the top of a mountain it stops to guzzle two tons of coal. And if there’s a giant dog that eats coal, what would you say to a little bird that produces milk? Mr. Fibber is even capable of making sure the weather will be fine and warm when he goes on vacation. How? He simply fishes the sun out of the sea where it has set, wraps it up well and packs it in his suitcase.

Thirty of the stories were published in book form in 1977; three of them appeared as comics in 2013, thereby introducing the much loved character to a new generation of young readers and their parents.

1977 edition, illustrated by Arie Navon
2013 edition, illustrated by Yirmi Pinkus

Leah Goldberg (1911-1970) was born in Königsberg, East Prussia (now Kaliningrad, Russia), and started writing Hebrew verse as a schoolgirl in Kovno. She received a PhD in Semitic languages from Bonn University, and immigrated to pre-state Israel in 1935. Goldberg was a renowned poet – a member of the Shlonsky group – as well as a successful children’s author, theater critic, translator, and editor. In 1952, she established the Department of Comparative Literature at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and remained its chairwoman until her death. Goldberg was awarded many prizes, including the Israel Prize for Literature in 1970. Her children's books have been published in English, French, German, Russian, Catalan, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, and 15 Indian languages.
Tal Nitzan

Another Country

Tel Aviv, Am Oved, 2013. 28 pp.
AGE 4-8

A little girl flies to another country with her parents, not on vacation but to live for two years. And there she finds a new—and strange—reality. The houses and streets are not like the ones she’s used to, their new home is nothing like their old one, and it’s the same for the way to school, the parks and the customs. Also the children in her new class look different, and what is really scary is the language they all speak—she doesn’t understand a thing! How can she make new friends if she can’t talk to them? What will happen if she gets lost and can’t explain who she is or where she lives?

Her feelings of loneliness and of being ‘different’ are portrayed mainly through the language problem. But then she slowly begins to learn the new language and can even read the street signs. At first she is silent in class, because by the time she sorts out a response to the teacher’s question, someone else has already answered. But one day, she is in the park with her father and the feeling of ‘different’ begins to fade: when the ice cream vendor asks her what flavor she wants, she says, “cio-co-la-te” and smiles, because her first word in the new language is a sweet word.

This lovely book reads like the author’s own story: as a child, she too traveled with her parents from Israel to South America.

Illustrations: Kinneret Gildar
Dan Huppert

The Princess and the Real Loaf of Bread

Tel Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2013. 48 pp.
AGE 4-8

Once upon a time there was a kingdom whose subjects absolutely loved bread. It was ruled by King Baguette III and his daughter, Princess Ciabatta. King Baguette was very enlightened and attentive to the needs of his subjects, but his daughter was a spoiled, capricious and haughty girl. She was used to being served and she never said thank you. King Baguette was upset by his selfish daughter, and he was also afraid that she wouldn’t be a good ruler when he was gone. So he decided to test her: he told her to bring him “a real loaf of bread.”

The princess set off on her quest. First, she went to a chef who gave her a loaf that he’d bought at a bakery. But when she took it to her father, he looked at her hands and said: “This is not a real loaf of bread.” So the princess went to a witch, and the witch gave her grains of wheat. The princess planted them and after 120 days she harvested the wheat, ground it into flour and baked a loaf of bread. She also gave the wheat that was left over to the baker’s son. When she’d finished, the princess was tired, her hands were red, and her back hurt, but her heart was full of happiness. The king declared that this time his daughter had brought him a real loaf of bread. He praised her and told her that she was worthy to rule after him.

This delightful modern fairytale is full of insights, and is also a journey of self-discovery. The heroine changes, and proves her ability to her father and to herself.

Illustrations: Sharon Alpert

Dan Huppert was born in Jerusalem in 1965. A children’s writer and musician, he holds a degree from Berklee College of Music in Boston. Huppert has published two jazz and blues CDs, for which he was the guitarist and writer-composer. He also composes music for the theater. The Princess and the Real Loaf of Bread, his first book for children, has been adapted for the stage and is forthcoming in Arabic translation.

Click here for a complete listing on the ITHL website.
Nurit Zarchi

Two Giraffes in Space

Tel Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2014. 24 pp.
AGE 3-6

Mira and Shira, the two giraffes that we know and love from the earlier books in this series (see p. 31), embark upon their most daring adventure of all: they fly into space! Everything on earth has become too crowded, people unintentionally bump into them and bother them all the time, so they need space, which is precisely where Mira suggests they go: outer space, where there's plenty of room. Furthermore, she knows how to get there: you get into an elevator, and push a special button. And that's how the twosome set off on their journey to the stars. However, very quickly, they discover that it's not fun at all to be in space—instead they feel lonely and homesick. So once more, Mira and Shira press the special button and return to earth. Now they have a good reason to burst into a happy song.

Illustrations: Hilla Havkin

Nurit Zarchi was born in Jerusalem in 1941 and grew up at Kibbutz Geva. She studied at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She has worked as a journalist and held creative writing workshops for children and adults. Zarchi has published novels, short stories, several books of poetry, a collection of essays and over 100 books for children. She has received every major Israeli award for children and youth literature, including the Bialik Prize (1999), the Ze’ev Prize (five times), four IBBY Honor Citations, the Education Minister’s Prize for Lifetime Achievement (2005), the Amichai Prize (2006), the Lea Goldberg Prize (2011) and the Landau Prize for Poetry (2013). Her books have been published abroad in 10 languages.

Click here for a complete listing on the ITHL website.
BrownStripe

AGE 3-6

Thousands of Israeli children have grown up with this much-loved book—about an envious bear whose every wish is granted the moment he expresses it.

It all began one day when little bear saw a wolf in the forest that had a brown stripe on its neck and he said, “Oh, what a pretty stripe! I wish I had a stripe like that.” Right away he too had a brown stripe on his throat, and that’s what all the bears called him!

BrownStripe was adventurous: he went deep into the forest and met all sorts of animals. When he met a lion, he admired its long tail and said, “Oh, I wish I had a long tail like that!” and right away he grew a long tail. When he met a goat, he envied its beard and said, “Oh, I wish I had a beard like that!” and right away he grew a beard. In the same way, he acquired antlers, then wings and even fins. Finally BrownStripe met a chirping bird. “Oh, I wish I could chirp like that!” he exclaimed, and right away he began chirping.

And that’s how BrownStripe lost his identity. When he got home, his bear friends didn’t recognize him. And all his attempts to explain who he was didn’t work because he could only chirp! But his mother recognized him right away, and when she kissed him, BrownStripe became his old self again!

But the brown stripe stayed on his neck and never went away.

Illustrations: Aviel Basil

Shlomit Cohen-Assif

Shlomit Cohen-Assif was born in 1949 in Iraq and came to Israel in 1951 with her family. She grew up in Holon, where she still lives today, and studied at Tel Aviv University. She began publishing poetry for adults as well as for children during her military service. Cohen-Asif is one of the most prominent Hebrew children’s poets. Her works have been adapted for the stage and radio; they have also been the subject of dance and set to music. Cohen-Asif has written many children’s stories, and her poems have been included in numerous schoolbooks and anthologies, both in Israel and abroad. Cohen-Asif has been awarded many prizes, including the ACUM Prize three times (1979; 1980; 1982), the Ze’ev Prize twice (1981; 1990), the Prime Minister’s Prize twice (1984; 2001), the ACUM Prize for Lifetime Achievement (1995), the Fania Bergstein Prize (2003) and the Bialik Prize (2010).
Avram Kantor was born in 1950 in Haifa and grew up on Kibbutz Mizra, of which he is still a member. He studied Hebrew literature at Haifa University, then German at the University of Konstanz, Germany, where he also completed advanced studies in publishing. After a number of years as fiction editor at Sifriat Poalim Publishers, he became its editor-in-chief and CEO. Since its merger with Hakibbutz Hameuchad Publishers, he has been deputy-CEO. He is also a translator from English and German to Hebrew.

Kantor has published novels and novellas, collections of stories and books for children, one of which has been adapted and staged. Kantor was awarded the Ze’ev Prize in 1995. Two of his novels have been published in German (Hanser).

A Ride for Two

Tel Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2013. 22 pp.
AGE 3-5

Nevo wanted to go for a bike ride with Grandpa, and so did his sister Sahar. But there’s no room for two up front on the bike. Grandpa suggests that Nevo go in front and Sahar behind him, but Nevo doesn’t like this idea because Grandpa’s broad back will hide the road from Sahar. “So perhaps Sahar can sit up front and Nevo will sit in the back,” says Grandpa. “Not a good idea,” Sahar replies, because then Nevo won’t see the road. “Perhaps we can ride on a donkey instead of a bike,” Grandpa suggests. But the kids rule that out too, and anyway they don’t have a donkey. In the end, Nevo and Sahar find a solution: Granddad will carry both of them on his shoulders, and everyone will have fun—even without a bike ride!

A problem-and-solution tale, with the children invited to come up with ideas of their own at the end.

Illustrations: Hilla Havkin
Dror Burstein & Meir Appelfeld, *Illustrator*

**My Cup of Tea**

Tel Aviv, Am Oved, 2011. 49 pp. AGE 4 UP

Dror Burstein's first children's book is about a boy who likes asking questions. “One day in winter I was sick,” he starts as he lies in bed. Then in comes Dad with some tea with honey and lemon, and while the boy drinks it, all sorts of philosophical questions pop up in his mind. Where does the tea go after I drink it? What is the tea made of? Where did the honey come from? From bees, of course. And how was it made? From the nectar in flowers. And for there to be flowers, there have to be other things. Like water and sunlight. And where does the water come from? From under the ground and from rain... And what about Dad? For him to make the tea, he had to be born, and for that he needed Grandpa and Grandma, and so on. The boy isn’t sad anymore. He knows that the whole world is in his teacup. So even if Dad isn’t with him in the room, he isn’t alone.

**ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE.**

Burstein's novel, *Kos*, has been published in French (*Actes Sud*), Italian (Riuniti), German (Wallstein) and English (Dalkey Archive) and is forthcoming in Turkish (Dedalus).

*My Cup of Tea* is forthcoming in Spanish (Leetra) and Mexico City.

**Zeruya Shalev**

**Mama’s Best Boy**

Tel Aviv, Keshet, 2001; Keter, 2011 AGE 3-6

In this beautiful story, bestselling author Zeruya Shalev illustrates how children learn the difference between factual truth and the truth of the heart.

Every day Adam's mother tells him he is the best-looking, smartest boy in the world. But at pre-school, he finds out that other children do some things better than him. Maybe my mother is wrong, Adam thinks. Later, at the pizza parlor, he sees a plain-looking boy with a runny nose, whose mother also tells him he is the best-looking in all the world, and Adam is surprised. “Every child is the best in his mother’s eyes,” his mother explains. “There is no real ‘best’.” The next day, Adam doesn’t care what the other children think of his drawings. But when he stands up to make a speech for Daphne's birthday, it doesn’t care what the other children think of his drawings. But his mother explains. “There is no real ‘best’.” The next day, Adam surprised. “Every child is the best in his mother’s eyes,” his mother tells him he is the best-looking in all the world, and Adam is surprised. “Every child is the best in his mother’s eyes,” his mother explains. “There is no real ‘best’.” The next day, Adam doesn’t care what the other children think of his drawings. But when he stands up to make a speech for Daphne’s birthday, it doesn’t care what the other children think of his drawings. But his mother explains. “There is no real ‘best’.”

**ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE.**

Illustrations: Cristina Kadmon

Mama's Best Boy has been published in French (*École des Loisirs*), German (*Beltz*), Italian (*Mondadori*), Spanish (*Castillo*).

**Leah Goldberg**

**A Flat to Let**

Sifriat Poalim, 1959; new ed. 1970 AGE 5-8

The timeless appeal of this fable in verse has made it a classic and a perennial favorite in Israeli children's literature. Based on an East European folk tale, *A Flat to Let* has a simple but profound message: it is wise to be tolerant of one's neighbors. “At the edge of a valley so quiet and pretty, / Stands a five-storey building far away from the city,” it begins, and describes the animal tenants on each floor: a fat hen, a cuckoo, a pampered black cat, a voracious squirrel. The fifth floor used to be occupied by Mr. Mouse, but he disappears, so the neighbors hang up a sign: “A Flat to Let.” The flat is shown to many animals. Each follows the same cycle of sing-song questions and exclamations. But each visitor objects to one of the other animals, and rejects the flat. Finally a dove comes who likes the neighbors as much as the house. When she moves in, “the flat's just fine. She hums and she coos nearly all of the time.” The tenants have finally found another animal as tolerant as themselves.

**Illustrations: Shmuel Katz**

Goldberg's children's books have been published in English, German, Russian, Catalan, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese, and 15 Indian languages.

**Nurit Zarchy**

**See You at the South Pole**

Tel Aviv, Kinneret/Zmora-Bitan/Dvir, 2005. 37 pp. AGES 3-6

One day, Mr. Zoom gets a package. It makes strange noises, but selfish Mr. Zoom doesn’t notice. When he gets to his office, he opens the package, and out comes an egg that says: “South Pole. Open on Sunday.” Mr. Zoom puts a “Don’t Disturb” sign on his office door and sits down to incubate the egg. Three days later, a baby penguin hatches. It calls Mr. Zoom “Daddy” and tells him it wants to go to the South Pole. Mr. Zoom, who is not selfish any more, buys airline tickets and off they fly. There are lots of penguins when they land. Suddenly, one comes running towards them. It’s baby penguin’s mother and the two are happily reunited! Before Mr. Zoom gets onto the sleigh to go back home, he gives little penguin a cellular phone. “When you miss me, call,” he says. “I’ll be back. See you at the South Pole!”

**Illustrations: Batia Kolton.**

*See You at the South Pole* has been published in French (*Actes Sud Junior*), German (*Gerstenberg*) and Spanish (*Adriana Hidalgo*).

**ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE**

*See You at the South Pole* has been published in French (*Actes Sud Junior*), German (*Gerstenberg*) and Spanish (*Adriana Hidalgo*).
Edna Kaplan-Hagler

Nama's Adventures

Tel Aviv, Kinneret, 2009. 150 pp.

AGE 7 UP

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 set out to search for food, and when he didn't return her mother went to find him. But no one never 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: Zagny Ormut-Durbín

Edna Kaplan-Hagler

Didi Is a Temporary Name

Tel Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2012. 103 pp.

AGE 8-12

A heart-warming tale of love between dog and man, and of the bond between dogs and wild foxes.

An injured dog is brought to an animal shelter, and Dalia and Yoram, who look after the animals, call her Didi. Of course, all the animals there have relationships, just like people. And each dog has its own personality, but they all long for the same thing—to find a warm and loving home.

Now Didi wants to find out where she comes from. With the help of tough, pessimistic Jerry and naïve, optimistic Muki, she steals out one night to the hills where she meets a fox. As she replies to its wails, something stirs inside her. So she joins the pack of foxes, and they all set out to search for her family—who are delighted to find her alive! Finally, with Jerry and Muki and a whole escort of foxes, Didi goes home and all three dogs get a loving family.

Illustrations: Zagny Ormut-Durbín
New Books From Israel • 2014

Backlist: books for youth

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Ran Cohen

Harounoff

Hanneke and Fiet

Jerusalem, Keter, 2013. 67 pp. AGE 6-9

Amsterdam, World War II: Hanneke, age three, is separated from her parents and sent into hiding. At first she is moved from place to place and is frightened. But when she comes to the home of Fiet, a little Dutch girl, she finds a friend and gets the warmth she missed so much. Fiet's parents treat Hanneke like their own and promise that when the war is over her parents will come and get her.

Around them the war rages on, and they see soldiers through the windows. But inside the house, Fiet plays with Hanneke and tells her stories so she won't be scared. Finally, three years later, Hanneke's parents come and fetch her.

This is a story about good, brave people, and about friendship in the midst of misery. Hanneke is actually the writer's mother, and he tells the story of her survival with love and sensitivity.

Illustrations: Vali Mintzi

English translation available.

Sarit Goren

Gili and the Little Witch

Jerusalem, Keter, 2011. 123 pp. AGE 7-11

Matilda is a cheeky little-witch, the size of a Barbie doll. After five years as an apprentice, it's time for her final test: if she passes, she'll be a qualified, self-employed witch! But when she opens her notebook with all the spells for the exam, everything that she's written in magic ink is gone. The only solution is to cover the pages with a special pink ink. So Matilda gets on her broomstick with her personal turtle and sets off. At Yossi's store in town, she sees a fabulous dolls' house and gets inside. Just then, Auntie Mimi comes in to buy it for her niece Gili! And that's how Gili gets to meet a real witch and a clever, speaking turtle. Now, she has someone to tell about her troubles at school.

Two days later, after being teased again at school, she can't resist the temptation—using Matilda's magic wand, she turns her tormentors into a mouse and a frog. Then she's sorry, but how will she turn them back into girls before it's too late?

Illustrations: Cristina Kadmon

Yuval Elbashan

Unfinished

Tel Aviv, Yedioth Ahronoth, 2011. 120 pp. AGE 8-12

Ten-year-old Eylam finds an unfinished story on his grandfather's desk, about a book and two brothers in Warsaw in the 1930s. The older brother had given it to the younger, and written inside: “Take care of this book and it will take care of you.” Eylam loves books too, and he pushes his grandpa to finish the story. His grandpa gives in, describing how the younger brother is separated from his favorite book when the Nazis invade Poland. Thus Eylam learns that his Polish-born grandfather had a brother who disappeared in the Holocaust. The book is published and is a success; it is even exhibited at the Warsaw Book Fair. And there, a boy named Philip is amazed to see that the youth on the cover looks exactly like him! He gets a copy; the dedication says: “To my grandson Eylam – take care of this book and it will take care of you.” The next day, Philip's grandfather comes to visit. When he sees the familiar dedication, he faints. He is the brother who was thought dead! Soon after, the two grandfathers are movingly reunited.

Illustrations: Ruth Gwily

Nava Macmel-Atir

Transparent

Tel Aviv, Yedioth Ahronoth, 2012. 239 pp. AGE 13 up

The girls in Dariah's class don't accept her, and only talk to her when they need something. Dariah thinks that she isn't pretty and after school she sits in her room, playing music, singing, and creating a private world where she is beautiful and loved. One day, she finds out about a "dirty" secret that will harm Michal, the queen of the class, and wants to warn her. But her classmates' nastiness causes her even greater pain. However, a popular musician discovers her musical talent, and she starts to feel better.

Dariah's story is interwoven with that of Emma, a mysterious girl from Berlin who is trying to solve a family secret linked to World War II. One day, they meet by chance at Dariah's mother's bridal store. There, Emma finds the special wedding dress that she had been looking for. And it turns out to be special to Dariah's mother too. The wedding dress is a catalyst: from one thing to another, the two girls find threads from the past that bind them together.

Illustrations: Ruth Gwily
Jonathan Yavin

**Anti**

AGE 12-15

Dror, nicknamed Anti, is a rebellious 14-year-old going through a personal crisis – he’s aggressive towards adults, doesn’t study, and feels that no one understands him. Until, at a music store, he meets Arad and Lisa, who started “Rapture,” a teenage rap group. They bring him into the group – he’s very talented – and this helps him escape his worries. He also falls in love with Lisa.

But all is not well: Arad, the charismatic leader, is a tyrant and forces everyone to shoplift. Dror decides to rebel: he does battle-raps with some of the others and eventually leaves the group with Lisa. The two start a new group and prepare for the national rap contest. We follow the contest with bated breath, and the results are very surprising.

*Anti* is a quick, angry and touching book for young adults. It is uniquely written in rap rhythm, and is narrated in Dror’s very honest voice. Rap music saves him – he learns to love and is inspired to make his way as a young artist.

Miriam Akavia

**An End to Childhood**

1975; Jerusalem, Yad Vashem, 1998;  
2000  
AGE 13 UP

Yurik, 17, and his sister Anya belong to a wealthy Jewish family in Cracow. When the Germans invade Poland in 1939, the family loses everything and are moved to the ghetto, living in squalid conditions with three other families.

When the *Aktion* start, their father buys them false papers and sends them to Lvov. Yurik makes contact with the Polish underground. But it is hard to find work or lodging – their papers are bad forgeries and discovery is only a matter of time. Then Yurek falls into the hands of the Gestapo and is sent to jail. For a time he does hard labor outside the jail, but one of the labor group escapes and they all expect to die. Yurik manages to escape to the alleys of the ghetto, and at this point, as he stands between life and death, the story ends.

A riveting, touching story narrated by Yurik, the author’s brother. He did not survive – hence the open ending of the story.

Published in Dutch (*Strengholt*), English (*Valentine Mitchell*), Swedish (*Prisma*), German (*Guetersloher*), Polish (*Wydawnictwo Muzeum Oswiecim*), Hungarian (*Belvarosi*), Russian: (*Gesharim/Mosti Kulturi*).

Gila Almagor

**Aviya’s Summer**

Tel Aviv, Am Oved, 1986. 92 pp.  
AGE 10 UP

Winner of multiple international awards, Gila Almagor’s autobiographical novel is set in Israel of the 1950s. 10-year-old Aviya leaves the kindly children’s home where she lives and is reunited with her mother Henya. Henya, a Polish partisan who was tortured by the Nazis, has now returned home after years in institutions. But her distracted mother is unable to show her any affection. She also has a horror of lice – another legacy of the past – so she scrubs Aviya’s head with kerosene and then shaves her hair. The neighborhood ostracizes them both, but Aviya is resourceful and imaginative. She fantasizes about her dead father; she also adores Maya, the beautiful young dancing teacher for whom her mother does laundry. But there are few moments of harmony. Every promise of friendship, warmth or success is poisoned by her mother’s illness – playing the piano ends in violence; happiness ends in shame. Henya’s love brings no salvation.

*Aviya’s Summer* has been published in English (*Collins*), French (*Nathan*), German (*Alibaba; dtv junior*), Italian (*Mondadori*), Spanish (*Loguez*), Dutch (*Elzenga*), Danish (*Forum*), Russian (*Aliya*), Serbian (*Bonari*), Arabic (*Kul-Shee*), Spanish (*Loguez*), Greek (*Kedros*) and Chinese (*Shanghai Juvenile & Children*).

Gila Almagor

**Alex Lerner, Daphna and Me**

AGE 12 UP

This is a beautiful story of friendship, love and loss, told by 12-year-old Avner, whose best friend Alex dies of cancer. Life hasn’t been kind to Avner. There is growing tension between his parents who eventually split up, and when he follows his father who is often away from home, he discovers he’s having an affair. At the same time, Avner tells us about his secret love for Daphna, his classmate. When Alex, an accomplished new immigrant from Russia, joins the class and attracts Daphna’s attention, Avner is jealous. But he eventually overcomes his envy, Alex becomes his best friend, and together with Daphna they become a threesome. The bond between them intensifies when Alex is suddenly diagnosed with cancer and has to have painful chemotherapy. Avner’s emotional crisis, both at home and with his friend, lies at the heart of this fine book. Inevitably, the final parting leaves him with an emptiness inside.

*Alex Lerner, Daphna and Me* has been published in German (*Carl Hanser*).
Ruth Almog

The Silver Ball

Tel Aviv, Am Oved, 1986. 79 pp.
AGE 8-12

Pnina lives in a small Jewish town in the 1940s, under the British Mandate. The story of the silver ball begins when Pnina changes her name to Julie and her scary old neighbor, Daylight, refuses to use it. Conflict ensues, and when Pnina finds a beautiful silver ball – made of tin foil – in the orchard, she suspects that Daylight wants her to be accused of stealing. At the same time, Pnina-Julie meets Rivka, a mute pianist who plays Chopin waltzes beautifully. Even though Rivka snubs her, Pnina still hangs around her house, hoping to catch a few notes.

One day, Daylight calls Pnina to his house. Inside, she finds the weakest, palest boy she has ever seen – Yariv, Daylight’s grandson. When Yariv and his grandfather disappear for over a week, she realizes that Yariv has died. At that crucial moment, Rivka hands Pnina a second silver ball. The kindness reaches her through her shock and Pnina begins to sob.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

The Silver Ball has been published in German (St. Gabriel; Beltz), Italian (Mondadori), Dutch (Ploegsma) and Chinese (China Juvenile & Children).

Ruth Almog

My Journey with Alex

AGE 11-16

The story of brothers Erwin and Alex is similar to that of many children who lost their parents during the Holocaust and wandered from place to place, hiding all the time and suffering in body and soul. This story is told by Erwin, who lived in the German city, Worms. His physician father is taken away by the Nazis, and his mother decides to send her two sons alone by train to their uncle Marcus in Strasbourg where he lives as a Christian. The children are warned not to reveal their Jewish identity. When the Germans invade Strasbourg, Marcus and his wife take Alex and flee to Montpellier. Erwin is sent to stay with a French peasant family. After the war, Erwin returns to Montpellier to look after his brother, as he had promised his mother. He and Alex emigrate to Eretz Israel, where his mother’s sister lives in a cooperative village. Alex gradually overcomes the trauma of those years and finds comfort in horses.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

My Journey with Alex has been published in German (Sauerlander) and Serbian (Book & Marco). Forthcoming in Chinese (Jiangsu Children’s Press).

Eli Amir

Scapegoat

AGE 13 UP

Have you ever been in a culture different from the one you came from? This colorful story, based on the author’s own life, tells of 13-year-old Nuri, originally from Iraq, and a group of immigrant youngsters from Iraq, Romania, Morocco and Poland who came to Israel in the 1950s. Living and studying in a kibbutz, their shocking encounters with this new way of life cause a conflict between two cultures, East and West. We follow Nuri’s experiences and see the lives of the other youngsters, who respond to the new reality each in his or her own way. Nuri is torn between his old world and the charms of the new. But although he longs to be part of Israeli society, he doesn’t want to become estranged from his family and the culture that bred him. Readers who have moved from one country or society to another, or have ever felt like outsiders, will find themselves in this novel.

A bestseller in Israel, Scapegoat has received the Youth Aliya Prize (Israel) and the Jewish World Literature Prize (Mexico).

Scapegoat has been published in English (Weidenfeld & Nicholson; Am Oved), German (Alibaba), Russian (Am Oved), Turkish (Apollon), Azeri (Alatoran) and Macedonian (Goten). Forthcoming in Italian (Giuntina).

Amalia Rosenblum

Where the Village Road Ends

AGE 12 UP

If your best friend went to live far away, you’d be sad! Goni, a mongrel, is miserable because his golden retriever friend Arthur has left the village with his owners. But a new family come to live in their house, with a dog called Choco. Slowly, Goni and Choco become friends. Together they hatch a plan that leads to the arrest of wild boar hunters, and become village stars. They also learn about the pit bull’s good side, the power of friendship, and the dangerous pride that comes with success. Cats and dogs, jackals and squirrels all live in the village too, and the author tells us about their thoughts with loads of wit and humor. The dogs are interested in haiku, write some poems, and read newspapers. An unforgettable story of friendship and solidarity, and of doggie thoughts on humans who have so little imagination, compared to them!

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

Where the Village Road Ends has been published in German (Beltz & Gelberg) and Italian (Salani; La Scuola). Forthcoming in Chinese (Jiangsu Children’s Press).
Tamar Bergman

Sunbirds at My Window

Tel Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 1999. 74 pp.
AGE 8-11

The life of birds is fascinating and beautiful. This is what young Alon learns from his elderly neighbor, Ina, who has turned her kitchen window into a bird feeding station. Alon, who is particularly fond of the colorful sunbirds, invites his classmates to visit the feeding station and hopes that Galit will be interested in the birds, because he really likes her. Perhaps Galit’s interest will influence her father who wants the feeding station removed from the building because the birds dirty his lawn. The children in the class are very excited, and Galit offers to help Alon care for the birds. It looks as if everything has worked out well and Galit’s father isn’t in a bad mood anymore, but then Ina suddenly falls ill and dies. However, Alon is comforted by her request that he take over the feeding station. Together, Alon and Galit care for birds that come to feed.

Illustrations: Christina Kadmon.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

Sunbirds at My Window has been published in Japanese (Fuzambo).

Tamar Bergman

The Boy from Over There

Tel Aviv, Am Oved, 1983. 130 pp.
AGE 9-13

The hero of this story is a boy called Avramik, who has spent World War II hiding in a European village with his sick mother. When the Allies liberate Europe, his mother is taken to hospital, and although she never returns, Avramik cannot accept that she’s dead.

The book opens with Avramik’s first day at the kibbutz to which his uncle has brought him. The boy from “over there” slowly integrates into kibbutz life, but he stubbornly guards his secret – his belief that his mother will come back one day. The only person he is close to is Rina, whose father died serving in the Jewish Brigade in Italy and who, like Avramik, cannot accept his death. When the War of Independence starts in 1948, the kibbutz is shelled and all the children have to be evacuated under heavy fire. At the end of the dangerous journey, Avramik finds an answer to the question that has haunted him.

The Boy from Over There has been published in English (Houghton Mifflin), German (Alibaba; Rowohlt), Italian (Bompiani) and Japanese (Michitani). Forthcoming in Chinese (Jiangsu Children’s Press).

Tamar Bergman

André’s Wooden Clogs

Tel Aviv, Kinneret, 2002. 239 pp.
AGE 12 UP

Based on the memories of Arie Ben-Peli

André is six years old in 1942 when his family is endangered by Nazi persecution. Separated from his parents and his little brother, he is taken in by a farming family who look after him devotedly for two years as if he were their own child. Unexpectedly for a novel of this sort, the chapters overflow with joie de vivre as we watch the city child’s adjustment to village life, his warm relationship with the family, his love of animals and the way he adapts to farmwork. During this time, the dramatic separation from his parents heals. At the end of the war André’s parents, survivors, return to take their child and André again experiences the pain of separation. It will take time – all the family is reunited, but he will never forget his Dutch father, mother, brother and sister.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

André’s Wooden Clog has been published in Dutch (van Waveren) and Italian (EI). Forthcoming in Chinese (Jiangsu Children’s Press).

Tmar Bergman

Along the Tracks

AGE 12-16

The frightfulness of war is vividly dramatized in this novel about a Polish boy in World War II. Yankele’s family escapes from Lodz before the ghetto is closed off and flees east towards Asia. When their train is bombed, Yankele is separated from his mother, and begins years of wandering in search of his family. Almost unaware of the dangers, he gets through the snowy steppes of central Asia to reach Kazakhstan, Bokhara, Tashkent and Uzbekistan. Yasha, as he is now known, teams up with Bokharan street children, befriends prostitutes and helps a young Uzbek girl who has been raped. By the time he is reunited with his family, he is no longer the same boy. Beyond Yankele’s own story of survival, Tamar Bergman has drawn the picture of an entire continent on the move.

Along the Tracks was awarded the Ze’ev Prize, nominated a “Notable Children’s Trade Book” by the U.S. Children’s Book Council and was included in the 1991 Bulletin Blue Ribbon list. It has been published in English (Houghton Mifflin), German (Alibaba; S. Fischer) and Japanese (Michitani).
Daniella Carmi

Samir and Yonatan on Planet Mars

AGE 10-14

During the Intifada, Samir, an Arab child, is taken to an Israeli hospital for a special operation. He arrives grieving for his dead brother and traumatized by the disintegration of his family life. Too shy to speak, he watches the four children in his ward: Razia, emotionally disturbed, is being stitched up after her father's last drunken binge; Ludmilla, a Russian girl, is catatonically withdrawn; Yonatan is fascinated by the planets; and Tzaki frightens him. It is Yonatan who calms Samir, offers him friendship and tells him about the world of the stars and planets. Eventually there is also an unexpected bond between Samir and Tzaki who go on a spree through the hospital. When Samir returns home, he knows he has seen the impossible happen: he has made friends with the enemy.

Samir and Yonatan on Planet Mars won prizes in Germany, USA and Italy. Published in English (Scholastic/Arthur Levine), French (Hachette Jeunesse), German (Carl Harsen; dtv), Italian (Mondadori; Salani), Spanish (Loguez; Castillo), Portuguese (Ambar), Greek (Kastanotis), Dutch (Fontein), Chinese (Eastern Pub., Taipei), Japanese (Ca et La), Slovenian (Ucila), Serbian (Zmaj), Korean (Yewon Media), Thai (Bliss) and Arabic (Kal Shee). Forthcoming in Chinese (Jiangsu Children’s Press, Taipei).

The Explosion on Ahalan Street

AGE 10-14

Who caused the explosion in Ahalan Street? The police have no clues and no witnesses. The newspapers have some theories but nothing to justify the daily discussions in the press. This is the bleak story of 12-year-old Natasha Marouan, whose Jewish mother and Arab father struggle to protect the love and unity that keep their small family together in the face of social prejudice and bigotry.

With Samir Marouan in jail after the explosion, the family’s world is torn apart. Natasha’s mother is rejected by one lawyer after another and Natasha herself is snubbed by her neighbors. When Samir Marouan is finally released, Natasha understands that justice won’t easily mend the broken pieces of her home. Natasha describes her father’s imprisonment with a puzzled frustration that justice won’t easily mend the broken pieces of her home. Eventually there is also an unexpected bond between Samir and Tzaki who go on a spree through the hospital. When Samir returns home, he knows he has seen the impossible happen: he has made friends with the enemy.

The Explosion on Ahalan Street has been published in French (Hachette Jeunesse), German (Alibaba; dtv junior) and Spanish (Loguez).

To Be the Daughter of a Gypsy

Tel Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 1996. 143 pp.
AGE 10-14

 Among the harsh reality of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a warm and affectionate relationship starts up between two Israeli girls and a young Palestinian man. The narrator of this extraordinary story is Taliah, a problem girl who is sent to a home for special children. The children she meets there are a collection of misfits, but many of them have brilliant fantasies. By far the greatest dreamer is Becky, a strong-willed girl whose fiery imagination charms narrator and readers alike. Becky’s ambition is to have a “permanent father,” and when she hears gypsy music coming from Kami’s ice-cream van, she fatches onto the young Arab man from the Gaza Strip. Becky imagines that Kami will rescue her but he himself is lonely and trapped, sleeping in the locked van at night, far from his family and home.

The girls lose Kami twice: first when he says goodbye and returns to Gaza, and then when he is killed in a terrorist incident.

Illustrations: Hilla Havkin.

To Be the Daughter of a Gypsy has been published in French (Gallimard), German (Carl Hanser), Italian (Mondadori) and Dutch (Fontein).

Shulamit Lapid

Shpitz

AGE 7-10

The joys of having a dog are depicted in this perky story about three children, their silly Aunt Shpitz and her dog, also called Shpitz. The dog is on loan to Michal, Mickey and Yair for a day or two, then for a whole glorious week. In fact, Shpitz is a smelly, quirky old dog that has whistling holes in his teeth. Unattractive to anyone not blinded by love, the dog is nevertheless a constant source of merriment for the children as he trips up policemen and cavorts around the circus. When Michal decides they must do something about the dog’s sorry appearance, Shpitz gets a haircut with disastrous results.

There is a happy, ongoing disarray that will be especially appealing to those who live in doggy homes, and to those who always wanted to.

Shpitz has been published in German (Omnibus).
Yoram Kaniuk

Wasserman

Tel Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 1988.
112 pp.
AGE 12 UP

This story centers around a dog called Wasserman and a girl called Talia, who has both humor and integrity. Talia’s life changes radically when she finds Wasserman half-dead, an obvious victim of abuse. After his recovery, Wasserman proves to be a fitting addition to Talia’s irregular family: he sings in perfect harmony, and once people hear about the singing dog, they come to hear his Moonlight Sonata too. This circus attracts media attention, but one day Big Mouth Meir, a real mafioso, comes to claim his performing hound. Talia has never before heard threats like, “I wouldn’t want your pretty face to be cut up.” She also didn’t know that the police were in Meir’s pocket. Incredibly, Talia is arrested, but Gidi, an aspiring lawyer who is in love with her, spells out the consequences of police corruption in a tense confrontation. The family is rewarded beyond its wildest dreams, and Wasserman comes home to an extravagant musical party. Wasserman has been made into a film by Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen.

Wasserman has been published in French (Gallimard), German (Alibaba; dtv junior), Italian (Mondadori; Salani), Norwegian (Aschehoug), Swedish (Forum), Danish (Gyldendal), Greek (Psichogios), Spanish (Fondo de Cultura Economica; Siruela) and Serbian (Ruzno). Forthcoming in Croatian (Sysprint).

The Magnanimous Thief

261 pp.
AGE 13 UP

Jewish destiny and Israeli reality are both part of this exciting cops-and-robbers detective story. But this is no ordinary detective story, just as our hero is no ordinary thief. German-born Naftali Bamburger is the deputy manager of a respectable bank in Tel Aviv. It is 1950 – Israel is overflowing with refugees from post-war Europe and hostile Arab countries, and the newly established state has to absorb these new arrivals. The newcomers are crowded into transit camps, each with scores of residents carrying memories of fear and pain. Naftali decides to steal 500,000 Israeli pounds from his place of work and distribute the money to the people in the transit camps. He soon becomes their Robin Hood, but he promises to return all the money when the “special operation” is over. Naftali keeps his word and the judge sentences the good-hearted thief to only a year in prison.

Illustrations by the author.

The Magnanimous Thief has been published in Italian (Mondadori; Mondadori Scuola).

Yovi, Pebble and the Elephant

Tel Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 1993.
95 pp.
AGE 10 UP

Yovi, age 14, is a modern Hannibal – he leads an elephant across the desert to freedom, while holding off the full force of the Israeli army.

When his mother buys a new fridge, Yovi sells the old one to a junk dealer who happens to have an elephant on his truck. The elephant locks eyes with Yovi and it’s true love. Yovi acquires Polly (as he calls her), but what can you do with an elephant in Tel Aviv? On the advice of his new friend Pebble, Yovi decides that Polly must go back to Africa. The army is called out. His parents, the chief-of-staff and the prime minister appeal to him over the radio to come home, but Yovi is now on a crusade. The trek is exhausting: extreme heat, thirst and hostile Bedouins nearly break him. Finally, when environmentalists offer to take Polly to Kenya on a boat, he accepts. It is all over; but Yovi, exhausted, has won.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

Yovi, Pebble and the Elephant, has been published in German (Alibaba), Italian (Mondadori) and Chinese (China Juvenile & Children Pub.).

The House Where the Cockroaches Live to A Ripe Old Age

38 pp.
ALL AGES

Brimming with life and humor, this madcap tale is populated with fleabag cats, donkeys, dogs, a horse called Andromeda, a porcupine and cockroaches who think they’re in paradise.

A week after Naomi was born, Ivanov sat in her crib purring. When his mother buys a new fridge, Yovi sells the old one to a junk dealer who happens to have an elephant on his truck. The elephant locks eyes with Yovi and it’s true love. Yovi acquires Polly (as he calls her), but what can you do with an elephant in Tel Aviv? On the advice of his new friend Pebble, Yovi decides that Polly must go back to Africa. The army is called out. His parents, the chief-of-staff and the prime minister appeal to him over the radio to come home, but Yovi is now on a crusade. The trek is exhausting: extreme heat, thirst and hostile Bedouins nearly break him. Finally, when environmentalists offer to take Polly to Kenya on a boat, he accepts. It is all over; but Yovi, exhausted, has won.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

The House Where the Cockroaches Live to A Ripe Old Age has been published in English (Scholastic, India), German (Alibaba), Italian (Mondadori), Chinese (China Juvenile & Children Pub.) and Hindi (Scholastic).
Nira Harel

A New Hat

AGE 10-12

Grandpa Ze’ev is ill in hospital, but Noam, age 13, doesn’t really know why. He is used to not being told anything and gets most of his information by eavesdropping. When Noam finally convinces his mother to take him to visit, Grandpa Ze’ev’s weakness is painful to see. He asks Noam to take home his new hat so that it won’t get damaged. Grandpa Ze’ev’s ex-wife – Noam’s Grandma – arrives from America and Noam understands that his grandpa is very ill. Although he sees his father cry for the first time, no one actually tells him anything – and they don’t tell him when Grandpa Ze’ev dies. But Noam is given Grandpa Ze’ev’s new hat and he clutches it as a symbol of new times. He has encountered mortality and learned that there are problems that have no solution.

Illustrations: Avner Katz

A New Hat has been published in German (Alibaba).

Nira Harel

One Too Many

Tel Aviv, Am Oved, 1993. 83 pp.
AGE 13-15

Merav, a girl from an average Israeli family with three children, tells us about her family’s adoption of Ronnie, an abandoned baby girl with Down’s Syndrome. When Mother decides to bring Ronnie home, a wave of hostile reactions surges through the family. Merav hates the idea, but can’t stop wondering: “If I’d been born retarded, would they have taken me home or not?” Eventually, Merav learns to accept the change and Ronnie becomes part of the family. “I used to think,” Merav muses, “that parents love a problem child less. But in our family it’s the other way round. Ronnie is the center of everything.”

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

One Too Many has been published in German (Alibaba; Omnibus) and Chinese (China Juvenile & ChildrenPub.).

Ronit Matalon

A Story that Begins with a Snake’s Funeral

Tel Aviv, Dvir, 1979; 1994. 168 pp.
AGE 12 UP

This lovely story has three spirited and entertaining heroes. First, there is Benjamin, who saves his schoolmate from a poisonous snake and becomes a legend in his small town. He also jumps off the water tower and makes a four-person bicycle. Then, his 11-year-old sister Margalit who is tempestuous and writes rhapsodies to her cousin signed “your loving and ever-loyal cousin.” And finally, there is their grandmother, Madame Rachelle, who is the star of this story. It is largely to her – the way she gives her hand to be kissed when she meets a gentleman at an ice-cream parlor, and the North-African French she speaks – that the book owes its piquant Mediterranean charm. With her endless store of aphorisms and stories, Madame Rachelle is ready for any challenge, and her grandchildren’s escapades show that they take after her. From her they learn to deal with loss and how imagination can turn any dilemma into an adventure.

Illustrations: Ruth Tzarfati

A Story that Begins with a Snake’s Funeral has been published in German (Hanser)

Nira Harel

Frontal Collision

AGE 12-14

Fifteen-year-old Anat comes from a good home. Her journalist mother is a strong, warm, modern woman. Her father, a university lecturer, provides well for his family, but he doesn’t have much time and accepts his family as a given. The story centers around a serious road accident in which Anat’s mother is injured. The book does not deal with the accident itself but rather with its effect on the family, their mutual relationships, the changes that occur as a result of the accident, and on adolescent Anat in particular. The collision between the two cars in the accident is only one of several collisions that occur in the family during the time of Anat’s sexual and mental development.

PARTIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

Frontal Collision has been published in German (Alibaba; Rowohlt).
The Song of the Whales

AGE 8 UP

This unique story deals with the special relationship between grandfather and grandson. Michael is a rather solitary only child who loves spending time with his grandfather. Grandfather’s house is very special: it contains all sorts of works of art and antiques, and there are many tools in the basement because Grandfather is good with his hands. When Grandfather becomes frail, he sells his house and moves in with his son’s family. Through the eyes of the boy, we find out about all the unpleasant undercurrents regarding money and inheritance, not to mention details about Grandfather’s housekeeper who, it is rumored, was once his lover.

The bond between Michael and his grandfather veers to the mystical when the elderly man starts taking his grandson along with him at night in his dreams. The two fly off together, sharing strange, wonderful and sometimes frightening experiences. In one dream, two grandfathers appear and Michael does not know who to turn to. Later, Grandfather explains that one is his good side and the other his bad side. Michael is clearly shaken by this dream.

When Grandfather dies, he leaves Michael a mystical legacy which will bind the two forever.

Illustrations: Michel Kishka

The Song of the Whales has been published in French (Gallimard), Italian (Feltrinelli), Spanish (Payco), Dutch (Fontein), English (Houghton Mifflin USA), Serbian (Book & Marco) and Japanese (Iwanami). Forthcoming in Chinese (Jiangsu Children’s Press).

Run, Boy, Run

AGE 10 UP

This extraordinary, life-affirming book tells the story of Srulik Freedman. Srulik, a Polish Jewish boy, is five years old when World War II breaks out. After losing his family, he escapes the Warsaw ghetto, surviving the Holocaust in the woods and rural villages of Poland.

How does a young boy who is entirely alone get through the war? How does he keep up his will to live in spite of the hardships he faces? An encounter helps answer this question: one night, as he is fleeing German soldiers, Srulik comes face to face with his father. During the few moments they share, his father gives him some words of advice: “You must stay alive. You must find someone who will teach you how to behave among the gentiles, how to cross yourself and pray.” These words guide Srulik through the war. Over the next months, Srulik bands together with other Jewish boys in the woods. When he loses these friends, he wanders from farm to farm, searching for work in exchange for food and shelter. Eventually the war ends and Srulik is brought back to Judaism.

The reader is left to appreciate the important things that we take for granted – having a family, a home, food, freedom and, most of all: life.

Illustrations: Michel Kichka

Run, Boy, Run has been published in English (Houghton Mifflin, USA), French (Flammarion), German (Beltz & Gelberg), Italian (Salani; Sansoni/RCS), Swedish (Raben & Sjorgen), Spanish (Alfaguara), Portuguese (Ambar), Japanese (Iwanami Shoten), Korean (Pronsoon), Catalan (Alfaguara), Chinese (Eastern, Taipei), Serbian (Zmaj), Russian (Texit), Polish (WAB). Forthcoming in Croatian (SysPrint) and in Chinese (Bright Books, Taipei).
Uri Orlev

The Lead Soldiers

Tel Aviv, Sifriat Poalim, 1956; Jerusalem, Keter, 1987. 211 pp. AGE 14 UP

This story is set during World War II and is based on fact. But those who balk at what sounds like another Holocaust novel should note that the war is only a backdrop for young Yorik's life. Through Yorik's close, almost photographic impressions, we follow the tightening of the German net around the Polish Jews in Warsaw. After their mother's death, Yorik and his younger brother are cared for by their irrepressible aunt until they are all caught by the Nazis and sent to Bergen-Belsen. The 22 months in the camp are harsh but the boys find relief, as they have all along, in their war games.

At the end of the war, the boys are sent to pre-state Israel. Yorik knows that in order to survive, he must persevere and create a new life for himself.

Lead Soldiers has been published in English (Peter Owen; Taplinger), German (Belz & Gelberg), Italian (Fabbri; RCS/Bur Ragazzi), Spanish (Bruno) and Dutch (Fontein). Forthcoming in Albanian (Toena).

The Dragon's Crown

Jerusalem, Keter, 1989. 194 pp. AGE 13 UP

Uri Orlev asks moral questions in a fantasy tale that is a parable of good and evil.

Princess Mayalila will inherit all she sees, and as far as the eye can see everything belongs to the Eastern Kingdom. This is a land of Good where there are no bad actions or words, no killing, and no death. Peace ends when Prince Akraton, from the evil Western Kingdom, shows the people that there is beauty in evil, and in this way he gains a following. The problem becomes even more complicated when Princess Mayalila is kidnapped by the Silent Ones. The only way to appease the Silent Ones is to offer them a dragon's crown, and there is only one man who knows how to hunt a dragon: the Black Prince Akraton. And so the king makes a pact with the devil to get his daughter back. Akraton pursues Mayalila, and what follows is a love story in which Uri Orlev expresses his own vision of optimism.

Illustrations: Avner Katz.

The Dragon's Crown has been published in German (Elefanten; Ravensburger), Dutch (Fontein) and Italian (Salani).

The Sandgame

Jerusalem, Keter, 1996. 50 pp. AGE 10-15

This autobiography by writer Uri Orlev tells the fascinating story of a Jewish boy who lived through the Holocaust and became a writer. But it is not a horror story portraying a traumatic childhood, in spite of the terrible things the child is forced to see. Instead, Orlev describes a relatively normal childhood, with moments of sadness and pain but also times of joy, adventure and humor. “I saw myself all the time as the hero of a thrilling adventure story; the more people disappeared around me, the more convinced I was that nothing bad could happen to me, and that it would all turn out well.” This is the first line of Orlev's book, in which the author shows his son the “sandgame” – an allegory in which only a tiny pile of sand remains in the palm of his hand. He and his brother were among the few that remained.

The Sandgame has been published in English (The Ghetto Fighters’ House [Israel]; Vikas [India]), German (Elefanten; Belz & Gelberg), Italian (Salani), Dutch (Fontein), Spanish (SM [Mexico]) and Japanese (Iwasaki Shoten).

The Thing in the Dark

Tel Aviv, Am Oved, 1976. 58 pp. AGE 8-10

Who hasn’t been afraid of the dark? There is a “Thing” living under the young narrator’s bed and it terrifies him. It shrinks in the daytime, but when his mother turns off the light at night, the Thing grows enormous. One frightening time, the boy begins to talk to the Thing, and it becomes his best friend, his protector, his scapegoat and his confessor. Then tragedy strikes and the boy’s father is killed in the war. The boy can’t talk to his father any more, but he can send the Thing to where his father is. When Shlomo, his father’s friend, becomes a permanent presence in the house, Thing travels to Daddy for the most important advice the boy gets: Daddy is happy that Shlomo can care for the family because Shlomo is a good man.

Illustrations: Milka Cizik.

PARTIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

The Thing in the Dark has been published in German (Elefanten; Ravensburger; Belz & Gelberg), Italian (Salani), Spanish (SM, Castillo, Mexico), Portuguese (SM), Dutch (Fontein), Korean (Bir), Slovenian (Mladinska Knjiga) and Albanian (Toena).

WINNER OF THE HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN AWARD
Nava Semel

_Becoming Gershona_

AGE 12 UP

“O ut of the blue, they told me Grandpa was coming the next day, and I never even knew I had a grandfather.” This is how a young girl’s life changes when she starts to discover her family’s long-guarded secrets. Life in Tel Aviv in 1958 is full of mysteries for 12-year-old Gershona, beginning with the meaning of her unusual name, and the reason why her grandfather fled to America 35 years before. Gershona spends the hot Israeli summer puzzling out the past, and discovers the lingering impact that the Holocaust has had on her family, in fact on everyone in her community. She soon understands that the Holocaust explains the blue numbers tattooed on her mother’s forearm, why she has only two grandparents, and why her grandfather deserted his wife and infant son. Although many of the truths she uncovers are unpleasant, her spirit and vitality make this book hopeful and uplifting.

_Becoming Gershona_ has been published in English (Viking/Penguin; Puffin Books), German (Alibaba; Fischer), Italian (La Casa Usher; Mondadori), Dutch (Fontein), and Romanian (Fiat Lux).

_Flying Lessons_

Tel Aviv, Am Oved, 1990. 103 pp.
AGE 13 UP

I n 1955, the small Israeli village where Hadara lives has one of everything: one grocer, one nurse and one junk dealer. Hadara’s only distinction is that she’s the one child without a mother. Her father is a citrus grower, and he loves his trees as though they were his children. Hadara decides that it’s time to distinguish herself and escape from loneliness. Monsieur Maurice, the village shoemaker, has a mysterious past and he sparks Hadara’s imagination by telling her about Jews in his homeland who could fly. Hadara cajoles Monsieur Maurice into giving her flying lessons. He tells her to study the birds and practice jumping, and then one day she will fly above the village. But as her lessons go on, Hadara learns that she can’t escape from the loneliness of not having a mother. _Flying Lessons_ is a poignant coming-of-age story which explores the importance of dreams and reality, and the delicate balance between them.

_Flying Lessons_ has been published in English (Simon & Schuster), German (Elefanten; Beltz & Gelberg), Italian (Mondadori), Spanish (Loguez), Dutch (Fontein), Czech (Albatros) and Serbian (Book & Marso). Forthcoming in Chinese (Jiangsu Children’s Press).

_Love for Beginners_

Tel Aviv, Yedioth Ahronoth, 2006. 97 pp.
AGE 12-16

T hese are bittersweet stories of young love, first kisses and secret dreams. A young Israeli girl falls in love with Mikey from the USA, an Elvis Presley fan. She hides her love and makes fun of him, but he is not ashamed to admit he loves her.

In the 1930s, a British paratrooper lands in a Jewish settlement and is injured. Seventeen-year-old Tamara takes care of him. Although he is an “enemy,” Tamara falls in love with him and imagines herself a princess.

When Orik’s father suddenly dies, his friend Arik goes to his home during the seven-day mourning period. That week, the first man lands on the moon and Orik and Arik imagine they’re the astronauts going into space.

These stories take place at different times – only love is something that never changes.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

_Love for Beginners_ has been published in German (Jacoby & Stuart), Italian (Sonda), Czech (Albatros) and Slovak (Q111).

_Bride on Paper_

Tel Aviv, Am Oved, 1996. 197 pp.
AGE 14 UP

T his story takes place 70 years ago during the British Mandate in Palestine and focuses on a romantic triangle between Anna, a young student from Poland, Imri, an idealistic young Jew who lives in a small village, and Major Charles Timothy Parker, a British pilot. The tale begins with a fictitious marriage. Imri is sent to Poland on a Zionist mission. He has agreed to marry a woman he doesn’t know in order to get her a legal immigration certificate. However, his plan goes awry when he falls in love with Anna, his “paper bride.” Since they must divorce, Imri leaves Anna in the care of his spinster aunt and his younger brother Uzik. Uzik has a learning disability and hates books, but he has a passion for the cinema, especially the hero of the Tarzan movies, Johnny Weissmuller. Sixty years later, Uzik looks back on his childhood. Now an elderly film-maker, he is trying to capture this long-forgotten love on film.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

_Bride on Paper_ has been published in German (Beltz & Gelberg), Italian (Mondadori), English (Hybrid, Austr) and Romanian (Pandora).
Dorit Orgad

The Day of the Grasshopper and Other Days

AGE 10-15

It’s hard to be an immigrant in a new country, harder still for an immigrant who is black and may face hostility and prejudice because of the color of his/her skin. Osnat comes to Israel from Ethiopia. Her parents often quarrel because her father can’t find suitable work, and they eventually get divorced. While out for a walk one day, Osnat catches a grasshopper and gives it to a friendly boy who wants it for his collection. But from her classmates, Osnat only gets hostility. The adults, too, are unfriendly towards her and there are even some violent incidents. But the situation slowly begins to improve. Osnat’s mother finds a male friend, and Osnat takes the entrance exam to a boarding school for gifted children. There, she meets the boy to whom she gave the grasshopper when she was still a newcomer.

Illustrations: Nurit Zarfaty

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

The Day of the Grasshopper and Other Days is forthcoming in Chinese (Jiangsu Children’s Press).

The Boy from Seville

AGE 11-16

Manuel Nuñez, the teenage narrator, describes Jewish life during the Spanish Inquisition in 17th-century Seville. Manuel’s life changes dramatically when he learns his family’s secret: they are Jews. Especially afraid of their servants, the family has ways of secretly following Jewish tradition. Life in Seville is a minefield for secret Jews, but the family has experience in leading this double life. Later, Manuel falls in love with Violante whose sister Leore, suspected of being a witch, has been imprisoned. Unfortunately, his relationship with Violante brings his family closer to the Inquisitors. The family’s escape to Amsterdam by sea is a satisfying resolution to the story. But it is the novel’s realistic portrayal of the period and the family’s struggles that make the strongest impression.

The book was awarded the Ze’ev Prize in 1987.

Illustrations: Avi Katz

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

The Boy from Seville has been published in English (Kar-Ben), French (Hachette Jeunesse), German (Alibaba; dtv junior), Italian (Mondadori), Spanish (Loguez), Russian (Aliya) and Serbian (Book & Marco).

The Teenager from Bordeaux

Jerusalem, Shazar Center, 2010.
157 pp.
AGE 11-16

Jacques, the son of an art dealer in Bordeaux, discovers that his family had to flee Spain. His father considers himself a Christian, but his uncle’s family observe Jewish customs in secret. When his uncle and aunt set sail for Brazil, Jacques, who came to see them off, becomes a stowaway. The journey is filled with breathtaking adventures. Muslim pirates seize the vessel, Jacques is wounded, loses his memory and later joins the ship’s crew. Then Corsican pirates attack and take over after a bloody battle. Jacques is sold into slavery and ends up on the island of Malta, where he becomes a groom in a knightly order. And here he meets up with a Jewish girl, and when he sees her lighting Sabbath candles, his memory returns. Now he knows who he is, who his parents are, and what people he belongs to.

Illustrations: Avi Katz

Leaving Cordoba

AGE 12 UP

Leaving Cordoba follows a Jewish boy’s perilous escape from the Spanish Inquisition. In 1640, Carlos Ferrera’s parents are arrested by the Inquisition, and 13-year-old Carlos understands that they are secret Jews. His mother is sentenced to life in prison; his father is to die, and Carlos himself escapes to Uncle Carmelo in Malaga. Uncle and nephew decide to risk the dangerous flight to Antwerp, which has become a haven for secret Jews fleeing from the Inquisition. After experiencing a rotting, leaky boat, brutal pirates and life-threatening storms, the crew that arrives in Antwerp is destitute. But Carlos cannot give up the absurd idea of rescuing his mother. Using his recently discovered artistic talent to his advantage, he brings a famous French art collector to Bordeaux, not far from the Spanish border. He reaches the fortress where his mother is imprisoned and, in a hair-raising climax, the two escape Cordoba for good.

Dorit Orgad has produced a powerful evocation of time and place.

Illustrations: Avi Katz

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

Leaving Cordoba has been published in Japanese (Ca et La Shobo).
Galila Ron-Feder-Amit

To Myself

Zion Series; Nir Sharoni Series; Batya Series (30 books)
Tel Aviv, Milo, 1976-2002.
AGE 11-14

After his parents abandoned him, teenage Tsion grew up with his grandmother in a poor neighborhood and started going round with young delinquents. Now he’s been placed in foster-care with the Sharoni family, and he tells his story. At first, Tsion behaves badly. He finds the Sharoni’s middle-class life strange, and he sneers at their studious, musical son Nir. But slowly he grows to like and admire their cultivated life. A visit home sets him back, because his old friends make fun of him. Finally, he runs away and meets Batya, a free spirit who offers him comfort and friendship.

The screen adaptation of To Myself won first prize at both the Frankfurt and Vienna Children’s Film Festivals.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

To Myself has been published in English (Adama), French (Flammarion), German (Beltz & Gelberg), Italian (Piemme), Spanish (SM), Chinese (China Juvenile & Children), Japanese (Ca et La) and Korean (Kyelim) and Serbian (Book & Marco).

Yael Roseman

Strange Girl with Earrings

AGE 11-13

For Marianna Huberman and her father, arriving from Eastern Europe, Israel is not the promised land they had hoped. They are housed in an unwelcoming immigrant project, where Marianna’s appearance marks her out as an oddity: “She had two thick black braids wrapped around her head like a basket” and she clutches a teddy bear with glass eyes. The children watching her couldn’t know that this bear was all she had to remind her of her mother. Or that years ago, Marianna’s sick mother was sent to Israel, because of the warmer climate, but that since then, she has been missing.

Dr. Huberman and his daughter follow up every clue relating to Marianna’s mother, every small lead. Her father despairs, but Marianna does not give up.

This book has become a classic about the immigrant experience, with Marianna as the resilient newcomer. It has been serialized on Israel TV.

Strange Girl with Earrings has been published in German (Alibaba).

Galila Ron-Feder-Amit

Living on the Edge

Tel Aviv, Adam, 1994. 151 pp.
AGE 8-14

This novel portrays the Arab-Israeli conflict during the Oslo peace process from a teenager’s point of view.

Yair and Dotan are best friends and are training together for a youth marathon. One day Yair is stabbed to death by an Arab. Dotan responds by turning from a contented teenager into a delinquent. He begins going to demonstrations of the far right, where the most extreme anti-Arab and anti-Rabin slogans are heard; he also participates in a raid on a neighboring Arab village. Although Dotan does little more than assist an old Arab woman who falls to the ground, the police arrest the entire gang. Dotan is released, but only his grandmother believes him, and she helps him progress from revenge to a desire for peace and security.

Living on the Edge has been published in French (Flammarion) and German (Beltz & Gelberg).

Dalya B. Cohen

Uri and Sami

Tel Aviv, Massada, 1981. 89 pp.
AGE 9-14

Uri is a dreamer. On a class trip to the mountains he lies back in a warm, sunny spot and dreams until he loses his class. He finds a cave to shelter him from the heavy rain, until he can find his way back. Uri is joined by a strange, shy waif named Sami who knows how to survive the elements. Sami is an Arab from nearby. The two boys’ fear decreases when they realize that they have more in common than separates them. And their connection grows when they join forces to avoid the soldiers who are searching for Uri – because Uri wants to stay a bit longer with his new friend.

Again and again, the boys’ growing friendship is threatened by their deep-rooted mistrust but they overcome it. When Uri is attacked by a wolf, Sami carries his bleeding friend across the border into an enemy Arab country where his own family nurses Uri back to health.

Uri and Sami has been published in French (Hachette Jeunesse), German (Alibaba; dtv junior), Japanese (Yugaku-Sha) and Italian (Giunti).
**Yona Tepper**

**David Half-and-Half**

Tel Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 1990. 186 pp.  
**AGE 11-15**

Twelv-year-old David has an uncommon problem in Israel: his mother Elli wears a cross, speaks Norwegian and celebrates Christmas. Everyone on the kibbutz has a comment, an insult or a piece of advice. When he reacts, David “half-and-half” is branded a troublemaker. When Elli wants to qualify as a kindergarten teacher, the kibbutz mothers are suspicious. David’s father tries to calm him, still believing they can overcome prejudice. “But it’s been 15 years!” Elli exclaims.

Elli has had enough and wants to try living in Norway. David becomes violent and apathetic, and the family bond is stretched to its limits. The Israeli grandparents hope that a holiday will restore them, but Elli’s yearnings grow: she longs for her Norwegian hometown, for acceptance, for her son not to be ashamed of her. In the end, she wins and the family sets out, bruised but together.

A story about intolerance and how it is always the children who suffer most.

Illustrations: Adit Pank

*David Half-and-Half* has been published in German (*Alibaba*).

**Avram Kantor**

**Leading Voice**

**AGE 13 UP**

This is the story of a special boy who cannot speak. People think he is retarded or autistic. But the boy, now almost 13, is intelligent and self-confident, and as the narrator of this novel, he has a warm, rich voice. As the plot unfolds he faces the turbulence of adolescence, learns to cope with his limitations, and also shows great courage.

The narrator’s older brother, Kobi, is an ordinary youth, but he is troubled. One weekend, Kobi disappears from home and the narrator discovers that he is staying with an ultra-Orthodox sect. After that, Kobi becomes religious, and stays aloof from the family. His secular parents are distressed, but the narrator’s surveillance of his brother turns this into a thrilling adventure story. During the summer, Kobi goes again to stay with the sect and the narrator follows him, hoping to bring him home. He faces a lot of hostility, but his courage serves as an eye-opener to his brother, who finally realizes that one’s family is too important to give up.

*Leading Voice* has been published in German (*Carl Hanser*).

**Yona Tepper**

**When Are You Coming Back?**

**AGE 12-16**

After his army service, Hudi left his family and kibbutz to roam the world, ultimately settling in California. His entire family lives in the shadow of his departure. Grandpa Abrasha, among the kibbutz founders, considers him a traitor, while Hudi’s parents wonder where his upbringing went wrong.

Hudi’s sister Noga, 16, is disturbed by what Hudi’s choice represents. Critical of her mother and unsure of herself, Noga feels comforted when she meets Nitzan, a friend of Hudi’s. He is Hudi’s opposite: he would never leave the country.

When Hudi comes for a visit, the family comes to life. But he has no intention of staying. In the final confrontation, he argues with Abrasha that Israel has changed. Hudi leaves behind the thought that his grandfather’s intolerance is worse than his own “betrayal”.

In this compelling story, Tepper highlights the tragedy of the generation of pioneer Israeli idealists who unknowingly fostered “indifferent heirs.”

*When Are You Coming Back?* has been published in German (*Alibaba*).

**Avram Kantor**

**To the Lizards**

Tel Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2006. 214 pp.  
**AGE 14 UP**

No German will ever enter this house!” Menachem said to his son Yaki when he fell in love with a German girl. For Holocaust survivors Menachem and Nechama, who have made their home in Israel, such a connection is unimaginable. All contact is broken between parents and son: Yaki and his wife Anna move to Munich. But suddenly, years later and after Menachem’s death, Gil, the German grandson, stands at Nechama’s front door, and she asks him in. The two become close – Gil looks just like his grandfather – but the encounter stirs up the whole family. Yaki and Anna come from Germany, and all have to deal with old, repressed emotions. And then there is the fear for Gil’s safety – he is doing his National Service in Israel. But the fear proves to be unfounded – and the family is back together.

*To the Lizards* has been published in German (*Carl Hanser*).
**Don’t Banish Nanny**
Tel Aviv, Sifriat Pooalim, 1979. 93 pp.
AGE 8-11

After Dori’s parents get divorced, the family dog, Nanny, becomes even more precious to her. And when her mother brings her “new man” home, Nanny is the one constant factor in a changing household. Gabi, the new man, dislikes dogs, especially the ones that chew shoes and can’t be taught to be good. Nanny’s future is uncertain, and Dori is made responsible for the dog’s behavior. Perhaps Gabi won’t tolerate little girls either?

Dori is resentful and afraid for Nanny, despite the adults’ efforts to win her round. Gabi will have to prove that he accepts the dog before Dori can relax and feel secure. And prove it he does. When Nanny is injured in a car accident, it is the new man who is sensitive and encouraging, and his honest concern for the dog wins Dori’s trust.

Don’t Banish Nanny received an Andersen Citation and the 1979 Bernstein Prize for Children’s Literature.

Illustrations: Avner Katz.

Don’t Banish Nanny has been published in German (Loewes) and Spanish (Loguez).

**Wolfinea Momi Bloom**
Tel Aviv, Massada, 1986. 68 pp.
AGE 9-11

The story is told through the letters that 10-year-old Momi writes to his elderly neighbor, Aliza Sahaf. Momi walks Aliza’s dog for her while she is in America. He also waters her plants, guards a nest of goslings and helps to birth puppies. When Momi starts growing orchids, he puts them in Aliza’s bathtub, and it is his prize bloom that gives the book its title. Momi and Aliza become close through their letters and, in between daily news, Momi tells her about his divorced parents – his mother’s irritable boyfriend and his father’s greedy fiancée. Momi’s deadpan descriptions poke fun at the absurdity of adults and make for sparkling amusement.

Illustrations: Avi Katz.

Wolfinea Momi Bloom has been published in Spanish (Sudamericana).

**A Feel for Business**
Tel Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 1998. 43 pp.
AGE 8-10

Ma’ayan is not one of those sweet little girls who spend their time playing with dolls. She is practical, and she thinks young girls have a role to play in the adult world. Ma’ayan is proud of the business sense she has inherited from her father. Recently, her father has been having financial problems. “How can I help him?” Ma’ayan wonders. Then she comes up with an original plan. She’ll sell their most valuable possession, her younger sister, who everyone likes so much...

No need to worry, the potential buyers are family friends but no one can believe that Ma’ayan is serious. In the meantime, her mother also thinks of a plan. She will sell all the antiques that her grandmother brought to Israel from Germany. But Ma’ayan’s “business sense” tells her to save a small chest, and in one of the drawers she finds a book, listing all of the family members and their birth dates. Ma’ayan understands that family members are not to be sold.

A Feel for Business has been published in French (L’Ecole des Loisirs), Spanish (SM Spain; SM Peru) and Portuguese (SM, Brazil).

**Nurit Zarchi**
Daniella Carmi

Jerusalem-on-Sea
Tel Aviv, Babel, 2013. 29 pp.
AGE 5-8

Erica is a young, fun nanny, and she’s a computer whizz! One Saturday morning, Gidi and his sister Tali go walking with Erica plus a mischievous computer virus through the streets of Jerusalem. And today, Jerusalem is magical—anything can happen. The streets are all under water and people are sailing around in funny boats, like a bathtub. The kids find a suitcase and sail in it from place to place—past the Monastery of the Cross, Terra Sancta College, the Western Wall, the Al Aqsa Mosque and the colorful Mahaneh Yehuda market. Then they reach a barrier between East and West Jerusalem, but the water sweeps the barrier away and people float freely everywhere. The whole city becomes a big lake, and everyone’s happy.

Illustrations: Hilla Havkin

Daniella Carmi’s books for children and y/a have been published in English, Italian, German, French, Spanish, Dutch, Greek, Portuguese, Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Thai, Arabic, Serbian and Slovenian.

Etgar Keret

Long Haired Cat-Boy Cub
Tel Aviv, Kinneret, Zmora-Bitan, 2013. 43 pp.
AGE 4-7

It all begins at the zoo, continues on an airship and ends at 17, Stempepper Street—the natural habitat of a long haired cat-boy cub.

In between, a boy has airborne adventures with a fiery skipper and his monkey helpers, rescuing animals and discovering the cat-cub inside himself.

And then our hero’s back home, waving a notebook with useful advice on how to handle this special animal.

Another Etgar Keret special!!

Illustrations: Aviel Basil

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

Published in Spanish (Alfaguara, Mexico); forthcoming in French (Actes Sud)

Dad Runs Away with the Circus has been published in English (Candlewick), French (Albin Michel), Italian (e/o), Spanish (Mexico, Fondo de Cultura), Chinese (Taipei, 3&3 International), Japanese (Hyoronsha), Korean (JoongAng M&B). A Moonless Night, with Shira Geffen, has been published in Spanish (Fondo de Cultura, Mexico), French (Ed. de la Balle), German (Fischer) and Polish (WAB). Forthcoming in Spanish (Fondo de Cultura, Chile).

Shira Geffen

Good Night Monster
AGE 3-6

Ruthie’s scared of her dream because there’s a blue monster with an orange nose in it. Dad brings her Yossi, her cloth elephant, to hug and she falls asleep. And then Yossi’s scared. So he calls out to another toy who comes and hugs him and then needs comfort himself. Until everyone’s asleep—except for the clock that never sleeps and the blue monster shivering in a corner. Who will calm her down? Well, she gets into Ruthi’s bed too, holds her hand and then she can also sleep.

A beautiful, calming tale.

Illustrations: Natalie Waksman Shenker

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

The Heart-Shaped Leaf has been published in Swedish (Trasten/Tarnan).
A Moonless Night, with Etgar Keret, has been published in Spanish (Fondo de Cultura, Mexico), French (Ed. de la Balle), German (Fischer) and Polish (WAB). Forthcoming in Spanish (Fondo de Cultura, Chile).
Nurit Zarchi

Two Giraffes on a Bright Sunny Day

AGE 3-6

A follow-up story with the adventures of the giraffes Mira and Shira on a bright sunny day. They're having so much fun, they don't want it to get dark—ever. So they decide to go where the light comes from. They change their clothes, get on a tandem bike and begin pedaling towards the sun. But they keep falling and then the bike breaks. But Mira and Shira don't give up, they each get on one wheel and just keep going. And that's how they ride, determined to achieve their goal.

Another delightful nonsense story!

Illustrations: Hilla Havkin

Nurit Zarchi's books have been published in German, English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Arabic, Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi.

Nurit Zarchi

Two Giraffes in a Loony Night

Tel Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2011. 24 pp.
AGE 3-6

Two elegant lady giraffes named Mira and Shira are strolling through town one moonlit night. They get hungry but they only want to eat the delicious dish that they see in the sky. Mira thinks it's an omelette, while Shira sees it as a shining round candy. And as they're "the tallest ladies around here," they're sure that if they stretch their necks and their tongues, they'll reach it. But they can't. Even with a stool, then a chair, then a ladder. They just fall and scratch themselves. In the end, they give up on the moon, accept the facts and make do with ice cream.

A delightful nonsense tale!

Illustrations: Hilla Havkin

Nurit Zarchi's books have been published in German, English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Arabic, Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi.

Dahlia Ravikovitch

On the Scut of a Hare

AGE 3-6

The famous poet Dahlia Ravikovitch also wrote stories for children. In this wonderful poem-story, we find a central theme of hers: the longing for distant lands, the dream of escaping from reality to touch the magical. Here, a five-year-old wants to ride on a hare's tail—and he's sure his wish will come true. He has been in cars and trains, and he's heard that one can ride on a dolphin's back all the way to Greece and Spain. He knows that you can sail in a sailboat and that some animals run fast—like horses and gazelles. But the fastest of all is the hare.

So when he flies to France in a plane, and rides to Norway in a train, and even goes to the land of the Eskimos, he tells his friends that he'll be home very soon. How? On a hare's tail, of course!

Illustrations: Shimrit Elkanati

Dahlia Ravikovitch's poems have been published in 23 languages.
Hanoch Piven  
*The Perfect Purple Feather*  
AGE 4 UP

In this unusual picture book, a magical purple feather takes readers on an imaginative journey. As the feather travels through the pages of the book, it becomes a whisker for a cat, a quill for a porcupine, and a tail for a dog. A real purple feather inserted in the back of the book makes the ending especially surprising and fun. Created out of everyday objects such as pickles, forks, buttons, and ice-cream cones, Piven's illustrations will amaze readers young and old.


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Lea Goldberg  
*Who Will Live in the Little Cabin?*  
AGE 3-6

A story that deals with building a pretty little house that is pleasant to live in. First, there's a small man walking along a road carrying building materials and tools. Then his job: building a little hut with furniture inside, and painting everything in bright colors.

When the hut is ready, the question is: Who is going to live in it?

It turns out that the little man didn’t build it for himself, but for a couple of sparrows, who make it into their home and invite guests to visit. And who are those guests? All kinds of birds: goldfinches with their chicks, and song thrushes with theirs.

Everyone has a good time and is happy, thanks to the little man who built the little hut next to the road.

Illustrations: Anat Levy

**ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE**

Lea Goldberg's children's books have been published in English, French, German, Russian, Catalan, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, and 15 Indian languages.

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Yona Tepper  
*Catch Me If You Can*  
AGE 2-6

Na’ama and Carmel are best friends, and both have little gray donkeys. But Na’ama’s is a little toy donkey while Carmel’s is real. Which is better? “Well, you can play with your donkey and ride on Carmel’s,” says Na’ama’s Mom. But Na’ama knows she can ride on her donkey too. And suddenly, her donkey starts growing. So Na’ama jumps on his back and off they go! The donkey gallops so fast that they pass Carmel’s mother’s car and his father’s motorbike. In fact, Na’ama’s donkey is super-donkey—he can even fly and pass a speeding train!

On their way home, they meet Carmel on his donkey, and Na’ama wants to share her adventure. But then Mom wakes her and the dream fades away. That’s okay, though, because Carmel has invited her to ride with him on his donkey!

Illustrations: Aviel Basil

Yona Tepper's children’s books have been published in English, German, Korean and Arabic.

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Gina Shimborsky  
*Soup for a Present*  
Tel Aviv, Agam, 2007. 30 pp. 
AGE 2-5

The story of a creative, self-reliant little boy who enjoys giving as well as getting.

Dad gives Gidi a rocking horse. He gallops for a while, then he goes and takes a saucepan from the kitchen. Mom gives him a rabbit. Gidi strokes it, then goes and takes a wooden spoon from a kitchen drawer. His grandparents also bring Gidi presents, and again he goes to the kitchen and starts making soup. He adds mushrooms, pickled herring, apple peel, yoghurt, humus, an egg white, an olive, some play dough and even a sock with a hole. After mixing everything together, he tastes it and invites his parents and grandparents to enjoy the gift he has made for them! They all eat Gidi’s soup and praise it.

Gidi is thrilled—he rolls up his sleeves and goes to the kitchen to concoct another dish.

Illustrations: Ora Ayal

**ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE**