New Books for Children from Israel
ITHL Fall 2016 Catalogue Supplement

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For a complete list of publications for each author, see our website: www.ithl.org.il
The teeny-tiny kingdom was really very small. Some say it was the smallest kingdom in the world. And in it lived peacefully a benevolent king, his wise advisor and two humble subjects. But what will happen when one day the longing for friendship changes the balance of power in this teeny-tiny land?

Etgar Keret has written a modern fable about the loneliness of masters and subjects, and the happiness that companionship between equals can bring to human beings.

This is how Keret opens his story:

“The kind-hearted king and his wise counselor lived in a cozy palace. Not far from the palace lived the subjects, or to be more exact, just one subject. Once there had been two of them. They lived next door to each other in wooden cabins and worked together in the strawberry fields. Until one day, a beautiful maiden with an enchanting smile came to visit the kingdom and one of the subjects fell in love with her. He loved her so much that he followed her enchanting smile back to her native land, another small kingdom, but slightly larger than the teeny-tiny one. And from that day on, the subject who was left behind lived a very lonely life.”

Illustrations: Tami Bezaleli

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

Click here for a complete listing on the ITHL website.
A tale of love in springtime, featuring a vain peacock and a wise peahen, unfolds before the eyes of all the farm animals—from the tiny barn mouse to the big, bossy bull. The story is also about beautiful tail feathers that open into a fabulous fan, until one by one they are plucked out, teaching an arrogant bird a lesson in humility. But above all, this is a story about giving that is filled with love.

This is how it begins:

“It all started in the springtime, When Peter Peacock met Paula the gray Peahen, And thought that she was very beautiful. He was so excited that he spread his tail feathers into a fan, Shook them with pride, puffed up his chest, and shouted as loud as he could, ‘I am Peter Peacock! I am King of the Birds, because I am the most handsome bird in the world!’ ‘I don’t like show-offs!’ Squawked Paula the Peahen, and she turned her back and looked away.”

Illustrations: Liora Grossman

German & French rights sold (Friends of Kiryat Yearim, Switzerland)

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE
Lea 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 began teaching literature at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Later, she established the university’s Department of Comparative Literature and remained its chairperson until her death. Goldberg published nine books of poetry during her lifetime, novels, plays, non-fiction, and books for children. She was awarded the Ruppin Prize (1949), the Shlonsky Prize (1956), the Kugel Prize (1960), the Neuman Prize (New York, 1968) and the Israel Prize for Literature (1970).

Lea Goldberg’s work has been published in 14 languages.

The Lost Cricket

A n adventurous cricket gets lost in the country and can’t find his way home. He asks the help of all kinds of creatures that he meets. First is Mrs. Lizard, but she doesn’t even reply and slithers away between the rocks. What bad manners, thinks the cricket, but he doesn’t give up and asks a light-green chameleon. She changes color, but also doesn’t bother to reply. Frustrated, the cricket turns to a sparrow perched in an olive tree and asks politely: Perhaps you, from your tree-top, can see my home? But the sparrow doesn’t answer either, and flies off. Evening comes, and out of the dark a firefly appears. Despairing, our cricket asks for her help, and the kindly firefly switches on her light and escorts the cricket to town, all the way to his home.

In this lovely tale, Lea Goldberg sparks hope in the hearts of her readers: Even when all seems lost, and the world seems dark, someone will come to our rescue.

Illustrations: Naama Benziman
Lea Goldberg

The Dream Magician

1949; Tel Aviv, Sifriat Poalim, 2016. 22 pp.
AGE: 4-7

The dream magician has a long red beard and great magical powers. By day, he lives closed up in his little house surrounded by a wall, and only at night, when all the children are asleep, does he venture out to do his magic. Then he wanders among the houses with a small magic mirror that glitters in the dark. And when he points it at a sleeping child’s head, all the child’s dreams are reflected in it. If the child dreams that he’ll grow up to be an engineer or an architect, a craftsperson or a daring sea-captain, the magician sees it in his mirror and writes it in his notebook. And he can also help children’s dreams come true. But only if the child remembers his dreams forever. In other words, the dream magician can only make dreams come true if the child never gives up on them.

An enchanting story in rhyme for children and parents alike, about the link between dreams and ambition.

Illustrations: Niv Tishbi

Lea 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 began teaching literature at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Later, she established the university’s Department of Comparative Literature and remained its chairperson until her death. Goldberg published nine books of poetry during her lifetime, novels, plays, non-fiction, and books for children. She was awarded the Ruppin Prize (1949), the Shlonsky Prize (1956), the Kugel Prize (1960), the Neuman Prize (New York, 1968) and the Israel Prize for Literature (1970).

Lea Goldberg’s work has been published in 14 languages.

CLICK HERE FOR A COMPLETE LISTING ON THE ITHL WEBSITE.
Batya Can’t Fly

Batya is an ostrich. She has wings and a beak, but she can’t fly. So is she a bird? The other birds say No, and they make fun of her. They don’t invite her to the Birds’ Club Ball, where a real prince is expected. “You don’t belong to our club!” the sparrow declares, and he flies away. Batya is sad: she so wants to fly, but she can’t. Also, she feels rejected and wonders what she really is. Just after sunset, when she’s really down, she meets a bear who plays the drum. She starts hopping to his drumbeat and the bear is amazed at her dancing skills. “I’ve never seen a bird who dances like you!” he says, and he encourages her to go to the ball. There she meets the prince, and he’s a penguin! He can’t fly either but, like her, he loves to dance! So, the two start tripping around the dance floor. All the birds clap their wings and praise Batya. And the sparrow even says she dances “like a princess.” Batya is so happy she’s floating on air!

A charming tale about being different, about how friendship boosts our self-image and helps us find hidden talents within ourselves.

Illustrations: Aviel Basil

Rakefet Ziv-Li

Batya Can’t Fly

Tel Aviv, Sifriat Poalim, 2015. 32 pp.
AGE: 4-7

Batya is an ostrich. She has wings and a beak, but she can’t fly. So is she a bird? The other birds say No, and they make fun of her. They don’t invite her to the Birds’ Club Ball, where a real prince is expected. “You don’t belong to our club!” the sparrow declares, and he flies away. Batya is sad: she so wants to fly, but she can’t. Also, she feels rejected and wonders what she really is. Just after sunset, when she’s really down, she meets a bear who plays the drum. She starts hopping to his drumbeat and the bear is amazed at her dancing skills. “I’ve never seen a bird who dances like you!” he says, and he encourages her to go to the ball. There she meets the prince, and he’s a penguin! He can’t fly either but, like her, he loves to dance! So, the two start tripping around the dance floor. All the birds clap their wings and praise Batya. And the sparrow even says she dances “like a princess.” Batya is so happy she’s floating on air!

A charming tale about being different, about how friendship boosts our self-image and helps us find hidden talents within ourselves.

Illustrations: Aviel Basil

Rakefet Ziv-Li was born in Jerusalem in 1968 and lives in Kibbutz Rosh Hanikra in the Western Galilee. She studied musicology and psychology at Bar-Ilan University, and has an MA in Hebrew literature from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, as well as a graduate degree in music therapy. She works as a music therapist for children and youth at risk.

Hana Goldberg

If I Were a Lion

Tel Aviv, Am Oved, 2016, 20 pp.
AGE: 2-5

If I were a lion, what would it be like? A little boy tries to imagine himself as a lion, a shark, a baboon and various other creatures, even a tiny ant. It’s fun to be a lion, no need to explain why, but it’s also fun to be a small, weak animal like a bird, because a bird flying in the sky or sitting in a tree has real advantages over everyone beneath him. Altogether, an animal is free to do whatever it likes—a baboon, for example, doesn’t care that you can see his bottom. No one tells the shark to get out of the water, or tells the frog that he’s being stupid when he jumps into a puddle. And it’s great to be an owl—you don’t have to go to bed and you can make up stories all night long. But after the little boy considers all the advantages of being someone else, he concludes that what he likes most is just being himself.

A mischievous story in rhyme, full of fun situations, that deals with identity and strengthens a child’s self-esteem.

Illustrations: Aviel Basil

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

Hana Goldberg was born in Haifa, Israel. She did her military service as a journalist during the Yom Kippur War, and after her discharge, she studied philosophy and English literature at Haifa University. She then worked as an editor at various magazines. Later, Goldberg became a successful lyricist, working with some of the biggest names in Israeli popular music. She also wrote her own column on children’s literature for Israel’s web portal Ynet. From 2002 to 2005 she was chairperson of the Board of Directors of ACUM, Israel’s society of authors, composers and music publishers. At present, she holds creative writing workshops.

Goldberg has published a number of bestselling novels, children’s books and collections of poetry. She has written hundreds of lyrics, many of which have become hits in Israel. In 2015 she was awarded the ACUM Prize for Lifetime Achievement.
**Daniel Shalem**

**Golem**

Tel Aviv, Yedioth Ahronoth, 2016. 245 pp.  
**AGE: 10-14**

It is summer vacation in Jerusalem. Danny and his three friends are at a loose end when interesting things start to happen, and it’s all thanks to old Neumann. Neumann lives in a lovely old house in the neighborhood, and he asks the youngsters to clear up his storeroom, which is full of dusty books. Behind one of the cupboards they find a mysterious old tin box, which fires their imagination, and Neumann reveals its story. “Have you heard about the Golem of Prague?” he asks, and then he tells them the famous legend of how, 400 years ago, the Rabbi of Prague, known as the Maharal, created a man-like figure with magic powers, out of dust. But the Golem, which was supposed to obey its creator, got out of control and rampaged through the city. Finally, the Maharal managed to destroy it and he put the dust from which it was made into a tin box. Is this a legend? Not necessarily. During the Second World War, the box fell into the hands of a Czech Jewish partisan. Before he died, he gave it to Neumann who brought it with him to Israel after the war.

In Shalem’s thrilling story, the Golem comes alive again in Jerusalem. Although at first the kids swear they won’t touch the dust, they can’t resist the temptation... But they don’t know that when you mess with supernatural powers, you pay a heavy price.

An original and scary fantasy tale fashioned from one of the building blocks of Jewish culture.

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Daniel Shalem was born in Jerusalem in 1969. He graduated from the Religious Kibbutz Movement’s yeshiva (rabbinical school) and later studied practical engineering and carpentry. At present, he works as a carpenter at the Jerusalem Science Museum, building exhibits. Shalem writes for both adults and youth and has a large collection of old travelogues.
Alex Paz-Goldman

**The Lost Spy and the Green Robe**


AGE: 9-13

When Motti and Reuven, age 12, discover that a mysterious stranger has infiltrated their neighborhood, they’re sure that he’s a cunning, cruel spy and they don’t hesitate. They call on their detective skills acquired from adventure books, and together with Aviva, Reuben’s pretty sister, they set out to stop the dangerous enemy. But the mission becomes more and more complicated.

The story takes place in Israel in the mid-1960s, when espionage affairs were rocking the country and setting people’s imaginations afire. But is the lonesome, skinny old man that the kids are following actually a spy? Slowly, another picture begins to emerge. A number of Holocaust survivors live in the neighborhood, and Motti himself is the son of a couple who lived through the Nazi era in Europe. His talkative father wants to talk about his experiences in the concentration camps, but his mother remains silent, bent over her sewing machine all the time. They both want their son to be a regular kid, a Sabra without any complexes. Surprisingly, the youngsters’ adventure deepens awareness of Motti’s family story and how the past affects life in the present.

The story of the “second generation” is told here in a way that it never has before. This is an entertaining, humorous and exciting book whose surprise ending reveals the old’s wounds beneath Israeli life.

*The Lost Spy and the Green Robe* is the first book in a series.

Illustrations: Michel Kichka

PARTIAL TRANSLATIONS AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH, FRENCH AND RUSSIAN.

**Alex Paz-Goldman** was born at Kibbutz HaMa’apil in 1955 to Holocaust survivor parents, and grew up in Ramat Gan. He currently lives in Tel Aviv. He has a BSc in computer science from the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, and an MA in child and youth culture from Tel Aviv University. In his life and work he combines technology and literature: he has worked as development manager at a hi-tech telecom company, and he is a children’s author. Paz-Goldman has published books for youth; he has also published short stories in *Einayim*, the most popular children’s magazine in Israel, and other magazines.

Paz-Goldman’s first book (with Iris Argaman), has been adapted for the stage. Both this and his second book, *The Lost Spy and the Green Robe*, are recommended for youth by the Ministry of Education.