New Books for Children from Israel
Spring 2013
New Books For Children from Israel

SPRING 2013

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Etgar Keret

Long Haired Cat-Boy Cub

Tel Aviv, Kinneret, Zmora-Bitan, 2013. 43 pp.

AGE 4-7

ANOTHER ALL-TIME KERET SPECIAL!

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 the fiery skipper and his monkey helpers, rescuing animals and discovering the cat-cub inside himself.

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

Long Haired Cat-Boy Cub is a clever and heart-warming tale about the boundless ingenuity of a child’s imagination and how to get through to one’s parents.

Aviel Basil is a young award-winning illustrator.

Dad Runs Away with the Circus has been published in English (Candlewick), French (Albin Michel), Italian (edizioni e/o), Spanish (Mexico, Fondo de Cultura), Chinese (Taipei, 3&3 International), Japanese (Hyoronsha) and Korean (JoongAng M&B).

A Moonless Night, with Shira Gefen, has been published in Spanish (Mexico, Fondo de Cultura) and French (Ed. de la Balle). Forthcoming in Spanish (Chile, Fondo de Cultura), German (Fischer) and Polish (WAB).

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Shira Gefen

**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 now Yossi’s scared. So he calls out to another toy who comes and hugs him and in turn needs comfort. Until everyone’s asleep—except for the clock that never rests and the blue monster shivering in a corner. Who will calm her down? Well, she gets into Ruthi’s bed too, finds her hand and then she can also sleep.

A beautiful tale about kids’ fear of the dark. The circular structure, with the friendly monster that also needs warmth, is calming.

Illustrations: Natalie Waksman Shenker

*A Moonless Night* is a mega favorite! The text is poetic and the illustrations are striking… What an original and fascinating book!

Lecture-Ecriture

**Shira Gefen** was born in Tel Aviv in 1971. A playwright, stage and film director, children’s author and actress, she studied at the Nissan Nativ Drama Studio and has performed at the Habimah National Theater as well as at the Cameri and Khan Theaters. Gefen was awarded First Prize at the Haifa Children’s Drama Festival in 1998 and the Hadassah Prize in 2003. In 2007, Gefen and Etgar Keret won the Cannes Film Festival’s Camera d’Or Award for *Jellyfish*, for which Gefen wrote the screenplay. They also received the French Artists’ and Writers’ Guild award for Best Director (2007). *Good Night Monster* is Gefen’s fourth children’s book.

*The Heart-Shaped Leaf* has been published in Swedish (*Trasten/Tarnan*).

*A Moonless Night* (with Etgar Keret) has been published in Spanish (Mexico, *Fondo de Cultura*) and French (*Ed. de la Balle*). Forthcoming in Spanish (Chile, *Fondo de Cultura*), German (*Fischer*) and Polish (*WAB*).

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Leading author Zeruya Shalev was born at Kibbutz Kinneret. She has an MA in Biblical studies and works as a literary editor at Keter Publishing House. Four of her novels have been bestsellers abroad. Love Life is included in Der Spiegel’s prestigious list of “20 Best Novels in World Literature” in the past 40 years, together with Saul Bellow, J. M. Coetzee and Philip Roth. Husband and Wife is included in the French Fnac list of the “200 Best Books of the Decade.”

Shalev has been awarded the Book Publishers Association’s Gold and Platinum Prizes, the Corine Prize (Germany, 2001), the Amphi Award (France, 2003), the ACUM Prize twice (1997; 2005), the French Wizo Prize (2007) and the Welt-Literature Prize (Germany, 2012). Her books have been published abroad in 25 languages. Just Look at That Child! is her second book for children.

Shalev’s previous children’s book, Mama’s Best Boy, has been published in Italian (Mondadori), German (Beltz & Gelberg) and French (Ecole des Loisirs). Forthcoming in Spanish (Mexico, Castillo).

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Zeruya Shalev

Just Look at that Child!

Jerusalem, Keter, 2013.

AGE 3-6

Yarden is five years old, but adults always look up at him. Not because he’s so tall, but because he’s always on top of something: a tree, a fence, or a high gate! Most of all, he loves climbing ladders. The grown-ups are always afraid, scolding him to come down and warning him how dangerous it is. But what Yarden really wants is for them to be proud and say: “Wow!” and “What a brave boy!” And he wants to tell them: “You worry that I’ll crack my skull but you don’t care what I feel in my heart.” But the words don’t come out right.

One day Grandma comes over in a panic and tells Yarden’s parents that her front door slammed shut, that Granddad is locked inside—sick—and she doesn’t have the key. What to do? Call a locksmith? The fire brigade? Everyone crowds around the old folks’ apartment. But not Yarden. He gets the ladder, puts it against the wall and starts climbing. Everyone gapes as he clambers up and slides through the window. And when he opens the front door, he hears applause and the words he loves most of all: “Bravo! You’re a hero!”

A sensitive tale for kids and for the adults who are raising them.
Daniella Carmi

Jerusalem-on-Sea

Tel Aviv, Babel, 2013. 29 pp.

AGE 5-8

Erica is a young, fun nanny, who loves playing with Gidi and his sister Talia. And she’s a computer whizz!

One Saturday morning, when the parents are still asleep, the children—in their pajamas—together with Erica and a mischievous computer virus go for a walk through the streets of Jerusalem. And today, Jerusalem is a magical place where 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, climb in and sail from place to place—they pass the Monastery of the Cross, and sail to Terra Sancta College, the Western Wall, the Al Aqsa Mosque and to the colorful Mahaneh Yehuda market. And in each place they hope that Erica will meet someone she likes, because their mother says she should find a husband. Meanwhile, they reach a barrier between East and West Jerusalem, but the flowing water sweeps it away and people from both sides float freely wherever the water takes them. The whole city becomes one big lake, and everyone’s happy.

Later, at home, Gidi wonders what Mom and Dad would say about their marvelous adventure, which is beyond anything imaginable.

Illustrations: Hilla Havkin

Daniella Carmi was born in Tel Aviv. She writes for children and young adults as well as for adults. Her y/a book, Samir and Yonatan on Planet Mars, was awarded an Honorable Mention from UNESCO for Children and Young People’s Literature in the Service of Tolerance (1997), the Berlin Prize for Best Children’s Book in Translation (1997), the Silver Quill Award (Germany, 1997), the Batchelder Award for Best Translated Book by the American Library Association (2001), and the Italian WIZO Prize (2003). Carmi has also received the ACUM Prize (2002) and the Prime Minister’s Prize (2010).

A Lady Hippopotamus on the Roof has been performed at the Haifa Children’s Theater Festival. Carmi has also been nominated for the Astrid Lindgren Prize. Her books for children and y/a have been translated into 15 languages.

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Nurit Zarchi

Tinkertank

AGE 5 UP

Tinkertank lives in fairyland, but she’s not like the others. She’s clumsy and absent-minded and bumps into things; she even squashed the fairy queen’s birthday cake by mistake. After yet another calamity, the fairy queen banishes her and Tinkertank falls to earth like a sack of potatoes.

Where will she go? “If I’m heavy, why am I a fairy and if I’m a fairy, why am I heavy?” she wonders in despair. But a wise she-raven comes to her aid, and the two fly off to see a professor in his laboratory. “Eureka!” shouts the professor, after studying the case, “she’s actually a little girl!” Tinkertank thinks about it and eventually decides to be a girl. She even agrees to go to school and the professor promises her that a mom and dad will be waiting for her after school.

“And do you think I’ll fit in?” Tinkertank asks hesitantly. “Oh, of course. All little girls ask themselves that question,” the professor answers.

A clever and original story for kids.

Illustrations: David Polonsky
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.

An amusing, thought-provoking nonsense tale.

Illustrations: Hilla Havkin

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 want it to never get dark. 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 the bike breaks. Mira and Shira don’t give up, they each get on one wheel and keep going. And that’s how they ride, determined to achieve their goal.

Another delightful nonsense story.

Illustrations: Hilla Havkin
Well-known poetess Dahlia Ravikovitch (1936-2005) was born in a suburb of Tel Aviv and, after her father’s death, was sent to live on a kibbutz. She studied at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and later worked as a journalist, high school teacher and translator of poetry as well as of children’s books. She translated, among others, the work of W. B. Yeats and T. S. Eliot. Ravikovitch published 10 books of poetry, three collections of short stories and seven children’s books. She was awarded the Bialik Prize (1987), the Israel Prize (1998) and the Prime Minister’s Prize (2005). Her poems have been published abroad in 23 languages. Hovering at a Low Altitude – The Collected Poetry of Dahlia Ravikovitch, translated by Chana Bloch and Chana Kronfeld, was published by W.W. Norton, NY, in 2009.

On the Scut of a Hare


AGE 3-6

The famous poet Dahlia Ravikovitch also wrote poems and stories for children. In this wonderful verse for little folk, readers will find a central theme of hers: the longing for distant lands and the dream of escaping from reality to touch the magical and the miraculous. Here, the five-year-old hero dreams of riding on a hare’s tail—and he knows that some day his wish will come true.

He has already ridden in all sorts of motor vehicles, like cars and trains, and he’s heard that you 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, gazelles and squirrels. But the fastest of all is the hare. And although he’s a real sprinter and beats his friends to kindergarten, he knows he could never outrun a 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 promises his friends that he’ll be home soon. How? On a hare’s tail, of course.

Illustrations: Shimrit Elkanati
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.

In some portraits, the components take on clever meaning: a porcupine made of nails wants the feather in order to appear “soft and so sweet / I could charm anyone I happened to meet,” an owl composed of computer parts claims the feather as a “fine pen for my ink.”... A doggy needs the feather for a tail; on the next spread a tiger threatens, “That feather will make a fine toothpick to munch / After I’ve eaten that doggy for lunch.” … These animal constructions will keep kids returning again and again, long after the purple feather has been carried away.

*Publishers Weekly*

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Hanoch Piven was born in Montevideo, Uruguay, in 1963, and came to Israel at the age of eleven. An artist, editorial caricaturist and illustrator of children’s books, Piven studied at the School of Visual Arts in New York. Over the last 20 years, his colorful and witty illustrations have appeared on both sides of the Atlantic – in *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Rolling Stone*, the London *Times* and the Swiss *Die WeltWoche*, to name but a few. In Israel, Piven has gained great visibility due to his long collaboration with the daily *Haaretz* and the animated TV series he has developed. Piven has received a Gold Medal from the Society of Illustrators of New York (1994), the Society of Publication Designers’ Silver Medal, and the Parents Choice Gold Award for “Faces iMake” (an Ipad App). His book *What Presidents Are Made Of* was elected one of the 10 Best Children’s Books of 2004 by *Time Magazine*. Piven lives in Jaffa and Barcelona.

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**The Perfect Purple Feather**


**AGE 4 UP**

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*Publishers Weekly*
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.

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Leah Goldberg

Who Will Live in the Little Cabin?


AGE 3-6

A story in verse that deals with building a pretty little house that is pleasant to live in. Written as a series of riddles, it slowly reveals surprising details. At first there’s a small man walking along a road carrying building materials and tools. Then there’s his job: building a little hut with beds and tables inside, and painting everything in bright colors. When the hut is ready and all the work has been done, the question is: Who is going to live in it? It turns out that the little man didn’t build the hut for himself, but for a couple of sparrows, who make it into their home, take care of it 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
Yona Tepper

Catch Me If You Can


AGE 2-6

N a’ama and Carmel are best friends at their pre-school and both have little gray donkeys. But Na’ama’s is a toy donkey that can be kept in a drawer while Carmel’s is a real one that lives in a stable behind his house. “Which donkey is better?” Na’ama asks her mom. “Well, you can play with your donkey, and you can ride on Carmel’s,” says Mom. But Na’ama is sure she can also ride on her donkey. After all, he answers when she speaks to him! All of a sudden, her donkey starts growing. So Na’ama jumps onto his back and the two set off for an adventure. The donkey gallops so fast that they pass Carmel’s mother’s car and his father’s motorbike. Na’ama’s donkey turns out to be a super-donkey—he can even fly and pass a speeding train!

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

A story full of humor and imagination!

Illustrations: Aviel Basil

Yona Tepper

was born at Kibbutz Dafna in 1941 and studied education and creative drama. She taught for many years and later became school principal. She is currently editor for children and youth at Hakibbutz Hameuchad Publishing House. Tepper has published 50 books for children and youth. She has been awarded the Prime Minister’s Prize (2001), the Ze’ev Prize twice (1995, 2005), an IBBY Honor Citation (2007) and the Israel Ministry of Science and Culture Award (2008). Her books have been translated into English, German, Korean and Arabic.

Most recently, Who is Passing By? has been published in English (San Diego, Kane Miller).

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Gina Shimborsky

Soup for a Present

Tel Aviv, Agam, 2007. 30 pp.
AGE 2-5

This is the story of a creative and self-reliant little boy who enjoys giving as well as getting. It is told humorously, and contains an amusing role reversal as well as some irony.

Dad gives Gidi a rocking horse for a present, but after galloping on his horse Gidi goes into the kitchen and takes a large saucepan from the cupboard. Then Mom brings Gidi a rabbit; he strokes it for a bit, and then he goes to the kitchen and takes a wooden spoon out of a drawer. Grandma and Grandpa also bring Gidi presents that make him happy and he kisses them, but he still insists on going to the kitchen and pouring milk and flour into the saucepan. While the grownups are sitting talking in the living room, Gidi is busy with his soup. He adds mushrooms, noodles, pickled herring, apple peel, yoghurt, humus, a piece of a meatball, the white of an egg, a black olive and even some play dough and a sock with a hole in it. After mixing everything together, he tastes it and invites the family to the table to enjoy the present he has made for them! Mom, Dad, Grandma and Grandpa eat Gidi’s soup and each and every one of them praises the dish served up by the clever little cook.

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

Illustrations: Ora Ayal

Gina Shimborsky was born in Jerusalem in 1946. She studied mathematics at the Hebrew University and psychology at Northwestern University. She works as a psychometrician at the Szold Institute in Jerusalem. When she became a grandmother, she started translating and writing children’s books. Soup for a Present is her first book.
Hanneke and Fiet


AGE 6-9

Amsterdam, during World War II. Hanneke, age 3, is separated from her parents and goes into hiding. She is moved from one home to another because each family that hides her knows how risky it is. Hanneke is frightened, but then she comes to the home of Fiet, a Dutch girl just a little older than her. The two girls become friends, and Hanneke gets the warmth and love she missed so much.

Fiet’s parents are also wonderful—they treat Hanneke like their own and promise her 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 very human story about good and brave people, about wondrous grace, friendship and a home 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

Ran Cohen Harounoff was born in Israel in 1967. He received his B.Ed in early childhood education at the David Yellin Teachers Academic College in Jerusalem, and an MA in education at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Cohen Harounoff has taught and developed teaching programs at various educational institutions. At present, he teaches and is the head of early childhood studies at the Institute for Democratic Education at the Kibbutzim College of Education.

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Edna Kaplan-Hagler was born in Tel Aviv in 1942. For many years, she was one of Israel’s best-known criminal defense lawyers; later, she was appointed judge and Deputy President of the Tel Aviv-Jaffa District Court. She participated in many law committees appointed by the Minister of Justice. At present, she lectures on legal issues at Israeli universities and teaches on a voluntary basis in schools and other educational frameworks. Kaplan-Hagler has been awarded the Pinchas Rosen Prize for Excellence in Legal Research as well as the Zeltner Prize. An active grandmother of seven, Didi is her second book for youth.

Click here for a complete listing on the ITHL website.

Edna Kaplan-Hagler

Didi Is a Temporary Name

Tel Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2012. 103 pp.

AGE 8-12

An injured dog is brought to an animal shelter. She has lost her memory and no one knows who she belongs to. So Dalia and Yoram, who look after the animals, call her Didi. Of course, in the cage where she’s put, the animals all have relationships, just like people. And each dog has its own personality, but deep down they all long for the same thing – to find a warm and loving home.

Now Didi wants to find out who she is. So with the help of tough, pessimistic Jerry and naïve, optimistic Muki, she steals out one night to the hills where she meets a fox. And as she replies to his wails, she suddenly remembers a little boy and a family that she loved. She follows some deep instinct and 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 have a loving family.

This is a heart-warming tale of love between dog and man, and of the bond between dogs and wild foxes. It is also about the dedicated people who work with strays. But more than anything, it is about the desire to belong and to be loved, in one’s own home.

Illustrations: Zagny Ormut-Durbin
Sarit Goren was born in Even Yehuda in 1976. She holds a BA in theater from Tel Aviv University, and has also lived and worked in England and the US. Goren has written for children in a number of areas – plays and theater shows, scripts for animation films; children’s series for TV. At present, she writes comic books and works as a freelance writer for children’s programs on TV. Goren has received a Rabinovitch Foundation Award for the encouragement of original drama (1999) and awards and citations for her plays. Gili and the Little Witch is her first children’s book.

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Gili and the Little Witch
AGE 7-11

Matilda is a witch, of the little-witch type. She’s nervous and cheeky, and about as big as 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, she sees that everything she’s written in magic ink has been erased. There’s only one way to get the writing back: to cover it with pink ink that she can get at Yossi’s store in town. So Matilda gets on her broomstick, takes her personal turtle and sets off.

When she gets to Yossi’s store, she finds a fabulous dolls’ house and goes inside. Just then, Auntie Mimi comes in and wants to buy it for her niece Gili. And that’s how Gili, an ordinary Israeli girl, gets to meet a real witch and a speaking turtle who knows absolutely everything. Now, finally, she has someone to tell about her troubles at school.

Two days later at school, after being teased yet again, she can’t resist the temptation—she uses Matilda’s magic wand to turn her tormentors into a mouse and a frog. She quickly regrets it, but how to turn them back into girls before it’s too late?

Illustrations: Cristina Kadmon
Nava Macmel-Atir was born in Israel in 1964. After studying literature and cinema at Tel-Aviv University, she taught literature at high school, hosted a TV program, and led creative writing workshops. Macmel-Atir started publishing children’s poems at age 20. Since then, she has published many books for children and youth, and her plays have been performed throughout Israel. Her first children’s book, Adi’s Jewel, earned her a Citation from the Ze’ev Prize committee (2000) and is taught in schools. Her first adult novel, A Letter from Avshalom (2009), has sold almost 100,000 copies. Macmel-Atir won the Ze’ev Prize in 2005 for her youth book, The Audition. In 2010, Lady Globes selected her as one of the 50 most influential women in Israel.

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**Transparent**

young adults

Tel Aviv, Yedioth Ahronoth, 2012. 239 pp.

**AGE 13 up**

Dariah’s classmates don’t accept her and she has given up hope of being part of their social circle. She has been with them for three years, but they only talk to her when they need something. And even then, she knows that it won’t last. Dariah is convinced that she isn’t pretty and in the long hours after school she shuts herself up in her room, playing music, singing and creating a private world in which she is beautiful and loved.

One day, she overhears a conversation between two boys in her class and learns of a dirty secret that will come out the next day and harm Michal, the “queen” of the class. She decides to warn Michal, but the treachery of her classmates causes her greater pain and isolation than ever. However, Dariah finds a way to overcome her unhappiness with the help of a popular musician, who discovers her special personality and rare musical talent.

Dariah’s story is interwoven with Emma’s, a mysterious girl who has flown in from Berlin to try and solve a family secret that is connected to the Second World War. One day, she makes her way to a small bridal shop in Tel Aviv that belongs to Dariah’s mother, Yael. And in the shop window, Emma finds what she is looking for: a beautiful wedding dress. But it isn’t for sale, because Yael has a special connection with it...

Emma and Dariah meet by chance, and find threads from the past that bind them together.
Edna Kaplan-Hagler
Nama’s Adventures
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: Ruth Gwily

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

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.

Tami Shem-Tov
I’m Not a Thief
AGE 10-14
Yanek Wolf, a Jewish orphan, petty thief and outstanding athlete, lives with his older sister in Warsaw. After her marriage, she sends him to a children’s home, where he is beaten for stealing – so badly that his dream of going to the Olympic Games is shattered.

Closed and defiant, he arrives at the famous orphanage of Janus Korczak and there he experiences love and care, solidarity and democracy. Slowly, he is able to change and becomes observant and expressive. He learns to love life, and becomes a reporter for the children’s newspaper. This lovely book ends before World War II, when Yanek leaves Poland.

Yanek is a fictional character, but the plot is based on actual people and events in Korczak’s orphanage in the mid-1930s. When the children were later deported by the Nazis to Treblinka, Korczak chose to accompany them, and died in the camp. But this is not part of the story.

Shem-Tov’s prize winning book Letters from Nowhere, has been published in Spanish (Planeta; Emece), Catalan (Columna), Dutch (Sirene; MM Boeken); German (Fischer), Italian (Piemme) and Japanese (Iwanami Shoten).

Recent Books for Youth
Henya’s love brings success is poisoned by her mother’s illness – playing the piano moments of harmony. Every promise of friendship, warmth or affection. She also has a horror of lice – another legacy of institutions. But her distracted mother is unable to show her father’s letters, which give her hope that she and her family will soon be free to return to their home.


ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE.

Letters from Nowhere, has been published in Spanish (Planeta; Emcee), Catalan (Columna), Dutch (Sirene; MM Boeken), German (Fischer), Italian (Piemme) and Japanese (Iwanami).

Tami Shem-Tov

Letters from Nowhere

Tel Aviv, Dvir, 2007. 274 pp.

CROSSOVER

Lieneke is in hiding in Nazi-occupied Holland. Her father, a brilliant scientist who is in hiding somewhere else, fills his letters with love and laughter, animals and flowers, and allusions to a different time. He illustrates them and binds them into colorful booklets which the Dutch underground delivers to Lieneke. And each one is accompanied by the order: “Destroy after reading.” Letters from Nowhere is the story of an extraordinary little girl, who finds shelter in the home of a village doctor and his wife, and conceals her true identity from her schoolmates, her neighbors, the farmers, even from other Jews in hiding. And, of course, from the German soldiers. Throughout this time she waits for her father’s letters, which give her hope that she and her family will

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 Ankstions 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 (Strengholts), English (Valentine Mitchell), Swedish (Prisma), German (Guetersloher), Polish (Wydawnictwo, Muzeum Oswiecim), Hungarian (Belbarosi), 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 hiding.

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.

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 (Bonart), 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.

Alex Lerner, Daphna and Me has been translated into German (Carl Hanser).
Ruth Almog

The Silver Ball

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

Pinina lives in a small Jewish town in the 1940s, under the British Mandate. The story of the silver ball begins when Pinina changes her name to Julie and her scary old neighbor, Daylight, refuses to use it. Conflict ensues, and when Pinina 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, Pinina-Julie meets Rivka, a mute pianist who plays Chopin waltzes beautifully. Even though Rivka snubs her, Pinina still hangs around her door, hoping to catch a few notes.

One day, Daylight calls Pinina 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 Pinina a second silver ball. The kindness reaches her through her shock and Pinina begins to sob.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

The Silver Ball has been translated into 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 translated into German (Sauerlander) and Serbian (Book & Marco).

Eli Amir

Scapegoat

AGE 13 UP

Have you ever been in a culture different from the one you came from? This colourful 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 on 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 translated into English (Weidenfeld & Nicholson; Am Oved), German (Alibaba), Russian (Am Oved), Turkish (Apollon), Azeri (Alatoran) and Macedonian (Goten).

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 translated into German (Beltz & Gelberg) and Italian (Salani; La Scuola).
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 translated into Japanese (Fuzambo).

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Tamar 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 Kazakhastan, 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 translated into English (Houghton Mifflin), German (Alibaba; S. Fischer) and Japanese (Michitani).

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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 translated into English (Houghton Mifflin), German (Alibaba; Rowohlt), Italian (Bompiani) and Japanese (Michitani).

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Tsruya Lahav  
*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 translated into Dutch (van Waveren) and Italian (El).
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; Yonatan is fascinated by the planets; and Tzakhi 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 Tzakhi 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.

**To Be the Daughter of a Gypsy**

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

Amid 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 fetches 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.

Shulamit Lapid

**Shpitz**

AGE 7-10

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 innocence that is heartbreaking. In fact, Natasha is Daniella Carmi’s greatest success in this book, and her voice continues to sound long after readers have put the book down.

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

**The Explosion on Planet Mars** won prizes in Germany, USA and Italy. Published in English (Scholastic/Arthur Levine), French (Hachette Jeunesse), German (Carl Hanser; dtv), Italian (Mondadori; Salani), Spanish (Loguez; Castillo), Portuguese (Ambar), Greek (Kastaniotis), Dutch (Fontein), Chinese (Eastern Pub.), Japanese (Ca et La), Slovenian (Ucila), Serbian (Zmaj), Korean (Yewon Media), Thai (Bliss) and Arabic (Kul Shee).

**To Be the Daughter of a Gypsy** has been translated into French (Gallimard), German (Carl Hanser), Italian (Mondadori) and Dutch (Fontein).
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 Tália, who has both humor and integrity. Tália’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 Tália’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. Tália 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, Tália 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 Deutsches Fernsehen.

Wasserman has been translated into French (Gallimard), German (Alibaba; dtv junior), Italian (Mondadori; Salani), Norwegian (Aschehoug), Swedish (Forum), Danish (Gyldendal), Greek (Psichogios), Spanish (Fondo de Cultura Económica; 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 Naphtali Bamberger 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. Naphtali 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. Naphtali 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 translated into 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 translated into 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. At three, she got Tempo, her first donkey. Then Abraham the dog arrived, Ivanov miaowed, little Ivanovs arrived, Tempo brayed and Father left for the first time. By the time he returned, Naomi had an aquarium too. Then the cockroaches came and Father left again. Add two dogs, a horse, a turtle, a pigeon... and Father’s hair turns gray. One day, a TV crew comes to film them and Father speaks lovingly about all the animals under his roof. The audience love it and Father becomes a media personality! Yoram Kaniuk received the Ze’ev Prize for this story.

Illustrations: Ruth Gwily.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

The House Where the Cockroaches Live to A Ripe Old Age has been translated into 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, but when Grandpa Ze'ev dies. 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 translated into German (Alibaba).

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 translated into German (Hanser).

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 translated into German (Alibaba; Omnibus) and Chinese (China Juvenile & Children Pub.).

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 translated into German (Alibaba; Rowohlt).
Run, Boy, Run
AGE 10 UP

This extraordinary, life-affirming book tells the story of Sruilik Freedman. Sruilik, 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, Sruilik 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 Sruilik through the war. Over the next months, Sruilik 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 Sruilik 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 Kishka

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

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

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 translated into English (The Ghetto Fighters' House [Israel]; Vikas [India]), German (Elefanten; Beltz & Gelberg), Italian (Salani), Dutch (Fontein), Spanish (SM [Mexico]) and Japanese (Iwasaki Shoten).

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 translated into German (Elefanten; Ravensburger), Dutch (Fontein) and Italian (Salani).

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 translated into German (Elefanten; Ravensburger; Beltz & Gelberg), Italian (Salani), Spanish (SM), Portuguese (SM), Dutch (Fontein), Korean (Bir), Slovenian (Mladinska Knjiga) and Albanian (Toena). Forthcoming in Spanish (Castillo, Mexico) and Korean (Bir).
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.

*Becoming Gershona* has been translated into English *(Viking/Penguin; Puffin Books)*, German *(Alibab; Fischer)*, Italian *(La Casa Usher; Mondadori)*, Dutch *(Fontein)*, and Romanian *(Fiatt 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 translated into English *(Simon & Schuster)*, German *(Elefanfen; Beltz & Gelberg)*, Italian *(Mondadori)*, Spanish *(Loguez)*, Dutch *(Fontein)*, Czech *(Albatros)* and Serbian *(Book & Marso)*.

**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 translated into 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 translated into German *(Beltz & Gelberg)*, Italian *(Mondadori)*, English *(Hybrid, Austr.)* and Romanian *(Pandora)*.
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 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

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

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 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

The Day of the Grasshopper and Other Days
The Boy from Seville
Leaving Cordoba

Dorit Orgad

English Translation Available
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 translated into German (Alibaba).

Yael Roseman

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 translated into 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

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. During the stormy night 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 translated into French (Hachette Jeunesse), German (Alibaba; dtv junior), Japanese (Yugaku-Sha) and Italian (Giunti).

Dalya B. Cohen

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 translated into 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. During the stormy night 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 translated into 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

Twelve-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 them, 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 translated into 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 translated into 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 translated into 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 Menacham’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.

To the Lizards has been translated into German (Carl Hanser).
Nurit Zarchi

**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 translated into French (L’Ecole des Loisirs), Spanish (SM Spain; SM Peru) and Portuguese (SM, Brazil).

**Don’t Banish Nanny**

Tel Aviv, Sifriat Poalim, 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 translated into German (Locwes) and Spanish (Loguez).

**Wolfinea Momí Bloom**

Tel Aviv, Massada, 1986. 68 pp.
AGE 9-11

The story is told through the letters that 10-year-old Momí writes to his elderly neighbor, Aliza Sahaf. Momí 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 Momí starts growing orchids, he puts them in Aliza’s bathtub, and it his prize bloom that gives the book its title. Momí and Aliza become close through their letters and, in between daily news, Momí tells her about his divorced parents – his mother’s irritable boyfriend and his father’s greedy fiancée. Momí’s deadpan descriptions poke fun at the absurdity of adults and make for sparkling amusement.

Illustrations: Avi Katz.

*Wolfinea Momí Bloom* has been translated into Spanish (Sudamericana).