



THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD ON BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE SOUTH AFRICA

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Contents	IN THIS ISSUE: IBBY SA NEWS
<i>Editorial: IBBY SA news</i>	<p>The sad news since our last letter is Chris Van Wyk's death on 3rd October. It's a huge loss to South African literature – for young and old. In this issue you will see some tributes from our member writers as well as a piece by Robin Malan looking back on a laughter-filled weekend with him in Swaziland. Robin reminds us of the courage and comradeship that somehow existed in our dark 1980s.</p>
<i>Chris van Wyk</i>	
<i>AGM news</i>	<p>We built our Winter BookBash on to our AGM on 7th July – inviting as our guest speaker the young up and coming writer/illustrator Alex Latimer. We must admit that we hoped that the draw of a relatively new face would be a clever ruse to swell our AGM numbers. Our Spring BookBash <i>IBBY Celebrates!</i> on 23rd October was a party to salute some recent successes. Against stiff competition from across the world, PRAESA is a joint winner of the prestigious IBBY-Asahi Award for Reading Promotion 2014. And IBBYSA's partnership with Biblionef SA has just won funding again from Yamada Apiculture Centre in Japan to spread Biblionef's good work to 15 new schools. On being reminded that this is the third time South African projects have won the IBBY-Asahi award, I must acknowledge a tinge of irritation mixed into my pride. We have internationally admired and <i>doable</i> projects that are making a difference. Why on earth can't our education authorities learn from them and just copy them?</p>
<i>Alex Latimer at Winter BookBash</i>	
<i>IBBY SA Celebrates! Spring Book Bash: photo montage</i>	
<i>IBBY International Congress 2014</i>	
<i>News from Junkets: African Folktales Onstage 1 and 2 -</i>	
<i>Reviews</i>	<p>Two other items at the Spring BookBash highlighted South Africa's standing in the international world of children's literature. One was Kathy Madlener's report on the 34th IBBY International Congress held last month in Mexico. (<i>See below for more from her on the Congress</i>). The biennial IBBY Honour list showcases the best children's books - with this year 52 countries sending 150 nominations in 39 different languages. Our nominations were <i>Dreaming of Light</i> (Tafelberg) by Jayne Bauling, <i>Leeus Met Letsels</i> (H&R) by Fanie Viljoen and <i>The Herd Boy</i> (Jacana) by Niki Daly. (For a view of the Honour books go to WWW.youtube.com/watch?v=6QLLA2fi8E4). And then Jay Heale gave us more good news in his chat about the new book published in the USA by McFarland, <i>Creating Books for the Young in the New South Africa: Essays on Authors and Illustrators of Children's and Young Adult Literature</i>. Apart from its quality, it has to be a "landmark" just because of the paucity of writing on South African children's literature. We will review it in our next newsletter.</p> <p>Robin Malan of Junkets Publisher (and long-time member of IBBY SA) writes of his drive to publish a collection of adaptations of African folk tales for the stage. <i>We would like to share news of our members and their projects in our newsletters - please do send in a paragraph or two.</i></p> <p>Finally, in our review section, Lona Gericke features what she believes is an "important" book, <i>Van Manenberg, Met Liefde</i> by Mike Michaels – a gritty story of a boy's struggle to survive. Then, we have a wonderful series of reviews from her- again attesting to the strength of our children's publishing in Afrikaans. <i>Genevieve Hart – IBBY SA Acting Chairperson</i></p>

CHRIS VAN WYK 1957-2014

Chris van Wyk remembered Robin Malan

'Man, I am so hungry!' It's late at night on a hill in Swaziland. Chris is my house-guest, and we've just got back after a session with some senior students. I'm teaching at Waterford Kamhlaba, and we've brought down some South African writers for one of our Arts Weekends, to engage with the students. For this one I have invited the unlikely troika of Chris Mann, Andries Oliphant and Chris van Wyk. I let Chris loose in the kitchen, and he emerges with a plate of fried eggs on toast, which he eats with the same kind of relish as he tells the seemingly endless flow of anecdotes that come tumbling out of him as he eats. Not much by way of sleep that weekend! But – obviously – Chris is a lovely house-guest.

The gentle guitar-strumming poems of Chris Mann, the almost impenetrable theorising of Andries Oliphant, and then ... the mini-whirlwind that is Chris van Wyk, bursting with ebullience, laughing, joking, telling stories – always telling stories. This was the first occasion when I heard him tell the story of his two sons Kevin and Karl and the 'days of miracles and wonders' that he retells in *Shirley, Goodness and Mercy* (p. 327).

I had just had the updated version of my school anthology, *New Inscapes*, published. Chris was really chuffed that I had included three of his poems: 'Injustice', 'A riot policeman' and the masterly 'In detention'. He made me sign the copy I gave him, and he signed my copy of his Olive Schreiner Prize-winning collection *It is time to go home*.

All of that was in 1986, and I met Chris and his wife Kathy many times over the years since then. One occasion was when I went to Joburg as IBBY SA's Chairperson to hand over the first Exclusive Books IBBY SA Award in 2007. That was when we decided on five joint winners, and Chris's *Ouma Ruby's Secret* was one. I notice now that my citation for that reads: 'for the humanity and the homespun South African authenticity of both text and illustrations'.

All good words for the man himself. Definitely one of the nicest people I have known.

Chris van Wyk's extraordinary generosity is the golden thread running through the tributes that have come from our member writers. Dianne Case wrote

I first met Chris when we were both joint winners of the Maskew Miler Junior Adventure novel competition (along with Mr Nobel Sakhiwa Bongela), in 1980. Chris had already begun to make a name for himself by then, and was my big brother in the new world of writing. Chris encouraged me as a fledgling writer and I will always be grateful to him for this, but that is who Chris was; always willing to mentor new writers. Rest in peace Chris, your words live on.

From Beverley Naidoo

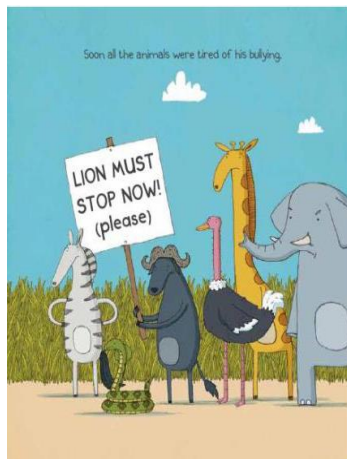
I have only heard today of Chris's death - very shocking. He has been such an inspirational contributor to SA literature, including youth literature. His activism and his writing reached out globally, including to those of us in exile in the UK. His words became our frequent companions in the anti-apartheid movement. Many years later, when I set out on the long journey of writing Neil Aggett's biography, the spirit of 'In Detention' remained with me. When I wrote to Chris, he replied immediately, his words giving me courage for the years ahead. He was an extraordinarily generous writer to other writers. Most importantly, Chris never forgot the importance of engaging young people. Humanity shone through him and will continue to shine through his work. Long may it remain in print.

And Lesley Beake's "Memory of Chris"

I first was in contact with Chris when we were co-judges on an award. We worked by fax and telephone (no emails in those days) and I made an unwitting mistake when I failed to notice a racist comment in one of the books we were assessing. To be fair, it was a word I had only heard in a different context, and have never heard since. Chris reprimanded me for my thoughtlessness – but when I eventually met him, much later, and I was deeply embarrassed, he threw his head back and laughed. That is how I will remember him. I didn't know him well, but he often seemed to be laughing when we met or spoke on the telephone. A man of great grace and compassion; a South African we could all try a little harder to live up to. Surely goodness and mercy have followed him.

ALEX LATIMER AT OUR WINTER BOOKBASH

Alex gave us an engagingly modest account of his amazing break-through to an international career. He told of his admiration for Oliver Jeffers and his “audacity” in asking him to introduce him to his UK publisher. The highlight of the evening was his demonstrating his seemingly so simple drawing techniques - on request from the audience. With a few lines he captured a *whole* character!



His quirky sense of humour must appeal even to the most jaded child. But there is also a gentle sting of social comment that might appeal as well to adult readers – as perhaps in this picture of civic protest in African animal land!

Lion vs Rabbit. Picture Corgi 2013.

Equally off-beat hilarious books by Alex Latimer, also published by Picture Corgi, are The Boy Who Cried Ninja, Pig and Small, and Penguin’s Hidden Talent.

NEWS FROM OUR AGM 7 AUGUST 2014

The AGM confirmed the shifts we had decided on in the strategic planning workshop in March and voted in some new members to our Executive Committee. Noni Mashologo could not attend but sent in her report which we copy in an abbreviated form below. In her absence we recorded our gratitude for her leadership of IBBY SA during the last few years.

Chairperson’s report Noni Mashologo

Welcome

Welcome to everyone this evening and thank you for joining us. We have some very exciting news to share about new members and also some sad farewells to others. This is an election AGM. Robin Malan will guide us through this process of calling for any nominations for Chairperson or Exec member and announcing the willingness of the present exec to be re-elected. Thank you, Robin.

The exec.

The Exec continues to work hard and give much of their time and effort to IBBY SA. Unfortunately we had two exec members leave IBBY SA; Tholisa Matheza and Anita Shaw. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their contribution during the time they were on the exec. The good news is that we did have a few more new members join us. They are; Dianne Case (Writer), Charles Siboto (NB Publishers), Maxine Case (Writer), Theresa de Young (LIASA), Carole Bloch (rotating - Praesa) Arabella Koopman (rotating - Praesa), Ntombizanele Mahobe (rotating - Praesa) Elaine Ridge (SCBWI) and Lesley Beake (Children’s Book Network). We also have some new national exec members; Thomas van der Walt (UNISA) and Betsie van der Westhuizen (North West University). Thank you all for coming on board and we look forward to a long wonderful relationship with you and your organisations. Sunitha Amond of Biblionef SA has continued to assist us with our financial recording and continues to work very closely with our Secretary Yvette Couperthwaite.

Restructuring of IBBY SA

The growth of the Exec came about after our strategic planning session in March 2014, which was facilitated by Sally Witbooi of UWC’s Department of Library & Information Science. It was a positive planning session with a good number of members and other interested people attending. From that meeting and in light of other developments here are some of the changes that occurred:

For business and family reasons, I have unfortunately had to relinquish the Chair and withdraw from the IBBY SA Exec. Though I will not be available as much, I will still continue to contribute on the IBBY SA Facebook

page. Genevieve Hart has kindly offered to become the Acting Chairperson for one transitional year 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015. IBBY SA would like to say Thank you to Genevieve for this offer and we look forward to having her guide us through another year. There will no longer be a paid Secretary and all Secretary functions will be carried out by the members of the Executive. This means that we are saying goodbye to yet another person, Yvette Couperthwaite, who has been with IBBY SA since 2004. IBBY SA thanks her very much for her many years with us and wishes her the best in her future endeavours. New member, Dianne Case, will be our Secretary from 1st August 2014. Thank you to Dianne for volunteering her time and skills to being our Secretary. A few days ago our long time Vice-Chairperson Lona Gericke, also announced her intention to step down. Lona will however still continue to be an Exec member and assist with the Honour List and Afrikaans book reviews. I'd like to take this opportunity to also thank Lona for all her hard work and contributions as Vice-Chair over the years.

Now on to some of the other work done over the past year.

Summer BookBash

Genevieve Hart kindly put together a wonderful Q&A session at SASNEV with Niki Daly in March 2014. This session was really loved by those who attended it. We got some lovely feedback from a few people some days after the event. Jay Heale also wrote a detailed article about the BookBash which we shared with all our members in our newsletter.

Fundraiser

IBBY SA held a fundraising bridge drive which was organised by Kathy Madlener and Isabel Essery. At R100 per person they were able to get about 8 tables of dedicated bridge players. There was a raffle and lovely prizes to be won plus books for sale, kindly donated by Biblionef. Thank you to Kathy and Isabel and all the exec members who helped make this a successful fundraiser.

South African Book Fair 2014

IBBY SA was not able to take part in the SA Book Fair this year owing to a lack of funding. Biblionef was kind enough to allow us to have our posters and brochures on display at their stand. Thank you to Biblionef for this opportunity and for their continued support.

Schools Programme

This still continues to be our major national programme through continued donations from the Yamada Apiculture Center in Japan. IBBY SA together with the help of Biblionef are busy putting together a report for our funders about the additional 15 schools which have received 250 books through the programme. We are also busy putting together another proposal for The Yamada Apiculture Centre for 2014-2015 in the hope of reaching even more schools in the next year.

Biblionef SA continues to identify schools throughout the country, and travels to far-flung schools to do the hand-over of books and support programmes.

Exclusive Books IBBY SA Award 2013

In our last report it was noted that we had just had the judging process and that a winner had been selected. The winner was *The Herd Boy* by Nikki Daly (Jacana). The award ceremony took place at a prestigious Cape Town venue, 220 Princes Lounge on the 10th of October. The members of the IBBY SA jury also gave a honourable mention to *Ben and the Whales* by Ingrid Mennen and Irene Berg (NB Publishers). As Niki Daly is both writer and illustrator, he received a R10 000 cash prize! I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Jury for having done a great job of reading and going through all the books submitted. Thank you also to the Exclusive Books team for continuing to partner with us on this Award.

Our national members

These individual members around the country all receive our newsletter, they all have access to Big-IBBY, and we still receive any number of emails from members and non-members, especially from those wanting to have their books published. To the members, we try to offer good advice or refer them to the appropriate organizations that can assist them; the non-members we urge to become members in order to receive that service. Please remember that we are on Facebook now so 'like' our page to see all the exciting work being done around the world in children's literature. We urge you to also share whatever event, news or project you may be involved in so we can post/share that on our Facebook page too.

IBBY World Congress

The next IBBY World Congress is happening next month, September 10-13 in Mexico City, and one of our Exec members Kathy Madlener will be attending. Thank you Kathy for representing IBBY SA at this years congress, we look forward to hearing more from you upon your return.

IBBY Honour List for 2012

Under the guidance of Lona Gericke and Robin Malan, we concluded our nomination of the Honour List books, which will be presented at the IBBY World Congress in Mexico City from 10-13 September 2014 as having made a special contribution to the literature for children and young people in South Africa over the last two years. The South African nominees for the 2014 IBBY Honour list are:

- *Dreaming of Light* (Tafelberg) by Jayne Bauling
- *Leeus Met Letsels* (H&R) by Fanie Viljoen
- *The Herd Boy* (Jacana) by Niki Daly

After a bit of a struggle last year to get books nominated for the Honour List the Exec decided to get all the IBBY SA members involved. Members were asked to submit books for adjudication by filling in a 'Best-Book-Box' every three months. The final adjudication of the single book in each category is presided over by Lona Gericke. The IBBY SA Honour List will then be announced at a public event and certificates will be handed over. The list will be announced in the IBBY SA Newsletter and a media release sent out.

IBBY SA website and newsletter

Thankfully two of our new exec members; Charles Siboto and Maxine Case have some interest and experience in this area so we are happy that it will finally get the attention it needs. We are anticipating some fresh new ideas and looks for the IBBY SA brand. Keep an eye out for a blog and more newsletters. Thank you to Mia Oosthuizen who so kindly stepped in to keep all our members informed with the last two newsletters while we were trying to find our feet.

Membership

Membership is currently at about 185 members. We continue to think of new ways to increase membership. Please continue to spread the word. Membership fees are either R120 pa or R320 for three years.

Thanks

I conclude the Chairperson's Report for 2013–2014 with thanks:

- to SASNEV for their continued hospitality
- to the Exec for their hard work
- to the South African publishers for responding to our various calls for promotional copies of their books
- and to you, our members, for your support.
- a special thanks to Jay Heale for continuing to be our 'Bookbird' correspondent.

Nonikiwe Mashologu

Outgoing Chairperson IBBY SA

August 2014

IBBY WORLD CONGRESS, MEXICO 2014 KATHY MADLENER



I attended the 34th IBBY International Congress which was held in Mexico City over 4 nights and 3 days in September. It was a huge gathering of over 900 delegates from 62 countries. IBBY Mexico have their own beautiful building which includes a lending library, Braille-making and audio recording facilities and their own paid staff. As a result, IBBY Mexico were able to ensure that the Congress was a high status event within the city, even advertising it on the subway. The theme of the Congress was “Reading as an inclusive experience, may everyone really mean everyone” and all the keynote speakers elaborated on this subject.

The opening ceremony was held at the Biblioteca Mexico. The Hans Christian Andersen awards were presented: **Nahoko Uehashi** from Japan received the author Award, **Roger Mello** from Brazil received the Illustrator Award.



At the welcoming ceremony, the Mexican Education Minister spoke of the government commitment to the promotion of reading: He told us that Mexico was in the process of a deep educational reform. He mentioned that part of this reform is an initiative to provide good-quality books to schools, and training reading promoters to work in all but the smallest schools .

The keynote speaker at the opening of the Academic programme was **Alicia Molina**: among other things she said “ The best way to exclude someone is to make them invisible, and by making certain children invisible in literature, we exclude them from the society we live in and deny that difference is natural. Literature is a mirror in which people look to see themselves reflected. If you're not in that mirror, or if your inclusion is based on stereotypes, if it plays a 'role' rather than a character, if your image is only reflected in war or disaster, then you are excluded from the 'norm'”.

María Teresa Andruetto, author and a previous HCA award winner, was another keynote speaker. She referred to the value of books in providing access to other lives and other worlds, as fictions are constructions

of the world. One key message, especially in regard to the aims of IBBY, was how books from around the world better prepare children for peace and understanding; they offer readers the opportunity to recognise the similarities between themselves and others.



One of my favourite speakers was UK author **David Almond**. His message was that stories travel across continents and across cultures. He said he loves IBBY because this wonderful organisation is based on a premise that reading can change the world. He compared us to politicians of this world who sneer at this fanciful notion. He believes that every time a child is born the world is renewed and reborn again with all its endless possibilities.



A roundtable discussion followed, which included our own **Piet Grobler** who also spoke well. Piet is the senior lecturer and course leader in Illustration at the University of Worcester in the West-Midlands of England. He showed us work done by some of his students. He says that he tries to teach his students that everything in an illustration has meaning: the form, colour, design, not just the content.

Akoss Ofori-Mensah from Ghana who was re elected onto the IBBY Executive and will serve as vice president 2014-2016.

Talking about getting books to children in Ghana she said, “We have left Egypt but not yet reached the promised land”. She also spoke about the attitude of many Ghanaians to children with disabilities, she said these children are seen as a curse on the family and they are therefore sidelined and excluded.



IBBY Uganda delegates

I so enjoyed meeting with IBBY delegates from all over the world including USA,NZ, Chile, UK, Canada, Uganda and Ghana .



The Asahi Awards were presented at **the Papotele museum for children**, a truly innovative centre based on ideas of learning through play.

Drinks and canapés were served on the terrace, while the winners of the Asahi Award were announced. We were then free to explore (play) in the museum.

The two winners of the 2014 Asahi Awards were PRAESA: The Project for the Study of Alternative Education in South Africa, PRAESA is an independent unit for research and development, attached to the faculty of Humanities at the University of Cape Town. We selected PRAESA as its “ activities are in agreement with the basic philosophy of IBBY in that they value the child’s mother tongue. PRAESA is studying how to incorporate new media, such as tablets, this



unique research and development programme focuses on bi-literacy and bilingualism in early childhood education.”

The other winner was The Children’s Book Bank, Toronto, “We selected the Children’s Book Bank as one of this year’s winners because it is a very simple system of book recycling, which in addition to getting books into the hands of children, effectively uses the skills of retired librarians and teachers. This idea has the possibility to be expanded and replicated in many places.”



It was a proud moment when **Carole Bloch** , the Director of PRAESA and **Ntombizanele Mahobe** the Training Coordinator for the Nal’ibali reading-for-enjoyment campaign receives their well deserved award.

I took part in the **Twining Partners Meeting**. This comprises the countries with which US IBBY twins: Haiti, Palestine, Lebanon. Zambia is the other partner but was not represented at the Congress. Each of us in turn had to fill the others in on recent developments in our sections.



Lebanon and Palestine are supported by the IBBY Children in Crisis Programme. Both the IBBY libraries in Gaza have been bombed but still the belief that books can heal remains strong and funds are being made available to get books to the children in Gaza.

The final evening closing ceremony was in 2 parts. We started with a symphony concert at the Palace of Fine Arts. This is a beautiful Art deco concert Hall and the programme featured a special composition for the 34th IBBY Congress and another for Malala, symbolising children's right to read and study. Over 120 children from every corner of Mexico took part wearing traditional dresses of their region, singing an anthem for Malala, which brought the house down..



Final evening concert at the **Palacio de Bellas Artes**



This was followed by the closing ceremony in the extraordinary Franz Mayer Museum with a talk from the incoming president of the IBBY, Wally de Doncker, stressing 'every child has to have right to read'. We had the opportunity to explore this beautiful museum and enjoy the three wonderful exhibitions of children's illustrators.



Closing ceremony at the **Franz Mayer Museum**

I personally felt so honoured to be representing SA IBBY. So many delegates , when they heard I came from CT,

recalled the wonderful Congress in Cape Town 10 years ago - and then there was the well deserved recognition for the wonderful work that PRAESA does. It was inspiring to be surrounded by so many people who also feel passionate about children's books and humbling to realise that there are so many people working tirelessly and with vision to bring books and children together.

News from Junkets Publisher: Putting the Folktales Together

African Folktales Onstage! 1 & 2: plays for pre-teens. Compiled by Fatima Dike, André Lemmer, Robin Malan and Omphile Molusi

To tap into the rich storytelling heritage of South Africa, last year Junkets Publisher put out a call for short plays that were stage adaptations of African folktales suitable for performance or rehearsed reading in the upper Grades of the primary school and the lower Grades of the high school. 37 plays were submitted. The entire process of compiling (reading, assessing, selecting, discussing) was done using pseudonyms: the co-compilers did not know who had written which plays until the entire process was completed.

The quality of the submissions persuaded the compilers that there was material good enough for two volumes. Junkets Publisher will now publish the two volumes, with 12 plays in each volume. **African Folktales Onstage! 1 & 2: plays for pre-teens** will appear at the same time at the end of this year, 2014. Among the writers are experienced theatre-practitioners, a number of established writers working in the field of stage adaptations for the first time, and new and emerging voices.

Clearly, these two volumes will prove valuable to everyone involved in drama, theatre arts, and performing arts in all schools and teacher-training institutions. School libraries, university libraries and public libraries will be very interested to acquire them. Should funding allow it, we hope to print enough copies for free distribution to under-resourced schools, among whom the books will find a ready appreciation.

Funding for small not-for-profit independent publishers like Junkets is a tricky business! We received a grant of R10 000.00 from Distell Foundation, and then embarked on a crowdfunding exercise with Thundafund. I set up an Ideas Group of 10-or-so friends and supporters, and together we developed ideas, some of which are still percolating away gently. At the time of writing, we have 19 days of the 45-day campaign left, and we've achieved backing of some R18 000.00. That's very exciting. We're still another R8 000.00 away from the 'tipping-point' of R25 000.00, which is what we need to achieve in order to secure the money. If we fail to reach that magic amount, we lose everything and come away with nothing. I'm 'quietly confident' we'll reach the tipping-point.

We invite your interest in this exciting project, and we look forward to hearing from you. For more information, contact Junkets Publisher, email info.junkets@iafrica.com or cellphone 076 169 2789.

Robin Malan

REVIEW SECTION

In this letter, as in the past, our focus is books in Afrikaans – fortunate to rely on the wide knowledge and expertise of Lona Gericke. Our colleague Jay Heale does such a good job in reviewing books in English in his publication Book Chat that we have tended to neglect books in other languages. However, we are rethinking this and hope to broaden our scope in the next few months. As Noni pointed out at our AGM, we depend on publishers to send us review copies and we will be sending out requests in the next few weeks. .

Reviews by Lona Gericke

Van Manenberg met liefde

Graffiti teen ‘n muur in Manenberg lees soos volg: “Family issie ding van die hart”.

Jay bly in n skakelhuis by Ma Koba in Manenberg. Hy het die Los\$Boys “gedrop”, en hy weet Alpha ,die bendeleier, gaan baie ontevrede wees as hy hoor van sy voorneme om in Observatory te gaan bly en aan UCT te gaan studeer met die beurs wat hy gekry het vir maatskaplike werk. Hy moet kies, maar die drang bly sterk om ‘n plek in ‘n gang-familie te hê.

In ‘n verwaarloosde Victoriaanse tweeverdiepinghuis huur hy ‘n kamer by Michelle. Hy hoor dadelik ‘n baba huil.

So begin ‘n hele nuwe avontuur vir Jay Plaatjies. Want Michelle verdwyn spoorloos en Jay word agtergelaat met ‘n baba wat versorg moet word. Sy vriendin Rasheeda probeer hom help met die versorging van die kind, maar die eenaar raai hom aan om die baba na die polisie of die welsyn te neem. Dan lees hy ‘n koerantopskrif wat vertel dat ‘n bendeoorlog dreig op die Kaapse vlakke. Hy weet Alpha en die Lo\$Boys gaan betrokke wees. Hy besluit om te wag tot die baba se ouers terugkeer, maar dit gebeur nie. Waar sal die baba veilig wees? Die bendegegeweld neem toe, en Alpha vra Jay om weer by hulle aan te sluit; hulle het iemand met verstand nodig in die groep. Maar Jay is vasbeslote om nie weer by die bende betrokke te raak nie. Maar ten einde die baba na veiligheid te bring moet hy verby die bendes tot by Ma Koba se huis kom.

Hierdie verhaal het my beïndruk want daar is ‘n sterk gevoel van opregtheid aanwesig. Jay is as toekomstige maatskaplike werker oortuig dat hy die baba moet beskerm en selfs moet aanneem. Hierdie oortuiging spruit ook deels uit die feit dat hy self gevoel het soos ‘n weggooi kind; hy wil dit nie aan hierdie onskuldige baba doen nie. Terselfdertyd het hy ‘n mate van jojaliteit teenoor die Lo\$Boys; Alpha was sy vriend en ook beskermheer. Daar is dus gedurigdeur ‘n tweestryd in Jay.

Ek dink dat die verhaal tog ‘n kykie gee in die lewe en omstandighede van gangsters, en ook hoe dit vriende raak wat emosioneel en vanwee lojaliteit betrokke is, hoewel hulle nie self wil deelneem aan bendegegeweld nie. Die aanwending van die spesifieke dialek en taalgebruik werk ook, en in die geheel lees die verhaal lekker en word die spanningslyn goed gehandhaaf. Jay die mens oortuig; selfs as enige regsdenkende mens sy gedrag as uiters ongewoon sal sien en dalk ook nie as geregverdig nie. Nogtans is **Van Manenberg met liefde** vir my ‘n boek met waarde en word hier ‘n mooi lewensles geleer.

Mike Michaels(PROTEA, 2014) Oorspronklik gepubliseer in 1998 as Lost boys. Hierdie publikasie is in Afrikaans verwerk deur Willem van der Walt en Mike Oberholzer.

Lona Gericke

‘n Fees van prentboeke vir kleuters!

Klein wit vissie is so bly

Klein wit vissie is so bly want sy mamma kom hom haal. Teen n treffende swart agtergrond en met eenvoudige illustrasies van elke dier vir wie hy totsiens sê swem hy weg in die rigting van sy ma. Slak in sy dop, padda op die rots, seepdijie onder die blaar, krap agter ‘n klip, goudvis tussen die riete, elkeen word gegroet. Maar hy belowe da thy die volgende dag weer sal kom. Die kleure van die verskillende diertjies steek pragtig af teen die swart agtergrond en heel kleintjies sal dit geniet om elke een te identifiseer. Die mamma is natuurlik ‘n groot vis en stel gerus as die klein vissie se beskermer. Heel treffend.

Guido van Genechten(PROTEA, 2014) In Afrikaans vertaal deur Caren van Houwelingen.

Klein wit vissie

Hier is klein wit vissie baie ongelukkig want hy soek sy mamma. Rooi krap is nie sy ma nie, ook nie oranje seester nie; nie die geel slak of groen skilpad nie. Die blou walvis of pers seekat kwalifiseer ook nie. Dan kry hy sy mamm en sy het al die kleure van die reënboog in haar lyf saamgevat. Uit ondervinding weet ek dat kleintjies dit baie geniet as 'n diertjie soek na sy mamma en haar dan vind. Dit is 'n ouer /kind situasie wat hulle bekend vind.

Guido van Genechten(PROTEA, 2014)

Die groot baba-boek

Kleintjies leer hier van die babas van verskillende diere. Muisies is kaal en pienk met geboorte maar het gelukkig 'n warm nessie. Skapies het mooi krulhare; babas is altyd honger; of dors; party lê net as hulle gebore is; ander staan reeds regop op hul pootjies. Jan was eers 'n baba, maar nou is hy 'n ouboet!

Weereens 'n kartonboek met mooi groot illustrasies van die verskillende diere. Hierdie boek is regtig ideaal om kleintjies te leer hoe verskillende diere se babas met geboorte reageer. Dan sal 'n seuntjie wat vir die eerste keer ouboet word dit baie geniet! Oulik en koesterend.

Guido van Genechten(PROTEA, 2014)

Die groot eet-boek

Lekkerbek-Jan word uitgenooi om te kom eet terwyl mamma besig is om die baba te voed.

Soos hy het diere ook verskillende eetgewoontes. Bobbejane eet vrugte, ander hou meer van groente, neute en akkers, 'n stukkie kaas of gras. Skoenlappers kry hul etes uit blomme.

Pragtige eenvoudige illustrasies van elke dier en sy eetgewoontes, en Jan wat so lekker smul aan sy kos en nagereg. Vrolik; die kartonboeke is almal stewig en sal baie hantering kan oorleef. Mooi.

Wikkels vark het 10 balonne

Hy het 10 balonne, maar hy hou die meeste van sy beertjeballon. Kleintjie vark kry een, toe word die ballonne 9. Morsjors vark kry ook een, Spikke;s vark ook en so verdwyn die balonne een vir een todat Grote vark se sussie die toutjies van die laaste 3 balonne uit sy poot gryp en weghardloop met die beertjie ballon wat ook wegvlieg. Wikkels is baie hartseer. Gaan hy weer sy geliefde ballon terugkry?

Die Wikkels- stories is uiters gewild in Engels en hierdie vertaling in Afrikaans sal met gretigheid ontvang word. Mick Inkpen is een van die meesters as dit kom by prenteboeke. Hy het 'n fyn aanvoeling vir die klein kind en slaag daarin om nie net oulike karaktertjies en situasies te skep nie, maar in 'n eenvoudige storie altyd 'n interessante Kinkel by te werk. Kinders hou van ballonne, en kan hier tel en identifiseer met 'n ballon uitkies. Sy boeke is 'n fees van kleur en Wikkels is 'n dierbare klein varkie wat in kou hart inkrui. Hoogs aanbeveel.

Inkpen, Mick(PROTEA, 2014)Afrkaanse vertaling deur Shané Kleyn.

Is dit slaapyd, Wikkels Vark?

Die Engelse titel Is it bedtime Wibbly-pig het ek telkemale voorgelees aan babas en kleuters, en dit is altyd met groot genot aangehoor. Slaapyd ken elke kind, ook wanneer hulle nie lus het om te gaan slap nie en

verskonings uitdunk om die slaapyd uit te stel! Dit is met blydschap date k sien die boek is nou ook in Afrikaans vertaal.

Met elke vraag van die ouer het Wikkels 'n verskoning- hy bad nog ; hy droog himself af; hy sit op die toilet; hy lees eers sy storie klaar. Totdat hy uiteindelik in die bedkom en soete drome droom.

Hierdie is 'n baie spesiale prenteboek. Eenvoudige beweeglike illustrasies van die beertjie en sy manewales teen 'n uitgestrekte wit agtergrond wat ruim en uitnodigend is. Die teks is lekker groot en maak die boek uiters geskik vir voorlees of selflees.

Inkpen, Mick(PROTEA, 2014) Afrikaans deur Shané Kleyn.

Noko en die koel katte

Die Engelse titel Noko and the Kool Kats deur Fiona Moodie is in Afrikaans vertaal deur Louise Steyn en Philip de Vos.

Sommer met die eerste oogopslag het ek opgewonde geword toe ek die boek sien. 'n Groot duursame hardeband prenteboek met die "coolste" omslag van dansende "koel katte" met sonbrille teen 'n oranje Afrika agtergrond wat dadellik die aandag trek.En die storie en verdere illustrasies het ook nie teleurgestel nie.

Die agt diere vriende het die heeldag mielies geplant en koel nou af langs die rivier. Boe die adjudantvoël haal 'n stuk koerantpapier tussen die riete uit. Hulle lees dat die Koel Katte 'n rock-konsert in die stad hou en hulle almal wens hulle kon die konsert bywoon . Dit sal soveel interessanter wees en meer pret as hier op hul klein dorpie.

Maar op pad huis toe wag daar 'n groot verassing. Die Koel Katte se groot bus het in die sand vasgeval en die spul is knorrig. Hulle help die spul om hul bus uit die sand te grawe maar dit neem 'n hele dag van harde werk . Die Koel katte is verplig om nog 'n nag hier oor te bly. Maar watter wonderlike ervaring word dit nie vir al die diere nie!

Die boek laat my regtig sprakeloos. Hoe om in 'n resensie reg te laat geskied aan Fiona Moodie se illustrasies wat elke bladsy vul met kleur en besige betrokke diere teen 'n agtergrond van bome en bosse wat die leser betower met die lekker gevoel van iets eg uit Afrika. Ryk kleure van geel en oranje in die illustrasie van die Koel katte se bus; donker bome die aand van die konsert teen die oranje horison afgeteken. Elke bladsy is 'n lees en kyk-genot.

Die boek word hoogs aanbeveel veral vir voorlees en selflees vir 3-6jariges+ Hierdie is 'n juweel en die skryfster het haarself regtig oortref. Baie geluk met 'n baie spesiale boek.

Bedford, David: Molkleintjies (PROTEA, 2014) Illustrasies deur Rosalind Beardshaw. In Afrikaans vertaal deur Shane Kleyn

Toe Mietsie vir Mario meedeel dat hul kleintjies oppad is, besluit hy om te gaan uitvind hoe ander diere hulle kleintjies gelukkig hou.Hy val hom amper disnis toe hy prober hop soos die hasies; hy aap die flarrende klein voëltjies na en val weer; ook die plassende eendjies se nabootsing laat hom in die water beland. Sy vrou herinner hom dat hul kleintjies net liefde nodig het om gelukkig te wees.

'n Mooi boodskap en die twee mol ouers is tog te oulik.

Buckingham, Will : Die snurk en die seeman(PROTEA, 2014) Illustrasies deur Thomas Docherty. Afrikaanse vertaling Shane Kleyn

Die smurk bly alleen en sy hele bestaan gaan daarom om himself gelukkig te hou. Op 'n dag klop 'n seeman aan sy deur en vra of hy kan binnekom. Hy geniet die seeman se stories, maar die volgende oggend is die seeman weg en hy probeer sy bes om hom op die see in te haal. So vertrek hy op 'n reis saam met die seeman- " en dit het 'n fantastiese storie geword!" Verbeeldingryke illustrasies; 'n heerlike leeservaring!

Dematons, Charlotte: Die geel ballon (PROTEA, 2014)

Hierdie is 'n woordlose prenteboek wat jong lesers die geleentheid bied om self dit wat hulle sien te verwoord in 'n eie persoonlike ervaring. Dan is daar nog 'n blou motortjie, 'n boef, 'n fakir en 'n geel ballon wat versteek is op elke bladsy. 'n Boek om jou verbeelding in te span en self jou leeservaring onvergeetlik te maak.

Donaldson, Julia : Zok (PROTEA,2014) Illustrasies deur Axel Scheffler. Afrikaanse beryming deur Philip de Vos

Zok is die slimste drakie in Juffrou Skubbe se skool. Hul allereerste les is om te leer vlieg, maar Zok vlieg teen 'n boom vas. 'n Meisietjie plak 'n pleister op sy snoet. Toe hy leer brul, is hy weer total hees en moet die meisie weer dokter speel met peppemente vir die rasperstem. Toe hy leer om vuur te blaas, raak sy vlerk weer aandie brand. Wanneer hulle prinsessies moet vang, bied sy vrywilliglik haar dienste aan. Die ridder Boudewijn wil haar egter red, maar sy verklaar dat sy 'n dokter wil word en Boudewijn stem saam. En Zok is ook nie links met sy eie begeerte om dokter te word nie!

Briljante beryming deur Philip de Vos; heerlike drakie-illustrasies en groot pret.

Donaldson, Julia: Superwurm (Protea, 2014) Afrikaanse beryming deur Philip de Vos

Superwurm is die handigste wurm om as vriend te hê, want hy kan 'n tou word om 'n paddatjie te red; 'n visserslyn wees om gogga uit 'n put te red; en selfs 'n lekker springtou word.

Maar Towenaar Akkedis gee kraai die opdrag om superwurm te vang om hom te help om skatte uit die grond te graawe. Die diere besluit om Superwurm te help en gebruik 'n heuningkoek as hul wapen. En die nare akkedis land op die rommelhoop.

Donaldson, Julia: Tjokkie(PROTEA, 2014) Afrikaanse beryming deur Philip de Vos

Tjokkie die vissie is lief om groot te praat. Hy is gedurig laat vir skool, en vertel dan allerhande ongelooflike stories van die ervarings wat hy gehad het. Op 'n dag word hy in 'n net gevang. Die vissers besluit hy is te klein en gooi hom terug in die see. Hoe gaan hy weer by sy mense uitkom? Deur die storie te volg!

Donaldson, Julia: Rower Rot(PROTEA, 2014) Afrikaanse beryming deur Philip de Vos'

Rower Rot Hy neem hasie se klawer af en eekhoring se akkers; en die miere se enkele blaar. Hy eet alles wat hy kan kry, en die diere word maerder en het erg gely. 'n Eend lei hom na 'n donker grot waar sy haar suster roep. Rower Rot volg die stem van uitnodiging in die grot, en die eend vlug op sy perd. Die rower kon net eggo's in die grot kry en werk nou as skoonmaker in koekwinkel waar hy vloere vee!

Donaldson, Julia: Kris de kat(PROTEA, 2014) Afrikaans deur Philip de Vos

Kris de Kat was saam met Klaas sy baas 'n straatsangers-kat. Op 'n dag word sy aandag afgetrek deur 'n wyfie kat; en terwyl hy klets met die wyfiekat word Klaas beroof en land in die hospitaal. Kris het hom gaan soek, maar toe maar by die wyfie kat se gesin ingetrek. Sal hulle weer bymekaar uitkom?!

Donaldson, Julia: Stokman(PROTEA, 2014) Afrikaans deur Philip de Vos

Stokman gaan stap, en 'n hond sien hom aan as 'n lekker gooi stok vir 'n hond. Kinders gooi hom as 'n speelding in die water, en 'n eend sien hom aan as 'n lekker bougoed vir swane se neste. Wanneer hy op 'n strand beland, word hy weer gebruik as 'n mas vir 'n sandkasteel. Wanneer hy in 'n kaggel gegooi word vir brandhout, help hy 'n man wat vassit in die skoorsteen. Gaan stokman by sy gesin uitkom vir Kersfees?

PROTEA uitgewers word geluk gewens met hierdie 6 pragtige prenteboeke wat nou in Afrikaans lewe kry met Philip de Vos se wonderlike berymings. Axel Scheffler is 'n illustreerder van formaat, en elkeen van die boekies is 'n lus vir die oog met soms volblad illustrasies in kleur en hierby 'n humoristiese aanslag wat elke boek nog 'n lekkerder leeservaring maak. 6 keurig versorgde boeke in hardeband wat in elke huis 'n tuiste kan vind, en biblioteekversamelings pragtig gaan aanvul. Hoogs aanbeveel.

Edwards, Gareth: Die grillerige toebroodjie (PROTEA, 2014) met illustrasies deur Hannah Shaw. Afrikaanse vertaling Shane Kleyn.

'n Honger ratel met 'n grommende magie verlustig hom in die heerlike toebroodjie wat 'n seuntjie in die park inbring. Maar die toebroodjie val in die sand, en 'n dogtertjie raai hom aan om dit nie te eet nie. Eekhorning gryp dit om met haar kinders te deel, hulle laat dit val in 'n visdammetjie. 'n Padda wil dit eet, maar 'n seun op 'n skaatsplank ry daaroor en toe is dit ook vir padda te grillerig. So beland die toebroodjie in al meer situasies wat hom nog meer grillerig maak en niemand stel belang om hom te eet nie! Toe ratel uiteindelik weer die toebroodjie sien omring deur slakke, is hy nog steeds rasend honger.... Wat eet hy?! Toe... Natuurlik die slake, want daardie toebroodjie is nou jeenmaal te grillerig!

'n Prenteboek wat kleuters gaan vermaak want elke kind kan identifiseer met iets grillerigs wat hulle nie wou eet nie! Terselfdertyd kan die arme ratel in elke situasie opgemerk word waar hy maar net kan toesien hoe die toebroodjie waarvoor hy so lus is, al leliker begin lyk. Vrolike kinder- vriendelike illustrasies beweeglik en verbeeldingryk. Hoogs aanbeveel.

Lebihan, Kara: Tant Bettie se broekie (PROTEA, 2014) Illustrasies deur Deborah Allwright. Afrikaanse vertaling Shane Kleyn.

Toe Tant Bettie se gunsteling broekie van die wasgoeddraad af waai, dink sy dit is die einde van haar broekie, maar dit is net die begin!

Dit raak verstrengel in 'n vlieër; seil oor die bou tereen en dorpsplein; haak aan 'n robot vas; 'n voël vlieg daarmee weg en dit waai deur 'n klaskamer; deur 'n dieretuin en om die tuimeltrein. As mas vir 'n bootjie wen die broekie 'n kompetisie op see. 'n Windvlaag waai dit weer weg, dit beland op 'n valskerm-springer, en met die valskerm-springer se grondvat, weer by Tant Bettie.

Hierdie is 'n lekker aweregse storie en die humor sal by kinders met 'n humorsin byval vind. Die illustrasies het ook genoeg beweging om die aandag te hou.

Boeke vir jonger lesers – 9-12jaar: Speurders aan die woord!

Tans het jong lesers 'n hele paar speurder karakters wat voorkom in verskeie reekse om hul besig te hou. Dar is die heksie Lillie in avonture met 'n towerswaard; op soek na die geheime stad Atlantis en o.a. die raaisel van die mummie- 'n reeks deur PROTEA met die allermooiste kleur illustrasies. Ook die bekende Speurder Kwaaikofski in 'n reeks deur Human & Rousseau- die seun met 'n voorliefde vir kougom en 'n neus om speurder te speel; dan Professor Fungus met Jenny en Bennie wat sy avonture soos die robotkrisis deel; Nina en haar vriendin Jessie wat ook speurder speel op hul eie manier; en onlangs die nuwe speurder of eintlik nuusredakteur Sanri Steyn deur Theresa van Baalen uitgegee deur LAPA, 2014). Janee, hier is sommer baie interessante speur-situasies om kinders lekker te laat lees!

Banscherus, Jungen: Speurder Kwaaikofski 9: die stinkstorie (H&R, 2014)

Olga roep Speurder Kwaaikofski se hulp in wanneer koerante voor haar kiosk daaglik verdwyn. Wanneer hy 'n man agtervolg land hy in 'n ondergrondse doolhof van tunnels en slegs die dief kan hom help om weer daar uit te kom. En wat 'n snaakse rede het die man nie om te verduidelik waarom hy die koerante steel nie! Daar het lareeds 9 titels verskyn met Kwaaikofski as speurder, en veral seuns kan aanklank by die karakter vind wat so mal is oor kougom! Eenvoudige teks, maklik leesbaar en verstaanbaar; vir beginner lesers.

Van Baalen, Theresa: Sanri Steyn 2-die aliens oorkant die straat(LAPA, 2014)

In hierdie nuwe reeks vir 9+jariges ontmoet ons die hoofkarakter Sanri Steyn , 'n meisie wat tog te graag joernalis wil word. Sy is dus nuuskierig en ondersoekend oor alles wat in haar omgewing gebeur. Stel jou voor: sy en haar vriendjie Markus sien hoe meneer Zeelie oorhaastig uit sy huis trek omdat hy die Lotto gewen het en oppad is Hawaii toe. Gedurende die nag breek daar 'n verskriklike storm uit, en die volgende oggend is daar sowaar nuwe intrekkers in die huis! Hulle sien twee kinders voor die huis daardie oggend en ontmoet Andra en Leo. Altwee het silwer hare, en die snaakste voertuig is voor die huis geparkeer. Sanri besluit sommer gou hulle nuwe intrekkers is aliens, en haar vermoede word bevestig deur die gebeure met die silwer bal. Omdat hulle twe kan swem word hul hulp ingeroep om te help om die O.G. onsigbarheidsmantel –genereerder in die water op die regte plek te plaas sodat die aarde nie vir bese ruimtewesens sigbaar is nie.

Goeie oortuigende skryfstyl. Die illustrasies deur Johann Strauss werk en moet gekomplimenteer word deur die twee boeke se pragtige omslae wat dadelik die aandag trek en Sanri duidelik vestig as hoofkarakter.

Die eerste titel in die reeks is **Sanri Steyn: Doktor Zombos se geheime formule** (LAPA, 2014)

Sanri en haar ma beland op die dorpie Raaiselfontein waar haar ma die nuwe skoolhoof is. Haar aandag word gou getrek deur die advertensie vir Bloepghoeps Lekkergoed – 'n fabriek . 'n Seun waarsku haar om nie die lekkers te eet wat in 'n verwelkomingsmandjie op hul stoep geplaas is nie. Sy besef gou dat die dorpsmense almal sulke dooie oë het, behalwe die seun Markus want hy is allergies vir die lekkers en eet dit nie, en die tweeling Carlo en Franco wat dit geniet om die kinders allerhande simpel dinge te maak doen wanneer hulle van die lekkers eet. Sanri is egter vasbeslote om uit te vind waarom die lekkers die mense so affekteer.

Persoonlik het ek die tweede titel meer geniet, miskien omdat so baie van die speurstories melding maak van geheime koeldranke of formules wat mense op verskillende maniere laat reageer! Maar ek ding Sanri Steyn gaan gou 'n aanhang onder lesers geniet. Lekker onderhoudend geskryf.

Nina en die funky eksperiment

Nina se pa skryf 'n storie oor die nuwe koeldrank-fabriek op die dorp en Nina besoek die fabriek saam met haar pa. Die Professor daar is egter baie onbeskof en hulle word omtrent weggejaag. Sy neem egter ongemerk die deur se sleutel saam. Sy en haar vriendin Jes is alweer in die solder en Nina sit die pet op wat haar op buitengewone reise neem- hierdie keer land sy op 'n seun se kop en sien sy gesig is oortrek met puisies. Sy is toegespits op die atletiekbyeenkoms en wil aan die hoogspring item deelneem. By die skool is daar 'n nuwe meisie, Mirkia, en die spring sommer baie hoër as die ander meisies. Haar boetie het 'n padda genaamd Brommels in die parkie opgetel, en met die oefening drink Jessie uit die verkeerde koeldrank-bottel en spring toe ook ewe maklik oor die dwarslat! Daar is definitief iets in die koeldrank wat Mirkia drink. Hulle let ook op dat sy gedurig pleisters op haar gesig het wat goeters toeplak. D.m.v. die pet in die solder besoek sy die fabriek en sien hoe die professor 'n paar druppels vloeistof by die koeldrank mengsel gooi. Sso begin hulle nuwe avontuur ontvou; en Nina se lesers sal dit geniet om te lees hoe sy die Professor uitoorlê, en selfs daarin slaag om 'n funky eksperiment te doen met suurlemoene- 'n supa doepa borrelkoeldrank; en gelukkig ook 'n koeldrank sonder enige nadelige effekte!

Nina en die wacky hare was die eerste boek in die reeks (Wenner van 'n ATKV-kinderboektoekenning), 'n boek wat ook op die kortlys was vir die MER prys vir geïllustreerde kinderboeke in 2013.

Elizbe van der Colff het 'n fyn aanvoeling vir die verbeeldingswêreld van jong lesers; sy skep geloofbare karakters wat optree en reageer soos tipiese jong nuuskierige avontuurlustige kinders wat hul omgewing ondersoek en in die skool situasies betrokke is en n verskil probeer maak deur self te presteer, of bese elemente wat nadelig kan impak op die skoolgroep, te ontmasker. Heerlike groot druk; Chris Venter het weereens bewys dat hy die skrywer se karakters verstaan en oortuigend kan teken. Hoogs aanbeveel vir skool, biblioteek en tuis versamelings.

Van der Colff, Elizbé (Tafelberg, 2014) Illustrasies deur Chris Venter
