

No.17

January 2010

Welcome to iBbY nfo

iBbY nfo is the electronic newsletter of iBbY Ireland, the Ireland section of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY). We hope you enjoy this bi-monthly newsletter about upcoming events of interest to children's literature. Many of our members join iBbY Ireland through their organizations, while it is more practical for others to become individual members. The iBbY Ireland membership form for 2010 can be downloaded from our website www.ibbyireland.ie All suggestions of information and events relevant to the world of children's literature are welcome for inclusion in future issues of the newsletter. The next issue of the newsletter will be in early March.

iBby Ireland and IBBY news:

Following on the success of IBBY's Tsunami Appeal and the IBBY-Yamada Fund, the IBBY Executive Committee decided to create a programme called the IBBY Fund for Children in Crisis. The purpose of this fund is to provide support for children whose lives have been disrupted through war, civil disorder or natural disaster. The two main activities that will be supported by the Fund are the therapeutic use of books and storytelling in the form of bibliotherapy, and the creation or replacement of collections of selected books that are appropriate to the situation. The healing power of storytelling and books: natural and environmental disasters in Haiti and their psychological effect on children. Following the tragic storms that hit Haiti and the collapse of a school that killed many children IBBY Haiti embarked on a project to bring relief to the children. Click here for information on how to donate to IBBY's fundraising for Haiti and also for the latest news from Haiti following the devastating earthquake there: <http://www.ibby.org/index.php?id=1006>



The Biennial Festival of Illustrations was held in Bratislava in September 2009. If you'd like to watch a short film giving an overview of the rich range of international illustration for children, go to www.bibiana.sk and click on Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava on the left side of the screen. We hope you enjoy the film and we congratulate all the IBBY National Sections who took part this year.



The 32nd IBBY World Congress will take place in Santiago de Compostela, Spain from 8th-12th September this year. The theme of the congress is the topical issue of 'The Strength of Minorities' in international children's literature and publishing. Santiago de Compostela is a UNESCO City of Culture and this city will be also be a pilgrimage destination during this 2010 Holy Year. If you'd like information about the programme and registration details, see www.ibbycompostela2010.org



At the initiative of iBbY Ireland six national sections came together to showcase some of the best of children's illustration from each country; Estonia, Guatemala, Ireland, Japan, Turkey and Zimbabwe. The result is the iBbY Big Dates Calendar - a perpetual calendar for you to mark all those important birthdays and anniversaries. If you'd like to buy one of the calendars or to see more examples of illustration from the calendar, visit our website at www.ibbyireland.ie



Since 2004 the Turkish section of IBBY has chosen the best books of the year to encourage writers, illustrators and publishers for children. In celebration of the 15th anniversary of Turkish IBBY a special category was introduced: *The Best Children's Poetry Book of the Last Fifteen Years*. The awards were presented to the winners at the Istanbul Book Fair on 8th November 2009. You can see a list of the shortlisted books at <http://www.ibby.org/index.php?id=1001>

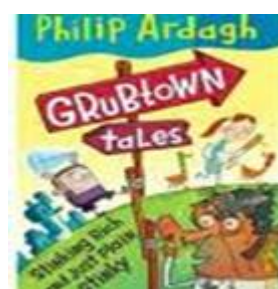


IBBY has officially opened a new chapter—in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). In a unanimous vote of approval, the UAE recently voted in favour of a membership application submitted by Sheikha Budoor Bint Sultan Al Qasimi, chairperson of the Emirates Publishers Association and the founder and director of the Kalimat publishing house. UAE IBBY will encourage the creation of public libraries and strive to promote the translation of high quality children's books both from and into Arabic and helps to raise the standard of children's literature in the UAE to the highest international levels.



Recent award-winning and noteworthy children's books:

Grubtown Tales by Irish writer Philip Ardagh won the seven-to-14 years category of the Roald Dahl Funny Prize. The Roald Dahl Funny Prize was set up in 2009 by Michael Rosen, the former children's laureate, to champion the role of humour in children's books. The prize for literature for under six-year-olds was awarded to author and illustrator Sam Lloyd for her *Mr Pusskins: Best in Show*, about a grumpy cat who accidentally wins a feline beauty contest. The Roald Dahl Funny Prize is organised by Booktrust, a charity that helps distribute packs of books to young children.



Hey, Listen To This is a collection of new audio stories by teenagers from Cork. There are five stories on this CD and they were written at workshops held at the Tory Top Road Library in Cork earlier this year. In partnership with the National Council for the Blind in Ireland, a number of visually impaired writers attended and participated in the workshops. It is hoped that this venture will draw more attention to the potential of audio books and the MP3 format to this important section of library users.



The shortlist for the Waterstone's Children's Book Prize 2010 has been announced, with stories about dead hamsters, medieval monks and sorcerers in the running for one of the most valuable and prestigious children's book awards in the country. "Horror and the supernatural often dominate children's fiction but this year we're seeing that balanced with serious, believable stories proving that sometimes real-life drama hits closest to home," said Sarah Clarke, Children's Buying Manager at Waterstone's. Final judging is underway, and the winner will be announced on Wednesday 10th February. You can see the shortlist here: <http://www.waterstones.com/waterstonesweb/pages/childrens-book-prize/1185/>



IBBY Ireland members will be interested in a new publication about the scandal of child soldiers. This is *Chalkline* by award-winning Irish author, Jane Mitchell. Rafiq, a young Kashmiri boy, is abducted (being taller than the chalkline) by Freedom Fighters and taken to the foothills of the Himalayas to train as a soldier. Rigid discipline, abject fear and appalling brutality are the norm and over time this innocent child is transformed into a cold-blooded killer almost beyond redemption. This human story of a resourceful and courageous boy and his bereft family is a carefully paced and engrossing read. Amnesty International, UK, endorsed *Chalkline* as contributing to a better understanding of human rights and the values that underpin them. I recommend this book not only as making a contribution to international understanding but also as a well-crafted riveting read.



Review by Irene Barber, member of iBbY Ireland committee.

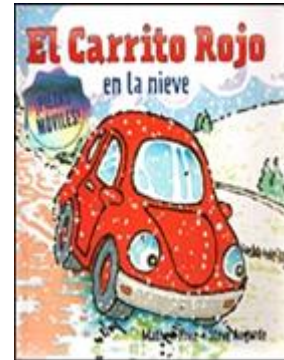
Watch out for the exciting new series, *Bridges*, from O'Brien Press which, through picture and story, helps children develop their understanding of people from cultures other than their own. This approach is very much in keeping with the aims of IBBY Ireland. There are four titles in the Bridges series to date. All are set in Ireland but each reflects the increasingly multicultural nature of Irish society. Chang-Ming is torn between playing for his team and travelling to his native China to celebrate New Year with his grandparents. Olanna from Nigeria marches in the St Patrick's Day parade. Roberto from Brazil, with inspiration from his granny's old stories, makes friends in Ireland. Joe communicates with the Romanian builder despite little shared language. The stories are upbeat but sufficiently nuanced to provide rich material for discussion: communication, respect, loneliness, adjustment, family, cultural similarities and differences to name but a few. The illustrations are by four different artists from the highly acclaimed Cartoon Saloon but each book is quite distinctive and individual and there is no hint of a formulaic approach



to the series, either in the stories or in the illustration. Highly recommended. 6+

Review by Irene Barber, member of iBbY Ireland committee.

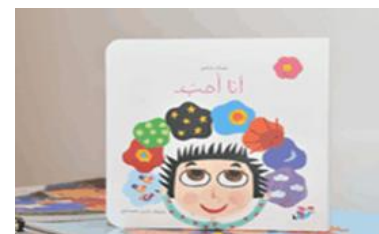
Dallas, Tex.-based Mathew Price, a US children's books publisher of pop-up and lift-the-flap books, is making a commitment to multiculturalism that goes beyond the color of a character's skin (or fur), by publishing its books in multiple languages. According to marketing consultant Janey Tannenbaum, almost every book on the fall MP list is available in both English and Spanish-language editions, using exactly the same heavy paper, covers and mechanics it has used in the past. Next year, in addition to Spanish, the company will add editions in Korean and Chinese. "It turns out people are very interested in these, like bilingual families and people who want their children to learn another language," Tannenbaum says. Mathew Price has also been getting orders from independent booksellers, as well as literacy programs that provide books for inner-city kids and new mothers.



Author and historian Phillip Hoose's true story about a brave African-American teen who defied Jim Crow laws in March 1955 by refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white woman in Montgomery, AL, is the recipient of the 2009 Us National book Award in the Young Adult category. For his book, *Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice* (Farrar, 2009), Hoose spent four years tracking down the now 70-year-old Colvin, whose courageous act took place just nine months before Rosa Parks's same stand became a symbol of the Civil Rights movement. Hoose's book which incorporates photographs and other primary source illustrations, as well as Colvin's own voice, was selected out of 251 books submitted for consideration in the young people's category. The four other finalists were Deborah Heiligman for *Charles and Emma: The Darwin's Leap of Faith* (Holt, 2008); Laini Taylor for *Lips Touch: Three Times* (Scholastic, 2009); Rita Williams-Garcia for *Jumped* (HarperTeen, 2009); and David Small for *Stitches* (Norton, 2009).



Sharjah-based Arab Children's Book Publishers Forum has announced a Dh1 million (\$272,261) 'Etisalat Prize for Arab Children's Literature' award aimed at supporting the publishing industry dedicated to Arab children's literature. Dar Al Hadaeq, a publishing house from Lebanon was adjudged the winner from among the shortlisted entries by an eminent jury for its book *Ana Oheb (I Love)*. The book was written by Nabeeha Muheidli, while the illustrations were done by Nadine Saidani. Ehsan Al Suwaidi, general co-ordinator of the Etisalat Prize, emphasized that the aim of this prize was to help develop the Arab children's book publishing industry, and the role it played in stimulating the imagination, intellect and creativity of a child, building character and promoting good values.



On Tuesday 5th January, Librarian of Congress James Billington announced the appointment of beloved and award-winning author Katherine Paterson as the next US National Ambassador for Young people's Literature. Paterson, a two-time winner of the National Book Award and Newbery Medal, will hold the post in 2010 and 2011. Her platform, "Read for Your Life," will encourage young readers to read widely to expand their horizons and delight their imaginations. She succeeds the first Ambassador, Jon Scieszka, who was appointed in 2008. The National Ambassador initiative is a project of the Children's Book Council, Every Child a Reader, and the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Financial support for the National Ambassador program is provided by Penguin Young Readers Group, Scholastic Inc., HarperCollins Children's Books, Random House Children's Books, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Macmillan Publishers, Holiday House, Charlesbridge, National Geographic Children's Books, Candlewick Press and Marshall Cavendish Publishers.



Upcoming activities and events in children's literature:

SCBWI-Ireland will be holding meetings every quarter this year, in various locations around the country, to link up with anyone interested in writing or illustrating children's books. New members are always welcome. Contact details and more information can be found on our new website: www.scbwi-ireland.jimdo.com <<http://www.scbwi-ireland.jimdo.com>>/ More about SCBWI in general can be found on www.SCBWI.org <<http://www.scbwi.org>>. The dates for 2010 meetings and events are as follows: Saturday 20th February - CBI premises, Dublin; Saturday 22nd May - Cork (venue TBC); Early September (date to be confirmed) - Second 'Pathways to Publication; Saturday 27th November - Belfast (venue TBC). Each meeting will start at 2.30 pm, with the exception of the conference, which will be an all-day event.



The Ark, A Cultural Centre for Children, in association with Theatre Lovett, presents the world premiere of *The Girl who Forgot to Sing Badly*. Written by Finegan Kruckemeyer, directed by Lynne Parker and performed by Louis Lovett, *The Girl who Forgot to Sing Badly* runs at The Ark from 26 January to 7 March 2010 and is suitable for ages 7+ and their families. This production is part of The Ark's Theatre-Maker in Residence 2010: *Inspire new theatre for generations*. Actor Louis Lovett will spend part of the year as the first ever Theatre-Maker in Residence at The Ark. The residency will also include three other strands: community outreach, actor training, in association with Theatre Forum, and teacher training. For more information and tickets please contact The Ark, 11a Eustace Street, Temple Bar, Dublin 2, call 01.6707788 or see www.ark.ie



From 17th-20th February, the Riverbank Arts Centre Young People's Creative Season, in association with CBI will hold writing workshops with aspiring children's writers with facilitators Conor Kostick, Sarah Webb and Fabian

Erlinghäuser, Animation Supervisor at the Cartoon Saloon. See www.cbi.ie for more information.

CBI is pleased to announce a special day-long workshop on 13th February aimed at helping children's authors make the most of the opportunities presented by live events and festival touring. The morning will feature two practical training sessions facilitated by writer and theatre practitioner Mia Gallagher, working on vocal skills, public reading and performance technique. In the afternoon, the focus will be on devising individual event strategies for each participant, with authors Oisín McGann and Sarah Webb on hand to offer advice and share their personal experiences of touring to schools and libraries at home and abroad. The day will close with a discussion of best practice with CBI staff, including tips on how to maximise involvement in events and festivals across the country. The workshop is open to all published and soon-to-be published children's authors at a cost of €70 per person including lunch and refreshments. There are only 12 places available so please book early to avoid disappointment. To register your interest please send a letter of application along with a brief biography

via email to Tom Donegan, CBI Programme Officer: tom@childrensbooksireland.ie

Recite Now Poetry Competition is an initiative by DLR Libraries in cooperation with DLR Arts Office and DLR Poetry Now, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown's annual poetry festival, in consultation with Poetry Ireland. The aim of the competition is to encourage primary school children to engage with poetry and recitation, and to introduce a fun new element to DLR Poetry Now. Participants are invited from primary schools located in the county of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown. The competition has 2 categories, one for 5th and 6th classes & a second category for 3rd and 4th classes. The heats will take place in our branch libraries during February and March 2010. The final will take place in March in the Pavilion Theatre as part of the *DLR Poetry Now* festival. *DLR Poetry Now* runs from 25th to 28th March. Further details are available on the website: <http://www.dlrcoco.ie/library> and by contacting DLR Library HQ on 01-2781788

Calls for papers and upcoming academic conferences in children's literature:

The Irish Society for the Study of Children's Literature will hold its annual conference with the theme 'Sound, Image, Text' conference on 5th/6th March 2010 in Trinity College Dublin. There will be many exciting papers on multimedia texts for young people as well as a keynote speech by Victor Watson. You can see the full conference programme and registration details at www.isscl.com



The Australian refereed journal *Papers: Explorations into Children's Literature* is now available as an open-access online publication at: <http://www.paperschildlit.com> This journal accepts submissions on any aspect of children's literature and uses the online Open Journal System.



Papers are requested for submission for the next edition of the *New Review of Children's Literature and Librarianship*, designed to explore the range of issues of current concern to those working in the field of children's literature and librarianship around the world, including: critical assessments of children's and adolescent literature; the management of library services to children and adolescents; Information Technology; user education and the promotion of services; staff education and training; book and media selection; research in literature and library services for children and adolescents. Instructions for authors can be found at <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/13614541.asp> The deadline for papers for the next issue is 5th February 2010.



Manuscripts should be sent electronically to Sally Maynard at: s.e.maynard@lboro.ac.uk<mailto:s.e.maynard@lboro.ac.uk>

Papers are invited for the 'Female Werewolves, Shapeshifters and Other Horrors in Art, Literature and Culture' interdisciplinary conference at University of Manchester, UK September 9-10th 2010. Possible topics may include: literary and cinematic representations; teen shapeshifters; children's literature and fairy tales; role-playing, gaming and MMORPGs; mythologies and folkloric belief; theoretical considerations of gender and female sexuality. We also invite proposals for papers, discussion groups or workshops from creative professionals. Please send abstracts for twenty-minute papers (no more than 300 words) to shewolf.manchester@googlemail.com by 31st March 2010.



Papers are invited for a 2011 themed issue on 'Nature in literature for children and young people' by *Barnboken - Journal of Children's Literature Research*. Ecocriticism or "green reading" is a research focus that has gained ground in recent years in relation to literature for children and young people. *Barnboken* therefore welcomes articles dealing with studies of the ways in which the relationship between man, nature and the environment is depicted in children's literature. Possible subject areas could include: Nature and its place in contemporary children's literature/picture books; The environmental activist in literature for young people - hero or villain; Animals, mankind and the metamorphosis; Nature as "the other" - culture vs non-culture; Animals and nature in contemporary non-fiction books for children. Articles must not have been previously published or presented in other contexts. Please submit a 300 word abstract by email to lillemor.torstensson@sbi.kb.se by 15 February 2010.



The National Centre for Research in Children's Literature (NCRCL) will launch an exciting new series of biennial conferences in the spring of 2010 in London. The launch event on 8th May 2010 will feature plenary lectures and parallel sessions by established scholars taking children's literature research in new directions, as well as introducing innovative work by emergent scholars. Confirmed speakers include: Emer O'Sullivan on image studies and the representation of national identity in children's books; Matthew Grenby on the history of children's literature and Lisa Sainsbury on philosophy and British children's literature. For information, please visit the website: <http://www.roehampton.ac.uk/researchcentres/ncrcl/events/ncrclconference/index.html>



The YOUTH 2010 Identities, Transitions, Cultures conference will be held in the University of Surrey from 6th-8th July 2010. Papers are invited from postgraduates, youth practitioners, researchers, lecturers and professors working in the area from the UK and around the world. Papers may address one or more of the following themes: theoretical conceptualisations of youth / friendships/ media representations / use of media and communications (including social media/ gender/ class/ globalisation everyday leisure, culture and tastes / consumption / music, style and leisure scenes/subcultures / politics and engagement. Abstracts, of no more than 200 words, should be sent by email to Sian Lincoln at s.lincoln@ljmu.ac.uk by 28 February 2010 at the latest.

The conference 'Children's Playground Games and Songs in the New Media Age' will be held on Thursday 25th February 2010, 10:00am – 4:30pm in the London Knowledge Lab, 23-29 Emerald Street, London WC1N 3QS. The aims of this project are to digitize the Opies' sound archive of playground games at the British Library, and develop a website; to study games and songs in playgrounds in London and Sheffield, adding material from this study to the BL website; and to adapt a suite of playground games for an interactive play tool such as the Nintendo Wii. This seminar will offer early presentations from the project, and will also be a chance to hear from prominent researchers in this field. Places are limited and booking is required. To RSVP, please email fcpadmin9@ioe.ac.uk by 15th February 2010. For more information, see <http://projects.beyondtext.ac.uk/playgroundgames/index.php>



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