

OUTSTANDING BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES 2009

INTERNATIONAL BOARD ON BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE **iBbY**



Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities 2009

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Disabilities 2009
by Heidi Cortner Boiesen

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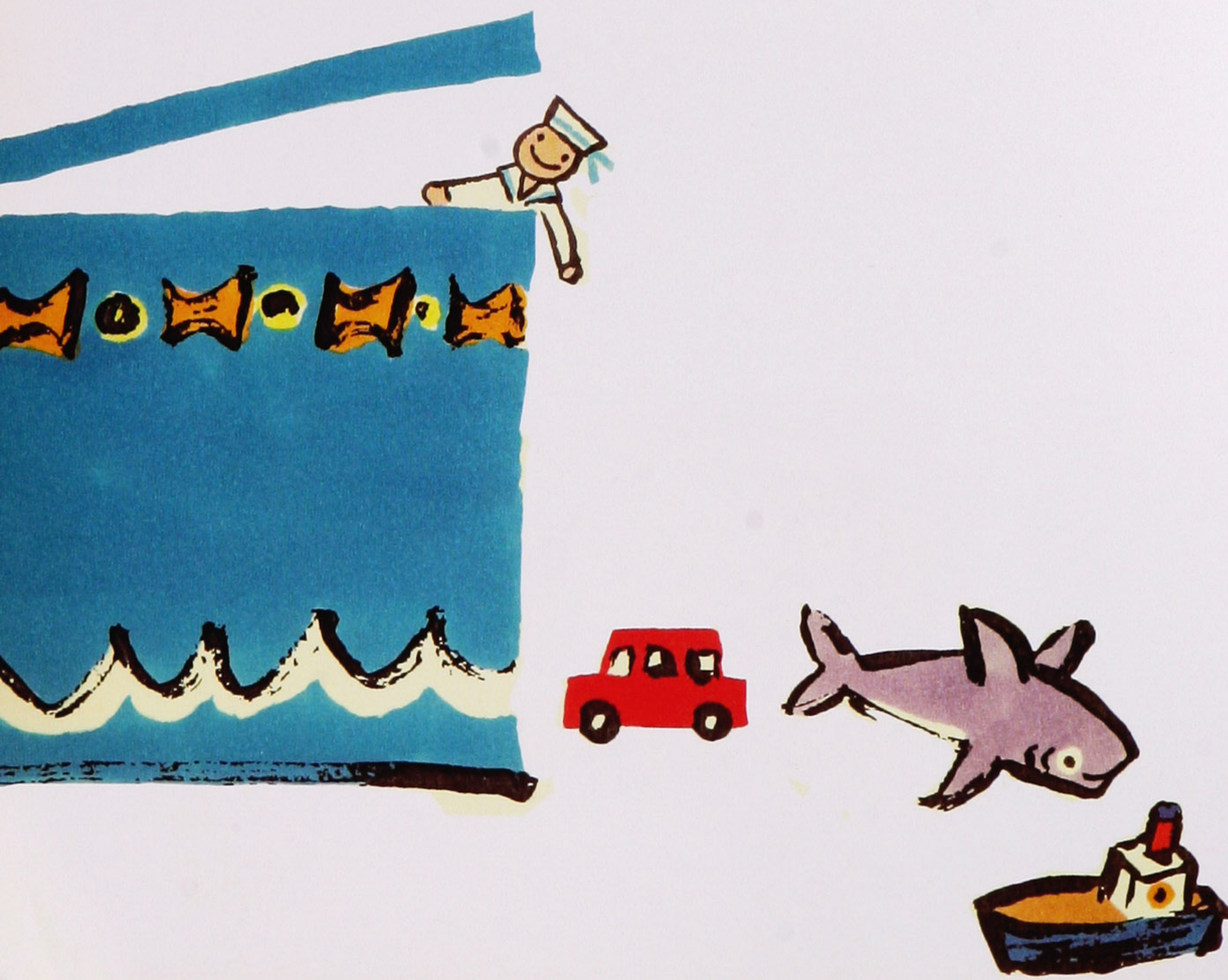
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Foreword

This annotated catalogue continues the IBBY project that started in 1997: 'Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities'. In 2002 the Documentation Centre was transferred from the Department of Special Needs Education of the University of Oslo to the Haug School and Resource Centre (HSRC). The 2009 collection is the third in a series of regular biennial selections to be presented by the Haug School. The IBBY National Sections were requested to submit books that were published in 2004 or later. We have also included one outstanding title that was published in 1998.

There were many positive reactions to the previous catalogues that were distributed internationally, including the special 2002 Jubilee edition. Each selection was first exhibited at the Bologna International Children's Book Fair and has subsequently travelled all over the world.

For this catalogue and exhibition, titles have also been evaluated from countries where the National Sections did not participate in the project. Some particularly relevant titles were sent directly by publishers or submitted by enthusiastic contact persons. 105 outstanding books were evaluated, of which 50 were selected. This was the responsibility of the Director of the IBBY Documentation Centre of Books for Disabled Young People in Norway. Sissel Hofgaard Swensen, formerly at the centre 'Books for Everyone' in Oslo, has given valuable assistance. Several countries have submitted tactile books, while no books with pictograms or PCS were submitted this year.

Our most sincere gratitude goes to colleagues and partners who helped us identify some of the best books currently available for disabled young people. We hope that this catalogue will encourage publishers to translate and produce new books, and to stimulate parents and educators to share them with disabled young people.

Oslo and Basel, February 2009

Heidi Cortner Boiesen, Director, IBBY Documentation Centre of Books for Disabled Young People
Elizabeth Page, IBBY Director of Member Services, Communications and Project Development

Introduction



Palabras para conocer el mundo [cat. no. 26]

Many young people with disabilities cannot read or enjoy a regular book, or they cannot find a suitable book among the many publications available. Therefore, they need specially produced books or selected regular books of literary and artistic quality that meet their special needs regarding design, language, plot structure and pictures.

It is neither possible nor desirable to make a blueprint of what is a suitable book, because young people with disabilities are, like all of us, individuals with very different needs and skills. Only a wide choice of books based on profound knowledge of the various special needs can, in the end, give young people with disabilities access to books.

As an instrument for communication and participation, literature has an important role to play in the development of our identity and quality of life. IBBY launched this project in order to give young people with disabilities the opportunity to enjoy books as others enjoy them.

For the nominations, the IBBY National Sections were asked to cover one or all of the following main categories:

- I. Books produced specifically for young people with special needs, published in 2004 or later
The types of books sought in this category were:
 - a. Picture books with sign language illustrations
 - b. Story books with BLISS or pictograms (non-verbal communication systems, where words and concepts are represented by pictorial symbols)
 - c. Books with tactile pictures (raised pictures) that blind children can understand, and tactile/textile books for young people with mental disabilities or multiple handicaps
 - d. Special "*easy-to-read*" books for young people with mental disabilities

General easy readers or easy reader series were not included.

II. General picture books, published in 2004 or later

When selecting entries for this category, special needs with regard to design, topics, illustrations and texts had to be considered in combination with artistic and literary quality. We also stressed the importance of books with a "*grown-up*" look that are suitable for adolescents with language disabilities.

We hoped to discover books that inspire joy, curiosity, and imagination, as well as those that encourage general understanding and special skills, such as language, visual perception and motor skills.

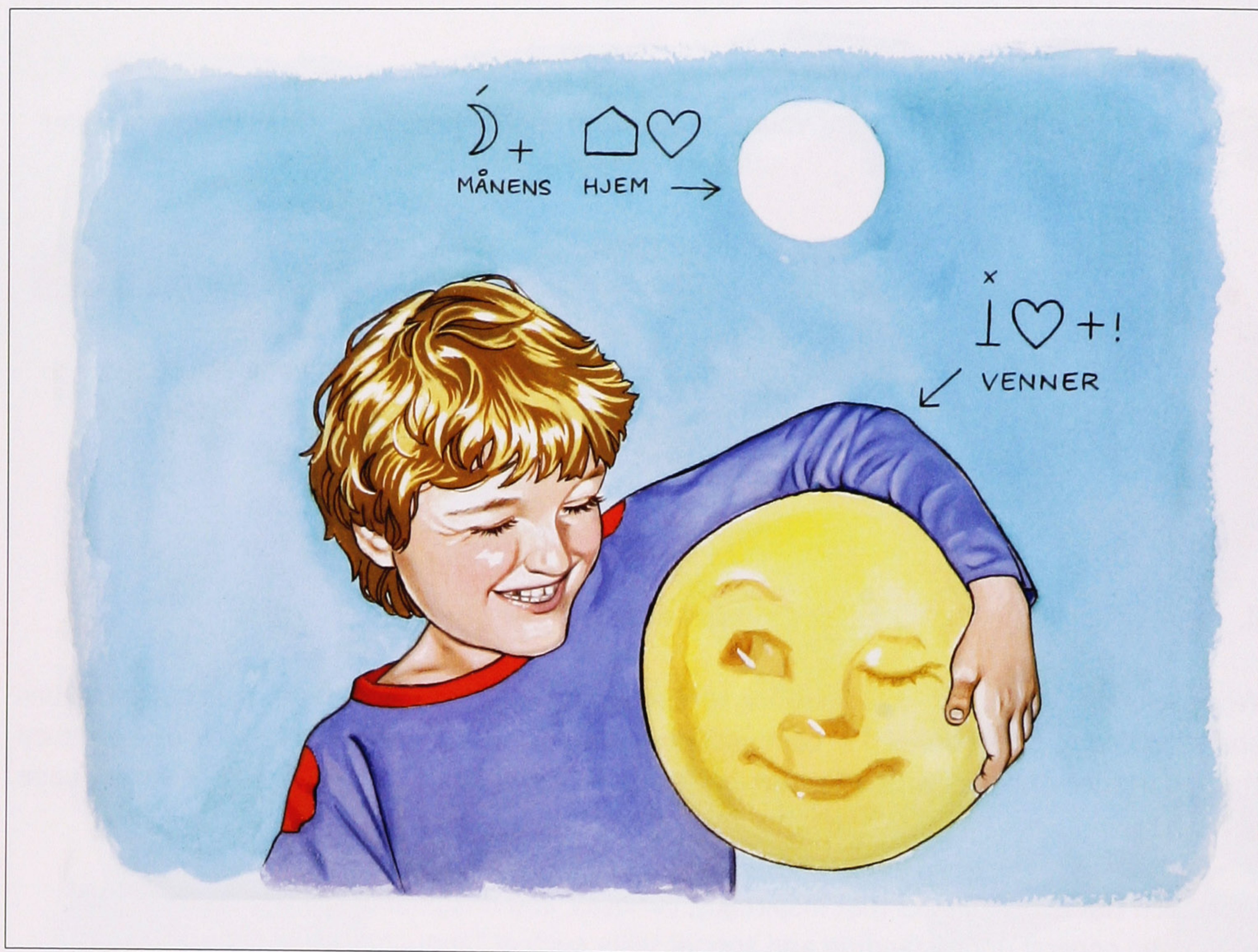
III. General children's books – picture books and stories – portraying young people with disabilities, published in 2004 or later

The books in this category portray people with disabilities, children as well as adults, books that not only focus on their disabilities and the difference it makes to their lives, but which also stress similarities between them and the world at large. Important books in this connection include stories that open the way to understanding and acceptance, and to the inclusion of young people with disabilities in society.

The final selection and the number of books listed in this catalogue is rather limited, and does not give the full picture of existing books and possibilities. Nevertheless, we hope that this catalogue and exhibition will promote more understanding and knowledge.

Furthermore, we hope that it will suggest ideas for the publication and promotion of new books in this field.

Thirteen books illustrating different kinds of approaches for children with special needs



Simen + månen [cat. no. 6]

Among the many good books that we received for this project, we would like to mention a few, while at the same time specifically applaud the many organizations and volunteer groups who have dedicated themselves to creating and producing books for children with disabilities.

Children with no hearing difficulties develop language by playing with words. Similarly, deaf children develop their primary language, the sign language, by playing with signs. For this project, several countries have sent us books or DVDs that include sign language. We have included books in Italian, Colombian, Mexican, Swedish and Japanese Sign Language.

Segni e disegni [*Signs and designs*] represented by **Animali** [*Animals*] by Herbert Nauderer [cat. no. 2] is an Italian series of small books illustrated by contemporary artists. Each page shows an image with its name in six different languages. These languages include the LIS (Italian Sign Language) in its traditional form, and for the first time in Italy the symbols of Sign Writing. Sign Writing is an alphabet of movement created by the American choreographer Valerie Sutton and is based on choreographic movements. This alphabet is now used as a writing system for LIS. *Segni e disegni* is the product of cooperation between the Italian Institute of Deaf People and the Italian National Centre of Research. The books underline the aesthetic value of the gestural language.

The Mexican non-profit organization **Enseñame** is dedicated to the implementation of projects that benefit the deaf community. *Enseñame*'s philosophy stems from the recognition and respect for the human, cultural, linguistic and educational rights of deaf people. Their goal is to provide deaf children with access to quality educational programmes that meet their specific needs. They do this by promoting bilingual projects that enhance the understanding between the deaf and the hearing. The original picture book **Regalo sorpresa** [*A surprise gift*] by Isol [cat. no. 4] is part of a pack that includes a DVD on which a deaf actor vividly and expertly signs the story while it is being narrated. An information booklet for parents about how to promote reading to deaf children is also included in the pack.

Simen + månen [*Simen + the moon*] by Heidi Kahrs Damm [cat. no. 6] is the only picture book submitted this year that has BLISS symbols added to the standard text. BLISS is an international non-verbal pictorial system that can help non-speaking people communicate. Some young people with mental disabilities also use BLISS as a means of communication, often in combination with photographs and pictures. By telling the story through amusing and lively pictures combined with a regular text and BLISS symbols, this book can reach readers with different needs and skills.

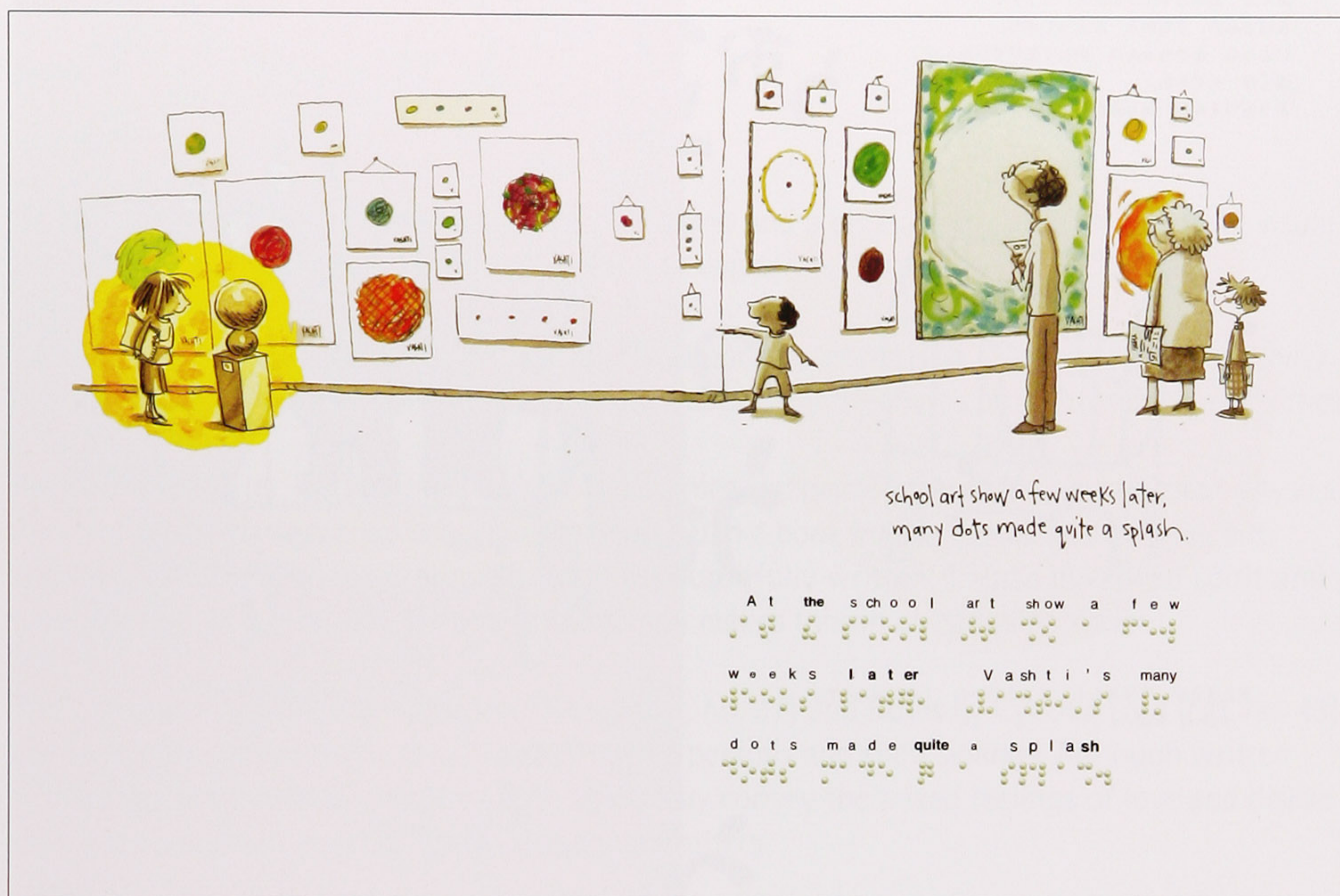
A tactile picture book can give children with visual impairments the possibility of enjoying picture books. This is an important kind of book for blind children because it stimulates the sense of touch and the art of recognizing and interpreting shapes, thus preparing them for learning Braille later on. Provided that the illustrations are comprehensible to the blind child, they can also help to develop language. But not all tactile pictures are easy to understand for a child without visual experience. We know that conventional, realistic pictures even if they are in raised print, are difficult to interpret for children who have been blind from birth. If such pictures are to be legible, they should represent small objects with the shape, size and texture that a blind child is familiar with in everyday life.

Certainly, children who are blind take pleasure in tactile representations even if they cannot interpret all the pictures, or need guidance from a sighted person in order to understand them. But it is important that there are also books available with pictures that blind children can read spontaneously without any help. Some tactile picture books have small, simple, non-figurative or geometrical shapes and characters. Contrary to conventional pictures these figures need no visual experience in order to be understood. Such a book is **Petit-Bleu et Petit-Jaune** [*Little Blue and Little Yellow*] by **Léo Lionni** [cat. no. 12]. Little Blue, Little Yellow and their friends are represented as small objects of different texture, crochet, leather, silk, suede, etc., and are thus easily distinguished and identified.

The term **Contracted Braille** is replacing the old term Grade 2 or Grade II Braille. Contracted Braille consists of the standard alphabet and hundreds of abbreviations and contractions. Using such symbols creates contracted Braille, saving approximately 20% of the space of regular Braille. **The dot** [cat. no. 16] by Peter Reynolds is a picture book that is accurately reproduced, but in addition the publisher BrailleINK has placed the Braille beneath the original text. Thanks to this innovative method young fingers feeling the raised dots do not interfere with the sighted person reading along out loud. There is a Braille glossary after the story that gives information about the Braille alphabet.

A cloth book is another kind of tactile picture book. Fukinoto Bunko, a volunteer organization in Japan that is devoted to making books for children with disabilities, makes and promotes the distribution of cloth picture books. These picture books are designed so that severely disabled children can enjoy them by manipulating the pictures with their fingers. Each book is handmade, but as production is far too costly in Japan today, Fukinoto Bunko sells sets of materials with an accompanying booklet of instructions to facilitate distribution of the cloth picture books.

Kakudai shahon "Akachan ga Yattekita" [*Bigger book "A baby is coming"*] by Eiko Kadono [cat. no. 21] was originally published by Fukuinkan Shoten Publications in a regular format. The Bigger Book series published by Fukinoto Bunko is made by using an advanced technology for producing books in large print. In addition to the enlargement of original pictures and text, the process involves reworking the editing and layout, and the pictures are mainly copied by hand to produce more effective colouring and contrasts.



The dot [cat. no. 16]

Young people with reading difficulties spend a lot of time and effort on decoding words and then understanding and mastering the skill of reading. Motivating reading requires a wide supply of easy-readers with fascinating and age-relevant stories. **Nu är det fest** [*Let's have a party*] by Kerstin Frii [cat. no. 20] is a story that can be enjoyed by young adults as well as older persons with intellectual disabilities. The photo illustrations used in this book are particularly relevant to the age group.

Raccontami [*Tell me*] is a new Italian fiction series for children with reading difficulties, and follows the path of the Leggimi books (which offers contemporary fiction for children aged 9-11). This new series, represented by **Il giro del mondo in 80 giorni** [*Around the World in 80 Days*] by Jules Verne [cat. no. 24] is addressed to slightly older children, aged 11-13, and is a collection of retold classics. The idea originated from a real need by children, parents, teachers and therapists to enrich the variety of books available for dyslectic or reluctant readers. Every aspect of the book is especially designed to help children feel more comfortable reading, the creamy white paper, the specially created fonts, and the absence of the usual right-hand justification. The book comes with a CD recording of the text, which is particularly helpful for dyslectic children.



Kakudai shahon "Akachan ga Yattekita" [cat. no. 21]



Nu är det fest [cat. no. 20]

General picture books are another source of reading and a pleasant means of stimulating visual perception, language and communication and of expressing feel

Several writers and artists have created books that portray people with disabilities with sensitivity and insight. Such books can answer questions and destroy the myths connected with disabilities.

Bezoek van Mister P [*A visit from Mr. P*] by Veronica Hazelhoff [cat. no. 38] shows what physical and emotional pains can do to a young person. Such a book might appear sentimental, but this straightforward book is beautifully and thoughtfully written. Jo-Jo's go-ahead spirit and stubborn will to live his life like any other person makes this an outstanding novel.

The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd [cat. no. 37] and **Rules** by Cynthia Lord [cat. no. 43] are two compelling stories about Autistic young persons and their siblings. Although written from different points of view, they both splendidly convey the mixed feelings of love and dislike that the sisters may experience towards their brothers.

The rare condition Progeria is one of the themes in **Pretty like us** by Carol Lynch Williams [cat. no. 48]. Written with humour and intuition, it is a story about friendship and acceptance.

Jablko Apoleiki [*Apoleika's apple*] by Beata Wróblewska [cat. no. 50] is the story of a family determined to stick together. Although they do not possess any of the so-called important assets such as money or influence, their "weak" features like solidarity and love prove to be a secret weapon in their struggle against the hostile villagers. The writer takes the reader into the reality of the everyday life of this family. On the one hand she presents trivial problems; but on the other she shows what issues are important and require brave and, sometimes, serious decisions.

Heidi Cortner Boiesen

Books with Sign Language illustrations



Animali Animals Animaux Tiere Animales [cat. no. 2]

1 Noda, Naoko (sign language)

Shuwa Gon-gitsune

[CD-Rom: *Gon, the Fox*]

Kumamoto: Kumamoto Information and Communication Centre for the Deaf, 2007

This well-known Japanese folktale is about the mischievous little fox Gon. In this CD-Rom version, the story is told in sign language accompanied by audio narration. For difficult phrases, illustrations and sign language explanations are provided.

2 Nauderer, Herbert (text)

Di Domenico, Aldo (sign ill.)

Animali Animals Animaux Tiere Animales

Rome: biancoenero edizioni, 2007

(Segni e disegni [*Signs and designs*])

20pp. ISBN 978-88-8992-101-2

Animali is one of a series of books illustrated by contemporary artists. Each page shows an animal image with its name in six different

languages, LIS (Italian Sign Language in the traditional form with designs and the symbols in Sign Writing), Italian, English, French, German and Spanish.

3 Palabras desde el silencio

[*Tales from the silence*]

Santiago de Cali: Centro Cultural Comfandi, 2006

37pp. + DVD

This is an anthology of cartoon-like tales and stories written by young people with hearing impairments. The accompanying DVD shows the young people telling their tales in Colombian Sign Language. In Colombia there were no books for disabled young people before this, so this is a unique effort.

Simon och pappa gör fruktsallad.



Simon skär frukten med kniven.



Fruktbitarna ligger i skålen.



Simon går till affären [cat. no. 5]

4 Regalo sorpresa

Un cuento en Lengua de Señas Mexicana
[A surprise gift]

Original book by Isol

Mexico: Enseñame, 2008 DVD

(Enseñame un cuento [Show me a story])

Shortly before his birthday, Nino searches the house for his presents. In a cupboard he finds an exciting looking package and tries to figure out what it can possibly be. On his birthday he is thoroughly disappointed when he unwraps a boring BOOK! But, what adventures the book reveals to him...The original picture book is included in a pack along with a DVD and an information booklet for parents about how to promote reading to deaf children.

The illustrations are animated and the story is told in sign language and narrated, making it inviting for both deaf and hearing children.

5 Rehn, Annika (text)

Billeson, Göran (photos)

Simon går till affären

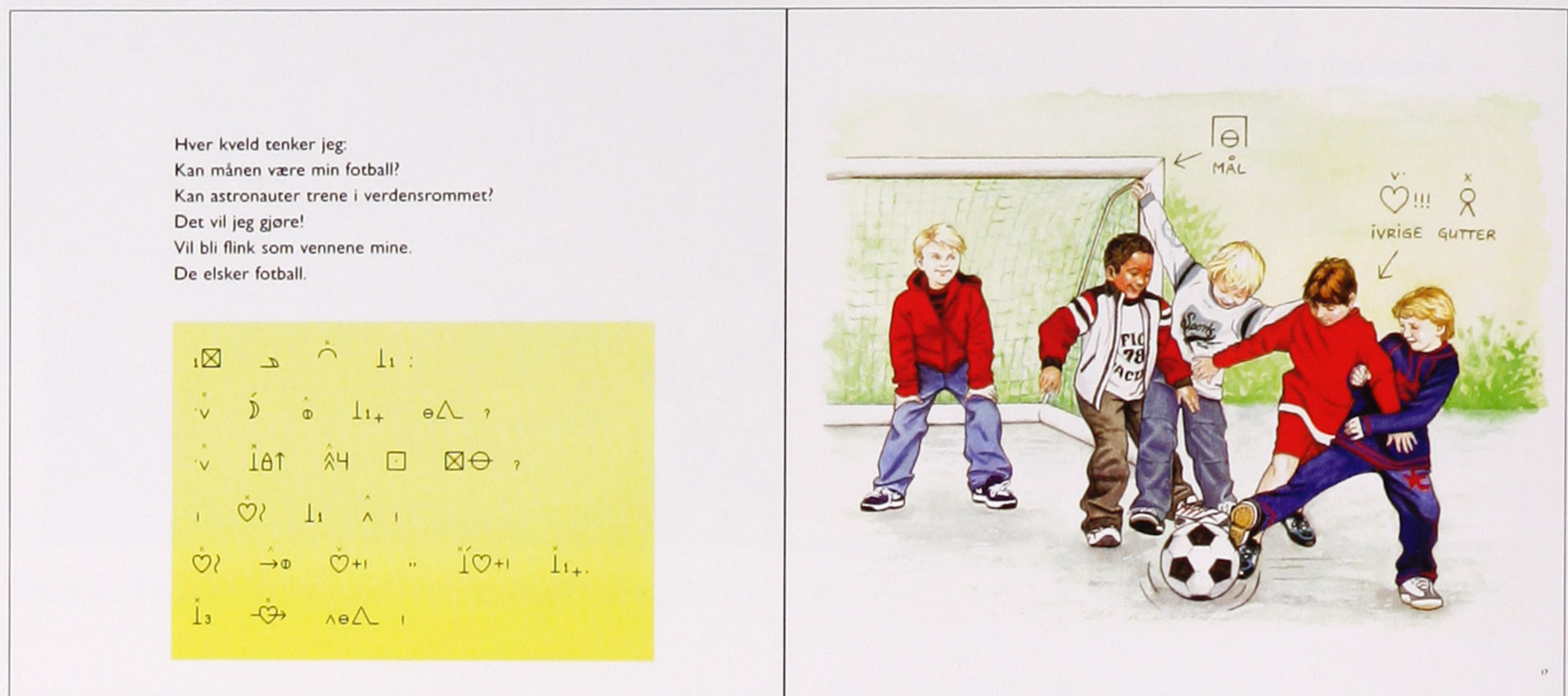
[Simon goes shopping]

Landskrona: Landskrona Vision, 2007

16pp. ISBN 978-91-977110-2-9

This is an everyday story about Simon and his dad going shopping. The very simple text is accompanied by Swedish Sign Language. The high quality photos make the book easy to understand.

A book with BLISS



Simen + månen [cat. no. 6]

6 Kahrs, Heidi B.

Simen + månen

[Simen + the moon]

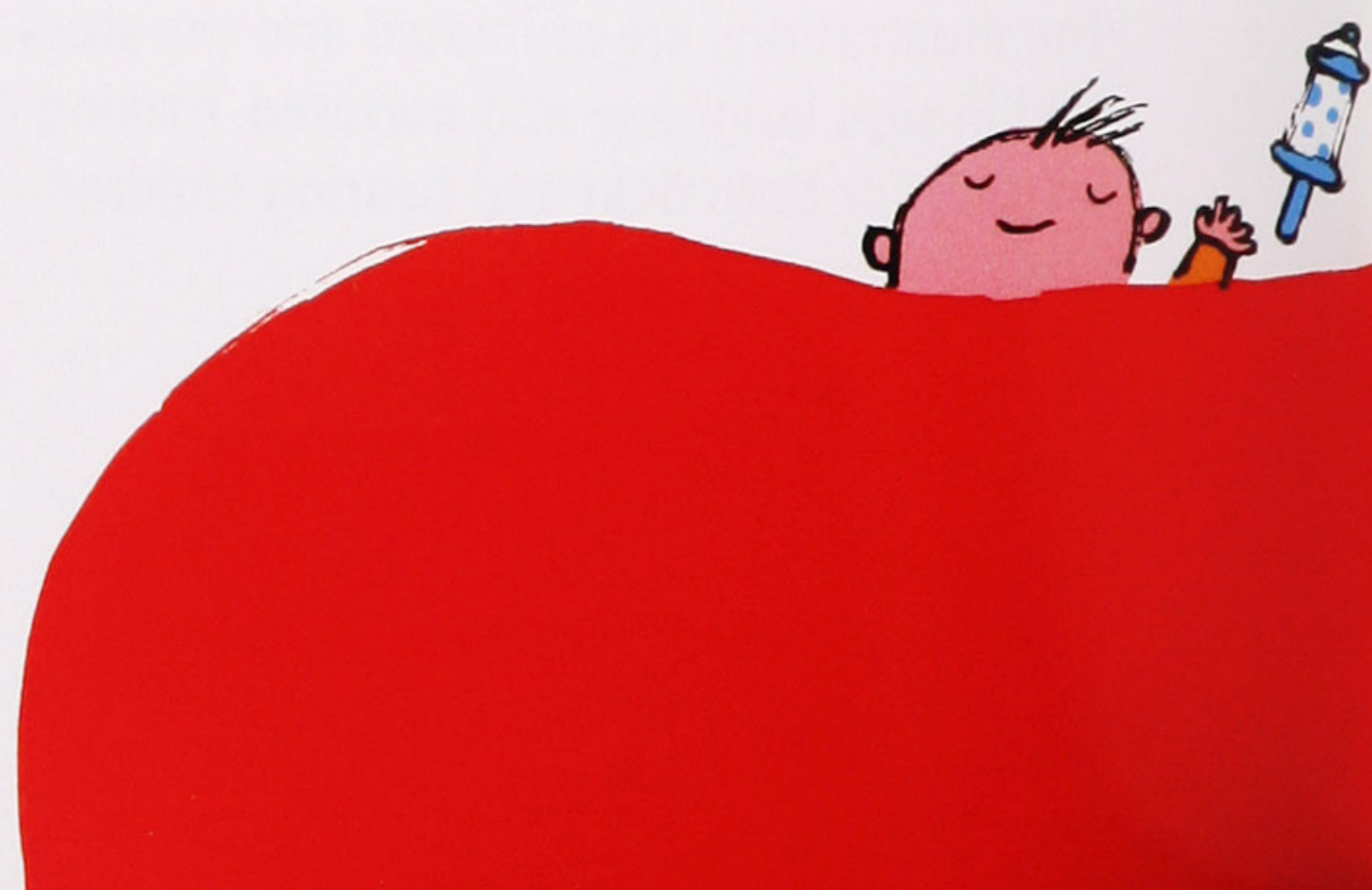
Bergen: Heidilines, 2009

42pp. ISBN 978-82-92621-02-8

This simple, easy-to-read book is specially produced for young people with reading difficulties. The use of Bliss symbols stimulates understanding and enhances the joy of reading.

Simen is a boy with a very vivid imagination. He enjoys looking at the moon and dreams of becoming an astronaut when he grows up. He wonders if, as an astronaut, he might use the moon as his football? He would play extremely well and win Orion's Belt as a trophy. But alas, when he plays football with his friends the next day, he does not score a single goal! He is the worst football player in the world! Fortunately he finds a new friend who likes him anyway.

Kakudai shahon "Akachan ga Yattekita" [cat. no. 21]



Books with Braille or tactile illustrations



ABC: Touch and see [cat. no.7]

7 ABC: Touch and see

Chennai: Dreaming Fingers, 2007
28pp. ISBN 978-81-8190-121-7

This is a tactile picture book for all children. On each page there is a large tactile object. For instance under A there is an *apple* that is shown with the letter *a* in Braille as well as a tactile letter *a* in upper and lower case, and the word apple in bold print and in Braille. The materials used for the tactile illustrations are varied and give a delightful and aesthetical impression.

8 Bruna, Dick

De wereld van Nijntje. Een doe-, voel- en luisterboek

[*Miffy's world. A play-, relief- and listening book*]

Amsterdam: Rubinstein, 2007
6pp. ISBN 9789047601050

Miffy is one of the world's most well-known

storybook heroes. In this book the text is in Braille and bold print with illustrations in relief ink. A CD with 12 short Miffy stories accompanies the book. The publication by Uitgeverij Rubinstein was made in cooperation with the NLBB, Vereniging van Leesgehandicapten, formerly the Dutch Library for Sound or Braille.

9 Crozon, Alain

Vive Noël!

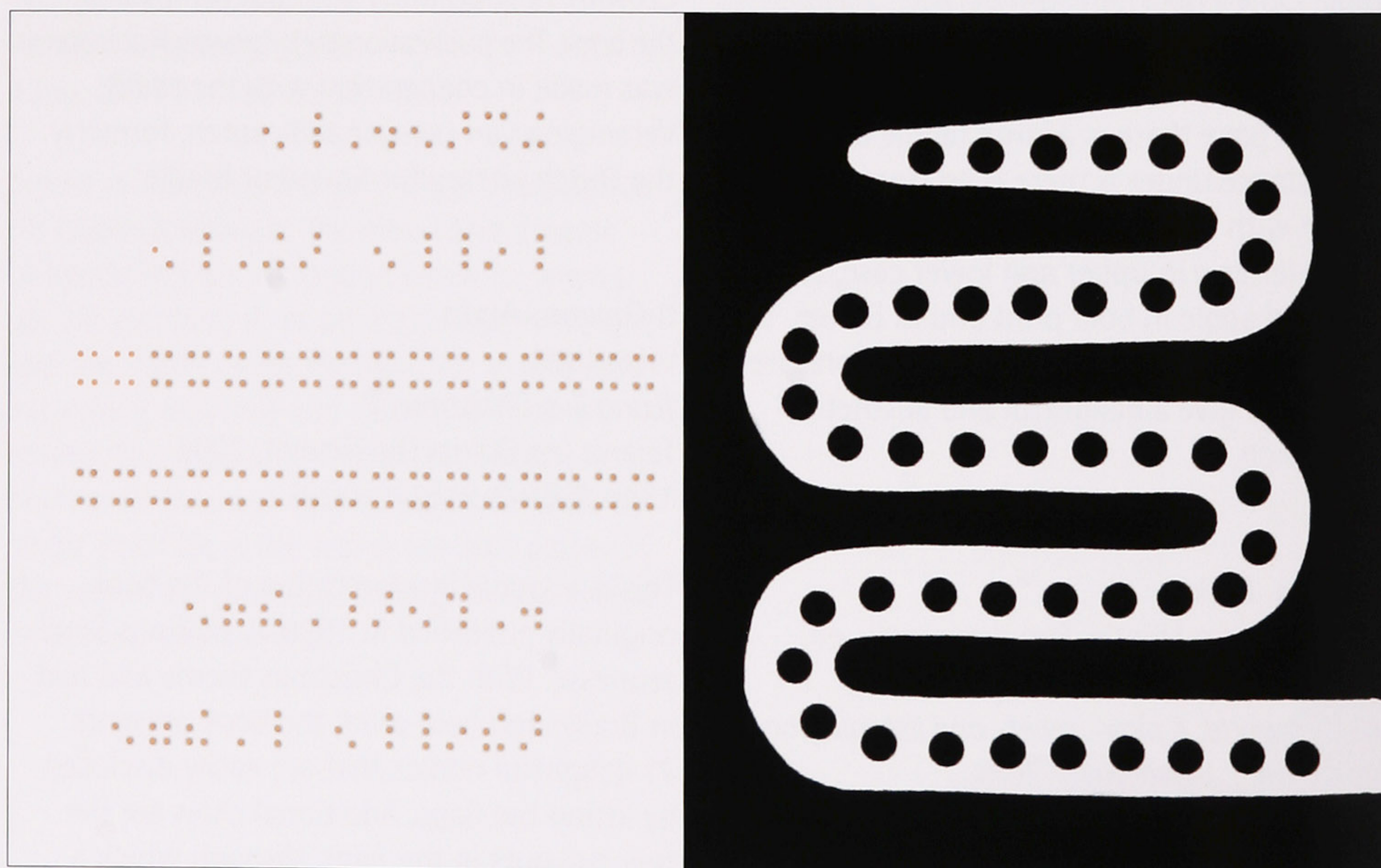
[*Long live Christmas!*]

Talant: Les Doigts Qui Rêvent, 2006
13pp. ISBN 2-916170-00-6

This is a tactile interpretation of the book originally published in 1999 by Éditions Seuil Jeunesse. With the Christmas theme and text in Braille and bold print, the book presents 21 delightful riddles that are easily disclosed by lifting the flaps. Additional clues are the tiny cut-outs in the flaps, through which a part of the tactile illustration (and solution) is glimpsed.



Lullaby [cat. no. 11]



Vers på tvers [cat. no. 10]

10 Diesen, Anette

Vers på tvers

[Lines and Rhymes]

Cover, illustrations and layout by the author.

Oslo: Solum forlag, 2007

24pp. ISBN 978-82-560-1503-0

This book contains a series of nonsense verses and jingles with tactile illustrations that can be twisted and bent, pulled and dragged. The book is easy to read, easy to understand with many surprises and challenges. With the text both in Braille and black print with big fonts it is equally suited for blind, partially-sighted and sighted people.

11 Farmani, Zahra

Lalai [Lullaby]

Tehran: Children's Book Council of Iran,
2008 Reproduced by Aida Khosnoodi and
Soodabeh Bagheri

Lullabies have put children to sleep all through the ages. This tactile lullaby book introduces four flowers: a tulip, a narcissus, a violet and a gillyflower, and three almost life-sized insects: a ladybird, a butterfly and a dragonfly. Following the traditional Persian right to left layout, the right side of each page shows the 3D shape of the flower, and on the left the linear form stitched on a satin page. Parents can help the children identify the flowers and insects and on the last page there is a pillow and a mattress with a ribbon that leads the child to a doll that is waiting in the pocket to be put to sleep, covered by the lullabies.

This child-friendly cloth book encourages both language and listening skills. Parents speaking other languages can make up their own songs and lullabies.

12 Lionni, Léo

Petit-Bleu et Petit-Jaune

Original title: *Little Blue and Little Yellow*

Talant: Les Doigts Qui Rêvent, 2007

20pp. ISBN 978-2-911782-77-1

Little Blue lives together with Mama Blue and Papa Blue. He has many friends, but his best friend is Little Yellow who lives just across the street from Little Blue. One day Little Blue and Little Yellow meet and hug each other, and they go green!

This is a tactile interpretation of the original classic story from 1970. The publishers have successfully created two characters that visually disabled children will recognize. By using crochet to give the two characters different patterns they are abstract, but still concrete enough that the children will understand the profound message of the book: that friendship can surpass differences. The text is in bold print and Braille.

13 Mantacheti, Tiziana

Trotti, trotta, Coccinelle s'en va

Original title: Coccinella va in montagna
[*Ladybird goes to the mountain*]

Talant: Les Doigts Qui Rêvent, 2005

18pp. ISBN 2-911782-80-1

Coccinella the ladybird moves through this simple book; up and down a tree, zig-zagging around bushes and stones, climbing uphill to reach the top of the mountain, finally downhill to go back home. The collage images can be explored in a tactile way and Braille print is laid over the text on transparent PVC sheets making this a book that is suitable to all children.

14 Mantacheti, Tiziana

Lino il Bruchino

[*Lino the Caterpillar*]

Rome: Federazione Nazionale delle Istituzioni Pro Ciechi, 2008, 18pp.

Lino the caterpillar was born with a smaller body than his friends. Throughout his adventurous journey to discover the world he makes a lot of new friends and receives gifts that help him become the most beautiful and elegant caterpillar in the world. The child can interact with the story by embellishing Lino's body with new ornaments page by page. The story focuses in a simple and direct way on the topic of diversity. The graphic font and the colours ensure that visually impaired children can also enjoy the story. Braille is superimposed on the text.

15 Reategui, Rosana

El hombre y la culebra

[*The Man and the Snake*]

Lima: Story-telling hands, 2005, 5pp.

This cloth book tells an old Peruvian legend about a man who rescues a snake, which in turn threatens to eat him! Using Arpillera - a traditional Peruvian art form - the artist/educator tells the story by using pieces of cloth and remnants of threads in knitted and embroidered pictures. This project not only constitutes a beautiful work of art, but also contributes to the spreading and maintenance of Peruvian culture.

16 Reynolds, Peter H.

The Dot

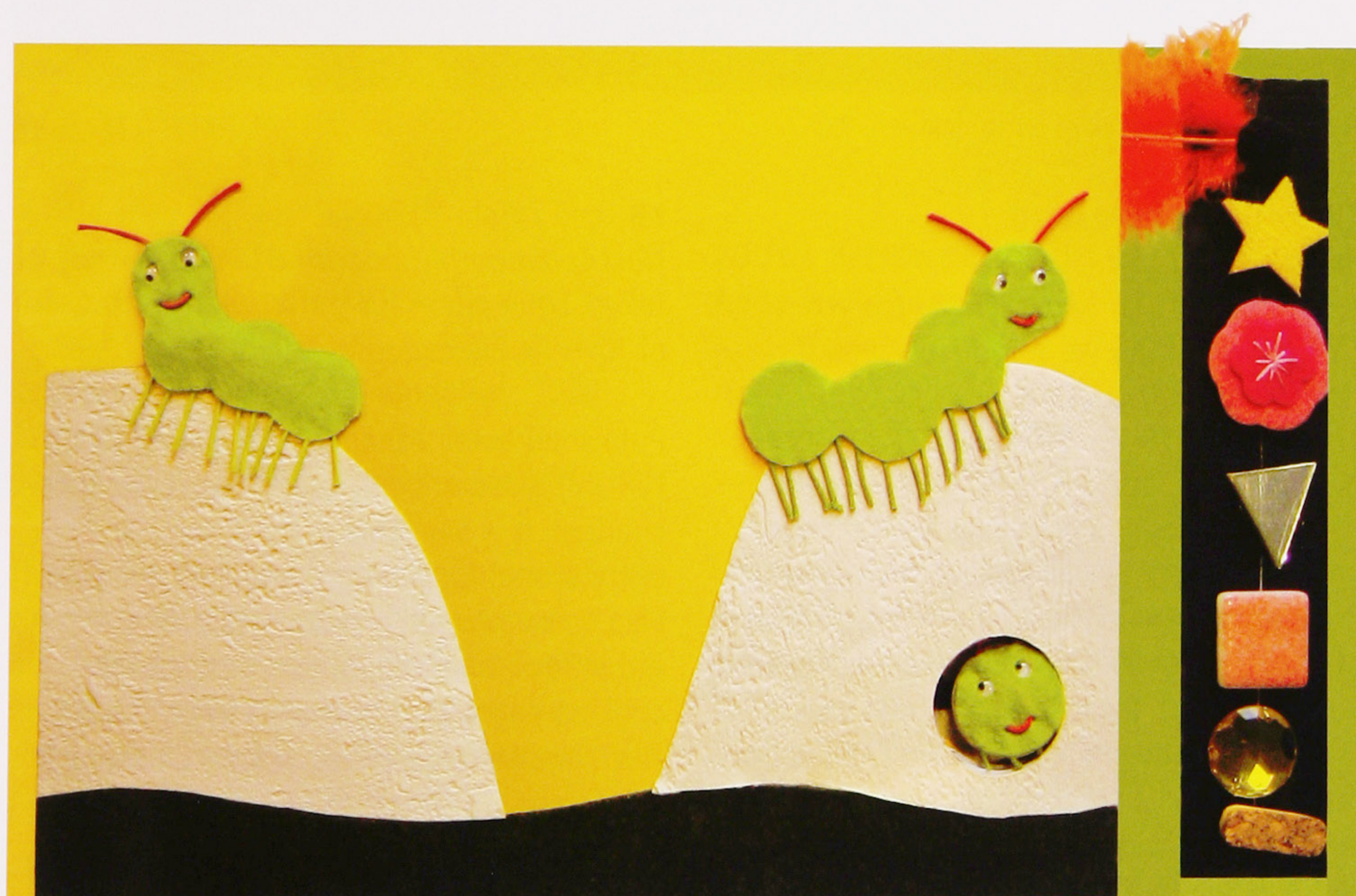
Austin, TX: BrailleINK, 2007

Original title published by Candlewick Press
30pp. ISBN 978-0-9769313-2-4

Vashti complains to her art teacher that she just can't draw. When her teacher encourages her to sign her name to her impatiently scribbled single 'dot' it starts her on a journey of artistic self-discovery. The original picture book is accurately reproduced with additions that make a delightful read-aloud experience for the sighted reader as well as the visually-impaired child. The top half of each page shows the text and art from the original edition; the text in English and contracted Braille is on the bottom half.



El hombre y la culebra [cat. no. 15]



Lino il Bruchino [cat. no. 14]



Trotti, trotta, Coccinelle s'en va [cat. no. 13]

17 Sortland, Bjørn (text)

Belsvik, Inger Lise (ill.)

Jenta med heilt jamne, mjuke augebryn

[The girl with the level, smooth eyebrows]

Oslo: Solum forlag, 2008

18pp. ISBN: 978-82-560-1541-2

This book is about a blind boy. Even though he looks up to and admires his tough and popular class-mate Ivan, he is a little afraid of him. However, he likes Saja very much. She has the softest, most level eyebrows and is sitting quite still while his fingers explore her face. War has just broken out, and one day when the air-raid alarm goes off they all have to run down to the basement. He sits next to Saja, and in the dark he is the strong one who can help and comfort her. The book has tactile illustrations, including a CD with music that is part of the plot.

18 Tenji Zasshi "TERUMI"

[Tactile bimonthly magazine Terumi]

Tokyo: Foundation for the Advancement of Juvenile Education in Japan. 2008, 23pp.

Published every other month since 1983, TERUMI is Japan's only tactile magazine for children. It is available in the library of every school for the sight impaired and can also be purchased privately. Its main attractions are the quiz, the maze and the cooking pages that appear in every issue. The magazine also carries articles on seasonal topics and information of interest to children with or without sight impairments.

Special "easy-to-read" books



Nu är det fest [cat. no. 20]

19 Bunanta, Murti (text)
Yosep, Imelda Rosvita (ill.)

Insect - Serangga

Cetakan: Murti Bunanta Foundation, 2008

12pp. ISBN 978-979-3683-24-9

(Kamus Pertamaku *[My first dictionary]*)

This book is part of a series of easy readers covering many themes, both fiction and non-fiction. Clear and detailed paintings of insects illustrate the words in Indonesian and English. The series is used in elementary schools for children with disabilities.

20 Frii, Kerstin (text)
Andersson, Anita (photos)

Nu är det fest

[Let's have a party]

Kungsbacka: Lilla TL, 2007

24pp. ISBN 978-91-977084-1-8

Michael throws a party for his friends. Everybody is there - mingling and dancing. But something is bothering Michael. The colour photos and the easy-to-read text capture Michael's feelings very well.

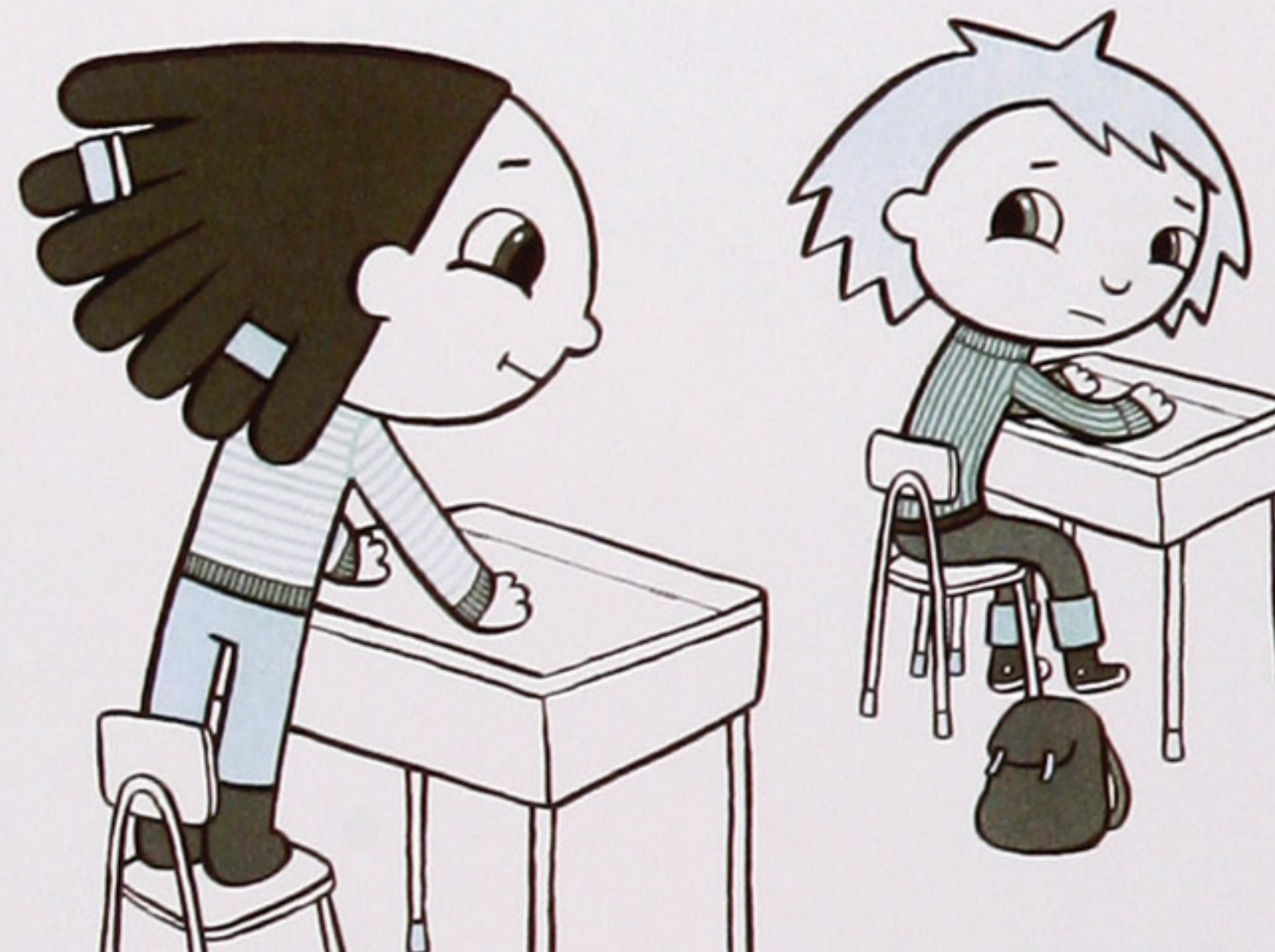
Tittamari Marttinen



Kassu
vauhdissa

Kuvittanut Aiju Salminen

pieni karhu



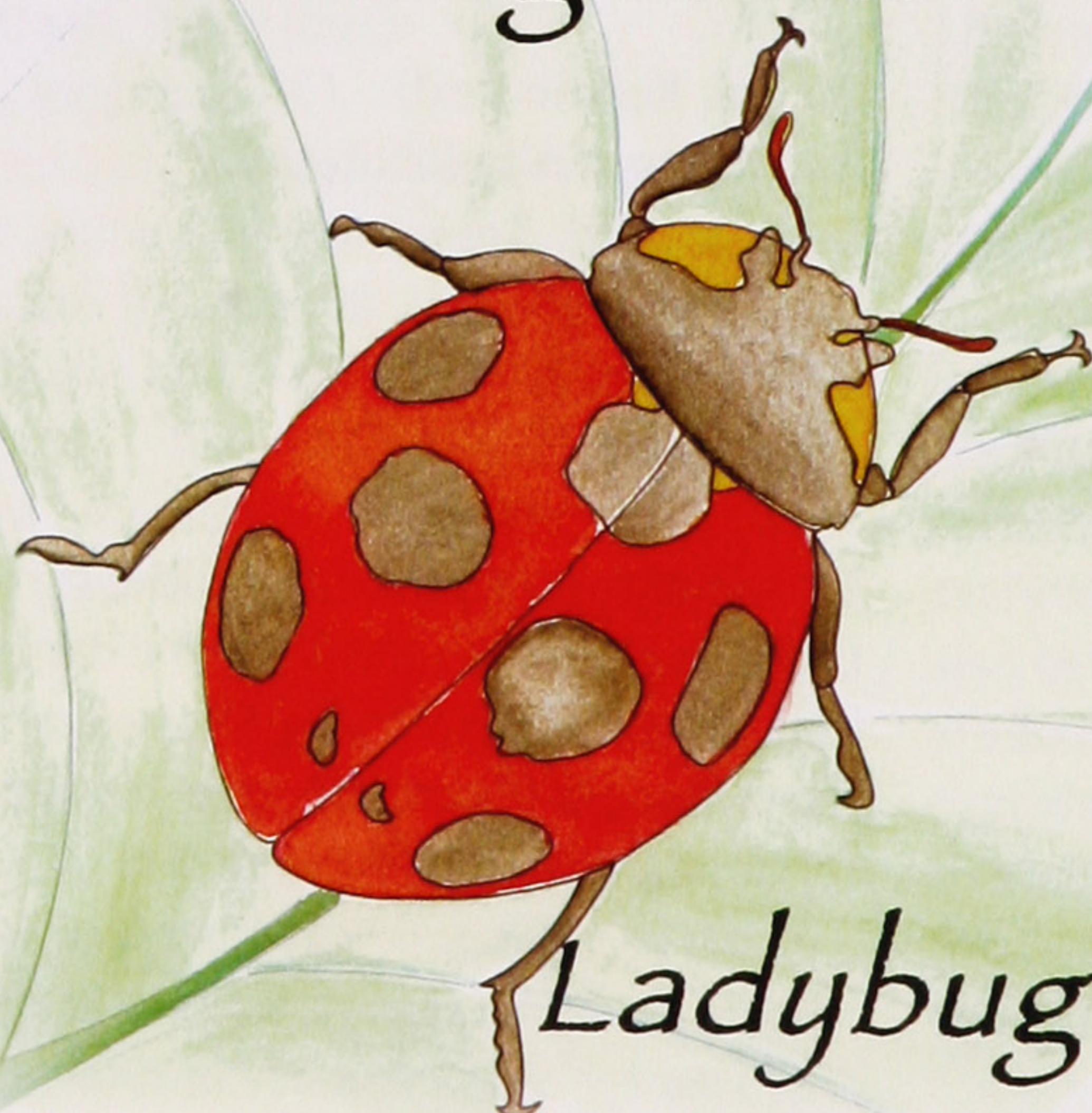
- Kassu, sinun reppusi ulvoo! Lilli sanoi.
- Sinä puhut sittenkin vatsasta, Oiva sanoi.
- Mitä sinun repussasi on? Netta halusi tietää.

Netta istui takanani.
Hän työnsi kätensä reppuun.

17

Kassu vauhdissa [cat. no. 23]

Kumbang Koksí



Ladybug

Insect - Serangga [cat. no. 19]

21 Kadono, Eiko (text)
Hata, Koushiro (ill.)
Kakudai shahon "Akachan ga Yattekitā"
[Bigger book "A baby is coming"]
 Hokkaido: Fukinoto Bunko
 1998, 56pp.

Mother informs her son that she is expecting a baby. They shop for baby clothes, a crib, and the big brother-to-be chooses a baby bus. He has mixed feelings about the newcomer who will intrude on his family, but when he finds himself the big brother of twin sisters, he is quite happy. Both the text and the illustrations from the original book published by Fukuinkan Shoten Publishers have been enlarged to help give children with weak eyesight the same experience as children who are able to read smaller print.

22 Khalatbaree, Farideh (text)
Barjesteh, Lisa Jamileh (ill.)
Man ham bazi [Let's play]
 Tehran: Shabaviz, 2007
 20pp. ISBN 978-964-505-227-8

"I'm a ball, soft and light. Throw and catch me, up and down, play with me, till bedtime."
 What child does not wish to play with his parents? In this book, the loving father plays with his small child, using his own body as a slide, a swing, a cave to crawl into. Phrases like *"- till bedtime"* are repeated for recognition and make it easy for the child to *"read along"*.

23 Marttinen, Tittamari (text)
Salminen, Aiju (ill.)
Kassu vauhdissa
[Kassu on the go]
 Kärkölä: Pieni karhu, 2006
 64pp. ISBN 952-5321-29-0

Funny things happen when Kassu arrives at his new school - a desk talks and there is a dog in the building - making the dreary school day different. The book is written in Selko-language, the Finnish name for high quality books produced for children with severe reading problems because of dyslexia, mental retardation, or for those learning a second language.

24 Verne, Jules
Il giro del mondo in 80 giorni
 Original title: *Le tour du monde en 80 jours*
[Around the World in 80 Days]
 Translated and adapted by Fabrizio Casa
 Rome: Biancoenero edizioni, 2008
 99pp. ISBN 978-88-89921-12-8
 (Raccontami *[Tell me]*)

This well-known classic was initially adapted for children with reading problems, but it is just as appropriate for adults with reading difficulties. To assist reading and understanding the text, an audio book on CD accompanies the regular book.

Books from the regular production



Eats [cat. no. 29]



Did you say Pears? [cat. no. 25]

25 Alda, Arlene

Did you say Pears?

Toronto: Tundra Books, 2006

31pp. ISBN 0-88776-739-7

This amusing picture book with high quality photos explains about homonyms: words that sound alike and are spelled the same way but have a different meaning, such as nails and nailes - and homophones, words that have different spellings and meanings, but sound alike, like pears and pairs.

26 Fierro, Julieta / Vital, Alberto (text)

Alderete, Jorge et al. (ill.)

Palabras para conocer el mundo

[Words to get to know the world]

Col. del Valle: Santillana, 2005, 214pp.

This is a colourful and non-traditional dictionary with high-quality illustrations for children from three to seven years old. On the left side of each double page is a concept with its formal definition; on the right side is a jingle, a poem or other playful approaches to explain the concept in a way that stimulates the child's curiosity and enriches its vocabulary.

27 Haddadi, Hoda

Do doust [Two friends]

Tehran: Shabaviz, 2008

20pp. ISBN 978-964-505-231-5

After the rain two girls meet in the jungle that now smells sweetly of herbs. The jungle changes from morning to evening - a ditch becomes a sea, or the sun looks like a giant peach.

The artist expresses herself through an appealing collage of leaves, pieces of tissue, seeds and flowers in combination with strokes of her pen.

28 Jafa, Manorama (text)

Sarkar, Sanjay (ill.)

Ladybird and Butterfly

New Dehli: Khaas Kitab, 2007, 14pp.

Ladybird is very thirsty, but she cannot find any water. Butterfly comes along and tells her about the spring on the other side of the hill. Ladybird starts climbing, but the hill is so steep that she almost gives up. Butterfly encourages her, and soon she is trotting away to the mantra, "*I can and I will! I can and I will!*" At last she reaches the top and is rewarded with a refreshing drink of water. This charming little picture book teaches children about friendship and perseverance.

29 Jocelyn, Marthe (text)

Slaughter, Tom (ill.)

Eats

Toronto: Tundra Books, 2007

24pp. ISBN 978-0-88776-820-0

What does the giraffe eat? or the frog, or the polar bear or the panda? The very simple pictures show in clear primary colours what the different species eat. But who eats ice cream?

30 Khalatbaree, Farideh (text)

Barjesteh, Lisa Jamileh (ill.)

Man az to nemi tarsam

[You don't scare me]

Tehran: Shabaviz, 2007

48pp. ISBN 978-964-505-247-6

"You are a witch, but if not for you, there would be no fairytale." There are many things that children consider frightening. It is up to the adults to show them that there is always a good reason for anything that is scary - real or imaginary. These poems show the good side of all those bad and scary things.

31 Lepp, Mati

En dag med färg

[A day with colour]

Stockholm: Bonnier Carlsen Bokförlag, 2008

16pp. ISBN 978-91-638-5817-8

This cardboard picture book tells us about colours and well-known objects in a small child's everyday life. The sun is yellow; the milk

is white and the teddy's brown. The pictures are simple and the illustrations have clear colours and contrasts. The sturdy pages of the book can withstand a lot of handling by inexperienced readers.

32 Ahlbom, Jens

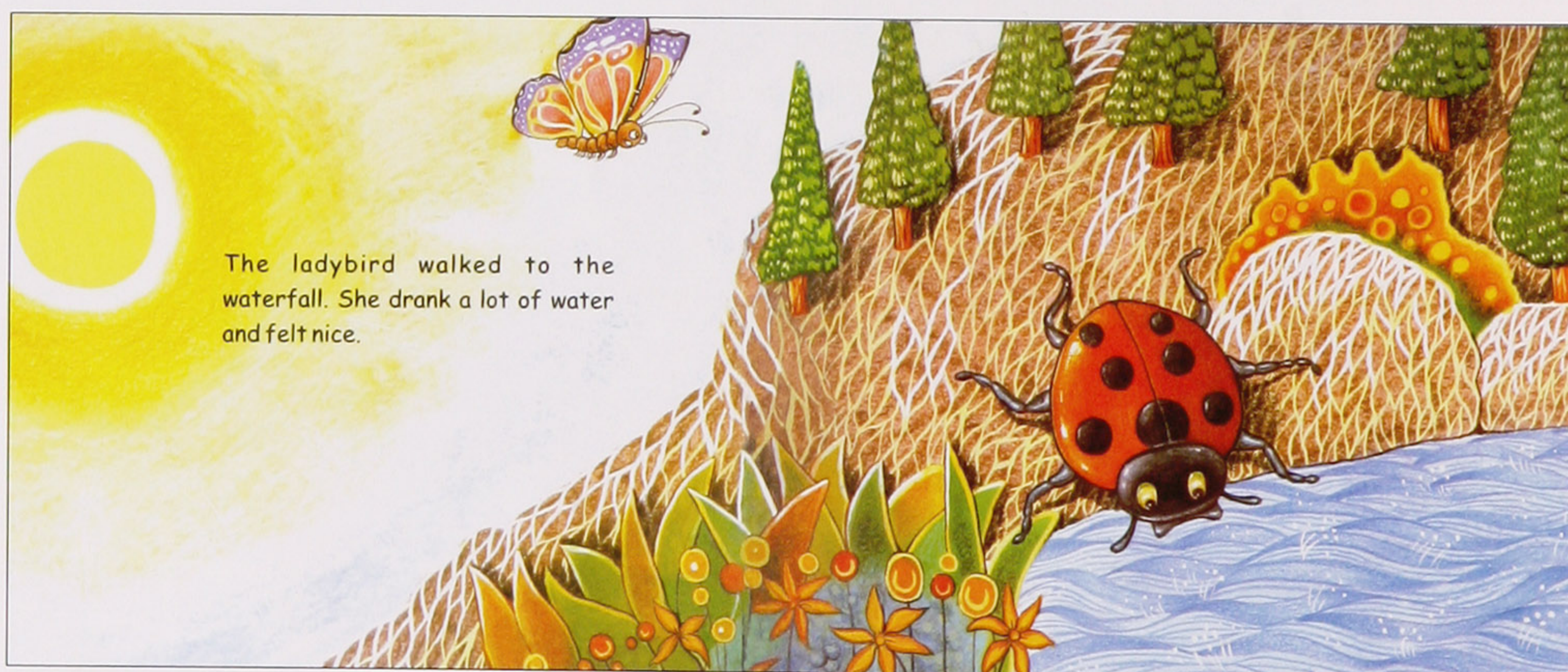
Jonatan på Måsberget

[Jonatan on Gull Mountain]

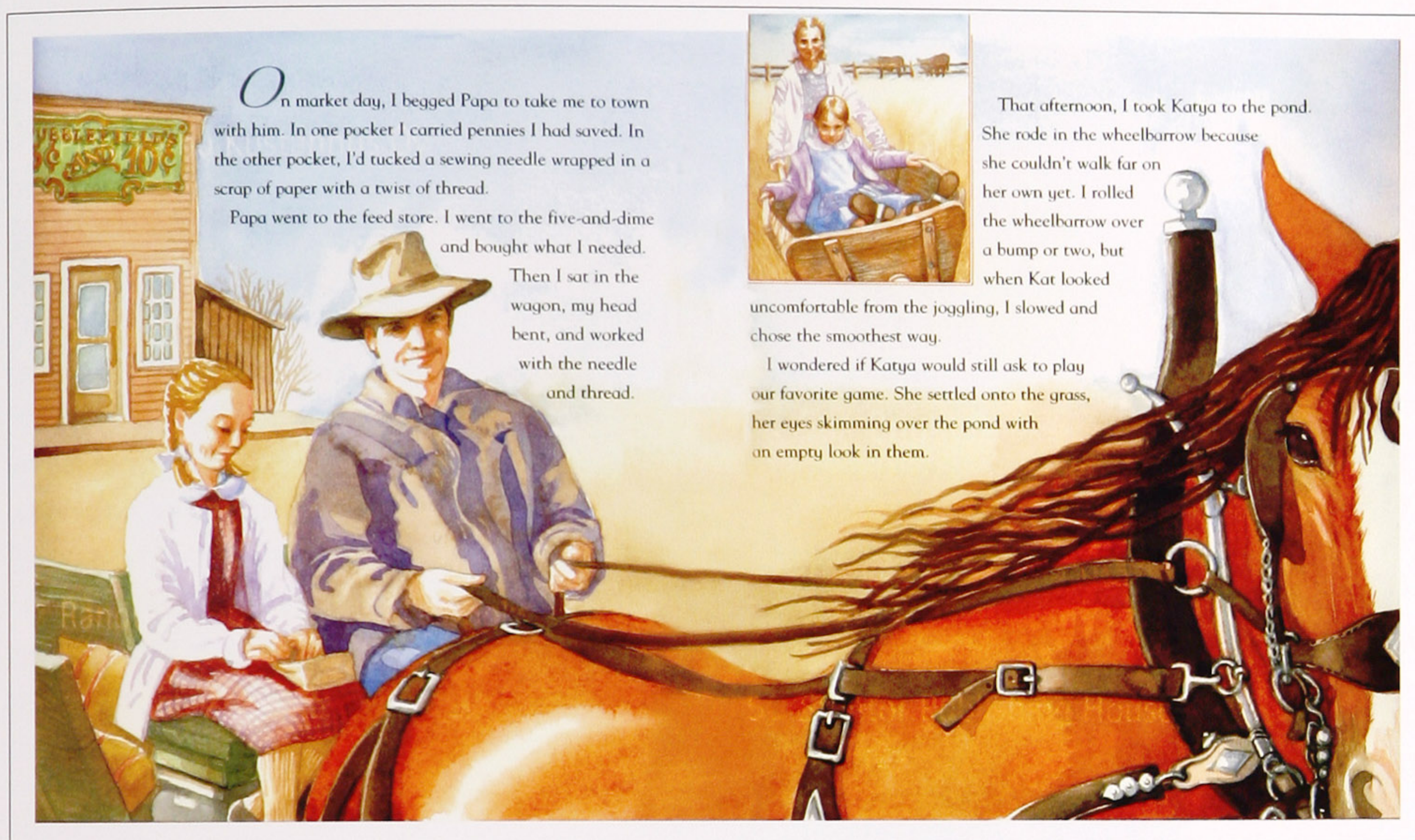
Lerum: Penndraget, 2008

29pp. ISBN 978-91-633-2096-5

Jonatan is different to the others having being born without wings. He lives in a rocky world where all houses are built on mountaintops and you need wings to move around. When he was small, he could ride piggyback with his Dad, but as he grows older he has to stay at home. He sits alone at home and watches his friends fly past on their way to school. One day his friend Sarah gets a brilliant idea! This is a symbolic tale about how society stops disabled people from moving around.



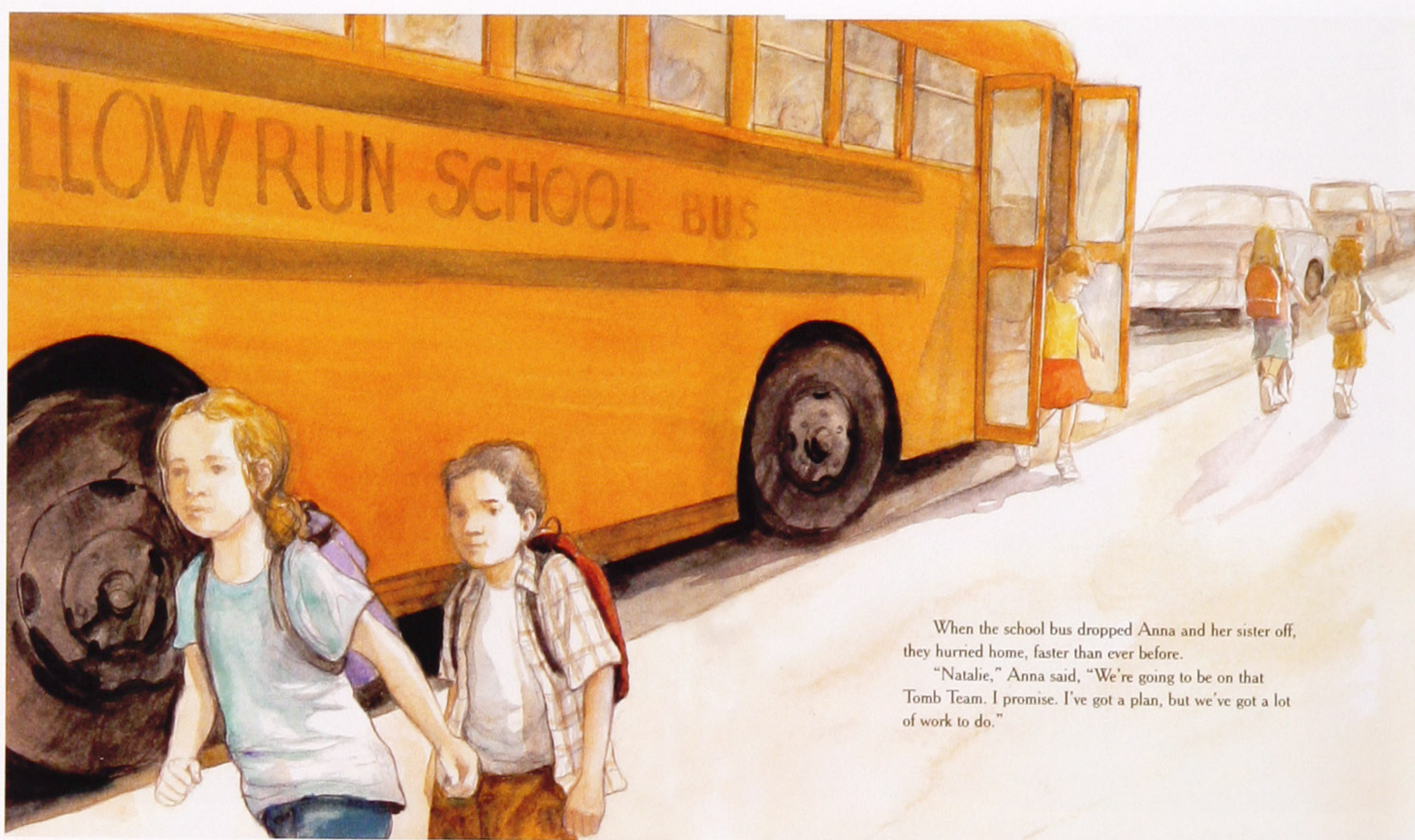
Ladybird and Butterfly [cat. no. 28]



Dancing with Katya [cat. no. 35]



Me gusta divertirme [cat. no. 41]



Anna and Natalie [cat. no. 36]

33 Akbarpoor, Ahmad (text)

Manoochehri, Maneli (ill.)

Dokhtari saket ba parandehaye choloog

[The silent girl with the noisy birds]

Tehran: Elmi-Farhangi Publishers, 2007

32pp. ISBN 978-964-445-753-1

Golnesa is five years old and she cannot speak. She loves birds and has many friends amongst the neighbourhood children. The village chief sends for a Wise Person who prescribes eating birds' eggs to give Golnesa her voice back. The author criticizes this traditional belief and presents a realistic view of children and concepts. In the story the girl is a symbol of peace and unity among man and nature. In harmony with the text, the illustrator skilfully shows the girl's love of nature and her relationship with the birds, using Iranian traditional colours and elements. The story demonstrates that lack of speech is not a restriction, rather a potential that makes the child reader understand that one can relate to nature with internal speech.

34 Altman, Alexandra Jessup (text)

Keeter, Susan (ill.)

Waiting for Benjamin

Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman, 2008

32pp. ISBN 978-0-8075-7364-8

Alexander's little brother Benjamin would rather stare at the wall than play with him. Instead of talking, he just wiggles his fingers and rocks back and forth. Alexander has to work through his feelings of disappointment and jealousy, but as time passes, he discovers that Benjamin is not just his brother – he is also his friend.

35 Chaconas, Dori (text)

Bergum, Constance R. (ill.)

Dancing with Katya

Atlanta, GA: Peachtree Publishers, 2006

32pp. ISBN 1-56145-376-5

The narrator recalls how long ago, as a young

girl, she used to dance with her beloved baby sister Katya in the house and the surrounding fields of the family's farm. But when Katya is five she is suddenly overcome by a high fever. Although she recovers from the lingering illness, Katya's legs are left weakened and twisted. Still, her older sister dances with her, lifting her high or carrying her around in a wheelbarrow. Together they dream of a time when Katya will dance on her own two feet. But Katya must leave home and go to a hospital in the city where doctors will try to make her legs strong again. The narrator misses her sister and worries: will the treatment work so that Katya will dance again?

36 Cole, Barbara H. (text)

Himler, Ronald (ill.)

Anna and Natalie

New York: Star Bright Books, 2007

30pp. ISBN 978-1-59572-105-1

Anna is never chosen for the fun parts at school, only for spelling and other such boring things. Now's her chance: there is to be letter-writing competition and the winner will participate in the wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Arlington National Cemetery in Washington. Determined to win, Anna seeks advice from her Granddad.

37 Dowd, Siobhan

The London Eye Mystery

London: Random House, 2008

322pp. ISBN 978-0-440-86802-6

(Corgi Yearling Book)

Twelve-year-old Ted and his sister watch their cousin Salim get into a pod at the London Eye,

from which he never exits. Ted knows that he has a syndrome – we suspect Asperger, as he is obsessed by weather and meteorological facts, he is also intrigued by expressions such as eavesdropping – “... *the only thing that drops from eaves is rain...*” To solve the puzzle and save Salim's life he cleverly manages to use his disability to understand what has happened. This is a compelling crime story as well as a credible account of how lonely it can be to grow up being “*different*” from your peers.

38 Hazelhoff, Veronica

Bezoek van Mister P

[*A visit from Mr. P*]

Amsterdam: Querido, 2006

168pp. ISBN 90-451-0388-5

Mister P (P for pain) is a mean little man who causes Jo-Jo much distress. Because Jo-Jo is rheumatic, he has to battle *Mister P* every day. He gives Jo-Jo red knuckles, weak ankles and knees like glowing footballs. *Mister P* often arrives just when Jo-Jo is going to play football. Jo-Jo is a very good goalkeeper, but it becomes harder and harder for him to play. While on holiday Jo-Jo meets Lena. Lena and her mother are asylum seekers and hope they will be allowed to stay in the Netherlands. Lena does not treat him like a pitiful, disabled boy and they become friends. This is a book about the influence of physical and psychological pain on a young boy. Although it is not a cheerful theme, the story never becomes sad or complaining. Jo-Jo himself is never a pathetic figure, but a strong boy who is willing to fight.



Wir verstehen uns blind [cat. no. 39]

39 Huainigg, Franz-Joseph (text)

Ballhaus, Verena (ill.)

Wir verstehen uns blind

[We understand each other blindly]

Vienna: Annette Betz Verlag, 2005

24pp. ISBN 3-219-11198-X

Katharina goes shopping with her mum and dad. There are a lot of people in the shopping centre, and suddenly she loses sight of her parents. Nobody takes notice of a small, crying girl – apart from a young man who is strolling along with a German Shepherd dog. He offers to help her, but when she discovers that Mathias is blind, she is puzzled. How can he help her find her parents if he can't see? During the afternoon Katharina learns a lot about how it is to live as a blind person among sighted people. She discovers that in his own way Mathias can “see” and sense things much better than people who are not blind.

40 Kostecki-Shaw, Jenny Sue

My Travelin' Eye

New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2008

38pp. ISBN 978-0-8050-8169-5

Jenny Sue's eyes are not able to focus in the same direction. She has strabismus, which some people call “*wandering eye*,” although Jenny Sue prefers to call it “*travelin' eye*.” She also has amblyopia, which is reduced vision. The author/illustrator uses different collage-type techniques to show Jenny Sue's view of the world. When the ophthalmologist tells her that she has to wear a patch over one eye, Jenny Sue is laughed at in school. She learns to cope by creating new “*fashion-patches*” with bright colours and wonderful

designs to replace the plain one that covers her eye. Jenny Sue's patches are soon the envy of her classmates. The author writes from her own experiences.

41 Laván, Laila (text)

Rodriguez, Abigail (photos)

Me gusta divertirme / I like to have fun

Madrid: Topka Books, 2007

16pp. ISBN 978-84-935239-7-8

“*I like/Me gusta*” is a series of three bilingual boardbooks made to introduce early vocabulary and the diversity of today's world. The books feature colour photographs of children of different races, with or without disabilities, doing what they like best.

42 Laván, Laila (text)

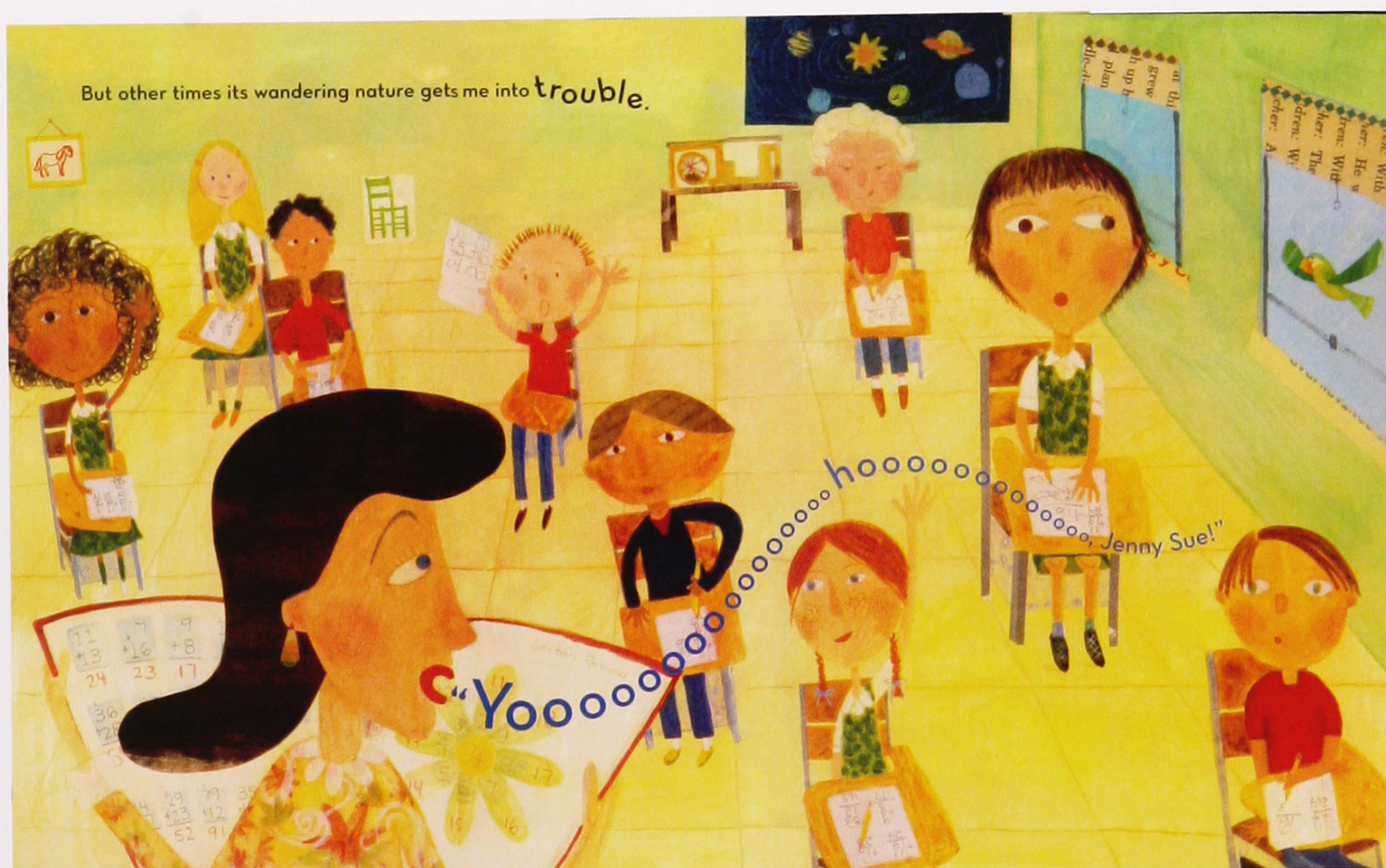
Iglesias, Beatriz (ill.)

Lucia: alto y claro / Lucy: loud and clear

Madrid: Topka Books, 2007

30pp. ISBN 978-84-935239-4-7

It is three days, four hours and sixteen minutes since Lucy's big brother Omar borrowed her coloured pencils, and now she is going to ask him to give them back. But how can a little deaf girl get the attention of a hearing teenager who isn't interested in understanding what she has to say? This bilingual picture book does not focus on the disability, but shows that Lucy can find a way that makes the hearing brother vulnerable in a way that she is not.



My Travelin' Eye [cat. no. 40]

43 Lord, Cynthia

Rules

New York: Scholastic Press, 2006
200pp. ISBN 978-0-439-44382-1

While Catherine's parents are working, she is left to take care of her autistic brother more often than she likes and tries to hide his, sometimes embarrassing, behaviour. To teach him to be "normal" and to help him understand the world she has made up a set of rules, like "keep your pants on in public". This summer Catherine meets Jason. He is confined to a wheelchair and communicates using a card system. Gradually their friendship grows, but when Jason wants to go to the community dance with her, she is forced to look into herself and does not like what she sees there. When a girl her age moves next door, Catherine would like her family to appear normal. At the end of the story she questions just what "normal" really means.

44 Mills, Joyce C. (text)

Pillo, Cary (ill.)

Ash-Shajrah At-taybah

[Gentle Willow; A story for children about dying]

Cairo: Nahdet Misr, 2006

32pp. ISBN 977-14-3474-8

This book is written for children who may not survive their illness as well as for their friends who know that they may die. The tender and touching story helps address feelings of disbelief, anger, and sadness, along with love and compassion. Amany and Little Tree discover that their friend Gentle Willow is not feeling well. Amany summons the Tree Wizards who visit Gentle Willow, but they discover that they cannot help her. Amany is angry at first, but eventually she listens to the Tree Wizards as they explain that death is a transformation and journey into the unknown. The book includes the annex "A Note to Parents" on how to cope with death and dying.

45 Minaki, Christina

Zoe's Extraordinary Holiday Adventures

Toronto: Second Story Press, 2007

145pp. ISBN 978-1-897187-26-5

Zoe mostly likes her life. Her family is nice, and she has the most amazing dog as her helper and best friend. But Zoe sometimes thinks her life is boring – she's stuck in her wheelchair and nothing ever changes. She has to face being treated condescendingly as well as endure teasing by thoughtless peers who think she isn't smart just because her body doesn't always do what she wants. At school she learns about the diverse cultures of her classmates, and realizes that she is not the only one who is *"different"*. While celebrating the traditions of Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Divali and Eid, Zoe realizes that excitement can arrive in various ways.

46 Sachar, Louis

Small steps

New York: Delacorte Press, 2006

272pp. ISBN 978-0385733144

Young Theodore who has the nickname *"Armpit"* is trying to fix his life. He goes to school to finish his education, he works for a gardener since he is a skilled digger, and he's in love for the first time. Everything is looking good, until his former buddy X-Ray wants him in on a project to make big money fast. Since he has already *"done time"* at the Juvenile Correctional Facility, everybody expects him to go wrong again. His small neighbour Ginny, who was born with cerebral palsy, is the only one who believes in him. For the first time in his life there is someone who looks up to him, and together they are learning to make small steps.

47 Vidmar, Janja

Moja Nina

[*My Nina*]

Ljubljana: Založba Mladika, 2004

69pp. ISBN 961-205-118-6

Nina is fourteen years old, but she is still nine-year old Tim's *"younger"* sister. Nina loves trains and locomotives. Their mother believes that this is Nina's way to freedom and that perhaps Nina in some way thinks that at the end of the journey she might be the same as everybody else. One day Tim decides to help his sister. He collects her from her special-needs school and takes her to the railway station. But all is changed. On Sundays the city and the station are empty. But in the middle of the week the city is full of people and the railway station is full of travellers. This is very scary for Nina who reacts by having a fit, and Tim realizes that he has to get help. The story shows the differences as well as the similarities between the siblings.



Lucy: loud and clear [cat. no. 42]

48 Williams, Carol Lynch

Pretty like us

Atlanta, GA: Peachtree Publishers, 2008

183pp. ISBN 978-1-56145-444-0

To be called Beauty while being desperately shy and self-conscious isn't easy. Beauty's mother and grandma have tried to teach her that "*pretty is as pretty does*." When a new girl with a strange and rare condition, Progeria, suddenly sits next to her in school, her character is tested. How can Beauty fit in with the class and still be a good person? She tries going along with the class, only to discover that when she finally speaks up for herself, she is at last starting to earn respect from her peers.

49 Wojtowicz, Jen (text)

Adams, Steve (ill.)

Des fleurs pour Angéline

(Original title: *The boy who grew flowers*)

Transl. by Christiane Duchesne

Saint-Lambert, Québec:

Dominique et compagnie, 2006

30pp. ISBN 978-2-89512-549-5

The shy boy Ricaud and his strange family live by the mountain Solitaire, far away from the village. The villagers tell many tales about the family, about how the grandmother was raised by wolves, an uncle who tamed rattlesnakes, and Ricaud sprouting flowers all over his body when the moon is full. Using humour and metaphors to promote acceptance, the author shows us that what makes us different makes us beautiful.

Des fleurs pour Angéline [cat. no. 49]

50 Wróblewska, Beata

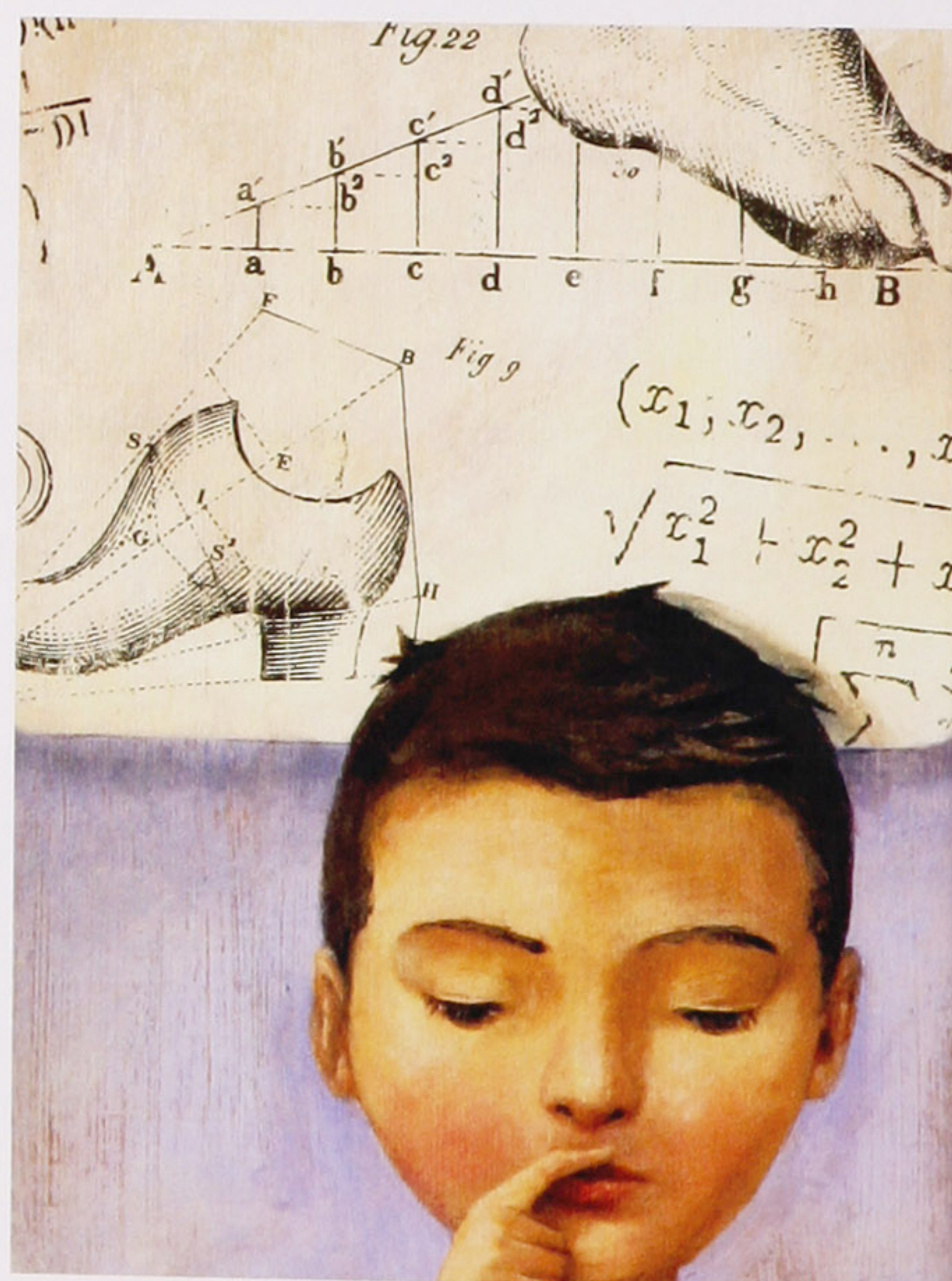
Jabłko Apoleiki

[*Apoleika's apple*]

Warsaw: Stentor Publishing House, 2007

148pp. ISBN 978-83-89315-82-3

The siblings, Kasia, Jasiek and Ola, move to a small town to live with their grandmother. The two sisters, each in their own way, adapt to their new environment. The biggest problem is their brother Jasiek, who is Autistic. The title refers to a popular Polish fairytale, in which a magical apple can turn a prince who has been changed into a donkey, back into being a human. There is no magical apple for Jasiek, whose condition creates an unacceptable atmosphere in the village. The book touches upon difficult questions that modern teenage girls have to cope with. It also raises the question of how important it is to sacrifice oneself for others and what possibilities there are to break down barriers separating people. This is a story about courage, forgiveness and responsibility.



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