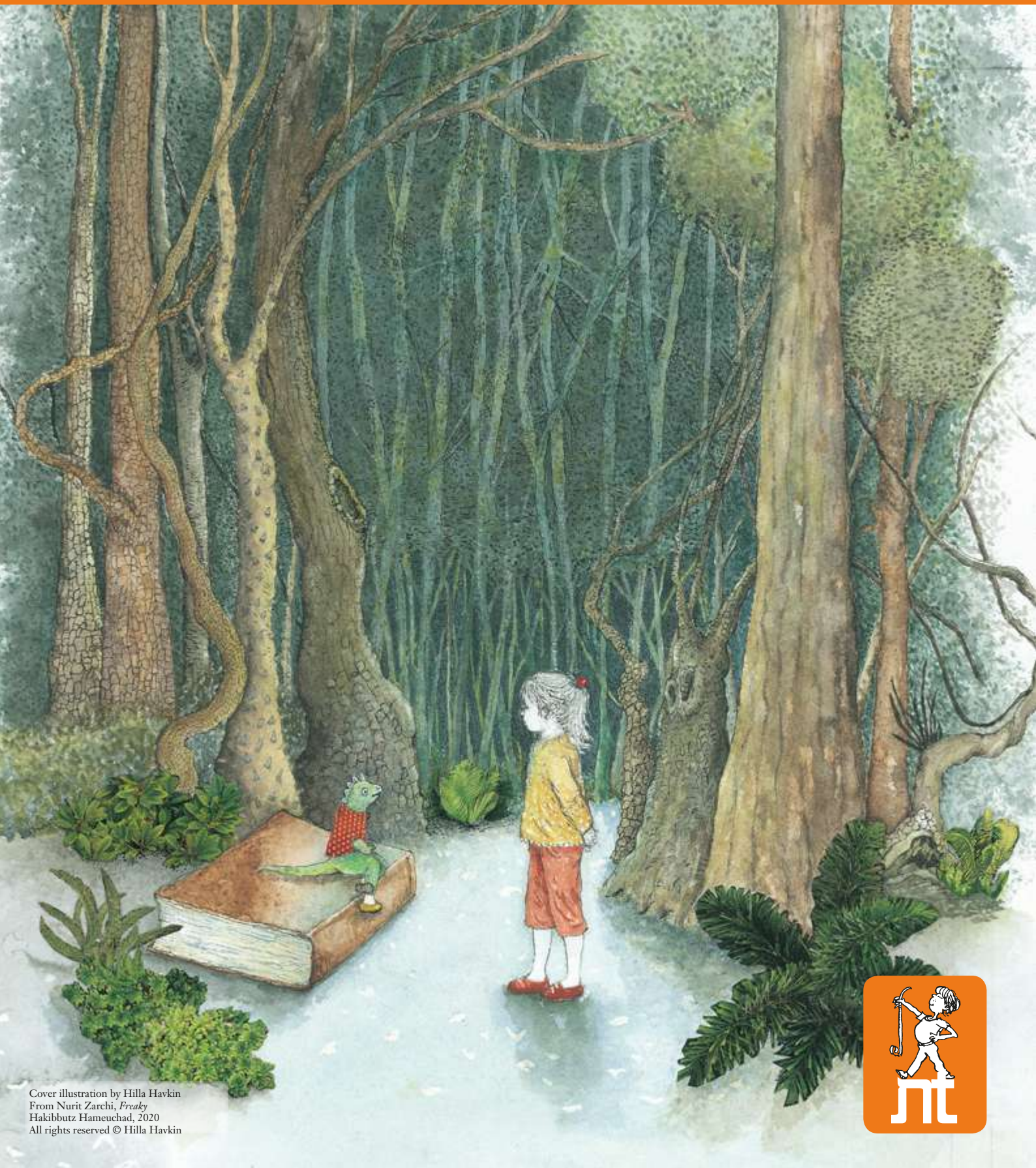


New Books for Children from Israel

Summer 2020

THE INSTITUTE FOR THE TRANSLATION OF HEBREW LITERATURE



Cover illustration by Hilla Havkin
From Nurit Zarchi, *Freaky*
Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2020
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THE INSTITUTE FOR THE TRANSLATION OF HEBREW LITERATURE

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MG Middle Grade books

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Special Section 2020

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the conversation both in Israel and worldwide seems to have changed course. Enforced isolation and its social and economic effects have triggered a wave of contemplation and reflection throughout the media and social networks, about the position of individuals in society, particularly in cases where there is financial distress.

In the light of the need for social distancing, interest has grown in subjects such as: mutual responsibility; the need for friends and family and the pain suffered by those who lack them; attitudes towards the elderly, the weak and animals.

We offer you here a selection of books that tackle these issues, as they appear to the world of children and teenagers.

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Almog Ruth

Alon Curiel Gil-Ly

Argaman Iris

Ayal Ora

Ben-David Mishka

Bergman Tamar

Bisharat Odeh

Burstein Dror

Carmi Daniella

Castel-Bloom Orly

Chacham Ronit

Cohen Dalya B.

Cohen-Assif Shlomit

Elazar-Halevi Dana

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Frankel Alona

Geffen Shira

Givati Roni

Goldberg Lea

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Kaniuk Yoram

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Levron Uri

Livne Hana

Matalon Ronit

Mazya Edna

Meir Mira

Meir Tamar

Modan Shula

Nevo Eshkol

Nitzan Tal

Niv Kobi

Omer Devorah

Orgad Dorit

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Pagis Dan

Paz-Goldman Alex

Piven Hanoach

Raz Orit

Ron-Feder-Amit Galila

Roseman Yael

Rosenblum Amalia

Rotem Judith

Roth Miriam

Sagi Itamar

Semel Nava

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Shahar David

Shalev Zeruya

Shammas Anton

Shem-Tov Tami

Sidon Ephraim

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Tammuz Benjamin

Taub Gadi

Tepper Yona

Uziel Orit

Verete-Zehavi Tamar

Vital Gilad Ruthie

Vizan Yehuda

Yalan-Shteklis Miriam

Yavin Jonathan

Zach Natan

Zarchi Nurit

Freaky

Tel Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2020. 27 pp.

AGE: 4-8



Nurit Zarchi was born in Jerusalem in 1941 and grew up at Kibbutz Geva. She studied psychology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and later literature and philosophy at Tel Aviv University. Zarchi has worked as a journalist and holds creative writing workshops for children and adults.

Zarchi has published novels, short stories, poetry, a collection of essays and over 100 books for children. She has received every major Israeli award for children and youth literature as well as for her poetry, including the Prime Minister's Prize twice (1980; 1991), the Ze'ev Prize (five times), four IBBY Honor Citations (1980; 1984; 1998; 2004), the Bialik Prize (1999), the Education Minister's Prize for Lifetime Achievement (2005) the Amichai Prize (2007), the Ramat Gan Prize (2010), the Lea Goldberg Prize (2011), the Landau Prize for Poetry (2013), the Devorah Omer Prize for Lifetime Achievement (2014), the Arik Einstein Prize (2015) and the Israel Center for Educational Innovation Award for Lifetime Achievement (2016).

[CLICK HERE FOR A COMPLETE LISTING ON THE ITHL WEBSITE.](#)

Freaky, a young female dinosaur who has popped out of the primeval forest, wants to know where she belongs nowadays, because it seems that things that used to be are no longer and there's no way back for anyone.

To live in this world means, first of all, getting used to things—and this is a grueling task for Freaky, who changes from a lifeless toy into a living being, searching for answers.

Illustrations: Hilla Havkin

A little toy dinosaur that has come to life is at the center of a superb new children's book by Nurit Zarchi. The story of how the prehistoric creature adapts to our world unfolds in the void between the psychedelic and prosaic reality....How lovely!

Haaretz



PHOTO © DAN FORGES

Nurit Zarchi

PB

Color Crown Ketchup Love

Tel Aviv, Yedioth Ahronoth, 1998. 31 pp.

AGE: 4-6

There's this crown, but it's not really a crown. So what is it, actually? A cookie? A cactus? A cow? Is it a queen's crown? No, and everyone wants to wear it.

This is a nonsense tale, in the time-honored English tradition of Lewis Carrol and Edward Lear, dealing with relationships between people.

Illustrations: Hilla Havkin



Nurit Zarchi was born in Jerusalem in 1941 and grew up at Kibbutz Geva. She studied psychology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and later literature and philosophy at Tel Aviv University. Zarchi has worked as a journalist and holds creative writing workshops for children and adults.

Zarchi has published novels, short stories, poetry, a collection of essays and over 100 books for children. She has received every major Israeli award for children and youth literature as well as for her poetry, including the Prime Minister's Prize twice (1980; 1991), the Ze'ev Prize (five times), four IBBY Honor Citations (1980; 1984; 1998; 2004), the Bialik Prize (1999), the Education Minister's Prize for Lifetime Achievement (2005) the Amichai Prize (2007), the Ramat Gan Prize (2010), the Lea Goldberg Prize (2011), the Landau Prize for Poetry (2013), the Devorah Omer Prize for Lifetime Achievement (2014), the Arik Einstein Prize (2015) and the Israel Center for Educational Innovation Award for Lifetime Achievement (2016).

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PHOTO © DAN FORGES

Yehuda Vizan

PB

At Hillel and Lilleet of Galilee City

Tel Aviv, Keren Books, 2019. 34 pp.

AGE: 5 up



Hillel and his wife Lilleet live in a large house in a town in the Galilee. They have a small daughter and an older son, twenty cats and a little dog, and even a twisty snake and a whale that swims around in a bowl.

Their son's name is Z'voov, which means 'fly,' and the daughter's name is Goolgalata. Their grandma also lives in the house, and she has no name because she's so old, and no, she isn't dead, just fast asleep.

A wonderful tale in verse, full of humor, about a very special family.

Illustrations: Noa Vikhanski

Yehuda Vizan was born in 1985 in Yehud, Israel and lives in Tel Aviv. His grandparents emigrated from Tunisia, Libya and Turkey. Vizan is a poet, editor, translator and critic and is a founding editor of the literary magazine and publishing house Dehak. He served as a critic for the *Walla* internet site, *Time Out* Tel Aviv and *Haaretz*, and in the past worked as a basketball coach, construction laborer and teacher. His novel *Pekah* was awarded the Israeli Ministry of Culture Prize for debut fiction.

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PHOTO © ELIYAHU VIZAN

Nava Semel

MG

Our Candlesticks

Tel Aviv, Yedioth Ahronoth, 2018. 32 pp.

AGE: 7-10



Nava Semel (1954-2017) was born in Tel Aviv. She had an MA in art history. Semel worked as a journalist, art critic, and TV, radio and recording producer. She published novels, short stories, poetry, plays, children's books and TV scripts.

Many of her stories have been adapted for radio, film, TV and the stage in Israel, Europe and the USA. Her novel, *And the Rat Laughed*, has been made into an opera. It will also be a feature film, directed by David Fisher. Semel was on the board of governors of the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum.

Among Semel's many literary prizes: the Women Writers of the Mediterranean Award (1994), the Austrian Best Radio Drama Award (1996), the Rosenblum Prize for Stage Arts (2005), and Tel Aviv's Literary Woman of the Year (2007). Her *y/a* book, *Love for Beginners*, received the One of the Best Seven Prize awarded by Radio Germany (2010) as well as the Educators and Scientists Association Award (Germany, 2010). Rights to Semel's books have been sold abroad in 11 languages.

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For little Sheindel, the world was full of beauty. She loved picking flowers, skating on the frozen river in winter and gazing at the clouds changing their shapes in the sky. Sheindel and her family lived in a little village, a Jewish *shtetl*, in Europe. For hours on end she would watch her father the blacksmith at work, as he made different tools out of molten metal. One day he made a pair of candlesticks that came out all crooked. He wanted to scrap them, but Sheindel stopped him and said that she thought they were lovely. She lit candles in them every Sabbath eve, and never parted from them, even when she grew up, got married and had a daughter named Rochele. The candles in the crooked candlesticks lit up the little cradle and Sheindel hoped that her daughter would also learn to like things with flaws. Then there came days of darkness and evil. The Jews were driven away and herded together into a ghetto. There were no candles to light, but Sheindel and Rochele kept on blessing the light although darkness covered the earth.

Nava Semel's story is one of memory and continuity and the need to seek out beauty in a world where there is so much ugliness. Sheindel's great-granddaughter, Nava, didn't know her, but the candlesticks survived and when Nava lit them and prayed that the darkness won't return, she imagined the little girl in the *shtetl* waving at her.

Illustrations: Gilad Seliktar

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE



PHOTO © NIZAN LOTEM

Tami Shem-Tov and Rachella Sandbank

PB

Coming Home!

Tel Aviv, Keter, 2017. 31 pp.

AGE: 4-8



Tami Shem-Tov was born in Kiryat Ono, Israel, in 1969 and lives in Tel Aviv. After working as a journalist for a number of years, she now teaches creative writing at the University of Haifa and holds meetings with children. Shem-Tov has written several books for children and youth and a children's play. Her first book, *Just for Milli*, was awarded the Ze'ev Prize (1999); her second, *Matti's Orange Revolution*, has been adapted for the stage. *Letters from Nowhere* received the Yad Vashem Prize (2007), the Ze'ev Prize (2008) and the German Children's Literature Award (2010). She also received the Prime Minister's Prize (2011). Shem-Tov's latest book for youth, *I'm not a Thief*, was awarded the DafDaf Prize (2012), the Lea Goldberg Prize (2013), an Andersen Honor Citation (2014), the Public Libraries Award (2014) and the Bialik Prize (2014). Her books have been translated into eight languages.

Rachella Sandbank was born in Jerusalem. She is the editor of children and YA books at Keter Publishing, one of the leading publishing houses in Israel. She lives in Hod HaSharon.

[CLICK HERE FOR TAMI SHEM-TOV'S BOOKS ON THE ITHL WEBSITE.](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR RACHELLA SANDBANK](#)

When World War II ended, thousands of European and North African Jews became refugees and set sail for Palestine to find a home. But the British, who ruled Palestine, did not let them land and instead, sent them to a detention camp on the island of Cyprus. Little Rosa and her father spent almost a year there, surrounded by barbed wire. Before these events, Rosa had a voice like a bell, but in the camp she could no longer sing. However, there was a nice British sentry at the gate, and sometimes he let the children out to paddle in the sea.

The day that this story takes place is special: a famous singer is coming from Palestine to sing for the inmates. Her name is Shoshana Damari, later dubbed 'the Queen of Hebrew Song.' Rosa goes to the hut where the choir is rehearsing for the show. She is dying to sing but she can't utter a word. In the evening, Shoshana Damari comes on stage and sings 'Habayita'—'Homeward'. Her voice is like a bell and her curls are black, just like Rosa's. And a miracle happens: Rosa starts singing along with her and the two voices mingle. Then the audience also joins in, singing out their longing to reach the place that they can finally call home.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

Tami Shem-Tov



PHOTO © EMILIE QUIZEN

Rachella Sandbank



PHOTO © LIRON RINOT

Judith Rotem

MG

Almost as Told: Jewish Festival Tales

Tel Aviv, Kinneret, Zmora-Bitan, 2013. 120 pp.

AGE: 6-8



Judith Rotem was born in Budapest, Hungary. As a baby, she was taken on the ‘Kastner train,’ spent several months in Bergen-Belsen and then in a refugee camp in Switzerland. She arrived in pre-state Israel at age three. Later she married an ultra-Orthodox yeshiva student, and supported the family as a teacher while raising her seven children. In 1983, she divorced and left the ultra-Orthodox community, taking her children with her. She subsequently wrote and edited hi-tech publications, wrote many books and articles, and ghost-wrote a number of autobiographies for Holocaust survivors.

Rotem has published novels, short stories, non-fiction and books for children. She has been awarded the Book Publishers Association’s Gold and Platinum Prizes (2001; 2004), the Prime Minister’s Prize (2002), the Ramat Gan Prize (2010) and the Arik Einstein Prize (2014).

Selected books have been published in Italian (**Feltrinelli**), German (**Paul List**), English (**Jewish Pub. Soc. of America**) and Hungarian (**Mult es Jovi**).

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Why is Yohanan, Nevo’s dad, hiding in a cave? How did Nevo find a small jar of oil in the Temple in Jerusalem, and how is that connected to the candles that we light at Hanukkah? What happens when King Ahasuerus has insomnia, and how was the wicked Haman’s mischief foiled? What did Miriam reveal to Moses by the Nile? What bold plan did Naomi and Ruth devise? And how is the Book of Ruth connected to the festival of Shavuot? Or: why do we turn our pockets inside out on Rosh Hashanah and then feel as light as a feather?

This book tells the beautiful stories of the Jewish festivals as relayed from generation to generation over the centuries. Judith Rotem rewrites these tales in a fresh, up-to-date light and helps her readers to identify with the heroes and the children of that time. “I have tried to bring the past closer to the present through the brave, clever children who are the heroes,” Rotem writes in the introduction. “The stories can be told like this, because the festivals belong to all of us.”

Illustrations: Racheli Shalev



PHOTO © DAN FORGES

Tami Shem-Tov

PB

Grandpa Sabich

Or Yehuda, Kinneret Zmora-Bitan, 2017. 40 pp.
AGE: 4-7

"Grandpa, why did your parents name you after a dish?" twins Keren and Or ask their Grandpa Sabich. Join them on a journey that begins in Iraq and ends in a small kiosk in Ramat Gan, and you will discover the answer as well.

Sabich is a sandwich made from fried eggplants, hard-boiled egg and *tabini*. This story goes back to the roots of this dish where we discover that the word *sabich* comes from the name of the man who brought the Iraqi dish to Israel and sold it from his kiosk. At first, customers used to say, "Sabich, give me a plate", but soon it changed to "give me a plate of *sabich*", and so the name of the man became the name of the dish. The book tells this personal, but also very public story, and shows how food becomes intertwined in our lives through characters, immigration, chance and appetite.

Tami Shem-Tov, whose children and youth books have won numerous prizes and have been translated into several languages, dedicated this book to her father, Sabich. Her story, about a family, interweaves the colorful texture of Israeli society. Through it, the readers learn about the *Aliyah* and the absorption of immigrants in the early days of the State of Israel.

Illustrations: Shimrit Elkanati



Tami Shem-Tov was born in Kiryat Ono, Israel, in 1969, and lives in Tel Aviv. After working as a journalist for a number of years, she now teaches creative writing at the University of Haifa and holds meetings with children. Shem-Tov has written several books for children and youth and a children's play. Her first book, *Just for Milli*, was awarded the Ze'ev Prize (1999); her second, *Matti's Orange Revolution*, has been adapted for the stage. *Letters from Nowhere* received the Yad Vashem Prize (2007), the Ze'ev Prize (2008) and the German Children's Literature Award (2010). She also received the Prime Minister's Prize (2011). Shem-Tov's latest book for youth, *I'm not a Thief*, was awarded the DafDaf Prize (2012), the Lea Goldberg Prize (2013), an Andersen Honor Citation (2014) the Public Libraries Award (2014) and the Bialik Prize (2014). Her books have been translated into eight languages.

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PHOTO © EMILIE QUZEN

Ori Elon

PB

A Basket Full of Figs

Tel Aviv, Tchelet Books, 2017. 24 pp.

AGE: 6-9



Ori Elon was born in Kibbutz Shluhot, in Northern Israel, in 1981, and graduated from the Ma'aleh School of Television, Film and the Arts in Jerusalem. He is the co-creator and writer of the critically acclaimed television drama *Shtisel*, now on Netflix. The series won 17 Israeli Academy Awards, including best series and best screenplay. He was also a co-writer of the drama series *Srugim*, the mini-series *Autonomous* and the comedy *The Choir*. As an author, he wrote *Invisible Show*, which won him the Israeli Ministry of Culture Award for Debut Novels, as well as several children's books including *King Gogle*, *In The Z'akrobat* and *The Chickens that Were Turned into Goats*.

When the Emperor Hadrian rides into the village on his horse, the people hide in fear. All except for one: an old man who is almost a hundred years old. He comes outside to plant a fig tree.

Hadrian stops his horse. "What are you doing?" he asks the old man. "That tree is so small and you're so old! You won't live long enough to eat its fruit!" "Well," the old man replies, "If I don't, then my children will eat them!"

Three years later, Hadrian returns. Meeting the old man again, he is surprised to see that the tree has grown and is covered in figs. The old man's prophecy of gifts for future generations has come true!

Recreating one of the Midrash's most beautiful tales, *A Basket of Figs* teaches the importance of caring for the environment and consideration for our fellow human beings.

Foreign rights sold: English (**Green Bean Books**); Spanish (**PJ Library**); Russian (**Knizhniki**).



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Ori Elon

PB

At Jakrobat's Market

Jerusalem, Keter, 2015. 26 pp.

AGE: 5-7



Most of the week, from dawn to dusk, Yosef repairs shoes. But on Friday, as the Sabbath nears, his happiness soars sky-high and everyone in Jakrobat knows there isn't a happier or tastier Friday night dinner than that of Yosef, who loves the Sabbath.

Everyone in Jakrobat is happy except Baltosar, the richest person in town, who's scared someone will steal his silver coins.

At Jakrobat's Market is an enchanting fable about poverty and wealth, and happiness too, in modern dress and full of humor and color.

Foreign rights sold: English (**Green Bean Books**).

Ori Elon was born in Kibbutz Shluhot, in Northern Israel, in 1981, and graduated from the Ma'aleh School of Television, Film and the Arts in Jerusalem. He is the co-creator and writer of the critically acclaimed television drama *Shtisel*, now on Netflix. The series won 17 Israeli Academy Awards, including best series and best screenplay. He was also a co-writer of the drama series *Srugim*, the mini-series *Autonomous* and the comedy *The Choir*. As an author, he wrote *Invisible Show*, which won him the Israeli Ministry of Culture Award for Debut Novels, as well as several children's books including *King Gogle*, *In The Z'akrobat* and *The Chickens that Were Turned into Goats*.



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Born in Israel in 1976, mother of six **Tamar Meir** holds degrees in Talmud and Jewish philosophy, and a PhD in literature from Bar-Ilan University. She currently serves as head of the Literature Department at the Givat Washington College of Education and teaches Aggadah at Efrata College and at Bar-Ilan University. Meir is also member and head of various Ministry of Education committees responsible for the literature curricula at schools and kindergartens. In addition to her academic and literary work, Meir is a social activist, empowering women in the religious community. Tamar established and heads the 'Kulana' women's Beit Midrash, and is a member of the Board of Rabbis of Beit Hillel, an Orthodox rabbinical organization that also includes women in its ranks.

Francesco Tirelli's Ice Cream Store, Meir's first children's book, was awarded the Yad Vashem Prize (2017).

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Tamar Meir

PB

Francesco Tirelli's Ice Cream Store

Tel Aviv, Keter, 2017. 32 pp.

AGE: 5-8

When Francesco Tirelli was a young boy he loved ice cream, and at least once a day he would find a reason to pass by his uncle's ice cream wagon, where he would be given an ice cream full of different flavors by his uncle. When Francesco grew up he still loved ice cream, even when he moved from Italy to Budapest in Hungary. But there he couldn't find anything that tasted like his uncle's ice cream, so he decided to open an ice cream store so that the children in Budapest could also enjoy delicious Italian ice cream. One of these children was a boy called Peter, who loved Francesco's ice cream so much that he would come to the store every day.

Then war broke out, and the Germans invaded Hungary. Peter's family was in grave danger because they were Jewish. Francesco had a brave idea: he decided to help them and other Jews. He hid them in his store the whole winter, until the war was over. That is how Francesco Tirelli saved the lives of Peter and his Jewish neighbors.

With humor, Tamar Meir has written a story about a good man, who despite all the evil around him rose up and performed a moral deed, choosing to save people when they were in trouble. The book is based on a true story that the writer heard from her father-in-law, who was the little boy whose life Francesco saved.

Illustrations: Yael Albert

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

Foreign rights sold: English (**Kar-Ben/Lerner**); Italian (**Galluci**); Czech (**Prah**); Russian (**Knizhniki**); Hungarian (**Infopoly**).



PHOTO © SHAHAR TAMIR

Iris Argaman

PB

Bear and Fred

Tel Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2016. 43 pp.

AGE: 6-8



Iris Argaman was born in 1967 in Ashdod, Israel, and now lives in Givatayim. She has a BA in comparative literature and education from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and an MA in literature from Tel Aviv University. She is director of children's literature at the Karev Project for Educational Involvement, a nationwide enrichment program for disadvantaged children. Argaman is also a lecturer on children's literature, holds writing workshops for the young and writes activity books for kids which promote museum education. She has published eight books for children.

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“Once upon a time, in a faraway land called Holland, in a city called Delft, I was Fred’s teddy bear.” Thus begins the tale of a teddy bear who was Fred’s best friend. Fred was a little Jewish boy who had to leave his home and his parents, and live in hiding during the Second World War.

The story is told from the point of view of Bear who doesn’t quite grasp what is going on. But he senses that something bad is happening and is scared that Fred will forget him. But Fred never parts from his only friend. First, they go to Grandpa in Amsterdam, where Fred is warned not to tell anyone who he is. Bear doesn’t get it: Has Fred done something wrong? And what is the yellow star that Grandpa has sewn onto his friend’s coat? And then, living with Grandpa also becomes dangerous, and Fred is given to a strange family. He hides out with them until the war is over, and all this time Bear makes sure to look after him. The two do not part even after Fred is reunited with his family and the world isn’t a scary place anymore.

This is the true story of Fred Lessing, who moved with his family to the USA after the war. Even after he grew up and had his own family, he kept Bear as a reminder of what he had been through. Many years later he gave him to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem, so that other children could learn about their story.

Illustrations: Avi Ofer

Foreign rights sold: Italian (**Galluci**); French (**Chandeigne**); Spanish (**Santillana**, Mexico); Russian (**Knizhniki**) English (**AmazonCrossing Kids**)



PHOTO © REUVEN KOPITCHINSKI

Alona Frankel,

author and illustrator

PB

Why Joshua's Name Is Joshua

Tel Aviv, Modan, 2009. 46 pp.

AGES 3-5

Joshua's Mom, who is well known to readers from previous books, explains where Joshua's name came from, and tells the story of her family that disappeared in the Holocaust.

Joshua and his little family live in a world where everyone is considered equal. Without scaring him or making him anxious, Joshua's Mom tells him about a very different time when there were good people and bad people in the world and not everyone was considered equal. Looking through the family photo album, Joshua learns about the history of his family and starts to appreciate the calm, secure surrounding in which he lives. And he discovers that he is named after his mother's grandfather, who was nice and had curly hair—just like him.

In a calm tone, Frankel conveys her personal view of one of the most terrible times in history, and offers her young readers an understated version of its events, adapted to their age and understanding.

Alona Frankel's illustrations are especially beautiful and sensitive in this book.



Alona Frankel was born in 1937 in Cracow, Poland. She spent World War II as a small child in the Lvov Ghetto and after its liquidation, in hiding—first alone, later with her parents. She immigrated to Israel with her family in 1949. Frankel studied art at the Avni Institute. Now a bestselling children's author and illustrator, she has written and illustrated over 30 children's books, in addition to illustrating dozens of books by other authors. Her work has been exhibited both in Israel and abroad. Frankel has won numerous prizes for children's literature, including an Andersen Honor Citation. She has also received the Sapir Prize (2005) and the Buchman Prize (2005). Frankel's books have been published abroad in 11 languages.

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PHOTO © YAIR LEAN

Ephraim Sidon

INCLUDED IN PJ LIBRARY

PB

David and the Spider

Tel Aviv, Keter, 2017. 24 pp.

AGE: 5-8



Ephraim Sidon was born in Tel Aviv in 1946, and was a member of Kibbutz Nir Yitzhak for a number of years. He majored in history and theater at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Since 1972, Sidon has written weekly satirical columns in various major newspapers. He writes for the theater, and has written for a wide variety of TV programs, including drama, entertainment and satire. Sidon has published many books for children, a number of which have been adapted for the stage. He was awarded the Bialik Prize (2004), the ASSITEJ Israel Award for Lifetime Achievement in the field of Children and Youth Theater (2016) and the Lifetime Achievement Prize for Television from the Israeli Academy of Film and Television (2016).

Sidon's books for children have been published in Spanish and Arabic.

When King David was still a small boy he enjoyed walking through the fields, shepherding his flock and viewing nature. He was thrilled to see how each living creature gave something to the world: bees made honey, sheep grew soft wool. Until he came across a spider. "Why was he created?" David wondered, finding nothing useful in the spider's web. God replied to him that everything in creation had its purpose, and that the day would come when David would see that the spider also had its role.

Years went by and David became a hero who had saved his people. King Saul was envious of him, and feared for his throne. He set out to hunt David and his followers down. One day during the chase David was hiding in a cave but Saul and his soldiers tracked him and were getting closer. David's life was in danger. Who came to his rescue? A small spider quickly spun a web across the entrance to the cave. Saul and his soldiers didn't bother to brush it aside and go into the cave, because they took the spider's web as a sign that no one had entered it. That's how David realized that the spider, like all other creatures, can be useful, and he immediately thanked it and said he was sorry for doubting that.

Ephraim Sidon has put to rhyme a Jewish legend from the Talmud which teaches that everything has its place on the face of the earth.

Illustrations: Danny Kerman



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Yona Tepper

PB

The Oil Lamp of Uri and Uriah

Tel Aviv, Sifriat Poalim, 2016. 30 pp.

AGE: 5-8



Yona Tepper was born at Kibbutz Dafna in 1941 and studied education and creative drama. She taught for many years and later became school principal. She is currently editor for children and youth at Hakibbutz Hameuchad Publishing House. Tepper has published many books for children and youth. She has been awarded the Prime Minister's Prize (2001), the Ze'ev Prize twice (1995; 2005) an IBBY Honor Citation (2007), the Israel Ministry of Science and Culture Award (2008) and the Devorah Omer Prize for Lifetime Achievement (2015).

Tepper's books have been translated into English, German, Arabic and Korean. *Who Is Passing By?* was published in English by **Kane & Miller** to great acclaim.

For his birthday, Uri asks to be taken to the dig where his father, an archaeologist, works: Uri dreams of discovering treasure. The two work together: Dad digs and Uri removes the dirt with a small brush. Suddenly, Uri sees something poking out of the ground. "Uri, you've found a treasure," says Dad, "an ancient oil lamp from the time of Bar Kochba!" This special oil lamp is decorated with an image of the menorah that stood in the Temple in Jerusalem. Dad asks Uri to close his eyes, and he tells him the story of the oil lamp. Uri imagines that he is back in the times of the Bar Kochba revolt against the Roman Empire, almost two thousand years ago. Back then, a boy by the name of Uriah lived in the house where Uri and his father are now working. Uriah's father, a potter, made oil lamps out of clay. One day, a messenger came from Bar Kochba and gave Uriah's father a mold of the menorah. His father made lamps for the entire village and at night their light gave the villagers hope. "I saw it all," says Uri when his father has finished the story. He insists that he even met Bar Kochba, who had come mounted on a lion and had asked him to ride along with him. "If you rode a lion thanks to the little lamp," says his father with a smile, "you must really have found a treasure."

Illustrations: Moran Yogev



PHOTO © DAN FORGES

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Tamar Bergman

MG

Sunbirds at My Window

Tel Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 1999. 74 pp.

AGE: 8-11



Tamar Bergman (1939–2016) was born in Tel Aviv. As a child, she lived in a kibbutz, and later moved to Jerusalem with her family. After completing her BA in English and French at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, she was awarded a scholarship to the Sorbonne in Paris, where she studied modern French literature. She wrote numerous radio scripts for children, as well as books for young readers and one biographical novel. *Along the Tracks* was named a ‘Notable Children’s Trade Book’ by the US Children’s Book Council and was included in the 1991 Bulletin Blue Ribbon list. Bergman won several awards, including the Ze’ev Prize twice (1989; 2000).

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The life of birds is as fascinating as it is beautiful. This is what young Alon learns from his dear friend, his elderly neighbor, Ina, who has turned her kitchen window into a bird feeding station. Alon, who is particularly fond of the colorful sunbirds, invites his classmates to visit the feeding station and hopes that Galit will be interested in the birds, because he really likes her. Perhaps Galit’s interest will influence her father who wants the feeding station removed from the building because the birds dirty his lawn. The children in the class are very excited, and Galit offers to help Alon care for the birds. It looks as if everything has worked out well and Galit’s father isn’t in a bad mood any more, but then Ina suddenly falls ill and dies. However, Alon is comforted by her request that he take over the feeding station. Together, Alon and Galit care for birds that come to feed.

A beautiful tale about intergenerational friendship, dedication and fellowship. The bird feeding station unites around it neighbors and friends and shows that humans and animals can co-exist.

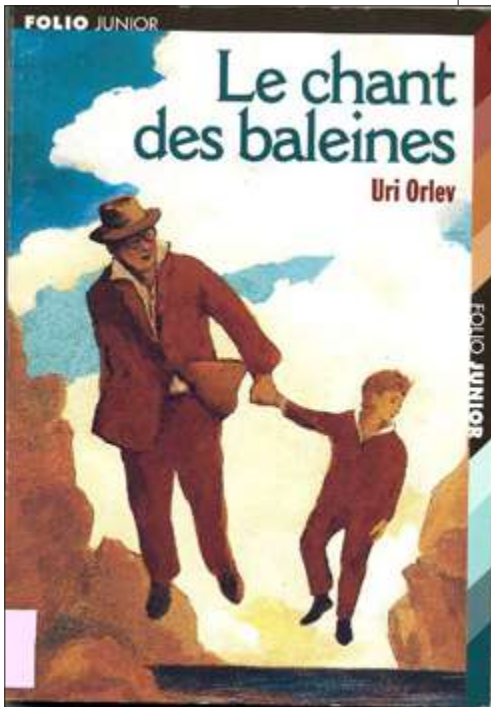
Illustrations: Christina Kadmon

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

Published in Japanese (**Fuzambo**).



PHOTO © ZEEV BERGMAN



Uri Orlev was born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1931 and spent the early years of World War II in the Warsaw Ghetto. His father was captured by the Russians and saw his sons again only in 1954 in Israel; his mother was killed by the Nazis. After being smuggled out of the ghetto and hidden by Polish families, Orlev and his younger brother were sent to Bergen-Belsen. They were freed two years later and immigrated to pre-state Israel.

Orlev has published over 30 books for children and youth, as well as fiction for adults. He also writes radio and TV scripts, and is a translator from Polish to Hebrew. His books have been translated into 38 languages. Amongst Orlev's many literary awards both in Israel and abroad: the Hans Christian Andersen Author Award (1996), the Yad Vashem Bruno Brandt Award (1997), the Ze'ev Prize for Lifetime Achievement (2002), the Andersen Award (Italy, 2003), the Premio Cento (Italy, 2003), the Best Audio Book for Youth (Germany, 2006) – the last three prizes for *Run, Boy, Run*, the Bialik Prize (2006), the Devorah Omer Prize for *The Island of Bird Street* (2014), the Devorah Omer Prize for Lifetime Achievement (2016) and the Book Publishers Association's Gold and Platinum Prizes several times.

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Uri Orlev

MG

The Song of the Whales

Jerusalem, Keter, 1997. 90 pp.

AGE: 8 UP

This unique story deals with the special relationship between grandfather and grandson. Michael is a rather solitary only child who loves spending time with his grandfather. Grandfather's house is very special: it contains all sorts of works of art and antiques. In the basement there is a wide variety of tools because Grandfather is good with his hands. When Grandfather becomes frail, he sells his house and moves in with his son's family. Through the eyes of the boy, we find out about all the unpleasant undercurrents regarding money and inheritance, not to mention details about Grandfather's housekeeper who, it is rumored, was once his lover.

The bond between Michael and his grandfather veers to the mystical when the elderly man starts taking his grandson along with him at night in his dreams. The two fly off together, sharing strange, wonderful and sometimes frightening experiences. In one dream, two grandfathers appear and Michael does not know who to turn to. Later, Grandfather explains that one is his good side and the other his bad side. Michael is clearly shaken by this dream. When Grandfather dies, he leaves Michael a mystical legacy which will bind the two forever.

Illustrations: Michel Kishka

Published in French (**Gallimard**), Italian (**Feltrinelli**), Spanish (**Playco**), Dutch (**Fontein**), English (**Houghton Mifflin, USA**), Serbian (**Book & Marco**), Japanese (**Iwanami**) and Chinese (**Jiangsu Children's, China**).



PHOTO © DAN FORGES

Ronit Chacham and Tamar Verete-Zehavi



Monn's Rebellion

Bnei Brak, Hakibbutz Hameuchad/ Sifriat Poalim, 2018. 227 pp.

AGE: 12 UP



The idea for *Monn's Rebellion* was born while the two authors were on their way to a meeting with students at a school in Shlomi, a remote, small town in the Galilee. Ronit suggested to Tamar that they compile a lexicon of social terms, such as fraternity, protest, uprising, strike, equality, and more. Tamar was eager to do it, and the two began working. Because they both love making up stories, they wove the words of the lexicon together into Monn's tale, and turned it into a gripping book. The two say that the more Monn's adventures began piling up, the more exciting it was to write.

Monn, a mute outcast of a girl, dressed in rags, sparks a great rebellion against an exploitative, oppressive government. In the dark of night, she takes a piece of charcoal and writes on the walls of the shacks the forbidden words—"brotherly love."

The words seep into the hearts of the downtrodden, intimidated people of the kingdom, and they decide to disobey its unfair laws. They strike, protest, march, chant slogans and break into the king's palace, with children in the lead. Will they manage to make a change, or will the cruel regime crush the rebellion?

This is the tale of Monn's struggle against oppression, humiliation, hunger and cold. She steps forward to help her family and gains freedom and love.

Ronit Chacham was born in Israel in 1950 and studied English literature and philosophy at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She has worked as an editor, has taught drama and puppetry to children and adults, and has developed educational programs. She currently produces and directs street theater events and community theater. Chacham has published over 30 books for children and a novel for adults, as well as plays and TV scripts for children. Her book, *Five Wacky Witches* (Carnegie Hill Press), won the Israel Museum Prize (1994) and was included in the anthology *The Best Children's Books in the World* published by Abrams, New York.

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Tamar Verete-Zehavi was born in 1959 in Jerusalem, where she now lives with her family. She studied education, psychology and psychoanalysis at the University of Paris VII where she received a Ph.D for her study of socio-political images in children. Verete-Zehavi has worked for many years in Education-for-Tolerance between Jews and Arabs. Together with Abedalsalam Yunis, she has published two bilingual children's books, and has won – together with him – the Jerusalem Foundation Award for Furthering Tolerance in the city. Verete-Zehavi was also awarded an Andersen Honor Citation (2016). Her book, *Aftersbock*, has been published in German (**Bertelsmann/cbt**) and Italian (**Sonda**).

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PHOTO © DAN FORGES

Amalia Rosenblum

YA

The Sheep with a Black Spot

Tel Aviv, Kinneret Zmora-Bitan, 2014. 284 pp.

AGE: 12 UP



Amalia Rosenblum was born in New York in 1974 and grew up in Tel Aviv. She spent the 1990s in New York. A writer, journalist and screenwriter, she has an MA in philosophy and another in anthropology from New School University, New York. She is currently completing her PhD in psychology. At present Rosenblum teaches at the Tel Aviv College of Management. She also writes regularly for the Israeli press, in particular literary reviews for *Haaretz*; she also writes for women's and parenting magazines. Her screenplays for *Holy for Me* and *Run* have won awards at the Chicago, Mannheim and Jerusalem festivals. *Where the Village Road Ends*, her second book, won the Ze'ev Prize for Children's Literature (2007).

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Lily is a gifted child from a good home. Her mother is an artist, her father manages an up and coming bakery, and both are busy searching for themselves. Lily is gifted at solving math problems, she's interested in astronomy, loves literature and art, and is in love with her teacher.

But one day, her parents tell her that they are separating, and her life turns upside down. In a moment of distress, she adopts an old sheep with a black spot on its forehead and starts believing that it has supernatural powers. It is intelligent, understands what she says and gives her advice. With its help, Lily hopes to get her parents back together and also to impress her teacher. But looking after her mysterious guest gets complicated, and Lily seeks help from Zohar, a good-looking, shifty street kid, who is a tattoo artist and has secrets of his own. The two become friends, but Lily's life continues its downward path. She gets caught up in secrets and lies, but her parents are too busy with their own crisis to see what is happening.

How far will Lily go with her cover-ups and fantasies before the people around her notice that something has gone wrong?

A brilliant book, moving and full of humor, that boldly tackles the difficulties of adolescence and the problems of people who feel like outsiders.

PARTIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

Published in German (**Beltz & Gelberg**).



PHOTO © NAAMA ZEEV RIVLIN

Nurit Zarchi

MG

A Feel for Business

Tel Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 1998. 43 pp.

AGE: 8-10



Nurit Zarchi was born in Jerusalem in 1941 and grew up at Kibbutz Geva. She studied psychology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and later literature and philosophy at Tel Aviv University. Zarchi has worked as a journalist and holds creative writing workshops for children and adults.

Zarchi has published novels, short stories, poetry, a collection of essays and over 100 books for children. She has received every major Israeli award for children and youth literature as well as for her poetry, including the Prime Minister's Prize twice (1980; 1991), the Ze'ev Prize (five times), four IBBY Honor Citations (1980; 1984; 1998; 2004), the Bialik Prize (1999), the Education Minister's Prize for Lifetime Achievement (2005) the Amichai Prize (2007), the Ramat Gan Prize (2010), the Lea Goldberg Prize (2011), the Landau Prize for Poetry (2013), the Devorah Omer Prize for Lifetime Achievement (2014), the Arik Einstein Prize (2015) and the Israel Center for Educational Innovation Award for Lifetime Achievement (2016).

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Ma'ayan is not one of those sweet little girls who spend their time playing with dolls. She is practical, and she thinks young girls have a role to play in the adult world. Ma'ayan is proud of the business sense she has inherited from her father. Recently, her father has been having financial problems. "How can I help him?" Ma'ayan wonders. Then she comes up with an original plan. She'll sell their most valuable possession, her younger sister, who everyone likes so much... No need to worry, the potential buyers are family friends but no one can believe that Ma'ayan is serious. In the meantime, her mother also thinks of a plan. She will sell all the antiques that her grandmother brought to Israel from Germany. But Ma'ayan's 'business sense' tells her to save a small chest, and in one of the drawers she finds a book, listing all of the family members and their birth dates. Ma'ayan understands that family members are not to be sold.

Published in French (**L'Ecole des Loisirs**), Spanish (**SM Spain**; **SM Peru**) and Portuguese (**SM**, Brazil).



PHOTO © DAN FORGES

Tamar Verete-Zehavi

YA

Rosie's Song

Rishon LeZion, Yedioth Aharonoth, 2017. 176 pp.

AGE: 10 UP



Tamar Verete-Zehavi was born in 1959 in Jerusalem, where she now lives with her family. She studied education, psychology and psychoanalysis at the University of Paris VII where she received a Ph.D for her study of socio-political images in children. Verete-Zehavi has worked for many years in Education-for-Tolerance between Jews and Arabs. Together with Abedalsalam Yunis, she has published two bilingual children's books, and has won – together with him – the Jerusalem Foundation Award for Furthering Tolerance in the city. Verete-Zehavi was also awarded an Andersen Honor Citation (2016).

Her book, *Aftersbock*, has been published in German (**Bertelsmann/cbt**) and Italian (**Sonda**).

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Rosie is angry. Angry at the people all around who don't understand her; at the disease that has struck her mother; at her brother who has changed his name from Morris to the Hebrew Mor and joined the military and left her to cope all on her own; at manipulative Michaela who wants to become a star at any price; at Mish, the guy she's in love with but who only chews her up and spits her out. And more than anything, she's angry because she isn't acknowledged for the brilliant songs that she writes for a promising young pop combo.

A chance encounter takes her from Jerusalem to a place that is nearby but so very far from her own reality—the West Bank city of Hebron. She becomes friends with two women: Emuna, a Jewish settler and Sana, a Palestinian Arab, and she becomes acquainted with the hatred and anger that saturate the area.

In a suspenseful and moving plot and in language that is both up-to-date and poetic, Verete-Zehavi describes Rosie's remarkable journey, a journey that will lead her to the discovery of her own true song.



PHOTO © DAN FORGES



Ronit Matalon (1959-2017) was born in Ganei Tikva, Israel, to a family of Egyptian-Jewish descent. She studied literature and philosophy at Tel Aviv University. Matalon worked as a journalist for Israel TV and for the daily *Haaretz*, covering Gaza and the West Bank during the First Intifada. She also worked as a critic and book reviewer for *Haaretz*. She was senior lecturer in Hebrew and comparative literature at Haifa University and taught creative writing there as well as at the Sam Spiegel Film School in Jerusalem. Three of Matalon's books have been bestsellers in Israel, and her children's story, *A Story that Begins with a Snake's Funeral*, was made into a movie. Her novella, *Snow*, was published in 2019.

Matalon received the Prime Minister's Prize (1994), the prestigious Bernstein Prize (2009), the Neuman Prize (2010), the Prix Alberto-Benveniste (France, 2013) for *The Sound of Our Steps*, the EMET prize (2016) and the Brenner Prize for *And the Bride Closed the Door* (2017). In 2010, she received an Honorary Doctorate from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

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Ronit Matalon

YA

A Story that Begins with a Snake's Funeral

Tel Aviv, Dvir, 1979; 1994. 168 pp.

AGE: 12 UP

In this story of many beginnings and no dead-ends, Ronit Matalon creates three protagonists so spirited and entertaining that each is a picaresque hero in his own right. First there is Benjamin, who saves his schoolmate from a poisonous snake and becomes a legend in his small town outside Tel Aviv. He is also known for jumping off the water tower, putting together a four-person bicycle, and bribing the mailman to give him—and not his mother—the letters his father sends. Benjamin's sister Margalit, 11, is tempestuous; when she is happy she writes rhapsodies to her cousin signed “your loving and ever-loyal cousin.” When she is sad she runs to her grandmother, Madame Rachelle, who cheers her up: “What can you do? Today he wants the Lebanese girl, tomorrow he'll want you.” Madame Rachelle is the star of this story. It is largely thanks to her—the way she gives her hand to be kissed when she meets a gentleman at an ice-cream parlor, the North-African French she speaks—that the book owes its piquant Mediterranean charm. With her endless store of aphorisms and stories, Madame Rachelle is ready for any challenge, and her grandchildren's escapades show that they take after her. Benjamin and Margalit run off to Tel Aviv to look for their dog, and come home empty-handed. Yet their adventure includes a night with a family of Arab fishermen and lunch with a fanciful importer of multilingual parrots—their father, of course. Matalon describes the children's losses—of their dog, their money, their father—without sentimentality, showing instead how enthusiasm and imagination can turn any dilemma into an adventure.

A book full of theatrical humor written in Matalon's unique musical language—a rare gem of beauty and integrity.

Illustrations: Ruth Tzarfati

Published in German
(**Carl Hanser**).



PHOTO © IRIS NESHER

Reuven Miran

YA

Anna and the Hunters

Tel Aviv, Nahar Books, 2009. 80 pp.

AGE 12 UP



Reuven Miran was born in Kfar Saba, Israel, in 1944 and now lives in Binyamina. He received his MA in philosophy from the Sorbonne and has written novels, stories and film scripts. He is also a translator of French literature. Miran has received the Tel Aviv Foundation Award (1985), the Prime Minister's Prize (1986), the BBC World Service Prize, the ACUM Prize for Literary Achievement (1995), the French Ministry of Culture Award for promoting French culture in Israel (2003) and the Ostana Prize (Italy, 2011). In 2003, Miran founded Nahar Books, a new Israeli publishing house devoted to classic humanistic texts on freedom and human dignity.

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Anna, a 13-year-old girl, lives—or rather hides—in a basement in Tel Aviv. She lives in fear of being thrown out of the country even though she was born in Israel and Hebrew is her mother tongue. But because her parents came from far away, she is considered a ‘migrant worker,’ a foreigner.

Her father has already been deported: arrested on the street, imprisoned and then put on a plane leaving the country. So Anna does not go out and tries to make as little noise as possible. Her mother leaves for work early each morning, under cover of darkness, despite her fear of the ‘hunters’—the deportation police. And Anna stays alone, with just a radio and a little night light that cannot be seen from the street.

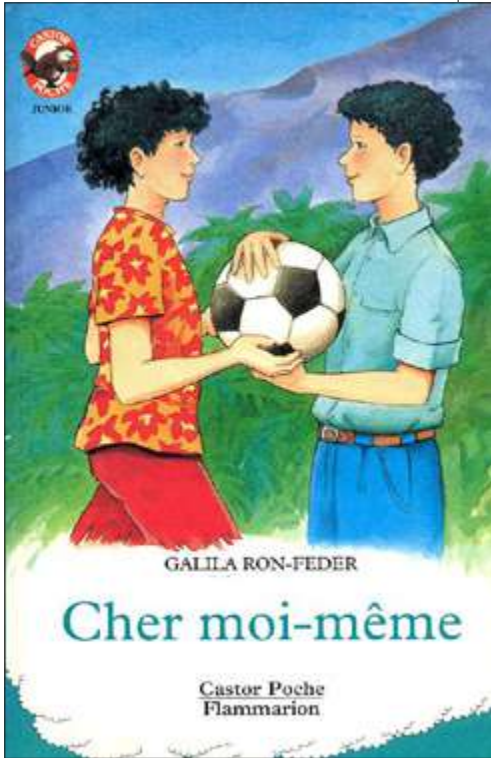
So as not to feel too lonely, she climbs up on the bed and peeks out through a little skylight. She sees the legs of passersby and tries to imagine what the people look like.

Anna thinks about her situation and in her innocent way raises difficult moral questions about Israel's policy towards foreign workers. As the author puts it, this book is intended for “every reader who seeks to live in a better, more just society.”

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE



PHOTO © SHOSHI MIRAN



Galila Ron-Feder-Amit was born in Haifa in 1949. She has a degree in biblical studies and Hebrew literature from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. For seven years she was foster-mother to 10 children from broken homes, and she recorded her experiences in a fictional series that was broadcast on radio and adapted for the stage and TV. The film, *To Myself*, won First Prize at the Frankfurt Children's Film Festival. In 1972, she founded a children's nature magazine. She has also been the editor of a science magazine for young readers and editor of a children's magazine. Ron-Feder-Amit has published six novels for adults and about 400 books for children and youth, many of which have been broadcast, filmed and serialized in children's and teen magazines. She received the Publishers Association's Gold and Platinum Prizes (2006; 2008; 2011), the World Zionist Organization Award for Lifetime Achievement and Social Involvement (2008) and the Devorah Omer Prize (2015).

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Galila Ron-Feder-Amit

YA

To Myself

Zion Series; Nir Sharoni Series; Batya Series (30 books)

Tel Aviv, Milo, 1976-2002.

AGE: 11-14

After his parents abandoned him, teenage Tsion grew up with his grandmother in a poor neighborhood and started going round with young delinquents. Now he's been placed in foster-care with the Sharoni family, and he tells his story. At first, Tsion behaves badly. He finds the Sharoni's middle-class life strange, and he sneers at their studious, musical son Nir. But slowly he grows to like and admire their cultivated life. A visit home sets him back, because his old friends make fun of him. Finally, he runs away and meets Batya, a free spirit who offers him comfort and friendship.

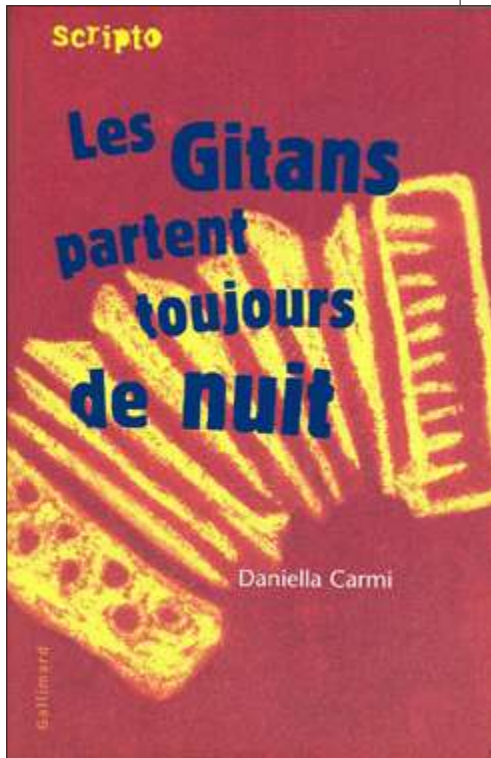
The screen adaptation of *To Myself* won first prize at both the Frankfurt and Vienna Children's Film Festivals.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

Published in English (**Adama**), French (**Flammarion**), German (**Beltz & Gelberg**), Italian (**Piemme**), Spanish (**SM**), Chinese (**China Juvenile & Children**), Japanese (**Ca et La**), Korean (**Kyelim**) and Serbian (**Book & Marco**).



PHOTO © DAN FORGES



Daniella Carmi was born in Tel Aviv. She studied philosophy and communications at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and writes drama, screenplays and books for adults, children and youth. Her y/a book, *Samir and Yonatan*, was awarded an Honorable Mention from UNESCO for Children and Young People's Literature in the Service of Tolerance (1997), the Berlin Prize for Best Children's Book in Translation (1997), the Silver Quill Award (Germany, 1997), the Batchelder Award for Best Translated Book by the American Library Association (2001), and the Italian WIZO Prize (2003). Carmi has also received first prize at The Acco Festival for her play *Artane* (1998), the Prime Minister's Prize twice (1999; 2010), the ACUM Prize (2002) and the Ramat Gan Prize for *Where Do Grandpas Fly?* (2015). In 2007, her story *A Lady Hippopotamus on the Roof* was performed at the Haifa Children's Theater Festival. Carmi has been nominated for the Astrid Lindgren Prize in 2008. Her books have been translated into 18 languages.

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Daniella Carmi

YA

To Be the Daughter of a Gypsy

Tel Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 1996. 143 pp.

AGE: 10-14

Amid the harsh reality of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a warm and affectionate relationship starts up between two Israeli girls and a young Palestinian man. The narrator of this extraordinary story is Taliah, a problem girl who is sent to a home for special children. The children she meets there are a collection of misfits, but many of them have brilliant fantasies. By far the greatest dreamer is Becky, a strong-willed girl whose fiery imagination charms the narrator and readers alike. Becky's ambition is to have a 'permanent father,' and when she hears gypsy music coming from Kami's ice-cream van, she latches onto the young Arab man from the Gaza Strip. Becky imagines that Kami will rescue her but he himself is lonely and trapped, sleeping in the locked van at night, far from his family and home.

The girls lose Kami twice: first when he says goodbye and returns to Gaza, and then when he is killed in a terrorist incident.

Illustrations: Hilla Havkin

Published in French (**Gallimard**), German (**Carl Hanser**), Italian (**Mondadori**) and Dutch (**Fontein**).



PHOTO © SHAI ZAKAI