



New Books for Children from Israel

Spring 2022



Cover illustration by David Polonsky
From: Shira Geffen, *A Moonless Night*
Ami Oved, 2016. All rights reserved. © David Polonsky

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New Books for Children from Israel Spring 2022

Dear Reader,

For most of us, childhood is a sealed room at the end of a long corridor, or a box of broken toys half-forgotten under the bed. Our childhood lives on inside us, but it seems we can't remember the way to its realm: Occasionally we stumble upon an old toy or linger on a dream. Sometimes we even try the key—but it seems that someone has changed the lock without notifying us and when we try to listen behind the closed door the music stops.

And sometimes, unburdened by the toil of the quest, we read a loved book to a child heroically holding back sleep or peeking behind another child's shoulder as he dives into a different world, and suddenly we're there. As a great children's book reunites us with our childhood which is always there, ever-green and vibrant with life, a mother-tongue preserved through all its translations. The fears, the dreams, the hurried oaths—they are all there like a book we unwillingly put down because someone knocks on the door.

The books we wish to share with you display a variety of traditions and styles, but they all work the same miracle: In each one, children find another map leading to treasure they have already drawn while you weren't looking; for you they will be messages in a bottle—leaving you wondering which fog-enshrouded shore they came from, as you identify your own signature between the lines.

Sigalit Gelfand, CEO • **Oded Wolkstein, Literary Editor**

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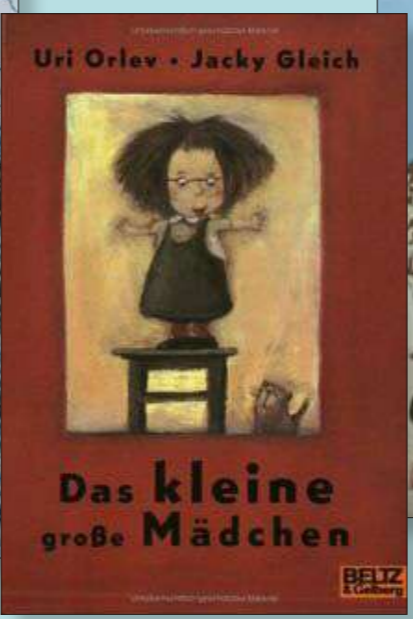
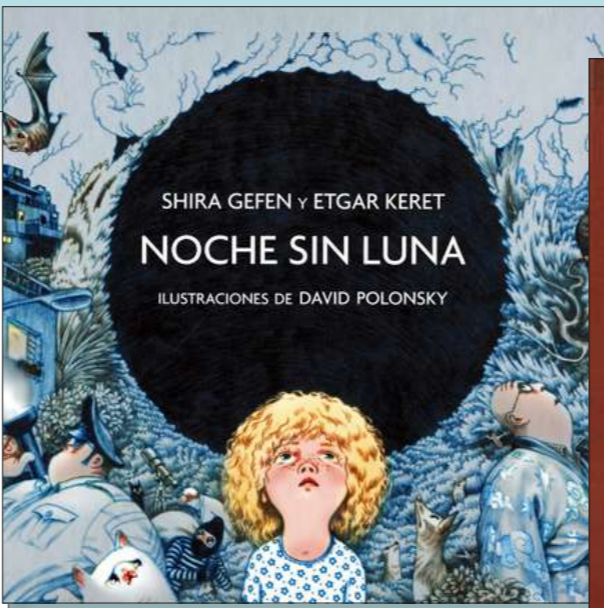
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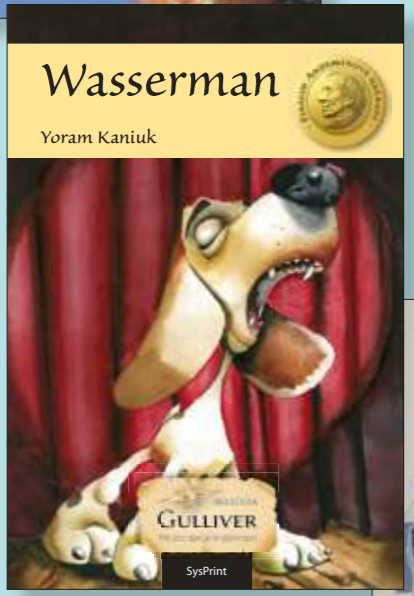
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CLASSICS

Some of our most popular and enduring stories





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Miriam Roth

Illustrations: Ora Ayal



Sifriat Poalim, 1974; 2006. 27 pp.

[AGE 2-5](#)



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Tale of Five Balloons

Tale of Five Balloons is the best selling Hebrew picture book of all time. It sold since publication, back in 1974, more than 900,000 copies and is still selling at least 35,000 copies a year.

Tale of Five Balloons is a favorite Hebrew classic, loved as a must-read first book for toddlers in pre-school. Ruthie's mother came home with a wonderful surprise—five colorful balloons—and all the children are thrilled. When they happily go outside for a walk, disaster strikes: Uri's green balloon is poked by a rose bush and Ron's Dad enthusiastically blows the yellow balloon until it explodes. Sigalit's kitten scratches her claw into the purple balloon and Ruthie hugs the blue balloon so tight it bursts! Alon's red balloon is the only one left, until the wind snatches it up and away and the children watch it float and wave goodbye. *A Tale of Five Balloons* is the best selling Hebrew children's book of all times. Selling since its 1974 first publication at least 35,000 copies every year, it has helped generations of children to accept loss and disappointment.



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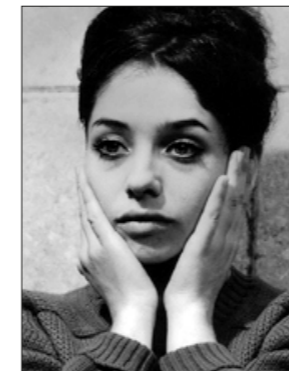
Tirtza Atar

Illustrations: Dani Kerman



Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 1971; 2003. 24 pp.

[AGE 3-6](#)



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The Lion that Loved Strawberries

Who doesn't like strawberries? It seems lions like them too. In the forest there is a small lion cub that only liked strawberries and didn't want to eat anything else. But where he lived there were none to be found and so he sat and cried for strawberries all day long. Will a taste of a real strawberry match the strawberry of his dreams? Does the lion really love strawberries?



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Lea Goldberg

Illustrations: Shmuel Katz



Sifriat Poalim, 1959; new ed. 1970. 14 pp.

AGE 5-8



FOREIGN RIGHTS SOLD

French (Albin Michel Jeunesse); English (Ward & Ritchie, Toon Books, Gefen, USA); German (Ariella Verlag); Uzbek: (Text); Chinese (TBP Media, Hong Kong); Vietnamese (Kim Dong)



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A Flat to Let [Room for Rent]

This unforgettable story by Leah Goldberg tells the tale of a building and its residents; the hardworking ant who finds the hen lazy; the rabbit that criticizes the cuckoo for abandoning her young, the pig that patronizes the cat simply because of her color and the nightingale, who thinks the squirrel is a horrible noise-maker! How can all these animals share the same building? *A Flat to Let* is a journey towards acceptance and generosity, a classic children's book that has enchanted generations of readers around the world.



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Lea Goldberg

Illustrations: Dani Kerman



Sifriat Poalim, 1959; 2005. 24 pp.

AGE 3-6

English translation available



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The Bad Boy

The Bad Boy is one of Lea Goldberg's classic stories. It is written in poetry and rhyme, diving directly into the half-articulated complexity of a child's mind. It is a sensitive monologue by Gad, a boy conflicted between good and bad. He is just a normal boy who is a little impulsive and doesn't always know how to control his temper, always feeling regretful when he doesn't. Gad tries to be good but how can he? Within him hides a little bad boy who breaks out time after time.





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Lea Goldberg

Illustrations: Rinat Hoffer



Sifriat Poalim, 1949; 2005. 27 pp.

AGE 3-6

English translation available

PB

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The Magic Hat

The Magic Hat is a fantastic tale told in rhyme, it is a wish, a figment of the imagination of a little girl who daydreams about sailing in a hat to colorful and exciting places. But where is the magic hat she dreams of and how can she find it?



NEW BOOKS FOR CHILDREN FROM ISRAEL • SPRING 2022



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Ephraim Sidon

Illustrations: Yossi Abolafia



Keter, 1987; 2015. 34 pp.

AGE 6-9

English translation available

PB



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Uzu and Muzu from Kakaruzu

This humorous rhymed and nonsense-filled tale by Ephraim Sidon, tells the story of Uzu and Muzu, two brothers whose love was so great, they had never known bitterness, anger or hate. One day they fought and then built a high wall between them, never speaking again. Sidon's classic story is a timeless fable about the toxic powers of enmity and the greater powers of life and humor.



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Shira Geffen

Illustrations: David Polonsky



Am Oved, 2002. 24 pp.
AGE 3-6



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English (Green Bean Books, UK); Spanish (Leetra, Mexico)



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The Heart-Shaped Leaf

Alona walks home through the garden at noon. The wind blows and a leaf falls from one of the trees. It lands on her head and stays there where ever she goes. Perhaps it was the leaf that kept her from getting wet when it started to rain? It is only when she reaches home that she discovers it was there all along. As she waits for the lentil soup, which her father prepared for lunch, to cool Alona sails between her thoughts. She stands at the window and blows the heart-shaped leaf, hoping it will find its place—leaving her with the lingering taste of life in its ever-expanding abundance.



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Shira Geffen [& Etgar Keret]

Illustrations: David Polonsky



Am Oved, 2006. 44 pp.
AGE 3-6
English translation available



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Spanish (Fondo de Cultura, Mexico), (Fondo de Cultura, Chile)

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A Moonless Night

This exquisitely illustrated book was on Israel's National Bestseller lists for 22 weeks.

A Moonless Night was on Israel's National Bestseller lists for 22 weeks. It begins after Noga's bedtime story ends, her Dad kisses her to sleep and turns off the light. "You won't need this, tonight there is a full moon, he says. Noga is sad, she can't find the moon from her bedroom window. Without it, ships at sea lose their way, the jackals have nothing to howl at and she can't fall sleep. Throughout the night Noga goes on a quest to find the moon and learns the rhythm of its cycle—and the ever-changing quality of appearances.





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Nurit Zarchi

Illustrations: Batia Kolton



Kinneret Zmora-Bitan Dvir, 2005. 37 pp.
AGE 4+

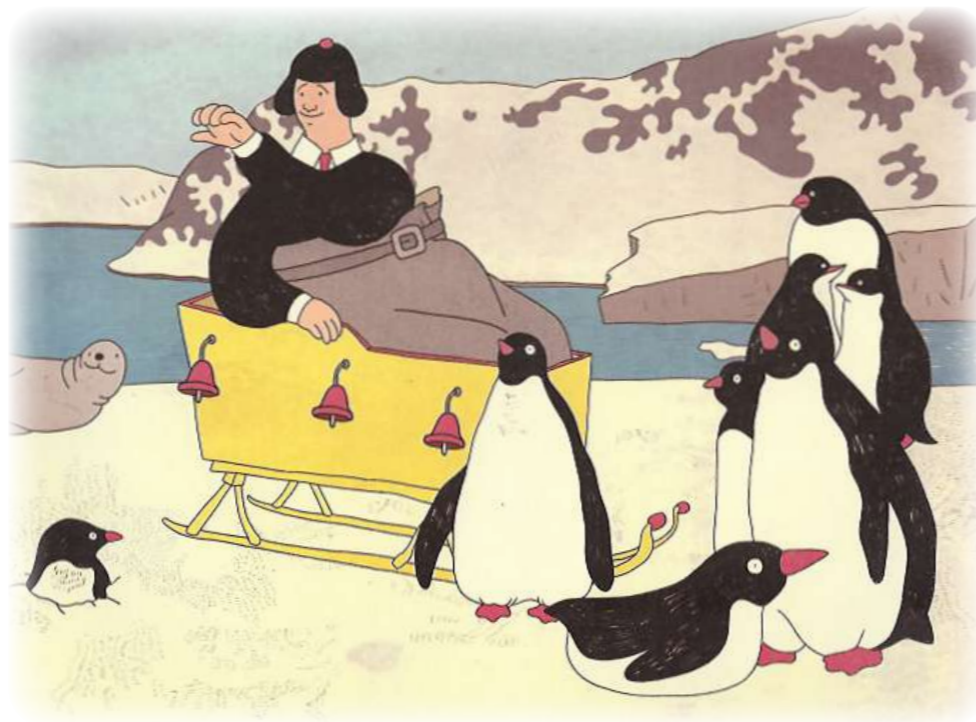
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French (Actes Sud); German (Gerstenberg);
Spanish (Adriana Hidalgo, Argentina)



PHOTO © DAN FORGES



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Nurit Zarchi

Illustrations: Odelia Lifshitz



Keter, 2009. 128 pp.
AGE 6+

MG

[CLICK HERE](#)

Tanina

Tanina is probably Nurit Zarchi's most beloved character. She is a witch, child or woman we don't know; like Lewis Carroll's Alice she grows and shrinks. There is magic all around her and everything she says comes true. Tanina leads her cat Bellybutton through incredible crises, brimming with wit and philosophical ideas, insisting on living life the way she sees fit. Tanina turns herself into a falling leaf, brings life to letters and numbers and drives her two little sisters, Gol and Yat, round the bend.



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Nurit Zarchi

Illustrations: Rutu Modan



Yedioth Ahronoth, 2008. 104 pp.

AGE 6+

Partial English translation available



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The story *Tinturu, a Tiny Elephant*: English, Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi (Star, India)

[CLICK HERE](#)

Nurit Zarchi's Fantastic Book

This anthology gathers ten stories by Nurit Zarchi, some of which were originally published as separate books. These stories hurl readers far away, introducing them to other worlds and languages while at the same time intimately touching upon their most familiar and closest emotions. Read alone or aloud, with friends and family members, they enflame the imagination and provoke dream-like images that make both children and adults roll on their backs with laughter.



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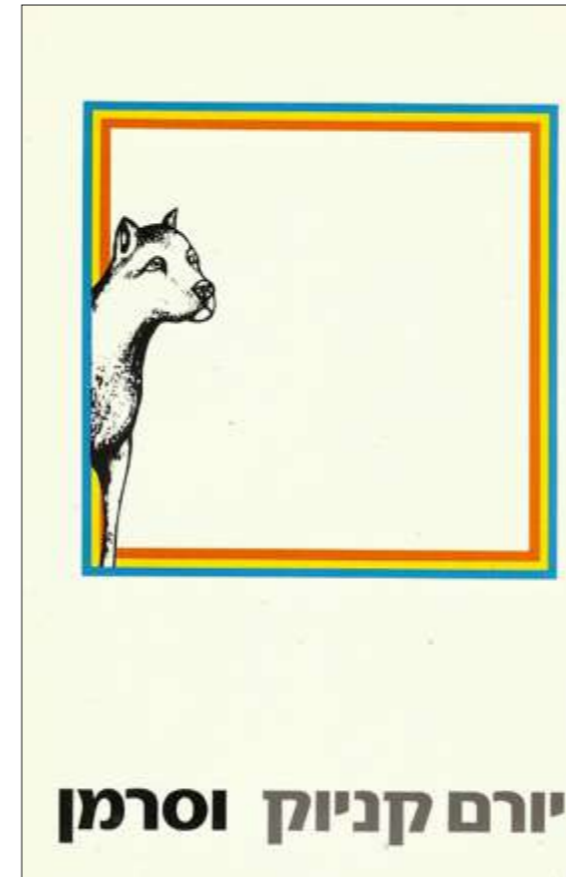


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Yoram Kaniuk

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Wasserman



Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 1988. 112 pp.

AGE 12 UP



PHOTO © DAN FORGES

Talia, a young girl, unexpectedly meets Wasserman, an abandoned dog and feels a great responsibility to take care of him as he has clearly been abused. Like all children she knows no compromise and carefully protects her dog. Wasserman sings in perfect harmony and is a fitting addition to her irregular family: Their meeting radically changes her life and together they walk a journey that teaches young readers to trust their instinct, legitimizing the word 'no' and initiating them to take freedom while staying close to their personal needs.

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Uri Orlev

Illustrations: Milka Cizik



Am Oved, 1976. 58 pp.

AGE 8-10



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Korean (Bir)

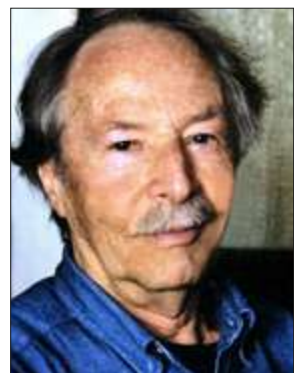


PHOTO © ANDRZEY



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Uri Orlev

Illustrations: Jacky Gleich



Keter, 1977; 2006. 30 pp.

AGE 3-6

English translation available



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The Big-Little Girl

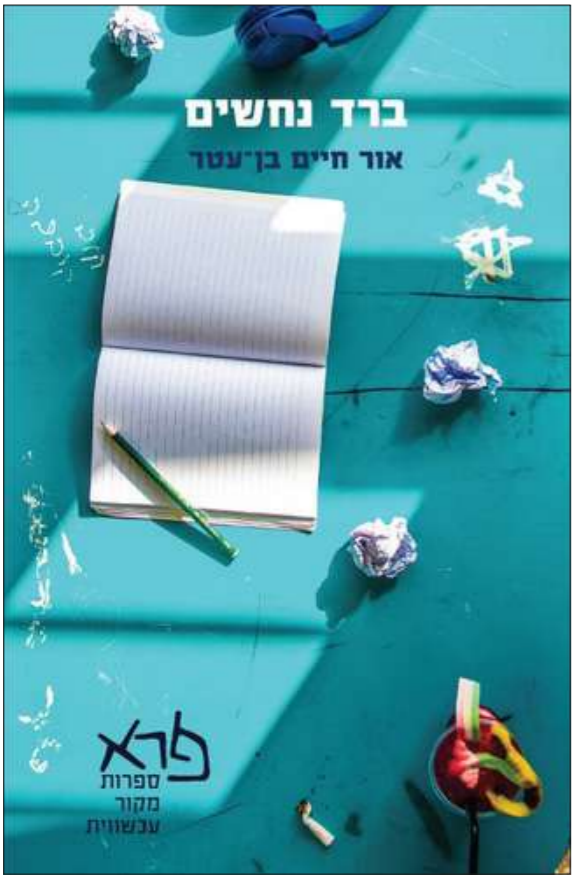
Daniella is a little girl, she is bigger than the baby living next door and bigger than her cat, but she is smaller than most of the children at school and even smaller than her parents. One night, Daniella wakes up and discovers she has grown to a giant size, barely fitting her own bed! When she enters her parents' room she finds them tiny and laughs out loud, happy she can tyrannize and treat them as if they were children themselves. When the next day begins, she sends her parents off to work and decides to stay home (when you're big enough you decide for yourself!). Though during the day she finds it scary to be alone. When she wakes up she realizes it was all just a dream.

HIGHLIGHTS





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Or Ben Atar



Tal-May, Yediot Sfarim, 2020. 136 pp.
AGE 14+



CLICK HERE
Hail of Snakes

Michael has a hard time fitting in at school. He's in love with a girl who will never love him back and is trying to escape the future that society has destined for him. Every day is a struggle and every place he goes to becomes a battlefield. He writes to find refuge, but does not realize his talent with words. *Hail of Snakes* is a unique novel, inspired by the rhythm of hip-hop and the spoken word, dealing with the gap between our self-perception and society's expectations and teaching readers about the power of art to heal and deal with complexities magnified during adolescence. Or Ben Atar's unflinching gaze into the turmoil of growing up makes *Hail of Snakes* a stunning Bildungsroman—a small epic of self-initiation against a harsh background and a moving ode to the redemptive powers of words.



CLICK HERE
Tamar Hochstadter
Illustrations: Tamar Hochstadter



Matar, 2012. 36 pp.
AGE 4-8
English translation available



CLICK HERE
Cauliflora

Tamar Hochstadter's first children's book cleverly deals with the special connection that children have to their belongings and the deep meaning of their constant need to collect. *Cauliflora*, a clever and mischievous redheaded girl is awfully bored. Dreaming of saving money to buy herself a pony, a rubber snake, and a trampoline, she decides to sell something of hers on the sidewalk. After nostalgically rummaging through her belongings, *Cauliflora* at last finds something that isn't worth anything—an old duck that is falling to pieces. The ugly duckling does not become a beautiful swan, but she falls in love with her childhood toy all over again.



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Eshkol Nevo

Illustrations: David Hall



Kinneret Zmora-Bitan Dvir, 2022. 40 pp.
AGE 3-6

PB



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Hold That Thought

Nimrod wanted to tell his mom something important, but when he came into the room she was on the phone.

“Can’t you see I’m in the middle of something?” she said. “Hold on to that thought for just a bit longer.”

How will Nimrod be able to hold his thoughts until his mom is free to listen? How will he manage to prevent them from running away? *Hold That Thought* is a wonderful tale of a boy who becomes friends with his own thoughts. He learns what they like to eat and discovers how long it takes them to change, while gradually getting to know himself better.

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Eshkol Nevo

Illustrations: David Hall



Zmora-Bitan, 2010. 33 pp.
AGE 3-6

PB

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Italian (**Salani**); Spanish (**Leviathan**, Argentina)

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Amalia's Father Goes to Australia

Amalia's father flies to Australia but Amalia stays behind. When he leaves, she becomes very sad and doesn't want to paint or go outside for a walk. Yet suddenly someone unexpectedly knocks on the door. Amalia leaps to her feet and quickly runs towards the door, thinking: “Dad! It's dad!” When she opens it, an amazing creature filled with whipped cream from head to toe appears and turns out to be the first of many strange characters who visit her throughout the week. Later, the Kissing Queen and the Jumpy Kangaroo stop by and share crazy and happy moments with Amalia that help her forget her father's absence—at least for a little while.

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Iris Argaman

Illustrations: Aviel Basil



Keter, 2021. 32 pp.

AGE 3-7

English translation available

PB



PHOTO © SNIR KATZIR

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Emilia and the Hat

Emilia heard a sudden sound and stepped outside to see from where it came. She opened the front door and saw a red hat peeking from behind the bush. Emilia did not know to whom it belonged to or what to do with it. Should she fill it up with fruit? Use it in the kitchen to cook? Hang it on the living room wall? As the story progresses Emilia begins to make hats, sew and color them herself and decides to renovate a store in which she sells them. The hats she makes are special, fitting her customers' secrets and dreams.



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Iris Argaman

Illustrations: Avi Ofer



Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2016. 43 pp.

AGE 6-8

PB

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English (**Amazon Crossing Kids**, USA); Italian (**Gallucci**); French (**Chandeigne**); Spanish (**Santillana**, Mexico); Russian (**Knizhniki**)

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Bear and Fred

Fred Lessing was a small Jewish boy who had to leave his parents and his home to live in hiding during World War II. His story is told from the perspective of his toy bear that, while not quite grasping what was going on, sensed that something was badly wrong. *Bear and Fred* is a moving tale, a story of survival in the darkest times, based on the true story of Fred Lessing and his Bear.



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Tamar Meir

Illustrations: Yael Albert



Keter, 2017. 32 pp.

AGE 5-8



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English (**Kar-Ben**, USA); Italian (**Galluci**);
Czech (**Prah**); Russian (**Knizhniki**)



PHOTO © SHAHAR TAMIR

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Francesco Tirelli's Ice Cream Shop

Francesco Tirelli's Ice Cream Shop is a memorable account of one person's humanity during the Holocaust, touching painful feelings, written in a way that is accessible for young readers. It tells the story of Peter, a Jewish boy who lives with his family in Budapest and Francesco Tirelli, an Italian who moved to Budapest and opened an ice cream shop. Peter regularly visited Francesco's shop, enjoying the taste, smell and colors of his ice cream. When the war began in Hungary and the Germans came, Peter and his family were in danger. Francesco, who has closed his shop, now uses it to hide them along with a few others. In the midst of the darkness, Peter finds a special way to celebrate Hanukkah, the festival of lights..



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Yehuda Vizan

Illustrations: Noa Vikhanski



Keren Books, 2019. 34 pp.

AGE 5+



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At Hillel and Lilleet of Galilee City

Hillel and his wife Lilleet live in a big house in a Galilee town. They have a young daughter and an older son, twenty cats and a little dog, a twisty snake and even a whale that swims in the sink. Their son's name is Z'voov, which means 'fly,' and their daughter's name is Goolgata. Their grandma lives with them and does not have a name, because she is so old, and no, she isn't dead at all, but fast asleep. *At Hillel and Lilleet from the Galilee City* is a tale told in poetry and rhyme about a special family obsessed with words. Filled with ingenious humor, it is an ode to the imagination and creative power of language.





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Tsipor Frumkin



Yedioth Ahronoth, 2019. 185 pp.
AGE 11+



PHOTO © SNIR KATZIR

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The End of the World

Following a millennium and another thousand dark years, an eccentric old woman called Savta lands from the sky into a remote desert village. She arrives to earth in an oven converted into a spaceship, following an awful disaster that occurred in her distant home planet. She adopts an abandoned baby named Odafim, feeds her alien porridge and hides her from the threatening outside world. *The End of the World* is a fantastic and thought-provoking story that deals with feelings of alienation and belonging, individuality and collectiveness while touching some of the most complex issues in Israeli dominant culture.



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