

Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities 2005



INTERNATIONAL BOARD ON BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

*i*BbY

**Outstanding Books for Young People
with Disabilities 2005**

by Heidi Cortner Boiesen

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INTERNATIONAL BOARD ON BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



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Foreword

The present 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 2005 collection is the first in a series of regular biennial selections that will be presented by the Haug School. The IBBY National Sections were requested to submit books that were published in 2000 or later. We have also included an outstanding title that was published earlier than 2000.

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 have subsequently travelled all over the world.

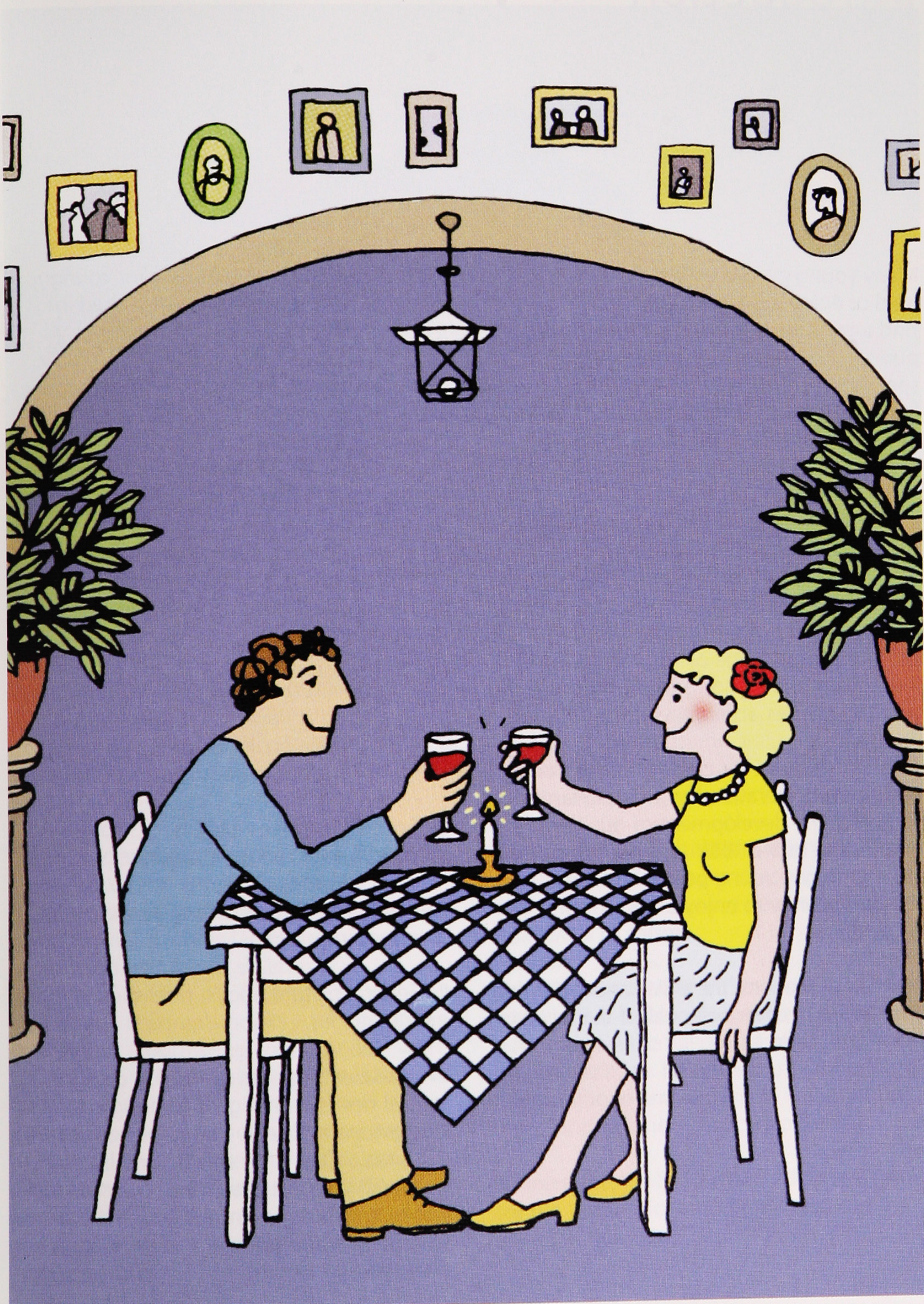
For this catalogue and exhibition, titles have also been included from countries where the National Sections did not participate in the project. Some particularly relevant titles were sent directly by publishers or submitted by enthusiastic contact persons. The aim was to select 40 outstanding books. This was the responsibility of the Director of the IBBY

Documentation Centre of Books for Disabled Young People in Norway. Wenche Dietrichson (formerly of HSRC) and Sissel Hofgaard Swensen at the centre 'Books for Everyone' in Oslo have given valuable assistance. 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 stimulate parents and educators to share them with disabled young people.

Oslo and Basel, January 2005

Heidi Cortner Boiesen, Director
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Young People

Elizabeth Page, Administrative Director
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and Project Development



Julie er forelsket, cat. no. 10

Introduction

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 2000 or later

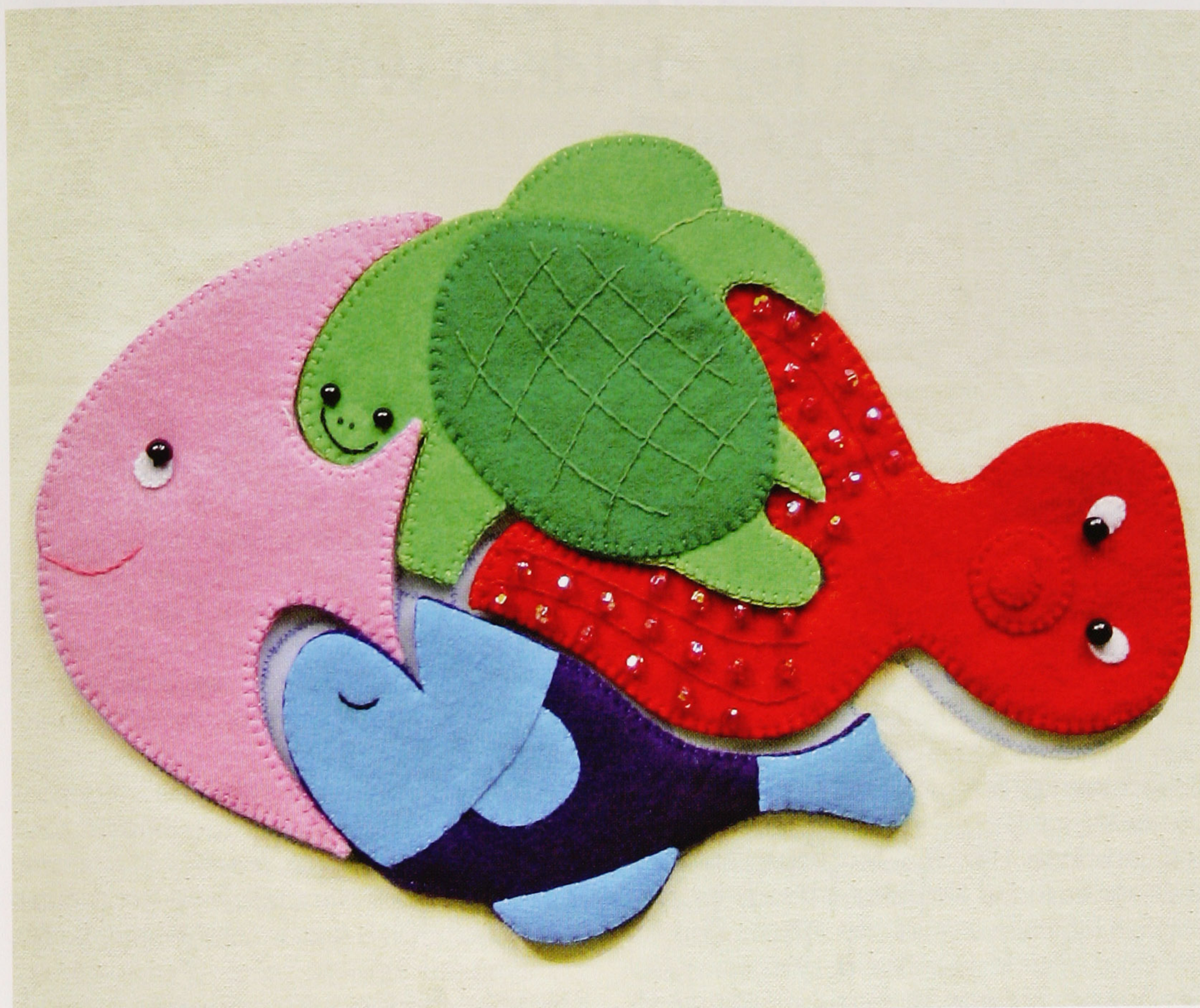
The types of books sought in this category were:

- 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 2000 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.



Minna de hitotsu, cat. no. 7

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 2000 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.

Eight books illustrating a different kind of approach for children with special needs

Among the many good books that we received for this project, we would like to make a special mention of eight, each illustrating a different kind of approach for children with special needs.

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. Unfortunately, because of a very limited production no books were submitted in the category *Books With Sign Language*. However, we have included **Skoleklart** [Ready for School] by Linda Lillevik (cat. no. 1). This is the third book in a series about Kristine who has Down Syndrome. In this book large and distinct sign language illustrations draw attention to key words and concepts in the photographs and captions.

Pääkalloviiri [The Skull Streamer] by Susanna Huikari (cat. no. 3) is a Finnish picture book with BLISS symbols added to the standard text. BLISS is an international non-verbal pictorial system, which 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 help 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 are 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 can 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 and without 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.

The Rolling Pumpkin (cat. no. 8) by Kokab Tahbaz is such a book. The 'characters': Granny, a wolf, a lion, a leopard and the granddaughter, are all small pieces of leather or fabric with various shapes and texture. Since the book is without commentary, each time the child 'reads' it, he makes up his own story in his own language, expressed in his own way.

The Inuits were concerned. They couldn't let such beauty die! Aya suddenly jumped up. She ran into an igloo to come back a couple of minutes later. With all her kindness she wrapped up the flower with her long and warm scarf.



Snow Flower, cat. no. 4

A cloth book is another kind of tactile picture book. **Minna de hitotsu** [Together as One] (cat. no. 7) is a hand-made book that will perhaps not be easily understood by a blind child on its own, but it is a delightful means to explain to disabled children the links between nature and all living things and the hope for world peace.

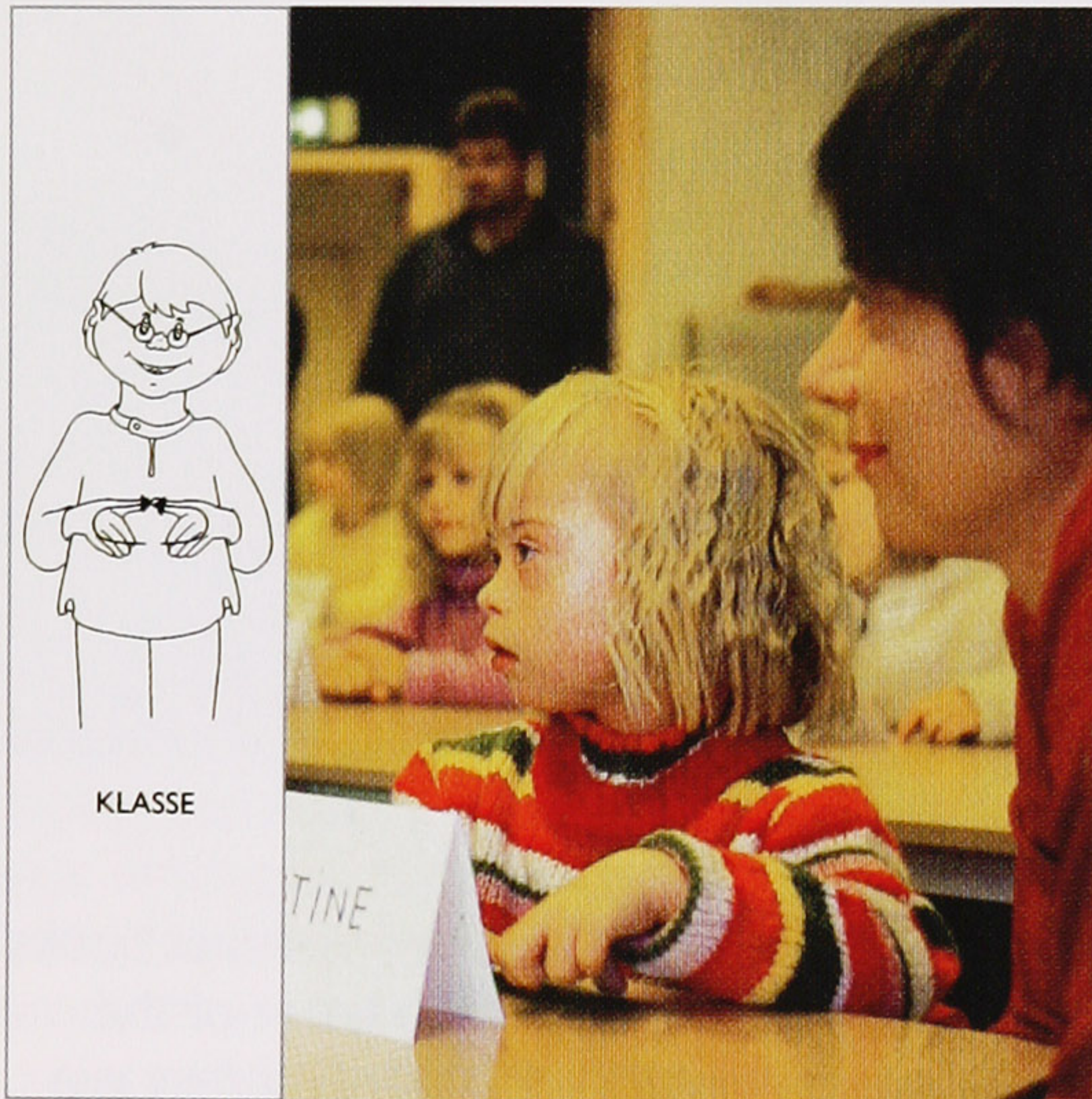
Snow Flower (cat. no. 4) by Aksinja Kermauner is a beautiful picture book designed for partially sighted or blind readers; sighted readers can also enjoy it. The illustrations are made according to a survey that demonstrated which materials blind children recognize as warm or cold.

General picture books are another source of reading and a pleasant means of stimulating visual perception, language and communication and expressing feelings. They are important books because they can be picked from the general stock and are widely available. In **A is for Africa** (cat. no. 21) Ifeoma Onyefulu brings to life the rhythms and traditions of everyday life in an African village with her warm and colourful photographs.

This book is quite unlike other alphabet books in the way she explains each letter of the alphabet; for instance *E is the Embrace we give our loved ones*. Some 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. **Mr. Worry** (cat. no. 33) by Holly L. Niner explains how a small boy experiences obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). He compares it to a worried voice in his head – like a small, anxious man constantly phoning him to check that everything is okay. Kevin finally learns to 'hang up' on Mr. Worry. Johnnie Tuitel, author of **Searching the Noonday Trail** (cat. no. 38) has cerebral palsy like his namesake in *The Gun Lake Adventure Series*. The series is exceptional in that it stars a boy who is wheelchair-bound as the main character. It also shows how ignorant and insensitive people can be to disabled persons and how it is never too late to try to rectify that attitude.

Heidi Cortner Boiesen
Nina Askvig Reidarson

Sign language illustrations



Skoleklart

1 Lillevik, Linda (text)
Kjell Ove Storvik (photos)
Skoleklart
[Ready for School]
Bergen: Eide, 2002, 64pp.
ISBN 82-514-0637-4

Kristine who was born with Down Syndrome is ready to start school. She knows a good deal about school already and is thrilled to bits! Mummy will accompany her on the first day, but soon she will be able to cope on her own and Mummy can wait outside. Kristine is welcomed by her teacher, and she quickly becomes part of the school community. The book describes an educational model where activities and cooperation are essential. Every page has a colour illustration. The text is simple and uncomplicated but functions well as a story. Selected words on each page are emphasized and shown in sign language.



Pääkalloviiri

Story books with BLISS symbols

2 Damm, Heidi Kahrs

Julie + Lita

[Julie and Lita]

Bergen: Heidilines, 2005, 38pp.

ISBN 82-92621-01-6

Julie loves dogs. She takes her neighbour's dog, Lita, out nearly every day, but pines for a dog of her own. She, her sister and her mother are going to move in with mother's new partner, and Julie is filled with grief at the thought of losing Lita. She gets a puppy of her own as a comfort: Lito. A simple story told in BLISS and standard text. The illustrations are lucid with a slight picture postcard quality.



3 Huikari, Susanna (text)

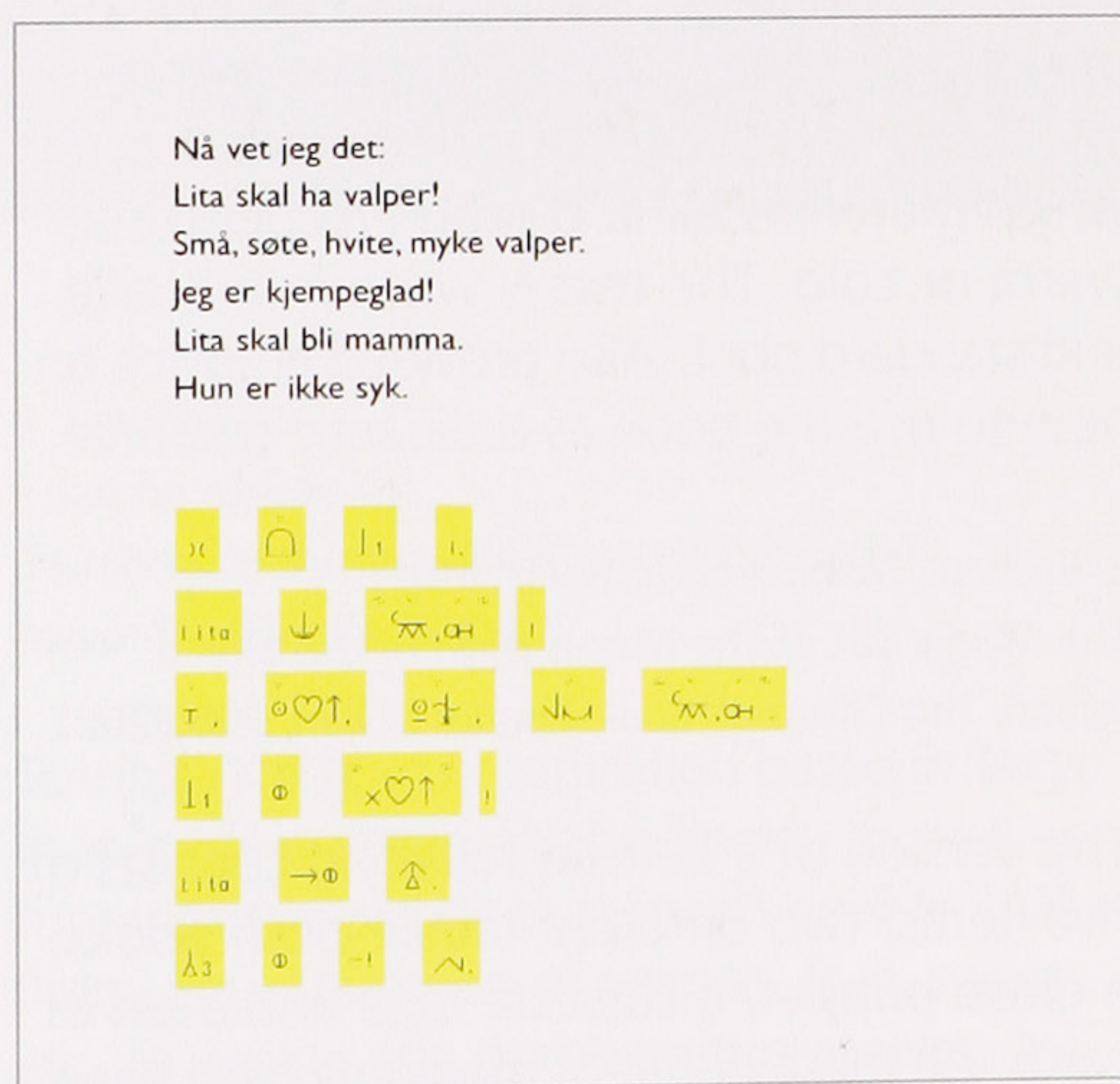
Mika Kolehmainen (ill.)

Pääkalloviiri

[The Skull Streamer]

Oulu: Lohipato Special Ed. School, 2003, 16pp.

This amusing picture book, written by a special education needs teacher, is based on everyday life in a Finnish town. Markus and his friend Pekka are playing pirates and want to buy a skull streamer for Markus' wheelchair. They spend the whole day looking in different shops, but fail to find one. Then Pekka notices the skull on Markus' t-shirt and they make a streamer out of the front of his shirt. By telling the story in pictures, standard text and BLISS symbols, this book can be enjoyed by readers in primary school, children with reading difficulties and young people who communicate by using BLISS symbols.



Julie + Lita

Tactile picture books

4 Kermauner, Aksinja (text)
Braille print: Jernej Pogačnik

Snow Flower

Dob, Slovenia: Založba Miš, 2004, 15pp.
ISBN 961-6506-27-7

An Inuit girl, Aya, cuts herself on a fish bone. On the frozen plain drops a big, hot drop of blood. Out of the blood a beautiful flower grows. The Inuit are very happy, but in the cold arctic night the flower almost freezes. When morning comes, Aya wraps the flower in her scarf to keep it alive. As it glows and plays with the northern lights, the many-coloured flower spreads happiness among the Inuit people for a long time. This tactile picture book is designed for partially sighted and blind readers, but can also be enjoyed by sighted readers. The illustrations are made according to a survey that demonstrated which materials blind children recognize as warm or cold. The text is written in Braille and standard print. Also provided is advice on how to use the book as a didactic resource.

5 Keyhani, Fariba and Farzaneh Amiri

The Magic Set of the Moon High in the Sky

Tehran: The Children's Book Council of Iran, 2000/2001

This version of a Persian folksong consists of five items; two different tactile cloth books, a glove puppet, a cassette tape and a set of cards. All these different mediums have been used to illustrate the folksong. Each item familiarizes the child with different elements of nature, such as the moon, stars, clouds, rain, etc. The child is invited to play with the books or the cards while singing along or listening to the tape. This set provides an opportunity for sighted and visually disabled

children to share the experience of enjoying this folksong.

6 Mutsuki Kai

Kudamono

[Fruit] A Scratch-and-Sniff Picture Book

Tokyo: Mutsuki Kai, 2002

Mutsuki Kai is a volunteer group that has been producing Braille and tactile picture books in Japan for nearly 35 years. The appliquéd fruits in this book are coated with fragrances captured in microcapsules and dried. When the fruits are rubbed with a fingernail, the fragrances are released. This is a book that brings pleasure to all children, whether they have a disability or not. Not for sale.

7 Sakuranbo

Original appliqués by Kou Kobayashi

Minna de hitotsu

[Together as One]

Tokyo: Hikarigaoka Library, 2004

Animals, plants, families – everything in nature comes together to create the abundance of the earth. This exquisite cloth picture book expresses the links between all living things and the hope for world peace.

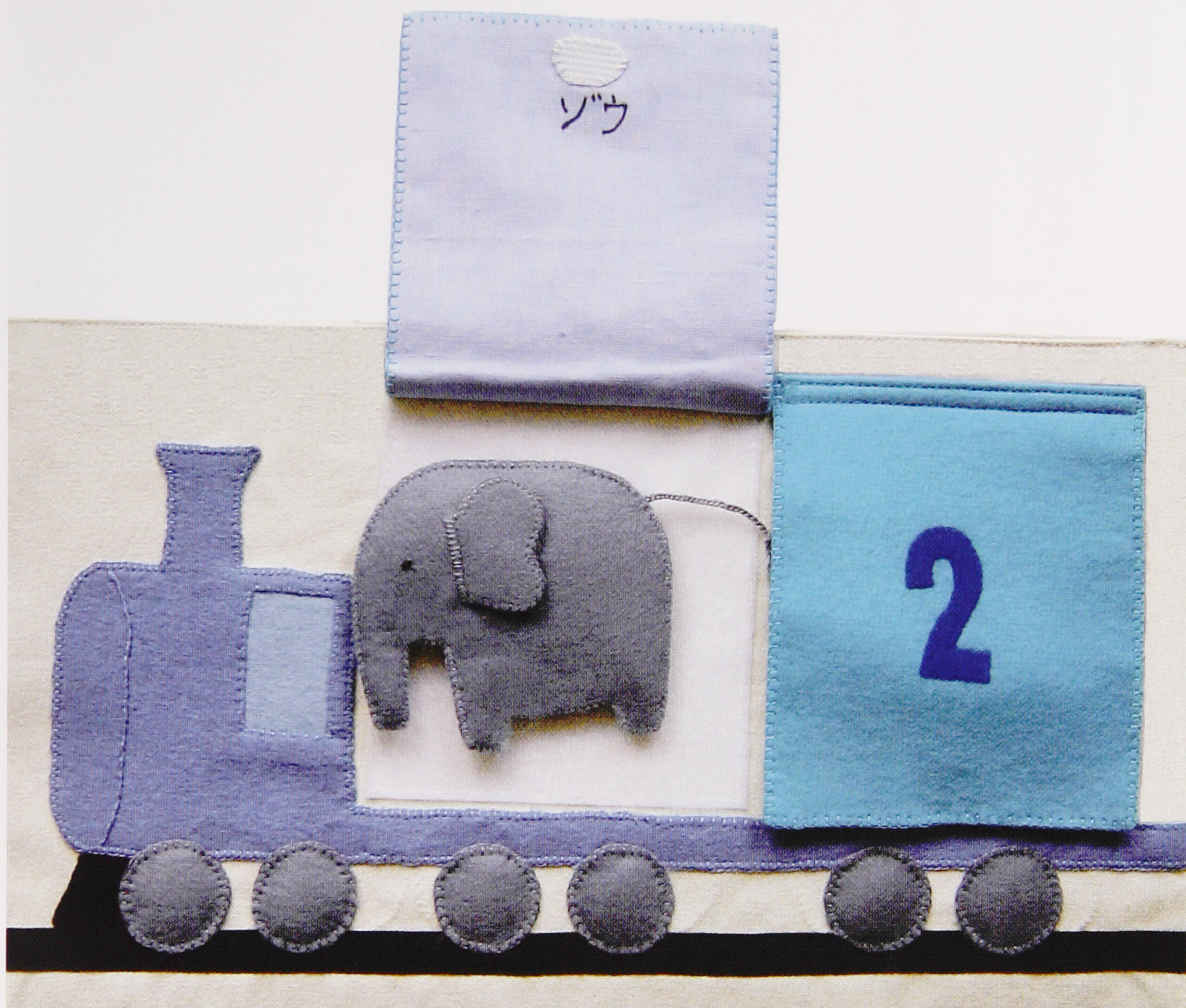
Sakuranbo, a cloth picture book production group, provides the Nerima Ward Hikarigaoka Library with cloth picture books. The books are then borrowed by children with disabilities. Not for sale.

8 Tahbaz, Kokab

The Rolling Pumpkin

Tehran: The Children's Book Council of Iran, 2001

In this adaptation of a Persian folktale, Granny



Kazu no ohikkoshi

sets out to visit her granddaughter who lives in another village. As she goes up the hill, she meets a wolf, a lion and a leopard; each try to eat her. Granny promises each one that on her way back they can have her. Then she cleverly outwits them by rolling down the hill in a pumpkin. The first part of the book gives a definition of the abstract signs and symbols corresponding to each character. Understanding the relationship between these characters may develop the child's abstract thinking and nurture imagination, thus helping speech development. The text is in Persian (Farsi), Persian Braille and English Braille.

9 Tenohira Kai

Kazu no ohikkoshi

[Numbers on the Move] A Cloth Picture Book

Tokyo: Tenohira Kai, 2004

Tenohira Kai is an organization based in Tokyo that lends out handmade books, as well as running workshops that teach how to make them. Equal numbers of animals, fruit, sweets, etc. as well as the numbers themselves, are riding on a freight train. All items can be removed and reattached by using Velcro tape and can be freely moved from one part of the train to another. An amusing and useful counting book to help children understand figures. Not for sale.

Special “easy-to-read” books

10 Andersen, Johanne Emilie

Julie er forelsket

[Julie in Love]

Stamsund: Orkana, 2003, [18pp.]

ISBN 82-8104-001-7

Julie is totally in love with a famous football player! She goes about her daily routine, but her mind is elsewhere. Then she meets an ordinary boy who will never be able to play football, but he is cute, too... Throughout the book Julie's dreams are depicted in simplistic and colourful pictures, while her real life is in black and white. The short and very simple text will be appreciated by young adults who need topics appropriate for their age.

11 Friman, Bibbie

Hunddagiset

[The Dog Nursery]

Stockholm: LL-förlaget,

2003, 62pp.

ISBN 91-89451-70-8

Camilla combines her hobby and profession by working in a dog nursery. In the full page colour photos the essential atmosphere of teamwork and love of the dogs is captured. The simple text can also be enjoyed by older people with disabilities.

12 Jansson, Tove

Muumipeikko ja Taikurin hattu

[The Sorcerer's Hat]

Helsinki: Kehitysvammaliitto, 2004, 82pp.

ISBN 951-580-365-9

Tove Jansson's original illustrations have been kept in this specially adapted edition of

Muumipeikko ja Taikurin hattu. The book can be used as a regular storybook, but also a simplified version is available by following the paragraphs on the pages framed in blue. For young people with reading difficulties or for younger children.

13 Kubo, Rie

Basude keki ga dekitayo

[The Birthday Cake is Done]

Tokyo: Hisakata Chairudo, 2002, 24pp.

ISBN 4-89325-490-1

It is mother's birthday today. Rie and her older sister decide to make a birthday cake. After several trials, the cake is finally ready. Although it doesn't look very nice, it is a wonderful present for their mother. Rie is confined to a wheelchair, but the story does not dwell on her handicap. A version of the book is available in DAISY format so children with dyslexia and impaired vision can also enjoy it.

14 Tronvoll, Inger Marii (text)

Ragnhild Tronvoll (ill.)

Tone vil ha venner

[Tone wants Friends]

Trondheim: Norwegian University of Science and Technology, 2003, [178pp.]

ISBN 82-996778-0-7

Sometimes it is hard to find good friends. Because her former friends have grown away from her, Tone is often alone in the school playground. Then she meets Eli at the local youth club and everything is okay! The soft, expressive illustrations follow the simple text beautifully.



Hunddagiset

15 Vonheim, Inger (text)

Akin Düzakin (ill.)

Kjærester

[Sweethearts]

Stamsund: Orkana, 2003, 47pp.

ISBN 82-8104-002-5

A collection of four short stories about the universal dream; the dream of being in love and belonging together. Subdued pencil illustrations express this very human longing. This is a book for adolescents and adults with reading difficulties.

Books from the regular production



Ahoj, hádanka

16 Boucher, Sue (text), Photographs Rian Horn

Sunflower House

Pietermaritzburg: Shuter & Shooter, 2003, 24pp.

ISBN 0-7960-2520-7

Sunflower House is a home for children with terminal illnesses. It is a happy place because there is much love. The story is written by a mother who lost her child to AIDS and then began to work at Sunflower House. A moving, but sober story containing useful information about AIDS. (*A Jumbo Red Reader Book*)

17 Cipár, Miroslav (ill.)

Ahoj, hádanka

[Hello Puzzle]

Bratislava: Buvik, 2003, 79pp.

ISBN 80-89028-25-X

Rhymes, bywords, sayings and puzzles playfully help children learn how to use complex phrases. The text is grounded in Slovak oral folklore and can help dyslexics and dysgraphics to fixate words.

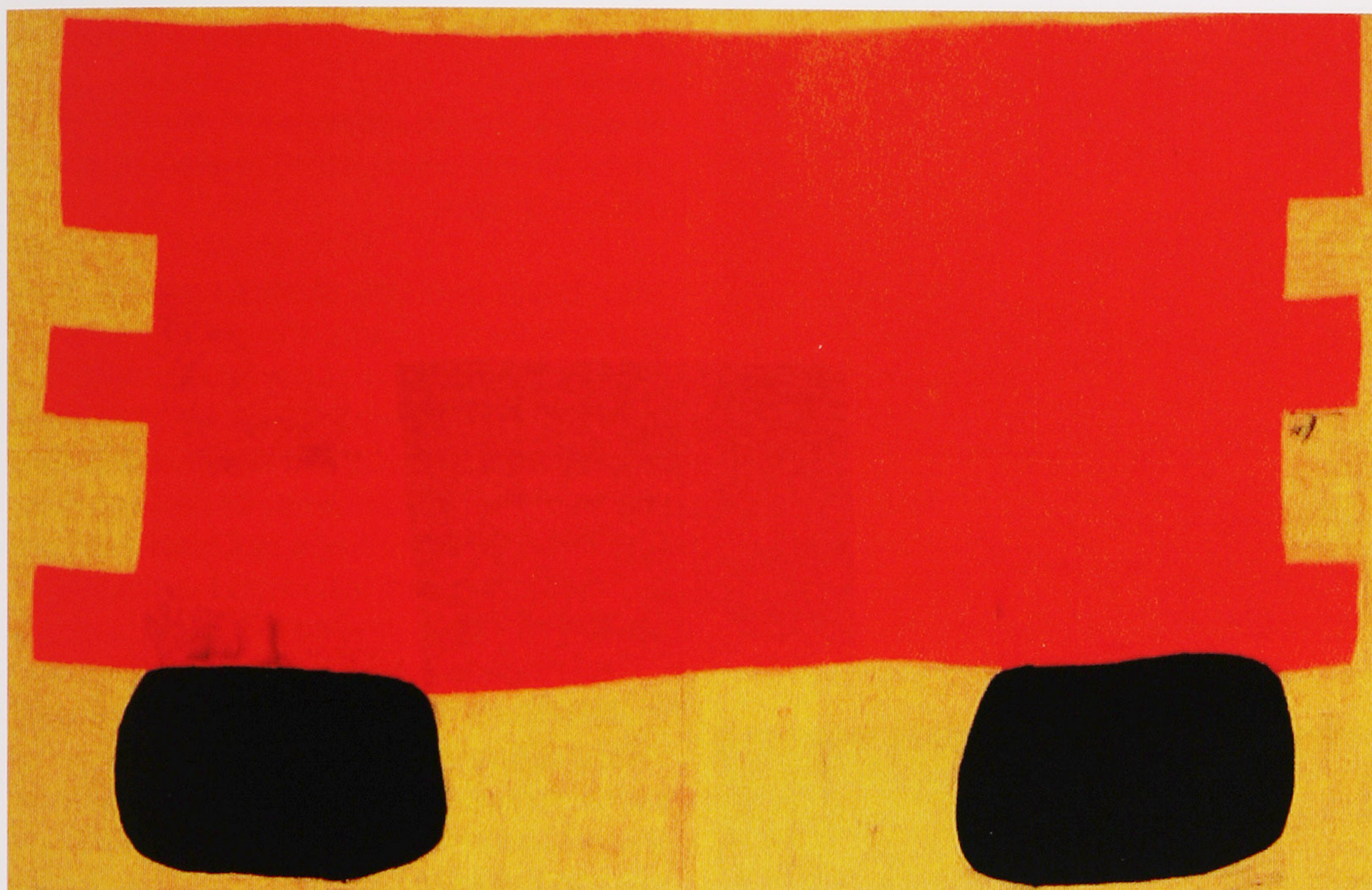
18 Harper, Piers

Snow Bear

New York: Scholastic Inc., 2002, [13pp.]

ISBN 0-439-54426-2

After a long and freezing winter little Snow Bear is finally able to leave his den and explore the snowy world outside for the very first time. There are all sorts of adventures in store for him. But soon he wanders too far – will he find his way back home to his mother? Some of the illustrations incorporate soft fabric. Although these parts may be difficult for blind children to understand, they provide interest for partially sighted children.



Kirai

19 Larsen, Britt Karin and Liv Borge (text)
Henrichsen, Torill Marø (ill.)

Vesle-Hjalmar og kilden

[Little Hjalmar and the Spring]
Oslo: Omnipax, 2001, [19pp.]
ISBN 82-530-2286-7

This book gives readers an insight in the life of the Romany people. Little Hjalmar accompanies his grandmother to a natural spring, the water of which can make people healthy. Grandma is not feeling very well and hopes that the water from the spring will give her new strength. The book presents close-ups of the everyday life of a small Romany boy and will provide readers with a better understanding of Romany life and culture. Important facts are presented in an

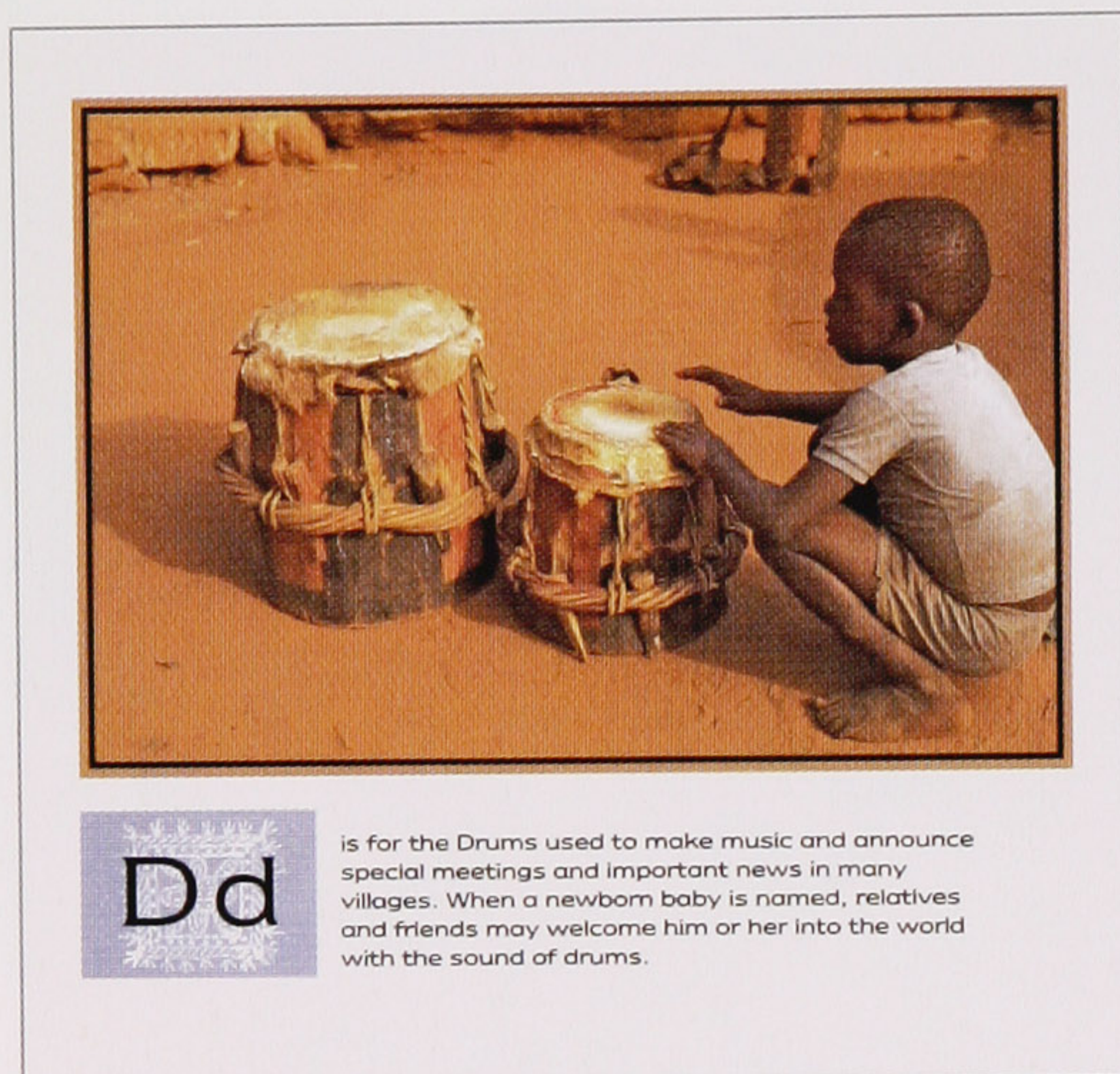
appendix, as well as a list explaining words and expressions of the Romany language.

20 Ninomiya, Yukiko (text)
Masato Nagashima (ill.)

Kirai [Dislike]

Osaka: Kaiho Shuppan, 2003, [16pp.]
ISBN 4-7592-2233-2

This is a picture book with vivid pastel paintings made by a boy who has difficulty expressing himself verbally. The paintings are accompanied by a text based on the theme 'kirai' (dislike). The world as it is expressed through the boy's paintings awakens something new and fundamental in the inner world of those looking at them.



A is for Africa



Pas de taches pour une girafe

21 Onyefulu, Ifeoma

A is for Africa

An alphabet in words and pictures

London: Frances Lincoln Ltd., 1993, [16pp.]

ISBN 0-7112-1029-2

From beads to drums to masquerades, from grandmothers to yams, the photographs capture the rhythms of day-to-day village life in Africa. This alphabetic journey reveals not only traditional crafts and customs, but also shows us the African sense of occasion and fun. The book was chosen by Child Education as one of their best information books of 1993.

22 Otuki, Hiroko

Maru o sagashite

[Looking for Maru]

Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten, 2004, 32pp.

ISBN 4-8340-0554-2

This is a collection of fourteen maru (circles) by eleven representative artists of the twentieth century. The circle is perhaps the one shape that holds special meaning for most human beings. Along with the rhythmic words, the letters are written in concert with the screen. The book is created from the idea that beauty, fun, surprise and excitement should be encountered during the important childhood years when our sensibilities are in the process of developing.

23 Papineau, Lucie (text)

Sarrazin, Marisol (ill.)

Pas de taches pour une girafe

[No spots for Gilda the Giraffe]

Saint-Lambert, (Québec):

Dominique et compagnie, 2003.

1 book [30pp.] and 1 CD [18 min]

ISBN 2-89512-330-6

On a windy day Gilda the Giraffe sees her brown spots blown away by the North Wind. She must trek naked across the savannah, through the jungle and the river to search for her spots. Her friends feel sorry for her and lend her their coats, but somehow they never feel right. She finally discovers one spot on the chameleon, and then her friends each bring her a spot. Included in the book is a CD with the narrated version and original music by Pierre Daniel Rheault. The book is winner of the 1998 Mr. Christie Award.

24 Reid, Barbara

The Subway Mouse

Markham, ON: North Winds Press,

Scholastic Canada, 2003, 35pp.

ISBN 0-439-97468-2

Nib lives under the city in the subway. When the thundering of the trains diminishes at night, all the youngsters gather to hear the old mice tell stories about the mythical 'Tunnel's End'. When Nib becomes old enough to hunt alone, he brings back all kind of beautiful things; coins, rose petals, feathers and other precious collectibles. His treasures



The Subway Mouse

remind him of his favourite stories. But soon little cousin mice come to nibble at his precious loot. Fed up with his dirty and noisy home and filled with accounts of fragrant and luminous tales of the outside, he goes on a perilous quest for 'Tunnel's End'. But he finds a world more dangerous and more beautiful than he ever dreamed of. Reid's Plasticine images are wonderfully alive. The book is an endless source of pleasure for the senses and has won several awards.



The Rights of a Child

25 **The Rights of a Child**

Cape Town: Kwela Books

Rotterdam: Lemniscaat, 2004, [14pp.]

ISBN 0-7957-0162-4

in the country and five artists from different backgrounds contributed the illustrations: Tyrone Appollis, Faiza Galdhari, Piet Grobler, Nkoali Nawa and Véronique Tadjó.

Based on the Universal Declaration of the Rights of the Child, this full-colour picture book presents the ten rights that children worldwide should enjoy in a simplified and colourful way. To underline the multicultural nature of South Africa, the ten principles are translated into the eleven languages spoken

Books portraying people with disabilities

26 Bertrand, Diane Gonzales (text)

Ill. Robert L. Sweetland

My Pal, Victor=Mi Amigo, Victor

Green Bay, WI: Raven Tree Press, 2004, 32pp.

ISBN 0-9720192-9-4

Why do we choose the friends we do? Dominic knows. He explains just how special his pal Victor really is. Two young boys experience a spirited, carefree friendship that transcends one boy's disability. Text in English and Spanish. Winner of the 2005 Schneider Family Book Award.

27 Ferris, Jean

Of Sound Mind

New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2001, 215pp.

ISBN 0-374-35580-0

High school senior Theo is fluent in two languages: spoken English and American Sign Language. His parents and younger brother are deaf, but Theo can hear. His mother is a temperamental artist who places many demands on him. When Theo meets Ivy, who has a deaf father and an absent mother, he finds a partner in the world of hearing as well as in that of sign language. The book shows us how difficult it can be for a hearing child in a family of deaf people, and of the responsibility he has to shoulder. The death of Theo's father finally forces him to become his own person and he can even begin to think of leaving home to attend college. The text uses bold type to indicate when the speech is in sign language.



My Pal, Victor/Mi Amigo, Victor



Sandosenang Sapatos

28 Gatmaitan, Luis (text),
Parrocha-Doctolero, Beth (ill.)

Sandosenang Sapatos=A Dozen Pairs of Shoes

Manila: HIYAS, OMF Literature Inc., 2002, 29pp.

ISBN 971-511-741-4

shoes, because Susie is born without feet. After their father is dead, Karina finds all the lovely shoes that he made for Susie. Winner of the 2001 Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature.

This heart-warming story of a father's endless love for his disabled daughter is a bilingual story in Filipino and English. Karina's father is a shoemaker who creates beautiful shoes for her that others can only dream of. When little sister Susie is born, she will never know what it feels like to wear the beautiful



A Screaming Kind of Day

29 Gilmore, Rachna (text)

Sauvé, Gordon (ill.)

A Screaming Kind of Day

Markham, ON: Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2001,
(c.1999.), 38pp.

ISBN 1-55041-514-X

"I love the rain, the way the green sings with the rain." Skully is sure she can hear it when she turns her hearing aid all the way up. She knows it is going to be a screaming kind of day when her brother wakes her up by pulling her braids. It goes from bad to

worse and all she wants is to play outside in the rain, but there are days when big brothers ruin everything and mothers just don't understand. Never leaving the deaf child's point of view, the author shows a joyful, head-strong, intuitive and rebellious character. The book's strength is that it focuses on the child not the disability. Winner of the Governor General's Literary Award for Children's Literature in 1999.

13

Thirteen



Shells

1 2 3 for You and Me

30 Girnis, Meg (text)

Photographs: Shirley Leamon Green

1 2 3 for You and Me

Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman & Co. 2001, [16pp.]

ISBN 0-8075-6107-X

A delightful photographic book of numbers up to twenty by the authors of *A B C for You and Me*. The objects for counting are chosen with a good deal of fantasy, and are distinctly displayed by children of various ages and race, among them the author's daughter, who has Down Syndrome. This is a useful concept book that focuses on diversity.

31 Granberg, Inger

Mongo-ungen

[The Mongo Baby]

Stockholm: Eriksson & Lindgren, 2001, 107pp.

ISBN 91-87803-06-2

Through her diary, we follow twelve-year-old Lena over a period of 8 months. We share her most secret thoughts; she writes about love, about her stupid parents and even more stupid little sister, and finally the Mongo Baby – her baby brother. This very accurate description of the humdrum life of a soon-to-be teenager is very credible, as is the description of what it is like to live with a handicapped sibling and the feelings that it provokes in a young girl.

32 Hedman, Sofia

Jag vill ha ett liv

[I want a Life]

Stockholm: Eriksson & Lindgren, c.2001, 155pp.

ISBN 91-87803-68-2

The dairy of Katti, aged 15, who never fits in anywhere. She gets expelled from school for bad language and insubordination. She runs away from home, but is caught and enrolled in a special programme. She is diagnosed with AD/HD, but refuses to go on medication for fear of becoming a drug addict. At last she gives in and starts taking her tablets. After only a few weeks her life gradually improves. A fast moving novel for teenagers as well as for teachers and politicians.

33 Niner, Holly L. (text)

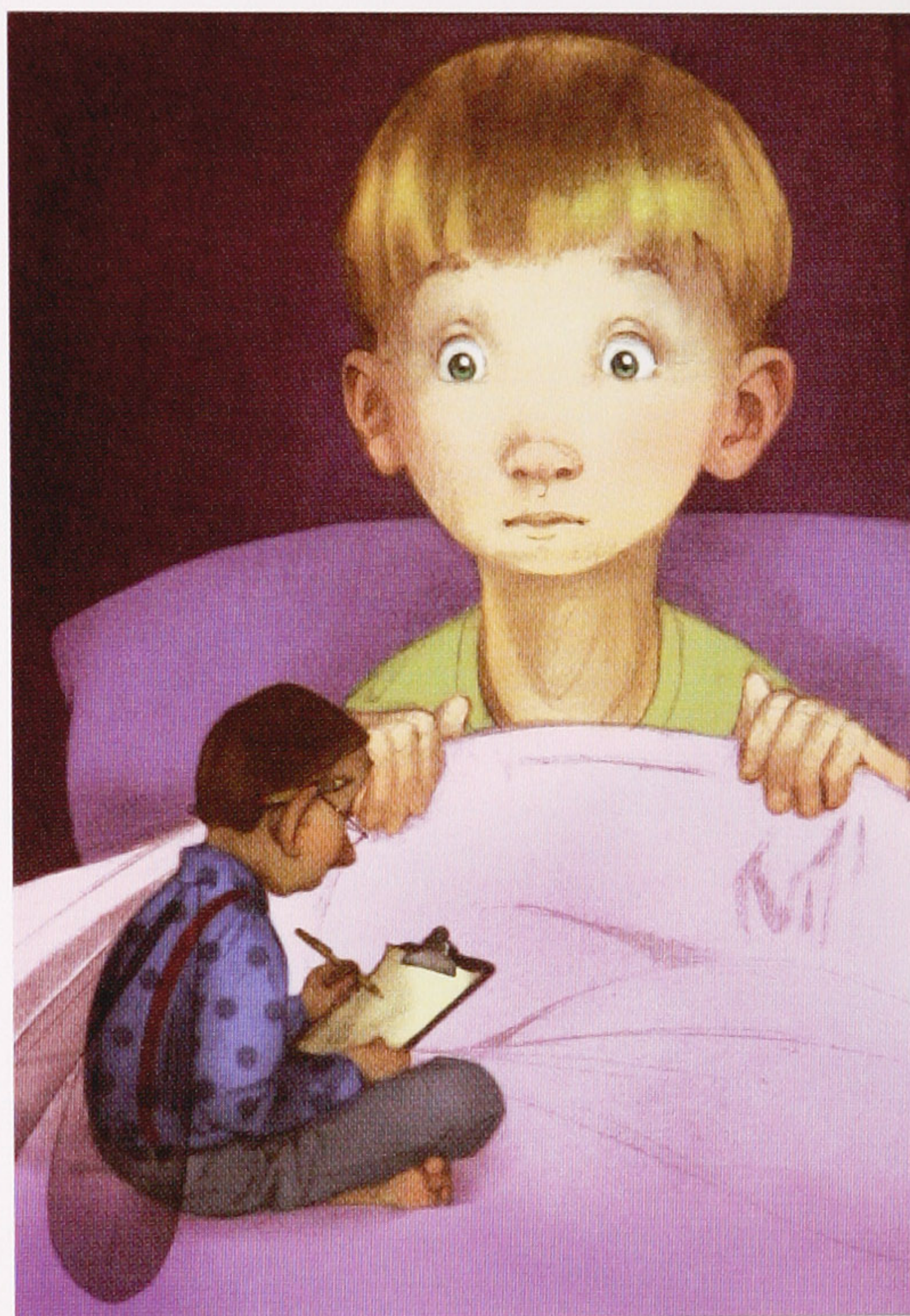
Greg Swearingen (ill.)

Mr. Worry, A Story About OCD

Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman & Co. 2004 [16pp]

ISBN 0-8075-5182-1

Kevin has a lot to do before he goes to sleep. He has to push his chair back until it touches the desk; he makes sure the books and papers are neatly stacked so they won't fall over; he lines up the cars on the shelf. If he doesn't do all this, his mind gets sweaty so he has to check over and over. One day he wonders if his mother might be an alien, although he really knows that is impossible. His parents find a counsellor to help Kevin find ways to fight his obsessive-compulsive



Mr. Worry

disorder (OCD) and focus on being able to control his life and stop 'Mr. Worry' taking over. Warm and sensitive illustrations complement the text.



The Printer, cat. no. 39

34 Papuzińska, Magda

Wszystko jest możliwe

[Anything is possible]

Lódź: Akapit Press, 2003, 88pp.

ISBN 83-88790-25-0

The main character of the book, Jas, is a severely handicapped boy, unable to walk, talk or take care of himself. Inside his body, however, exists a subtle, smart and alert brain. Unnoticed by others, his mind collects, processes and puts together information about the surrounding world. The boy's thoughts guide us through the life of a family with three siblings and their mother in the post-communist reality of Poland, where his parents are separated; perhaps the result of his father's failure to accept his handicapped son.

35 Riggs, Stephanie (text)

Bill Youmans (photographs)

Never Sell Yourself Short

Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman & Co. 2001, [16pp.]

ISBN 0-8075-5563-0

Josh is a typical teenage boy. He likes sport and spending time with his friends. He can't wait to drive and hopes to be a commercial pilot someday. Josh is also very short, and in this inspiring photo essay he talks about life in a world that is scaled for people five and six feet tall. Josh's story shows that having a short stature places no limits on spirits and determination. The photographs vividly portray a young man who stands tall.

36 Ruel, Francine

L'enfant dans les arbres

[The child who loved trees]

Québec: Musée du Québec, 2002, 40pp.

ISBN 2-551-21620-6

Émile goes to hospital because of severe burns to his hands. While he is there he meets Mathias; a soft-spoken and patient old man. Émile does not want to talk about his accident, but softened by descriptions of the view from Mathias' bed, he opens up and speaks about Vava, his sister. She has severe myopia and has to wear glasses with very thick lenses. Vava loves trees, especially since she got new glasses and can see them in detail. Before leaving the hospital, Mathias helps Émile discover the wonders of drawing. Émile moves into Mathias' bed when he leaves the ward, only to discover that the lovely view from Mathias' bed is nothing but a wall. Based upon the works of Marc-Aurèle Fortin, the book gently puts the focus on acceptance of other people's handicaps.

37 Sverdrup, Kari

Sets sang

[Set's Song]

Oslo: Omnipax, 2003, 119pp.

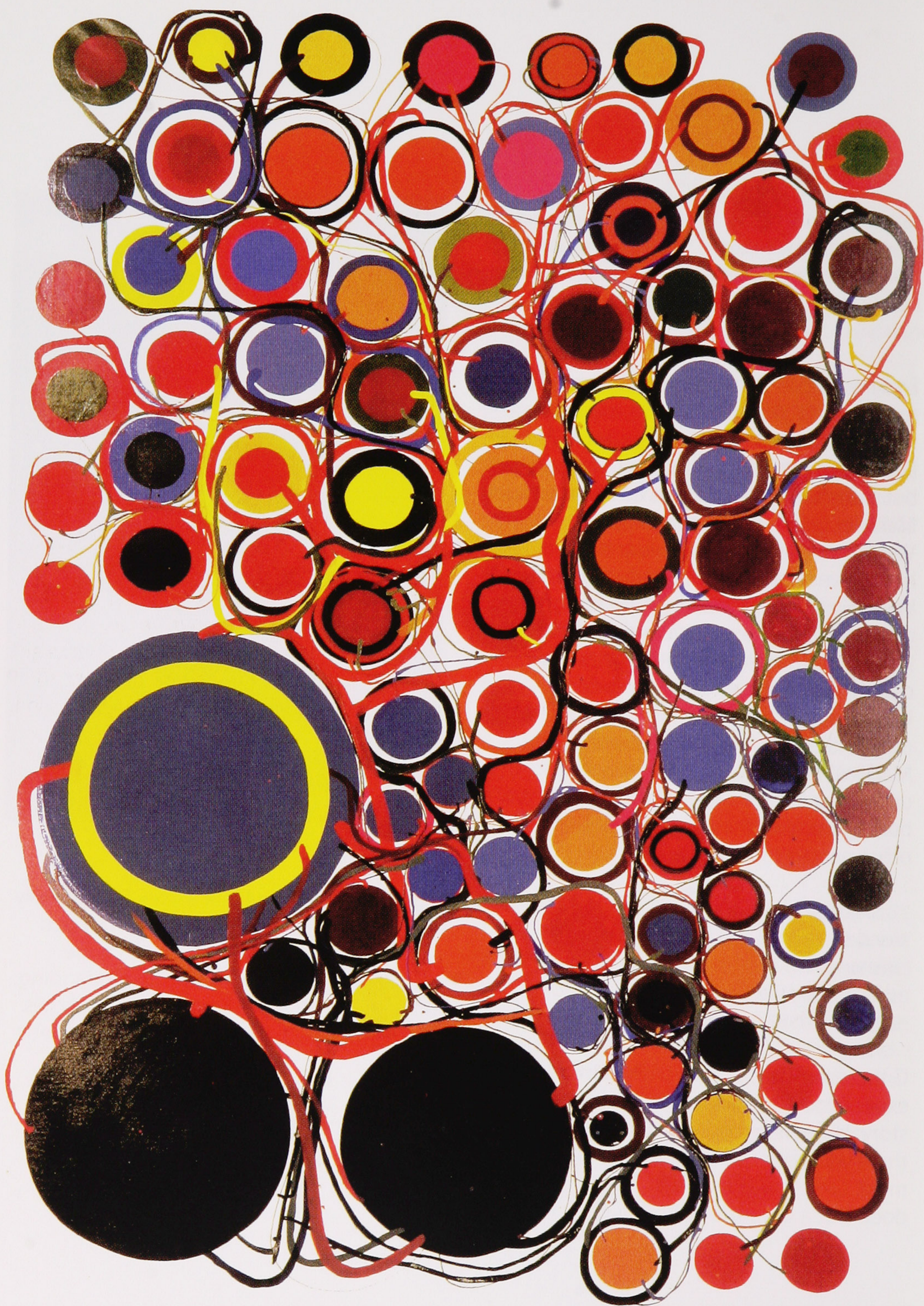
ISBN 82-530-2527-0

Gitta, almost 16, tries to cope with a terrible experience. She looks back and tells the story of her retarded sister Johanne who is three years older than Gitta, but with a child's mind. Gitta falls in love with Set, the boy next door. But a dreadful thing happens which



Never Sell Yourself Short

nobody realizes until much later. Set probably raped Johanna and she has now stopped laughing and singing. The characters are described with intensity and understanding, with no superfluous phrases or cheap clichés. The language is both stringent and poetic.



38 Tuitel, Johnnie

Searching the Noonday Trail

Grand Rapids, MI: Cedar Tree Publishing, 2004, 106pp.
ISBN 0-9658075-3-3

Twelve-year-old Johnnie has cerebral palsy and is confined to a wheelchair, but that does not stop him from living an active and exciting life. With his friends from the small town of Gun Lake, he goes on a field trip to where Chief Noonday and the Ottawa Indians used to live. This is book four in *The Gun Lake Adventure Series* that describes how a physically handicapped boy can enjoy practically all the same things as his friends. In this book Johnnie starts a new school and soon experiences the prejudices that some people have towards physical disability, often equating it with learning difficulties.

39 Uhlberg, Myron (text)

Henri Sørensen (ill.)

The Printer

Atlanta: Peachtree, 2003, [16pp.]
ISBN 1-56145-221-1

The deaf printer is isolated from his hearing co-workers at a newspaper printing plant because he speaks with his hands using a language they don't understand. When fire breaks out in the noisy pressroom, it is up to the printer to save his fellow workers. A dramatic story about a boy's admiration for his father, illuminated by Henri Sørensen's powerful paintings.

40 Verroen, Dolf (text)

Natascha Stenvert (ill.)

Josefientje mongolientje

[Josefine, little mongol]

Amsterdam: Van Goor, 2003, 109pp.
ISBN 90-00-03500-7

Josefientje is Jens' older sister. She can't read or write very well, but as an adult of 21 she smokes cigars and drinks beer. She has Down Syndrome and is something else... she even won a beauty contest at Jens' school! When the family celebrates her birthday at a restaurant, Jens notices how people look at her, which makes him realise how different she is from himself. An excellent description of a loving relationship between siblings, a young woman who happens to have Down Syndrome, and the people around her.

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