

iBBY

INTERNATIONAL BOARD ON BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

# OUTSTANDING BOOKS

*FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES 2013*



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## OUTSTANDING BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES 2013

by Heidi Cortner Boiesen

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IBBY Documentation Centre of Books for Disabled Young People

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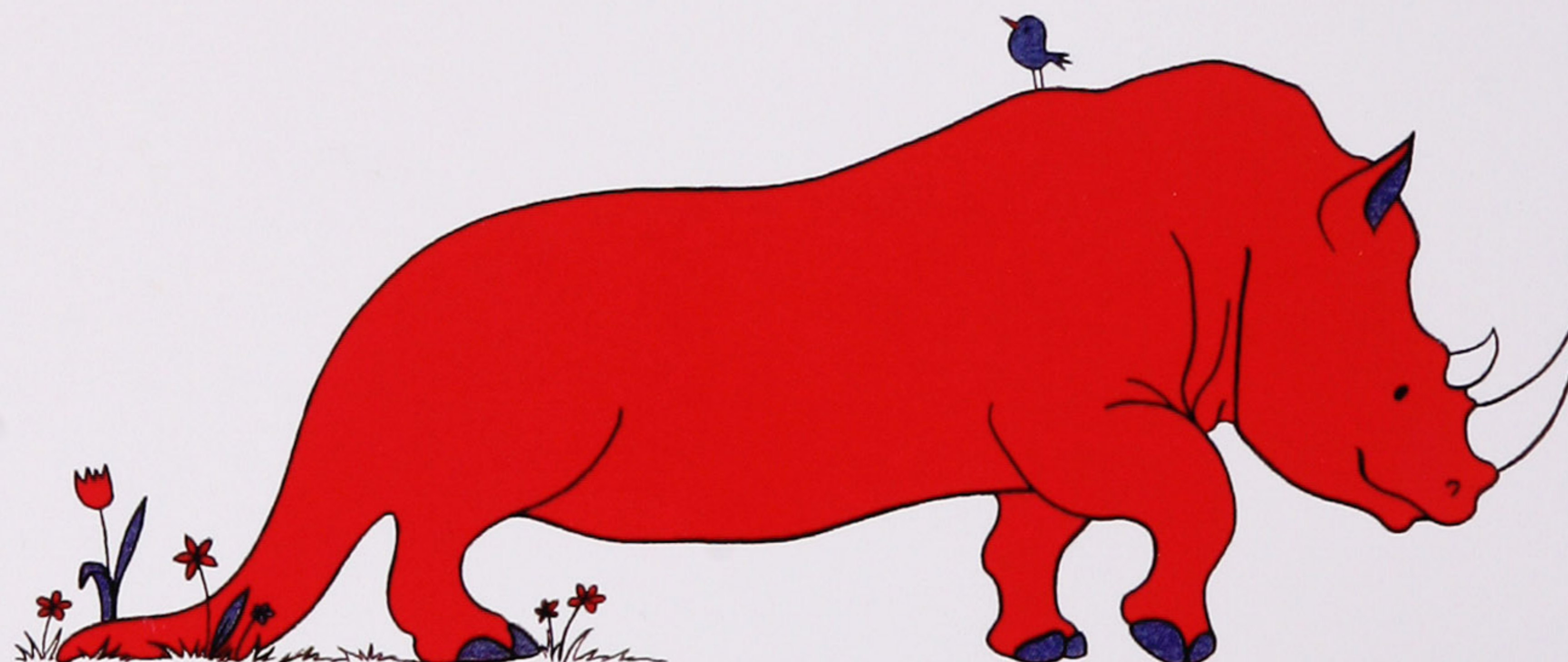
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Doray, Malika, Chez les ours (cat. no. 30)

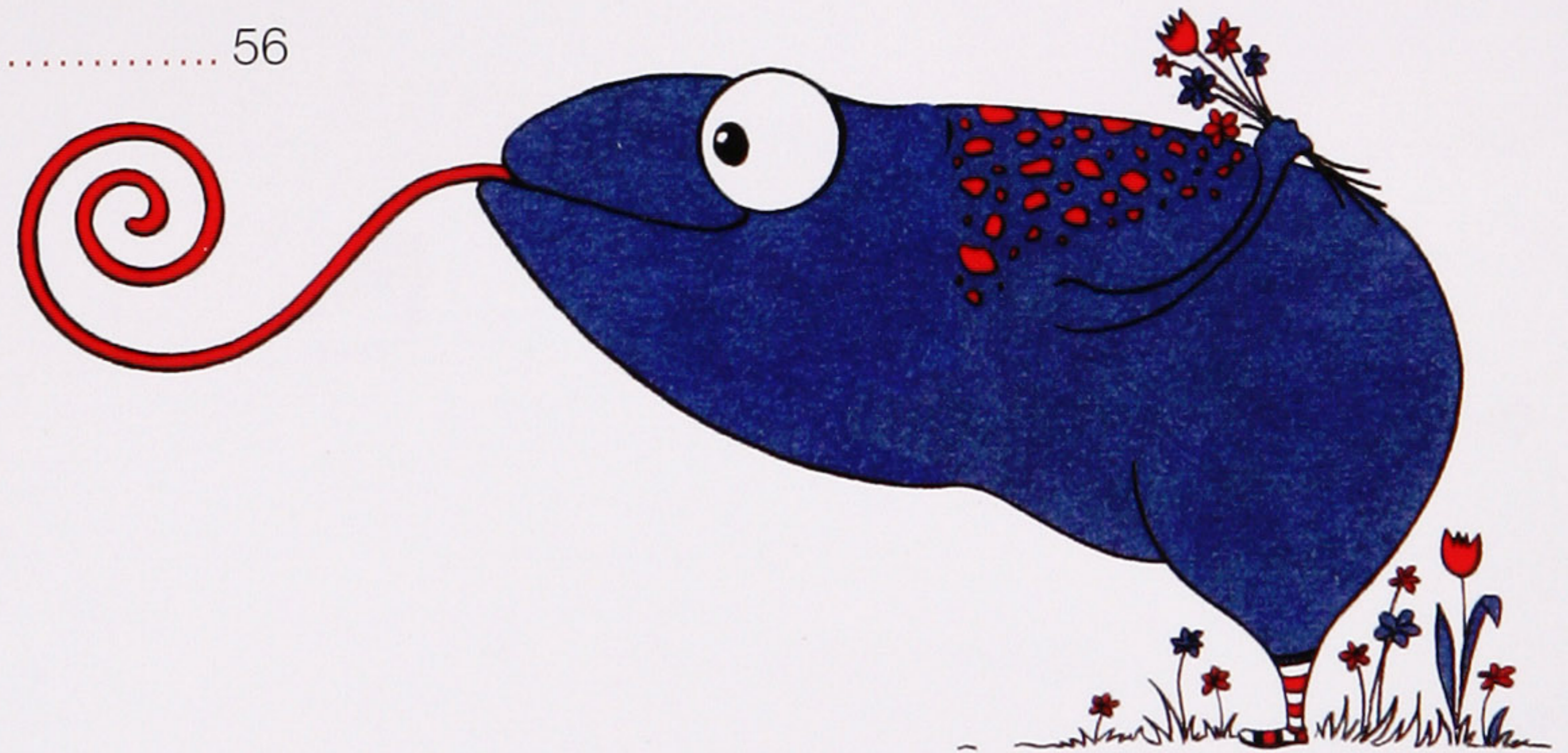
À la rencontre (cat. no. 35)



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È non è (cat. no. 43)

# FOREWORD

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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 2013 collection is the fifth and last in the series of regular biennial selections presented by the Haug School.

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 subsequently has been exhibited all over the world by IBBY members and others interested in the genre.

For this catalogue and exhibition the IBBY National Sections were requested to submit books that were published in 2008 or later. However, titles have also been evaluated from countries where the National Sections did not participate in the project.

Some particularly relevant titles were sent directly by publishers or submitted by enthusiastic contact persons.

Due to an overwhelming response to our invitation, over 140 titles were evaluated, of which 60 were selected. The selection was the responsibility of the Director of the IBBY Documentation Centre of Books for Disabled Young People in Norway. Sissel Hofgaard Swensen, formerly at the centre 'Books for Everyone' in Oslo, gave 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 that it stimulates parents and educators to share them with disabled young people.

Oslo and Basel, January 2013

Heidi Cortner Boiesen  
Director, IBBY Documentation Centre of Books for Disabled  
Young People

Elizabeth Page, IBBY Executive Director

Les fleurs, ça ne se déguise pas, mais ça sent **très** bon.



Au carnaval des animaux (cat. no. 31)

Puis la coccinelle se déguise en...

# INTRODUCTION

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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 2008 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 2008 or later

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

We hoped to discover books that inspire joy, curiosity, and

imagination, as well as those that encourage general understanding and special skills, such as language, visual perception and motor skills.

**III.** General children's books – picture books and stories – portraying young people with disabilities, published in 2008 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.



Sjalusi (cat. no. 18)



# APPROACHES FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

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Among the many good books that we received for this project, we would like to make a special mention of ten.

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. **Gebaren met Lotte & Max** [*Sign with Lotte & Max*] was written by Renske Douwes Dekker (cat. no.1) when she failed to find picture books in Dutch Sign Language for her own daughter. Besides being meant for children with hearing difficulties, the picture book has lift-up-pull-out flaps that can be enjoyed by children with no language problems. A disabled child and a person without disabilities can thus enjoy the book together. The author has a website with more information and suggestions of how to work with the book, as well as games and DVD's with Sign Language for children ([www.lottemax.nl](http://www.lottemax.nl) )

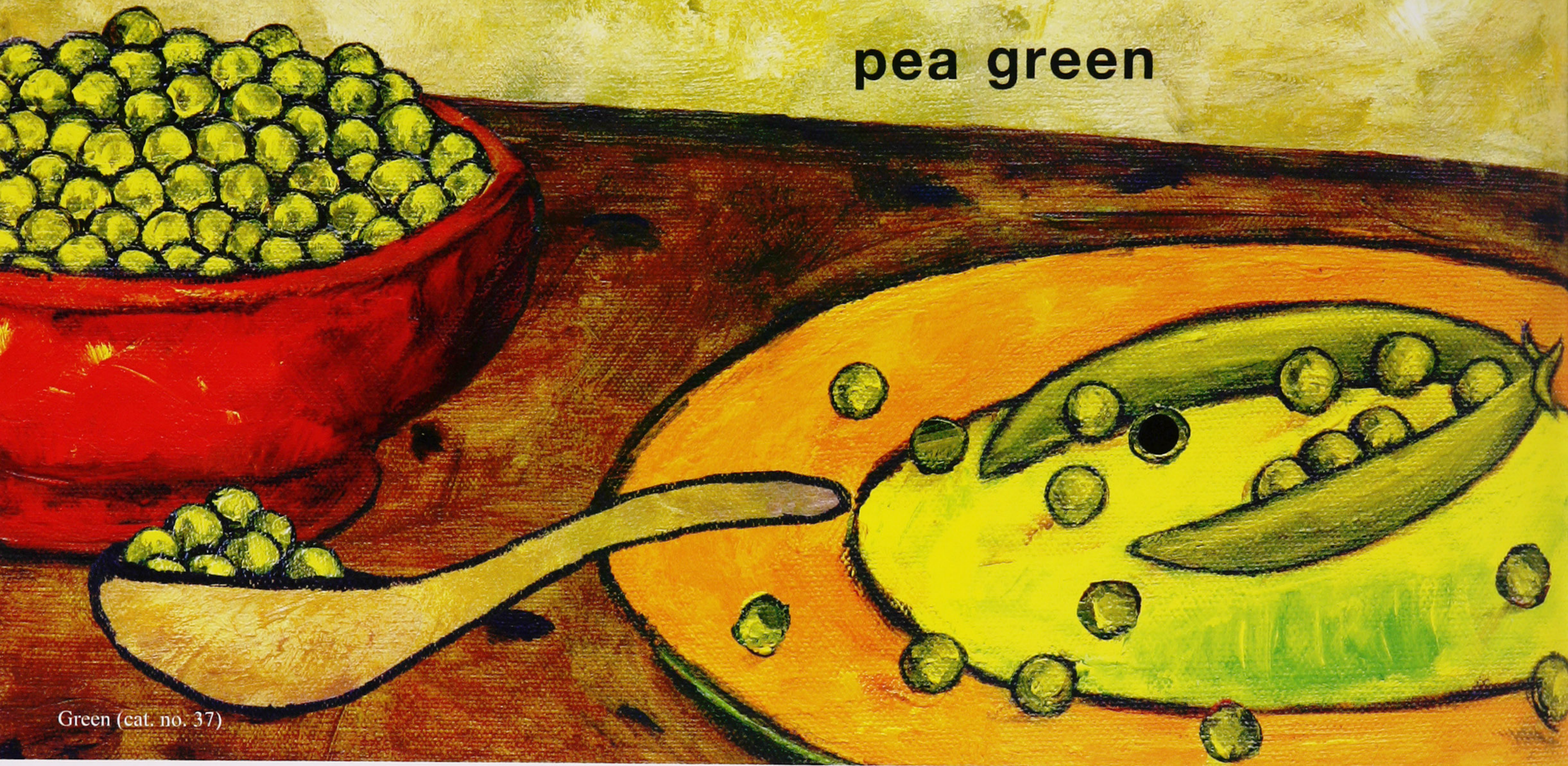
**Pelle på planetfärd** [*Pelle in space*] by Jan Lööf (cat. no. 5) is a Swedish picture book adapted with BLISS symbols added to the standard text. BLISS is an international non-verbal pictorial system that can help non-speaking people communicate. Some young people with mental disabilities also use BLISS as

a means of communication, often in combination with photographs and pictures. By telling the story through amusing and lively pictures combined with a regular text and BLISS symbols, this book can reach readers with different needs and skills. A workbook with questions and a series of picture cards to practise sentence building, conversation and communication are also provided. The title is also produced as a Wigit version. Wigit symbols are positioned above words that are difficult to read or decode or important for comprehending the matter at hand, thereby supporting reading, comprehension and memory.

**Riccioli d'oro e i tre orsi** [*Goldilocks and the three bears*] by Enza Crivelli (cat. no. 6) is a simple picture book version of the classic fairytale. The Pictorial Communication Symbols added to the text help the reading process for anyone with difficulties in understanding written words, or indeed for anyone trying to learn a foreign language.

A tactile picture book 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.

# pea green



Green (cat. no. 37)

Provided that the illustrations are comprehensible to the blind child, they can help develop language, although not all tactile pictures are easy to understand for a child without visual experience.

We know that conventional, realistic pictures even if they are in raised print, are difficult to interpret for children who have been blind from birth. If such pictures are to be legible, they should represent small objects with the shape, size and texture that a blind child is familiar with in everyday life.

Certainly, children who are blind 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. **Le petit Chaperon Rouge** [*Little Red Riding Hood*] (cat. no. 13) by Warja Lavater and Myriam Colin is a completely tactile adaptation that offers neither Braille nor a printed text: Little Red Riding Hood and the other main characters are all small dots of different sizes, colour and texture.

A cloth book is another kind of tactile picture book. **Tanoshii dobutsuen** [*Fun at the Zoo*] (cat. no. 15) by Yoriko Ikegami is one such book. Some of the pictures are movable objects, which add to the pleasure. Cloth books with their multi-sensory approach, such as different materials, forms and textures, are books for everyone.

Young people with reading difficulties spend a lot of time and effort on decoding words and then understanding and mastering the skill of reading. Motivating reading requires a wide supply

of easy-readers that have fascinating and age relevant stories. **Blant løver i Afrika** [*Among lions in Africa*] by Albert and Ane-Grethe Owesen (cat. no. 22) is a story that will be enjoyed by young adults as well as older persons with intellectual disabilities. Persons with few reading skills will enjoy the numerous colour photographs.

General picture books are another source of reading and a pleasant means of stimulating visual perception, language and communication and expressing feelings. These are important books because they can be picked from the general stock and are, therefore, widely available.

**Green** by Laura Vaccaro Seeger (cat. no. 37) is picture book that will appeal to many children or young people with reading difficulties. Each double page presents a different shade of green with one playful “*never green*” page (a Stop sign) and a “*no green*” one for a snowy landscape. The pages are linked to one another with openings into the next spread, which brings in yet another shade of green.

Many writers and artists have created books that portray people with disabilities with sensitivity and insight while remaining novels, fantasy or crime stories in their own right. Such books

can answer questions and destroy the myths connected with disabilities.

**Me, the Queen and Christopher** by Giles Andrae (cat. no. 42) is a humorous story about a little girl's day with the Queen. The latter proves to be a warm and genuine personality who later goes out of her way to make sure that the girl's disabled brother has an extra special day.

**Bartolomé: The Infanta's pet** by Rachel van Kooij (cat. no. 51) is inspired by the painting *Las Meninas* by Diego Velazquez. This is a very special book about being "*different*" and "*treated like a plaything with no real value*". Bartolomé is eventually given a voice and finds a meaningful way of life.

**Litamer alamon khass** [*Tamer's own world*] by Fatima Sharafeddine, (cat. no. 59) deconstructs typical autistic behaviour to show how it is often misunderstood. The carefully plotted narrative, supported by lively mixed media illustrations, gradually reveals Tamer's positive qualities hidden behind the negative impressions triggered by his autism.

Heidi Cortner Boiesen



Me, the Queen and Christopher (cat. no. 42)

# BOOKS WITH LANGUAGE ILLUSTRATIONS

**1 Dekker, Renske Douwes** (concept)

**Geest, Geertje van der** (text)

**Reijger, Hajo de** (ill.)

**Gebaren met Lotte &  
Max. Boerderijdieren**

*[Sign with Lotte & Max. Animals of the farm]*

Amsterdam: De vier Windstreken, 2009

[22pp.] ISBN 978-90-5116-114-4

Children with hearing, speech and language problems are thought to benefit from sign language from the age of seven months. This book is a pop-up-pull-out book in Dutch Sign Language for small children. Clear, colourful illustrations with movable hands show how the signs are made. Each spread is dedicated to one animal. For example, in one spread on the left-hand side we see the character signing dog with the word dog in large print underneath, while on the right-hand side there is a simple illustration with a short informative,

but funny poem, about dogs. The book is very useful for professionals or parents.

**2 Lee, Ru-ri** (text) **Bae, U-ri** (ill.)

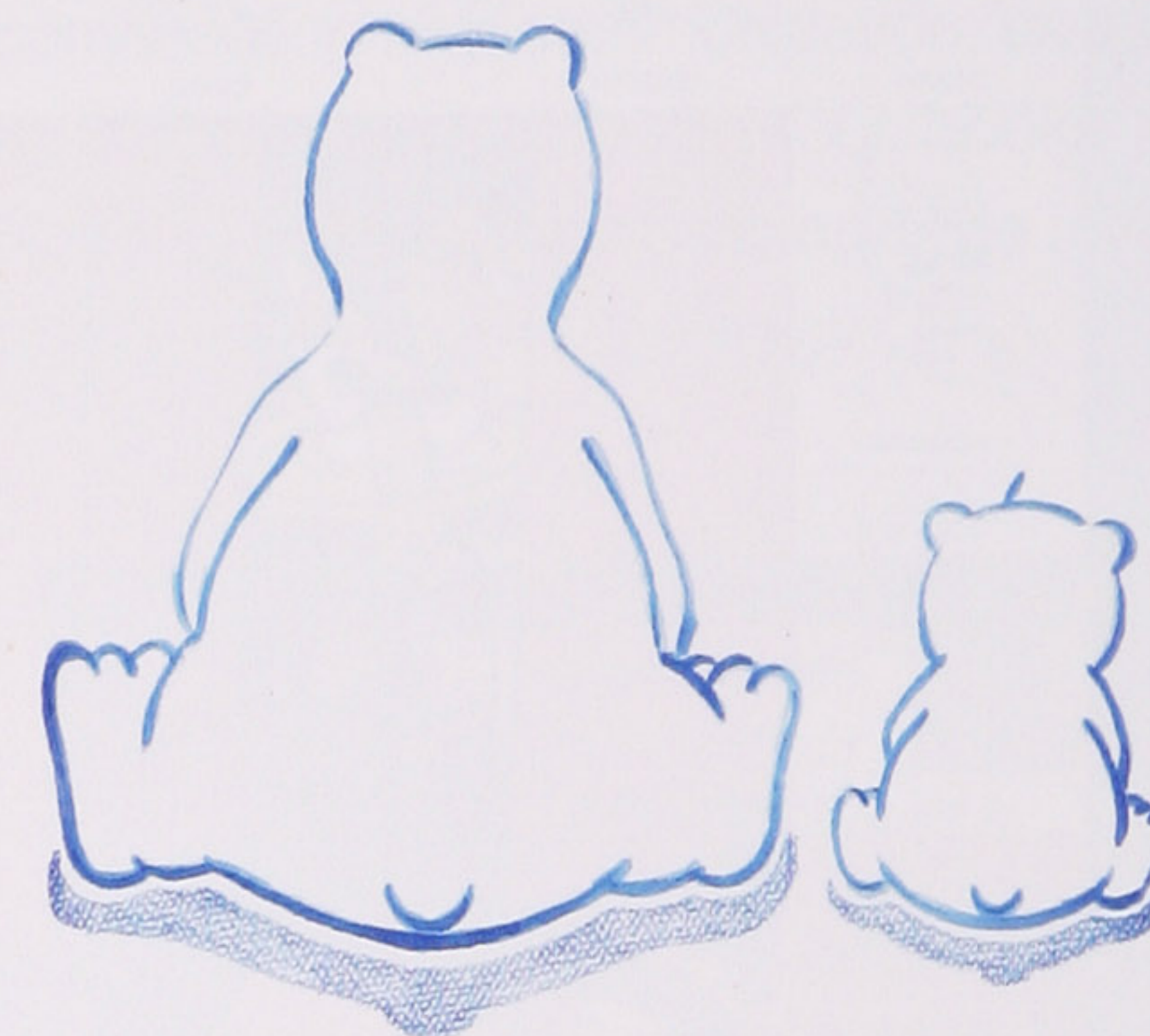
**Buk-geuk-gom Koda**

*[Koda, the Polar Bear]*

Seoul: BF Books, 2011 [32pp.] + CD

ISBN 978-89-97119-47-9


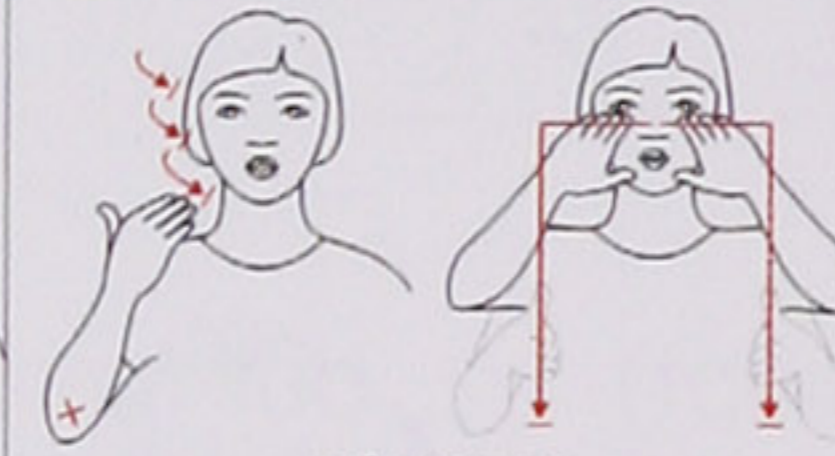












The little polar bear Koda and his mother are being tracked by Boba, but the hunter keeps missing his targets in the snowy wasteland. The simple and humorous illustrations show how Koda and his mother try to protect each other from the threatening hunter. This picture book is also produced in Korean-Chinese and Korean-Vietnamese for children who are learning to speak Korean. A sign language VOD CD is attached for hearing-impaired children to enjoy the story.



하얀 눈으로 뒤덮인 북극에서  
눈처럼 새하얀 북극곰을  
어떻게 찾아낼 수 있겠어요?

Buk-geuk-gom Koda (cat. no. 2)

 ESSEN	 TRINKEN	 KIOSK	 GUMMIBÄRCHEN
 LIMONADE			 EISDIELE
 BIER			 SÜSSIGKEIT
 COLA	 KAKAO	 SCHOKOLADE	 EIS
			 LOLLI

 DÖNER	 DÖNERBUDE	 DAS CAFÉ	 POMMES
 DER KAFFEE			 FRIKADELLE
 DER KAFFEE (V2)			 MAYONNAISE
 APFELSAFT	 BRATWURST	 MINERALWASSER	 KETCHUP
			 CURRYWURST

**3 Moriggi, Sigrun Nygaard** (concept)  
**Costrau, Andreas** (selection of signs)  
**Hesselbarth, Susann and Ulrike Jentsch** (ill.)

**Hand in Hand die Welt begreifen.  
Ein Bildwörterbuch der  
Gebärdensprache**

*[Grasping the world hand-in-hand.  
A picture dictionary of sign language]*  
Leipzig: Klett Kinderbuch Verlag, 2010  
176pp. ISBN 978-3-941411-26-5

Talking to each other without uttering a single sound – how is that possible? This picture dictionary of Signed German, with categories ranging from the human body to school life, hobbies and holidays, offers around 1,700 signs for everyday objects and actions in a young person's life. The bright and often amusing illustrations will entice children to try to learn sign language. Each double page shows a specific situation surrounded by drawings of signs relating to the situation.

**4 Rehn, Annika** (text)  
**Billeson, Göran** (photos)  
**Jag vill gå på lina!**

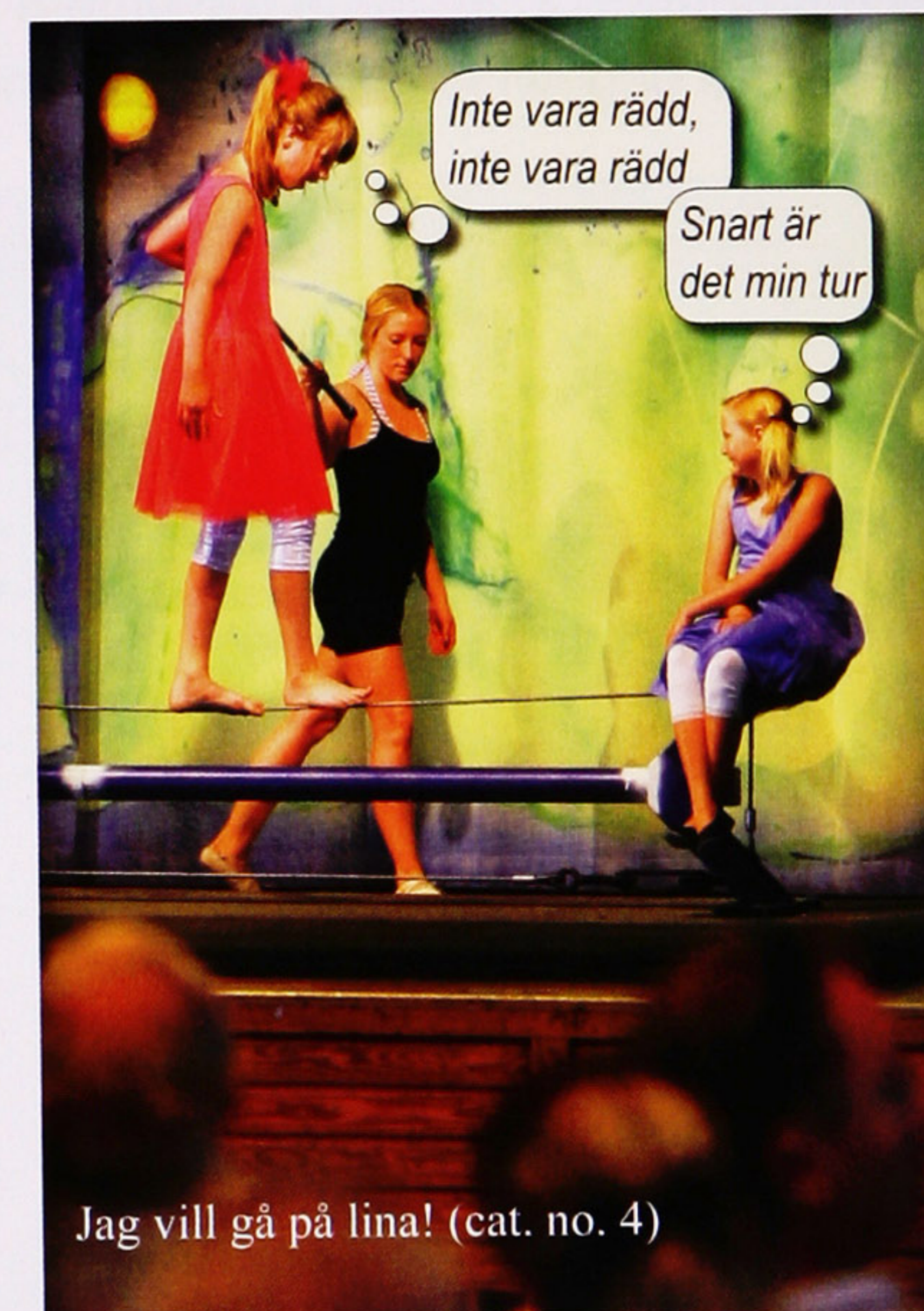
*[I want to walk the tightrope!]*  
Lidingö: Hatten Förlag, (Skills), 2012  
26pp. ISBN 978-91-97907-44-6

Alice and Maja are two young girls who are learning to tightrope walk from real circus artists. After a while they are good enough to take part in a performance with other young people.

*Skills* is a series of four easy-to-read books about leisure activities for young adults with reading disabilities. The text is supported by Swedish Sign Language, and the large and illustrative photos follow the text closely. The other books in the series are *"I want to dance!"*, *"I want to play football!"*, and *"I want to run!"*

The series aims at encouraging students to read simple texts on their own so that they can improve their reading skills, conversation and even inspire writing.

A fifth part of the series is a box of picture cards to practise sentence building, conversation and communication, as well as a DVD containing the four books as films, assisted by a sign language interpreter who narrates the story.



# A BOOK WITH BLISS

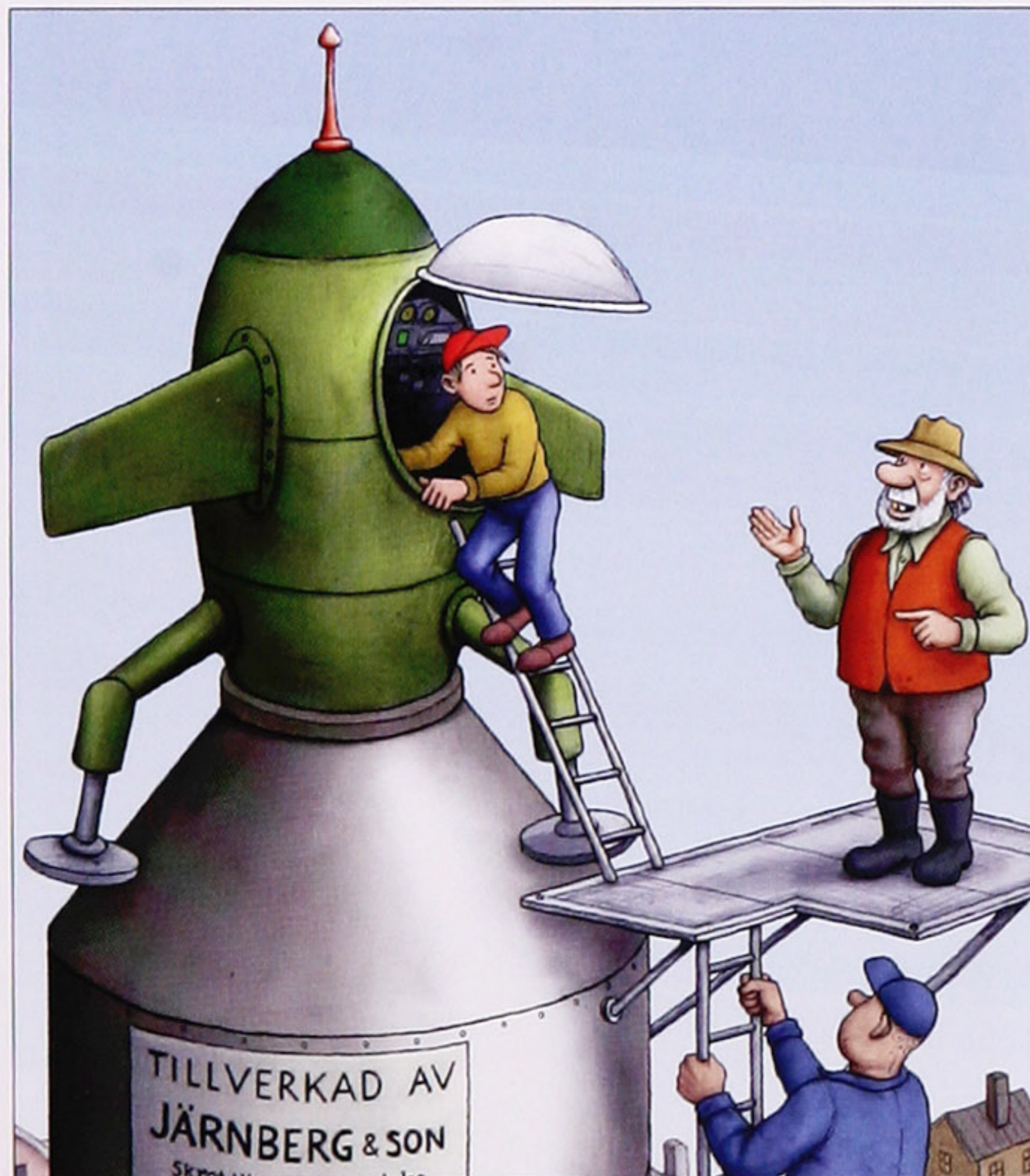
## 5 Löf, Jan

### **Pelle på planetfärd** [*Pelle in space*]

Umeå: Specialpedagogiska skolmyndigheten, 2011, 52pp. ISBN 978-91-28-10314-5

Pelle embarks on a space adventure to find his friend the professor's dog, which had been taken as a hostage to force

the professor to hand over his book of inventions. The book has been adapted using Bliss symbols. The original illustrations are kept, but the Swedish language version is simplified for children with reading disabilities and the story is told in easy text printed beneath the Bliss symbols.



$\perp_1$   $\pm$   $\square$   $\setminus$   $\triangleup$   $\circ$   $\lambda_N$   $\square$   $\square$   
 -Vi har byggt en rymdraket, säger Skrot-Nisse.

$\perp_2$   $\text{P}$   $\text{P}$   $\rightarrow$   $\uparrow$   $\square$   $\square$   $\otimes$   
 Du Pelle måste åka upp i rymden

$+$   $\triangleup$   $\lambda_B$   
 och hjälpa Bertil.

$\perp_2$   $\text{L}$   $>\dots$   $\square$   $\text{I}$   $\text{I}$   $\triangleup$   
 Du ska sitta här i det lilla rymdskeppet.

$+$   $\triangleup$   $\lambda_B$   
 och hjälpa Bertil.

$\perp_2$   $\text{L}$   $>\dots$   $\square$   $\text{I}$   $\text{I}$   $\triangleup$   
 Du ska sitta här i det lilla rymdskeppet.

Pelle på planetfärd (cat. no. 5)



# A BOOK WITH PCS

6 Crivelli, Enza (text) Bianchessi Peppo (ill.)

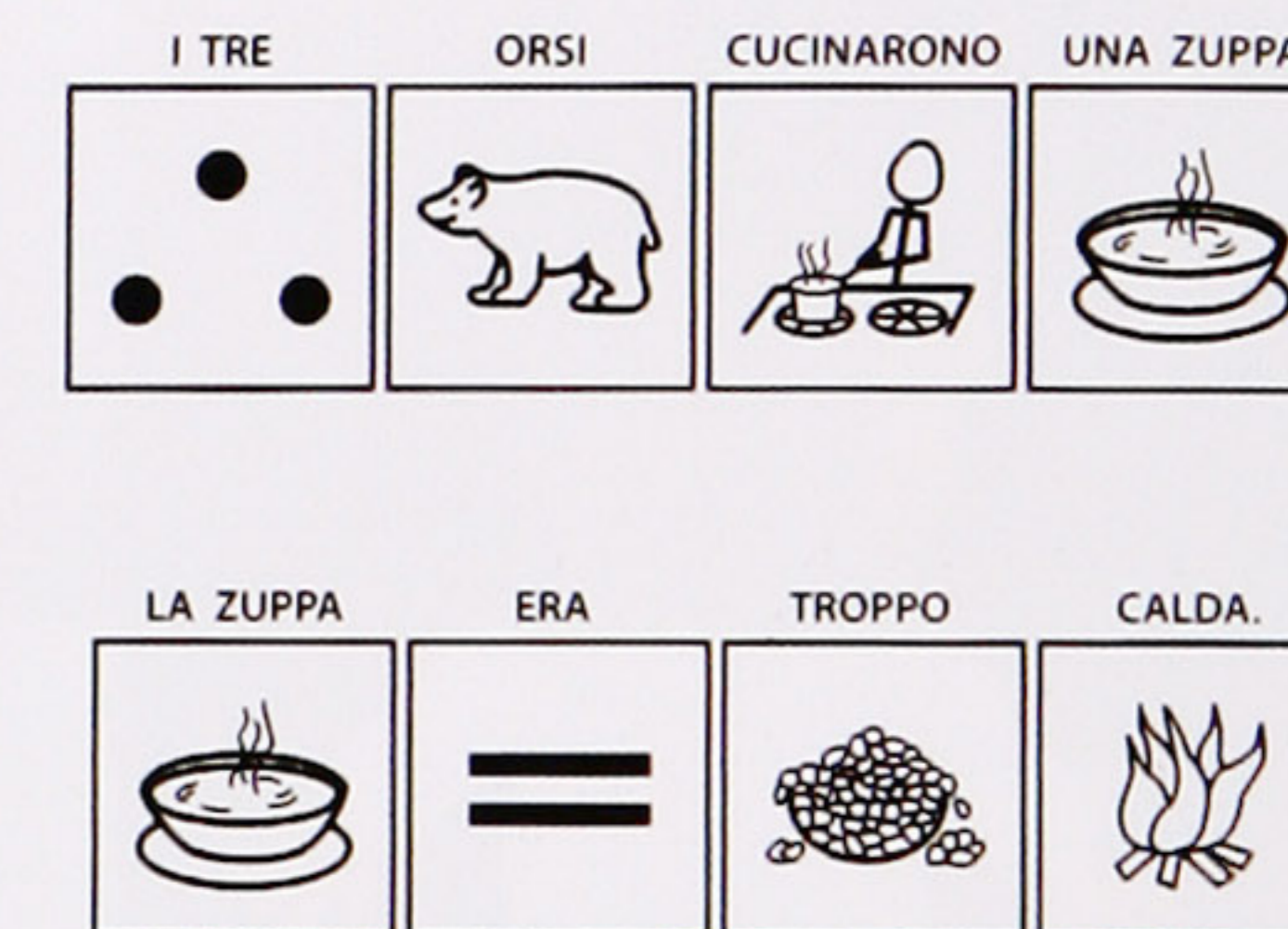
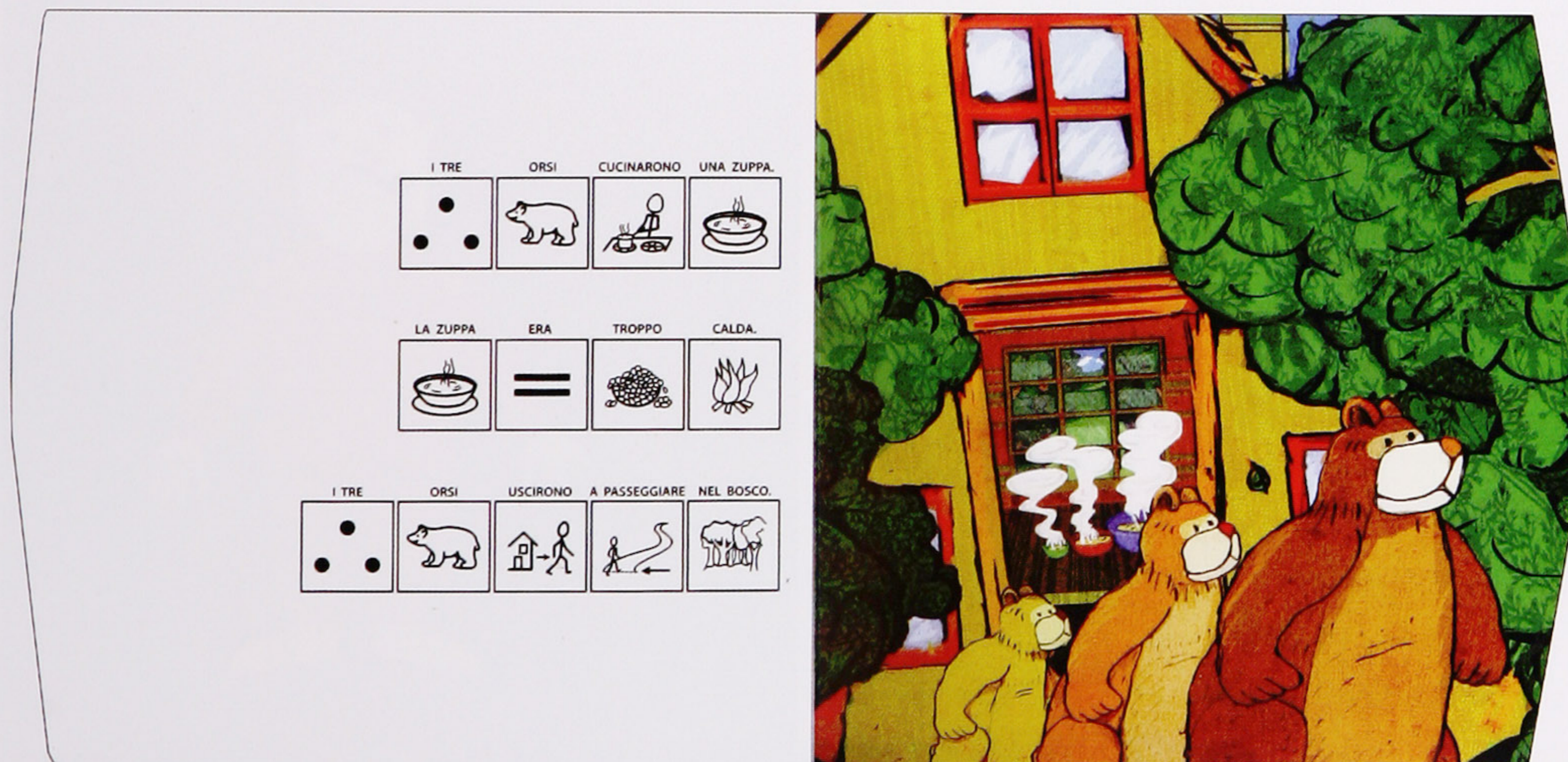
**Riccioli d'Oro e i tre orsi** [*Goldilocks and the three bears*]

Crema: Uovonero Edizioni, 2012 [32pp.]

ISBN 978-88-96918-11-1

In this board picture book the classic fairy tale of Goldilocks is designed to give every child the pleasure of reading a book and

sharing it with others. The book uses strategies and tools inspired by the Augmentative and Alternative Communication approach, which facilitates and solves everyday communicative challenges for people with reduced communication skills. The clear illustrations are printed on the right-hand side, while the story is structured in simple sentences accompanied by Picture Communication Symbols (PCS) on the left-hand side.



Riccioli d'Oro e i tre orsi (cat. no. 6)

# BRAILLE OR TACTILE ILLUSTRATIONS

## 7 Bergström, Gunilla

**God natt, Alfons Åberg** [*Good Night Alfie Atkins*]

Stockholm/Johanneshov: Rabén & Sjögren/

Talboks- och punktskriftbiblioteket, 2010, 24pp.

Alfie Atkins is known and loved among toddlers and pre-schoolers

all over the world. In this book Alfie keeps pestering Daddy with demands of a story, water, potty, using every kind of stalling tactic, until Daddy is the one who falls asleep. This popular Swedish picture book has Braille and large print and can be read by a visually-impaired parent while the child enjoys the tactile elements that follow the original illustrations.



Här är pappa.  
Han är snäll för jämnan.  
Nästan för snäll. Som i kväll:  
fast klockan är så mycket läser  
han en lång, bra saga om en häst.  
Sen ger han Alfons en kram  
och släcker ljuset när han går.  
I dörren säger han:  
"Gonatt och sov så gott."  
Men Alfons vill inte sova gott.  
Han vill inte sova alls.

4



God natt, Alfons Åberg (cat. no. 7)

- Papa, papa,

je peux t'aider ?

Je veux planter comme toi,

demande T'choupi.



T'choupi jardine (cat. no. 8)

**8 Courtin, Thierry**

**Le Gal, Françoise et.al.** (tactile adaptation)

**T'choupi jardine** [*Tchoupi goes gardening*]

Talant/Angers: Les Doigts Qui Revêt/Institut Montéclair, 2011  
[28pp.] ISBN 978-2-916170-56-1

This is a playful presentation of a character beloved by many

young children, and is adapted from a picture book first published by Nathan in 1997. T'choupi wants to garden but does not have any gardening tools. Detachable figures of T'choupi and her father are provided so they can be moved throughout the story. The book is furnished with a "tool box" and children are encouraged to put their own miniature toy tools into it. The text is in Braille and large print.

9 Dewitte, Jan (text) Vlerick, Freya (ill.)

**Rare snuiters.**

**Een prenten- en gedichtenboek**

[*Odd animals. A picture- and poetry book*]

Ghent: Poëziecentrum/Blindensorg

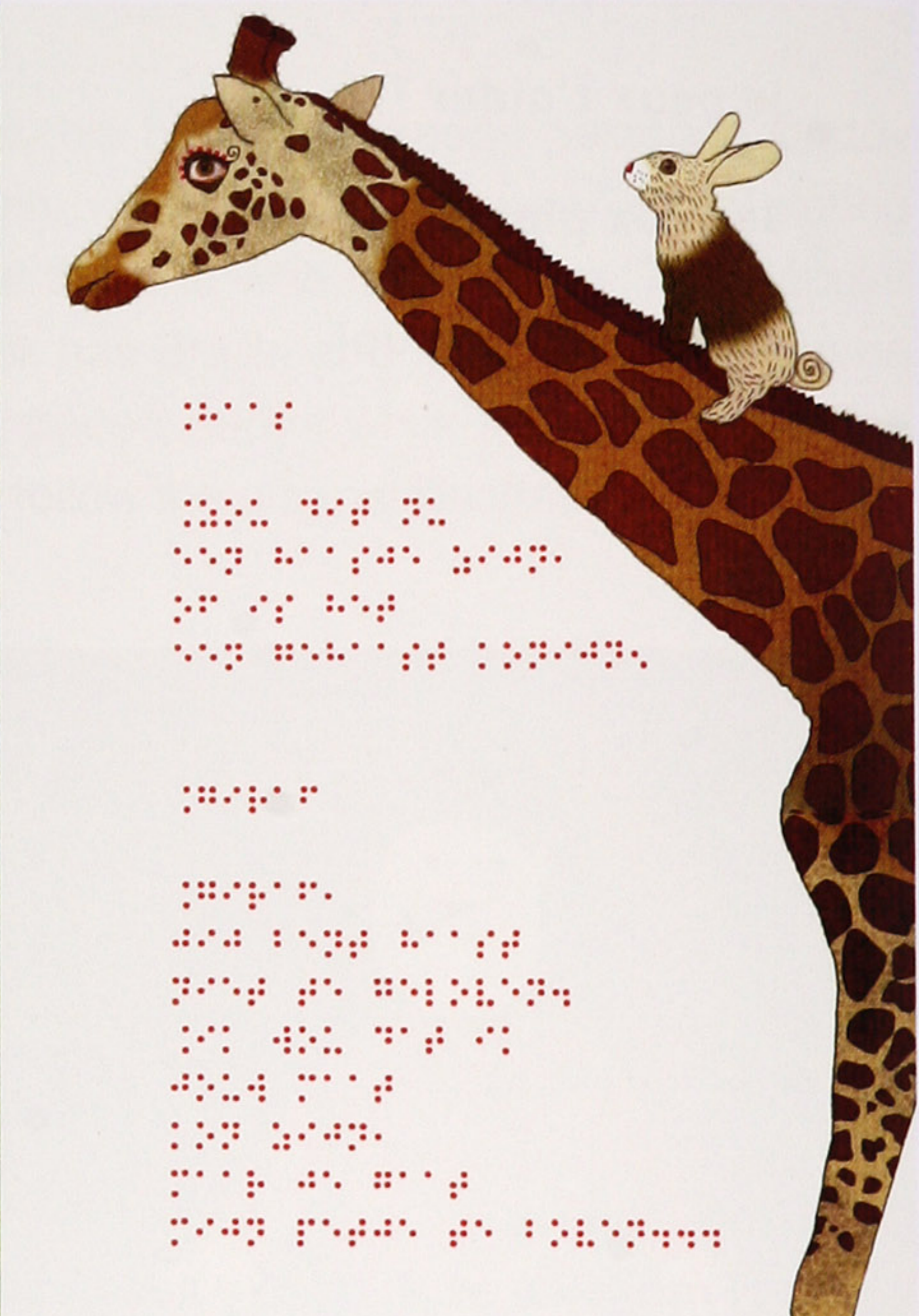
Licht en Liefde, 2011 [36pp.] +CD

ISBN 978-90-5655-104-9

*Rare snuiters* is a picture and poetry book that is explicitly aimed at people with a visual impairment and children with dyslexia, from eight years upwards. The short, humorous poems are about animals, one for each letter of the alphabet ranging from “Aap” (monkey) to “Zwaan” (swan). The top of each page shows a silhouette of the animal set out in relief, and featuring the name of the animal in Braille. The illustrations, also set in relief, are large-planned and have an atmospheric, yet high-contrast colour scheme. The photos of human eyes that have been incorporated into every image add a special touch,



literally and tactilely. The poems are not produced in Braille, but can be listened to using the accompanying CD.



Rare snuiters. Een prenten- en gedichtenboek (cat. no. 9)

**10 Holstein, Irmeli and Minna Katela**

**Un magico inverno**

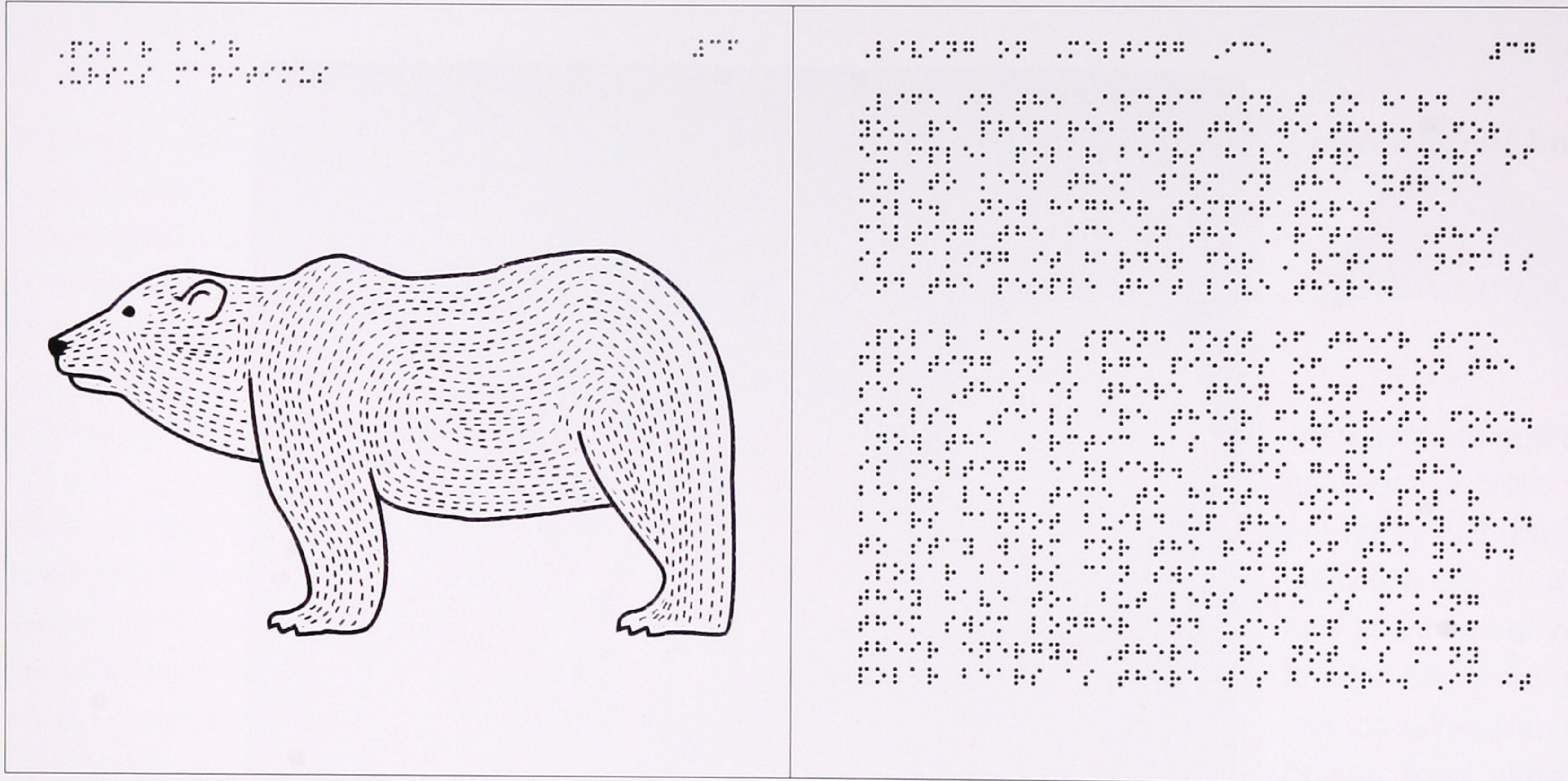
*[A magical winter]*

Rome: Zajedno Società Cooperativa,  
2012 [14pp.]

When the icy wind brings the first snow flakes, little Emma builds a snowman that becomes her friend. But when the weather starts to warm up, the snowman slowly disappears. Emma's sadness from losing her friend soon turns into hope of meeting him when the next winter comes. In this hand-made textile book, raised pictures are created with extreme care and masterly choice of materials. Each detail provides an impressive tactile experience; the snow-covered ground evokes the feeling, the consistency and the sound of snow crunching under Emma's feet. On each double page the written story develops on the left-hand side in large print along with the Braille text.



Un magico inverno (cat. no. 10)



Water Tactile Book  
(cat. no. 11)

**11 Jeanes, Jacquie (ill.)**

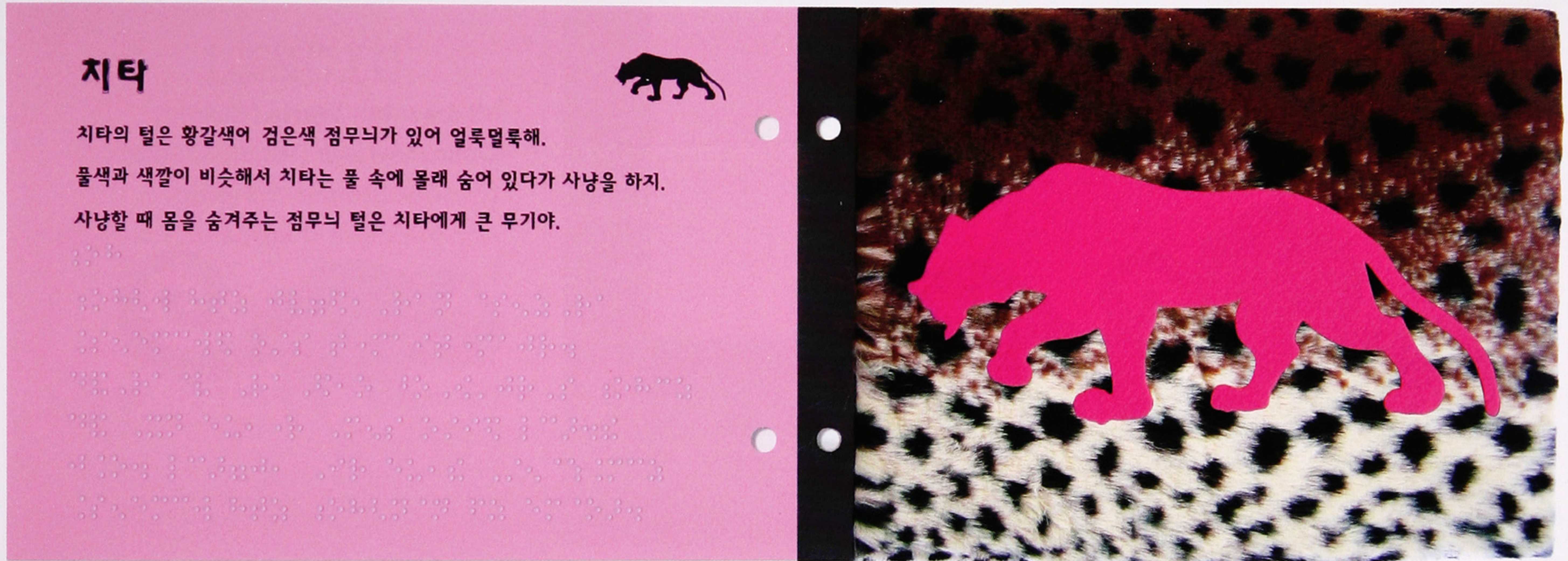
**Water Tactile Book**

Toronto: Royal Ontario Museum, 2011

59pp. ISBN 978-0-88854-486-5

Essential knowledge for everyone, this book features the ground-breaking exhibition *Water - The Exhibition* in braille, raised line graphics, large print, colour photographs and simplified

language. Illuminating the indispensable role water plays in our lives and the urgent need to protect it, this tactile book is a celebration of the power and wonder of this life-giving substance and a call to each of us to become stewards of our blue planet. Children who have difficulty reading print because of physical, visual or learning disabilities have the opportunity to access this information in various ways.



Touch Me (cat. no. 12)

**12 Kim, Seon-hee and Kim, Dan-ah**

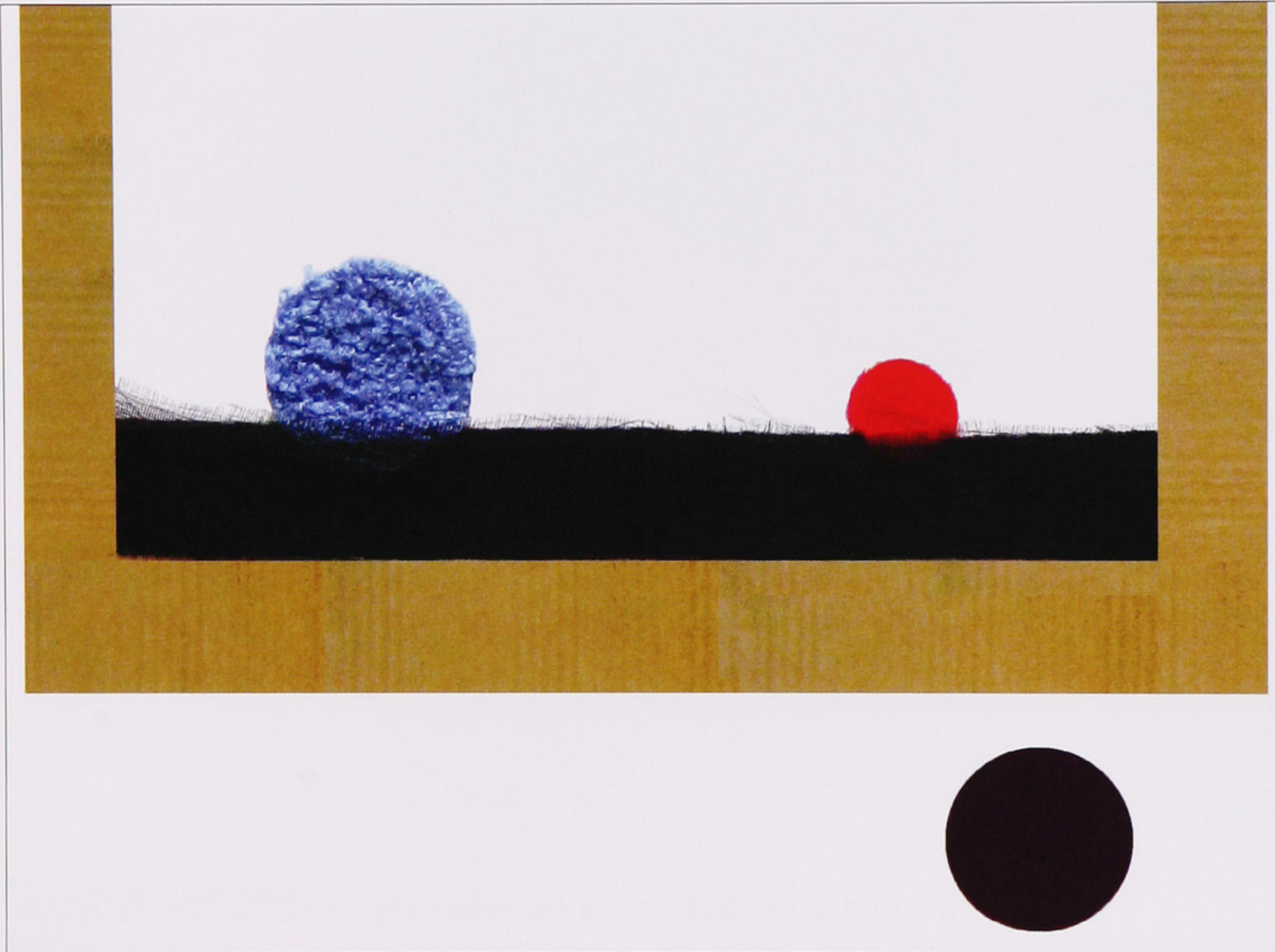
**Touch Me**

Seoul: BF Books, 2009 [18pp.] +CD

ISBN 978-89-97119-37-0

*Touch Me* is a tactile book about animals and birds. While the text is in Korean large print and Braille, the readers can gain much information by using their hands. On each double page

the text is printed on the left-hand side and the animal made from thick felt is placed on a transparent plastic sheet. When the plastic page is lifted, one can feel the skin or fur of the animal. Diverse materials such as leather, fake fur and sequins are used to imitate the real feel of the animals. The text is also provided on an audio-CD.



Le petit Chaperon Rouge une imagerie d'après un conte de Perrault (cat. no. 13)

**13 Lavater, Warja** (design)

**Colin, Myriam** (tactile adaptation)

**Le petit Chaperon Rouge  
une imagerie d'après un conte de  
Perrault**

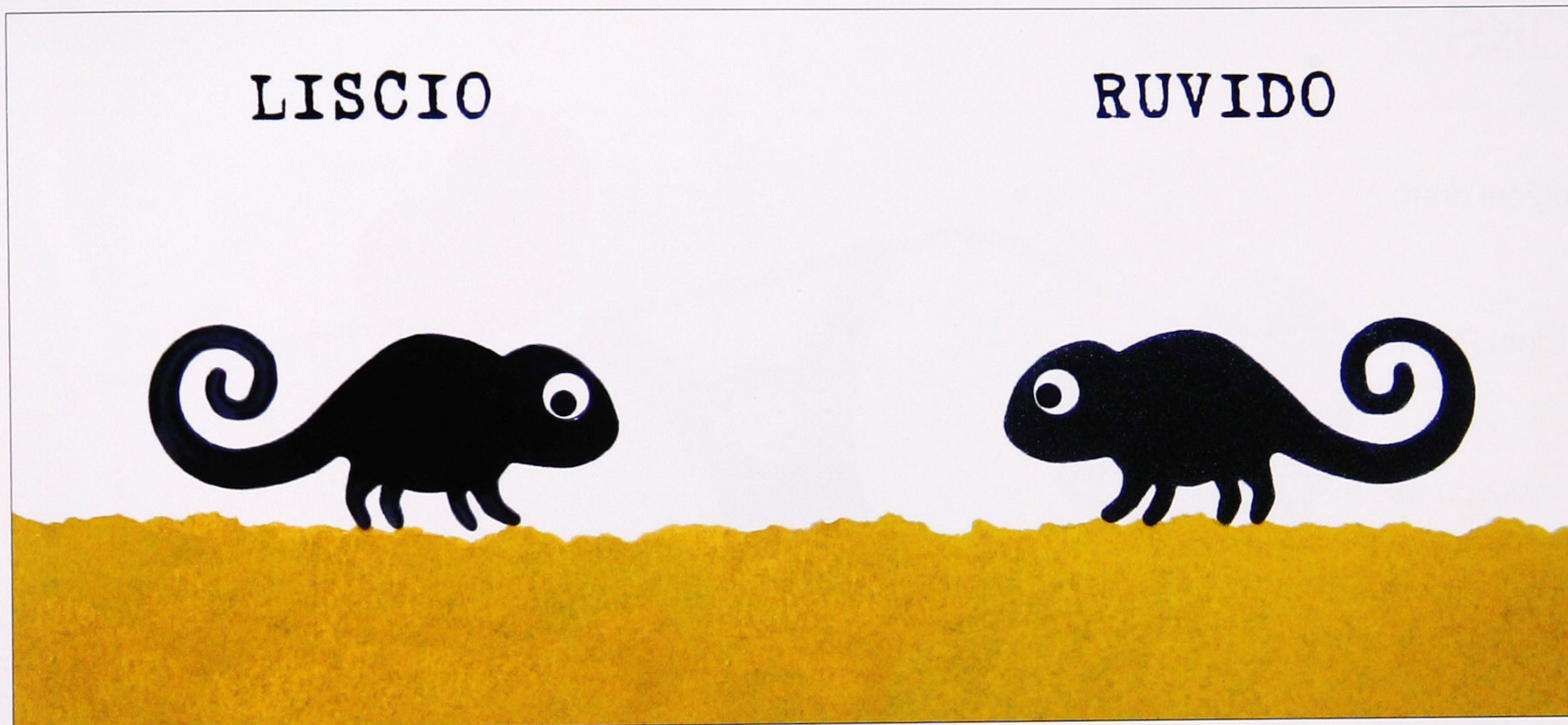
*[Little Red Riding Hood]*

Talant: Les Doigts Qui Rêvent,

[Leporello] ISBN 978-2-911782-95-X

This beautiful interpretation of the classic fairy tale is now available in a tactile adaptation and comes in a small red box like a treasure chest. Open the box and the story evolves accordion-style. Small coloured circles represent the main characters: a red circle - Little Red Riding Hood, a prickly black one - the Wolf, a brown leather circle - the Hunter. Completely without text, the fairy tale is still easy to understand for young people with disabilities as well as for young persons with reading disabilities.





Tutt'altro (cat. no. 14)

**14 Sellig, Antje** (design) **Lodolo, Eliza**  
(tactile adaptation)

**Tutt'altro** [*Nothing like that*]

Rome: Federazione pro Ciechi,  
(A spasso con le dita) [*Fun for fingers*],  
2012 [16pp.]

*Tutt'altro* is a tactile book dedicated to the discovery of opposites. A chameleon playfully invites the reader to explore every

kind of opposites; smooth and coarse, hard and soft, big and small, and so on. The book contains high-quality illustrations especially designed to provide visually-impaired children with a first approach to books starting from these basic concepts. Children in the pre-Braille and beginner-reader phase can enjoy this tactile book as the chameleon change materials, textures and features so as to represent

softness, harshness, weight, size, etc. The illustrations are accompanied by a single word for each concept that is printed in large print and Braille. *Tutt'altro* is a book specially designed for blind children but it can also be considered a book for everyone. It contains a broad series of nuances that can be appreciated by touch, representing an opportunity for all children to enjoy the book together.

# CLOTH BOOKS

**15 Ikegami, Yoriko** (original draft)

**Tanoshii dobutsuen**

*[Fun at the Zoo]*

Kanagawa: Yokohama Cloth Picture Book Group [5pp.]

The Asahikawa Zoo in Hokkaido was the inspiration for this delightful Japanese cloth picture book. Children can make up their own the story by manipulating the different objects; pinching, pulling, and so forth make the animals seem to come alive, thereby encouraging finger-manipulation development.

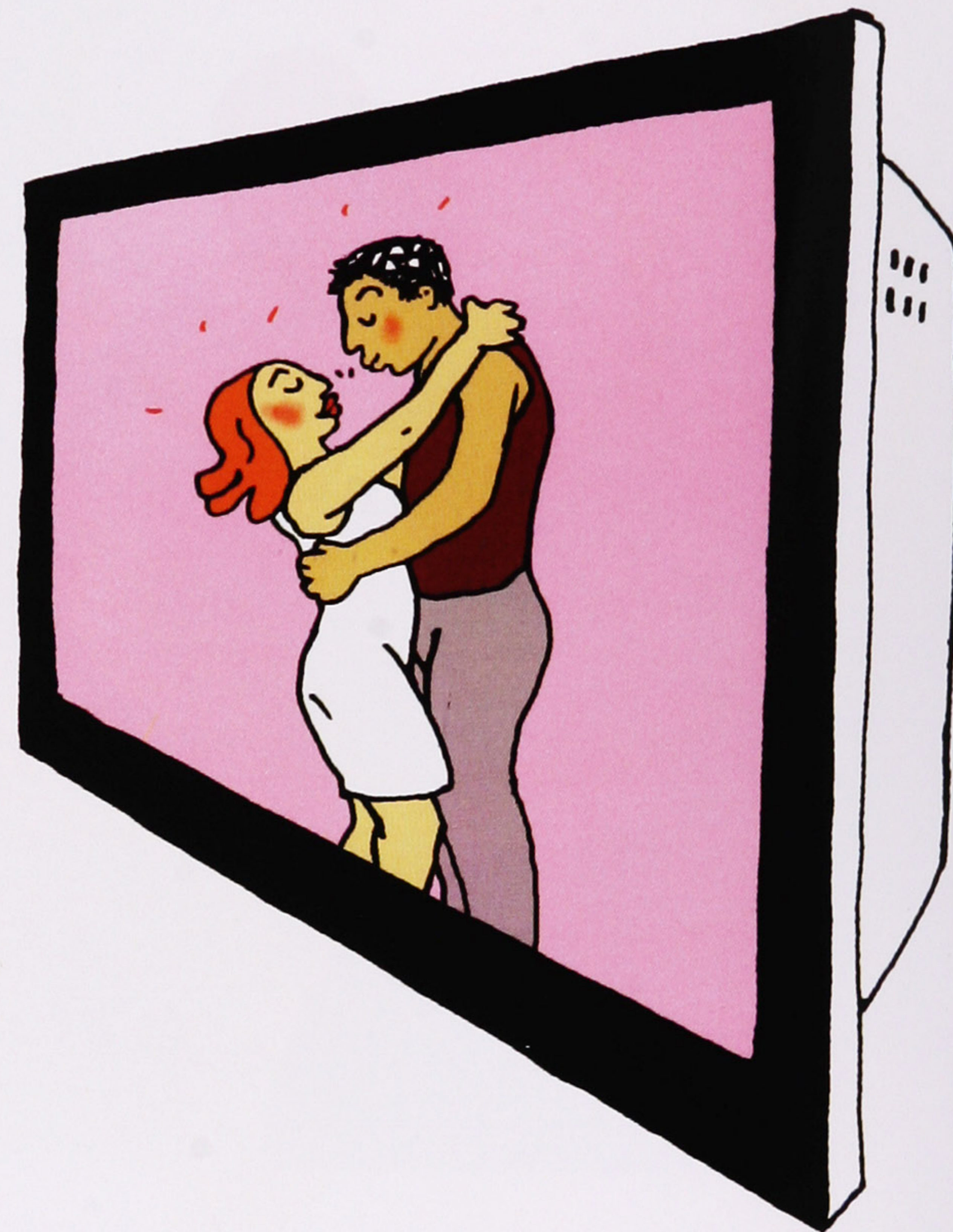
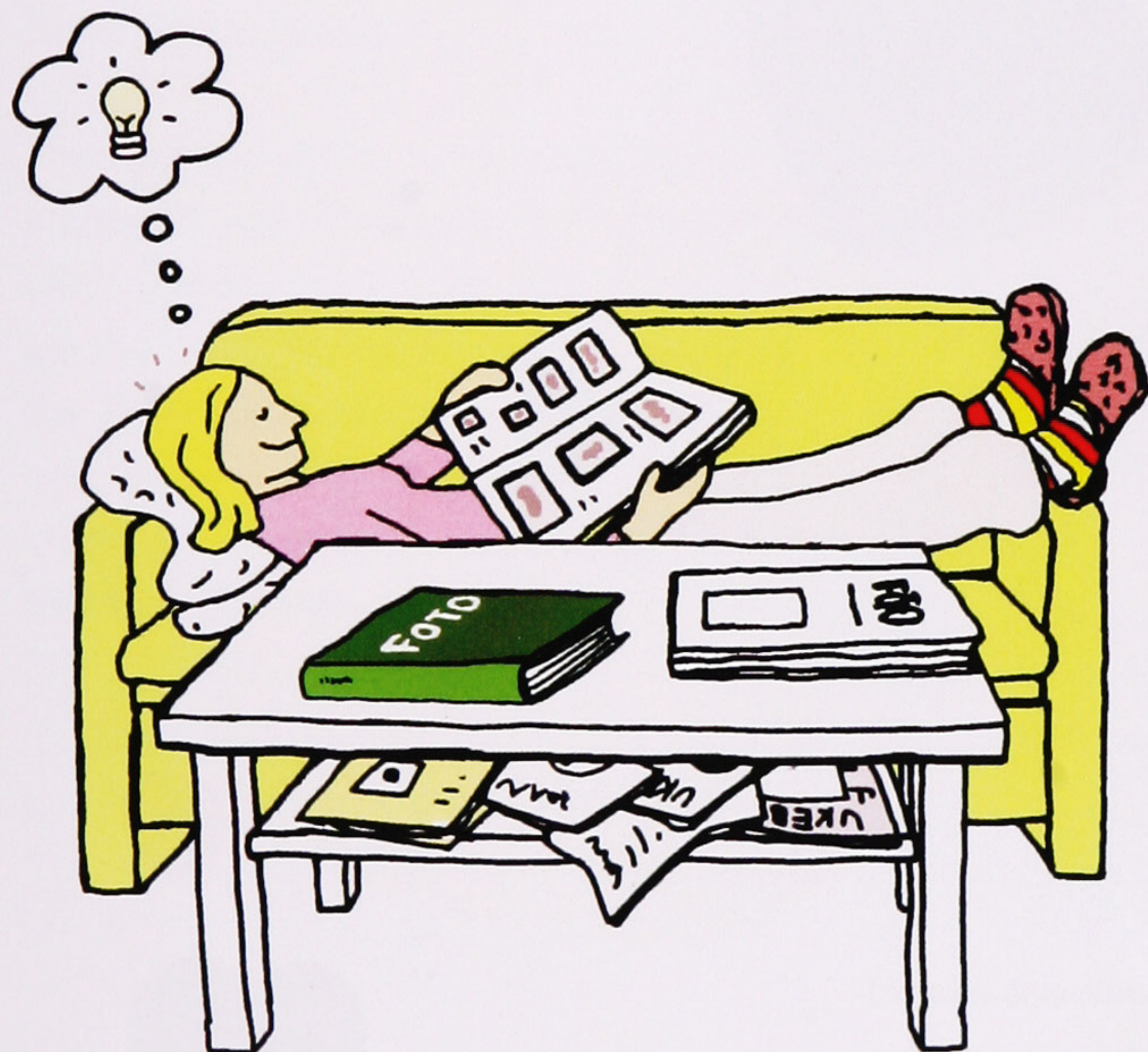


Tanoshii dobutsuen (cat. no. 15)



Dans mon jardin, il y a ... (cat. no. 39)

Og vipper med de hullede tøflene sine.



Den nye Julie (cat. no. 16)

# SPECIAL EASY-TO-READ BOOKS

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## 16 Andersen, Johanne Emilie

### **Den nye Julie** [*The new Julie*]

Stamsund: Orkana, 2012

[90pp.] ISBN 978-82-8104-040-3

Julie is bored with her old life. Every day after work she watches the same TV shows and the same commercials that offer so many temptations. Perhaps if she changes her style in clothes something exiting will happen! But what style is the new Julie? She completely clears out her wardrobe and spends a fortune on new, "cool", sporty and elegant clothes. That night she can't settle as she re-lives everything that happened to her while wearing her old clothes. Quickly, she runs to the garbage room and retrieves her dear old clothes. The next night she turns off the TV and invites her friends round so that at last her life can begin.

Accompanied by simplistic and colourful

illustrations, the short simple text will be appreciated by young adults with reading difficulties who need topics appropriate for their age.

## 17 Balzarro, Paola (text) Pigaglio, Ilaria (ill.)

### **Il segreto dei pirati**

[*The secret of the pirates*]

Rome: Sinnos Editrice, (Leggimi)

[Read me!], 2012 64pp.

ISBN 978-88-7609-187-2

*Il segreto dei pirati* tells the adventures of Giulio, Pietro and Cecilia - three children who live in a small village at the top of a cliff overlooking the sea. Nobody can find a job, the tourists have not visited for years, and families are forced to move. But the exuberance, curiosity and courage of these children will change things for the better; they will be the ones to discover the ancient secret of the pirates.

The series *Leggimi* is addressed at young readers with reading difficulties or dyslexia.

## 18 Fiske, Anna

### **Sjalusi** [*Jealousy*]

Oslo: Solum Forlag, (Følelsesbiblioteket)

[The library of feelings], 2011

[24pp.] ISBN 978-82-560-1696-9

In this fifth book in the series *The library of feelings* you meet jealousy, with its many nuances and outlets. Anna Fiske's expressive illustrations are humorous and will appeal to readers of all ages and help them to understand this very complex feeling. The text is short and to the point with many maxims, such as: Remember that you are you and that many people love you because of that: and a little bit of jealousy is all right - too much jealousy may hurt you.



Sjalusi (cat. no. 18)

**19 Larsson, Camilla** (text)

**Ekström, Gunvor** (ill.)

**Maja på badhuset**

[Maja at the swimming pool]

Umeå: Specialpedagogiska

skolmyndigheten, (Maja och Milo), 2011

21pp. ISBN 978-91-28-11533-9

In this series of books we follow Maja and Milo as they do different things in their

spare time, either separately or together. The series takes the same kind of format used in books for young children, but their contents are aimed at teenagers and young adults with reading disabilities. Each story also contains an element of excitement or danger. The books are published in two versions: one is an easy-to-read book and the other has even shorter sentences and is supported by pictograms. In this story Maja visits the local swimming pool and rescues a small boy who has fallen in at the deep end.

**20 Lykkenborg, Liv R.** (text)

**Piotrowska, Malgorzata** (ill.)

**Stemmen som forsvant**

[The missing voice]

Oslo: Cappelen Damm, 2012

80pp. ISBN 978-82-02-34536-5

Petter works in a special workshop for persons with different kinds of disabilities. He is in love with Helene and is looking

forward to a trip to Copenhagen with his friends in the winter holidays. But when Petter gets the flu and loses his voice, his friends go without him and there is no one he can call on for help. This book is adapted for persons with reading disabilities and is written in an easily understood language with a simple plot and few main characters. The chapters are short, so the readers will feel that they are mastering the art of reading. The illustrations are simple and appealing to young adults.

### **21 Onishi, Nobuo**

**Buta... niku** [*From Pig to Pork*]

Tokyo: Gentosha, 2011

87pp. ISBN 978-4-344-97720-4

In Japan very few children have any idea where the meat they are eating really comes from. This book is a documentary picture book that shows the journey from the pigsty to the neatly packaged meat

in the butcher's freezer. The photos are taken at Yukari Gakuen, which is a facility for people with mental disabilities. The pigs are raised with great care and attention is focused on the value of life by making sure that in the process of making "pork" out of "pigs" nothing is wasted. The students watch the entire process from the birth of the piglets to the moment when they are slaughtered and then through all the processes of making the sausages, etc. The story can be grasped through the photos that capture the expressions of the pigs as well as the grave and tense faces of the staff members who know they are taking life into their hands.

### **22 Owesen, Albert W. and Ane-Grethe Owesen**

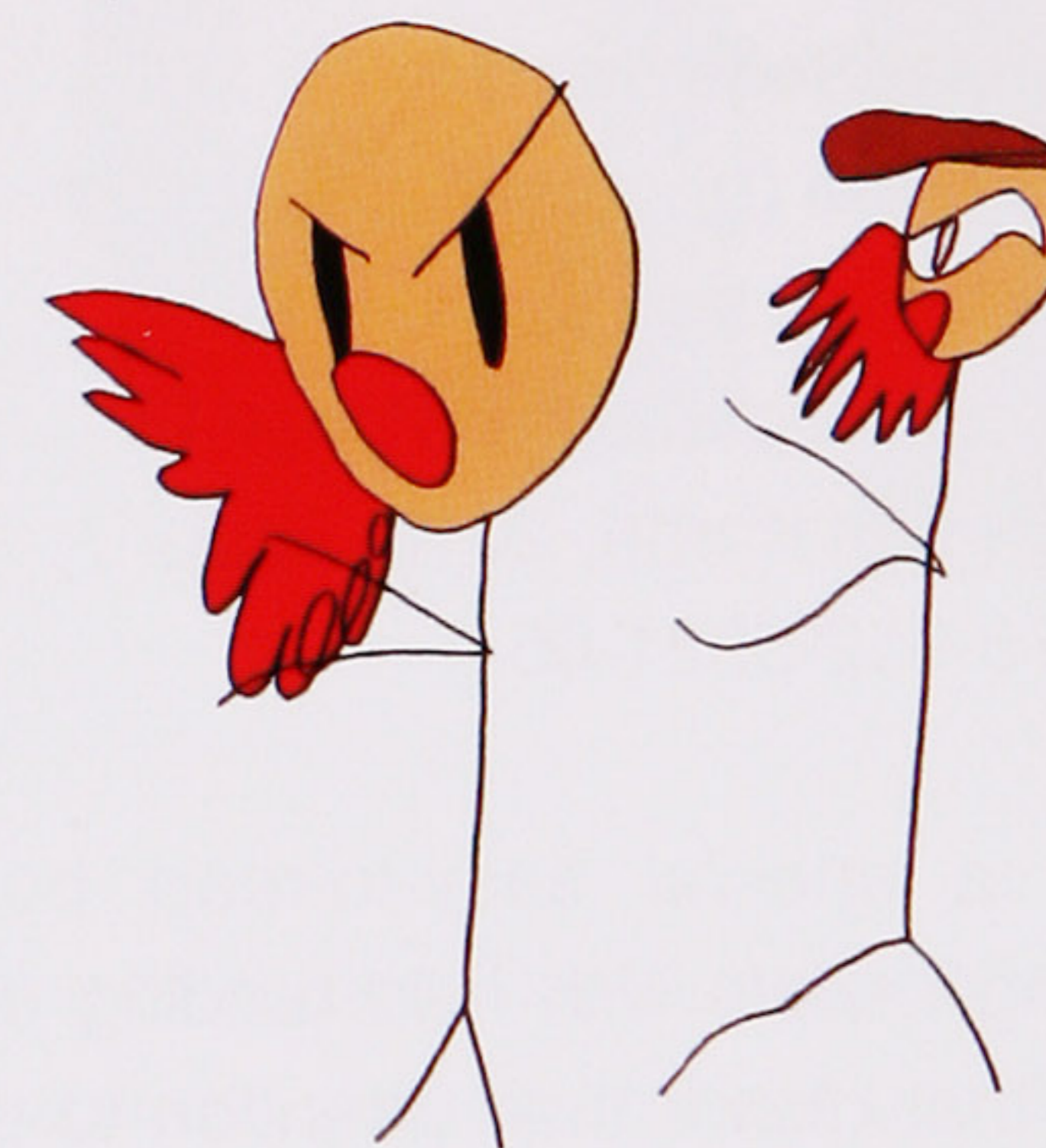
**Blant løver i Afrika**

[*Among lions in Africa*]

Ytre Enebakk: Reise & Kultur, 2011

96pp. ISBN 978-82-93087-03-8

Ever since he was a child Albert Owesen dreamed of photographing lions. The dream became a reality. For twenty years he and his wife went to Serengeti and Ngorongoro during the winter months to take photos of wild animals in their natural habitat. In this book we meet the lions during the night, mating, the cubs playing and the other animals living in their surroundings. The text is specially adapted for persons with reading disabilities.



Asuperuga no kokoro; Watashi mo pazuru no hitokakera (cat. no. 46)



Valon ja värien maailma (cat. no. 23)

**23 Samela, Seija** (text)

**Samela, Juha** (photos)

**Valon ja värien maailma**

*[The world of light and colours]*

Kärkölä: Pieni Karhu, 2010, 96pp.

ISBN 978-952-5321-65-4

This is a special easy-to-read book for young people with mild reading disabilities that draws their attention to the study of the environment and nature. This is not a text book as such, but may

be used as a learning supplement in the basic study of natural science. The book explains topics without the use of mathematics, and this helps the reader to understand the science-related text. The text is relatively difficult, but the author's capability to boil down the scientific facts makes it interesting to read. The outstanding photos are fascinating.

**24 Shakespeare, William** (text)

**Elomäki, Mari** (adapt.)

**Nygård, Marjo** (ill.)

**Romeo ja Julia** [*Romeo and Juliet*]

Kouvola: Opik, 2012, 74pp.

ISBN 978-951-580-518-8

This book is a high-quality special easy-to-read version of the classic play. It starts with a short introduction of the story of Romeo and Juliet. The different characters of the story come to life in the first pages of the book with clear black and white sketches. These sketches, as well as the

book's lovely full-colour illustrations invite the reader into the magical world of William Shakespeare. The layout is beautiful and light with illustrations that create a fascinating atmosphere for reading the story. Each chapter has a title that gives the readers information about the location and coming events. This helps them to understand the content and be able to follow the plot. Parts of the dialogue are written in italics, which help the reader to identify speech from narration.



Hand in Hand die Welt begreifen.

Ein Bildwörterbuch der Gebärdensprache

(cat. no. 3)



# A BOOK FOR AUTISTIC CHILDREN

**25 Smith, Miriam and Afton Fraser** (text)

**Smithwick, Margo** (ill.)

## **Point to Happy**

New York, NY: Workman Publishing, 2011 [35pp.]

ISBN 978-0-7611-5715-1

*Point to Happy* is a picture book with an accompanying wand, which has a small hand at its tip. The book is designed for all children on the autism spectrum who benefit from visual support. Thirty-five bright and easy-to-understand photos depict feelings, sensations, daily activities, interactions with people, different noises, food and colours. Double-page photos also show the morning /going to bed routines, thus helping the process of learning the rituals of daily life. The book includes a photo of different parts of the body and a double page for pasting in photos of the people who are close to the child reading the book. Children who need a starting point for communication on feelings and likes and dislikes will find this book very useful. The pointer attached to the book helps the child focus on the photos and to express their questions and choices. The photos are simple and attractive and relate to the specificity of autistic children regarding fear of noise, of certain foods, perception of



*Point to Happy* (cat. no. 25)

colours, and the importance of visuals. The foreword offers a few hints to parents and caregivers on how to best use the book with an autistic child.

حَزَنَ رَفِيقِي «سامي» لِأَنَّهُ لَا يَمْلِكُ  
كَلْبًا، بَلْ هِرَّةً، فَقُلْتُ لَهُ:  
«حَاوِلْ أَنْ تَقْرَأَ عَلَيْهَا  
كُلَّ يَوْمٍ.»



سَأَلْتَنِي مُعَلِّمَةُ الْقِرَاءَةِ عَنْ سِرِّ تَحْسُنِي فَقُلْتُ لَهَا: «عِدِينِي أَلَّا  
تَسْخَرِي مِنِّي.» وَعِنْدَمَا هَمَسْتُ فِي أُذُنِهَا بِسِرِّي فَرِحَتْ وَقَالَتْ:  
«إِنَّ أُمَّكَ وَأَبَاكَ شَخْصَانِ ذَكِيَّانِ.»

لَمَحْتُ رَفِيقِي «سامي» أَثْنَاءَ عَوْدَتِي إِلَى الْبَيْتِ، فَسَأَلَنِي عَنْ سِرِّ  
تَحْسُنِي فِي الْقِرَاءَةِ فَقُلْتُ لَهُ بِفَخْرٍ كَبِيرٍ: «أَنَا أَقْرَأُ وَأَتَدَرَّبُ مَعَ  
كَلْبِي «رَفْرَفٍ.»»



Ahlan bikum fi alam Rafraf (cat. no. 26)

# BOOKS FROM THE REGULAR PRODUCTION

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**26 Baalbaki, Fairouz Qarden** (text)  
**Sidani, Nadine** (ill.)

**Ahlan bikum fi alam Rafraf**

*[Welcome to the world of Rafraf]*

Beirut: Dar Al Ilm Malayin,  
(Evening stories series), 2009  
21pp. ISBN 978-9953-63-588-0

Whenever Rayan was asked to read aloud in class he used to shiver and stutter, making all his classmates laugh at him. A specialist recommended that he should have a dog at home, and Rayan started to do his homework with his dog. Rafraf the dog listened patiently while Rayan rehearsed the reading materials and recited multiplication tables; he even read a good night story to Rafraf every evening. The dog always listened without making fun of him - in fact Rafraf was a very good listener. Rayan's self-esteem was raised along with his reading skills and he even

successfully took part in a school recital.

**27 Casalderrey, Fina and Francisco Castro** (text) **Castelao, Patricia** (ill.)

**O neno can** *[The Boy Dog]*

Vigo: Editorial Galaxia, 2012  
64pp. ISBN 978-84-9865-431-8

This book is a poetic cry against injustice, and is aimed at children aged 10+. By focusing on children who live in situations of exclusion and abandonment, yet without becoming dramatic both writers manage to bring the lives of those with fewer opportunities closer to the reader. Among others, we meet Aakesh, who wanders in search of something to eat; Leila who faces an arranged wedding, and Carlos, whose wheelchair does not present an obstacle for him. Each story starts with one or several articles from the *Declaration of the Rights of the Child* and finishes

with a quote by a scholar, framing the tale. The thread that links the different stories is dogs. These loyal animals and their human friends share their grief and hopes, and hope is what makes up most of this book. The illustrations are tender and subtle, while the text combines simplicity and humour.

**28 Crausaz, Anne**

**Pas le temps** *[No time]*

Nantes: Editions MeMo, 2011  
[32pp.] ISBN 978-2-35289128-4

When the chickens are away, the ants are busy stealing from their bowl of grain. This is a wonderful ballet showing the industrious ants as they come and go, all day long – no time to eat or drink, play or sing, or just bask in the sun. The illustrations are beautiful with bright colours and simple shapes.

Several pages have holes that allow the ants to climb in and out from top to bottom, and the small reader is invited to peek into burrows and anthills. The very simple text is printed in a “*handwritten*” style that prevents small children from reading it themselves, but the story is one that is best enjoyed on the lap of loving carer, parent or grandparent.

**29 Delaunois, Angèle** (text)

**Houde, Pierre** (ill.)

**Le chant de mon arbre**

*[My tree's melody]*

Montréal: Éditions de l'Isatis, 2011

[32pp.] ISBN 978-2-923234-76-2

In this picture book for young and old, a young girl mourns the death of her favourite tree after it has been struck by lightning. In the hands of her artistic grandfather the remaining stump is transformed into a violin. This is a poetic story that gently reminds us that death does not have to

be the end and that it is up to us to see life continue. Soft illustrations in vibrant colours portray the cycle of the seasons, the awakening of nature and the emotional attachment we feel towards it.



Chez les ours (cat. no. 30)

**30 Doray, Malika**

**Chez les ours**

*[Bear party]*

Paris: École des loisirs, 2011

[28pp.] ISBN 978-2-211-20490-3

In *Chez les ours* the artist explores the many uses of the picture book with delightful results. This board book offers an array of visual surprises that are easy for any young child to handle. Juxtaposing illustrations from the left and the right pages will yield more unexpected images. A lot happens in the company of bears! There are snakes that kiss in front of dragonflies, secrets are shared with the Siamese cats, odd couples are waltzing and the chickens salute the frightful lynxes. Amusing adventures unfold inside the symmetrical frames and Doray's original graphic style transforms fantasy into a poetic, but believable reality.

Au carnaval des animaux (cat. no. 31)



31 Dubuc, Marianne

**Au carnaval des animaux** [*Animal Masquerade*]

Montréal: La courte échelle, 2012

[120pp.] ISBN 978-2-89651-509-7

It is carnival time in the animal kingdom, and with carnival comes fancy dress. Some animals show a lot of imagination, while others prefer to keep it simple. The charming illustrations are accompanied by a simple, slightly repetitive text.

— Jo li intento explicar coses al meu germà,  
però ell sempre discuteix amb mi.



Tanca els ulls (cat. no. 32)

**32 Escrivá, Victoria Pérez** (text)

**Ranucci, Claudia** (ill.)

**Tanca els ulls**

*[Close your eyes]*

Barcelona: Thule Ediciones, 2009

[32pp.] ISBN 978-84-96473-99-7

Two brothers are always disagreeing about how things really are. They describe reality in two completely different ways. One of them uses eyesight and logic. The other one uses the rest of the senses and sensitivity. The first brother tells his mother, *"I try to explain things to him, but he doesn't understand."* The mother replies, *"Maybe he is right, too."* *"How is that possible?"* His mother says, *"Close your eyes."* This picture book explains that there are many different ways of perceiving the world that depend on our senses: on how many of them we use, and how we are using them.

**33 Gerth, Melanie** (text)

**Huliska-Beith, Laura** (ill.)

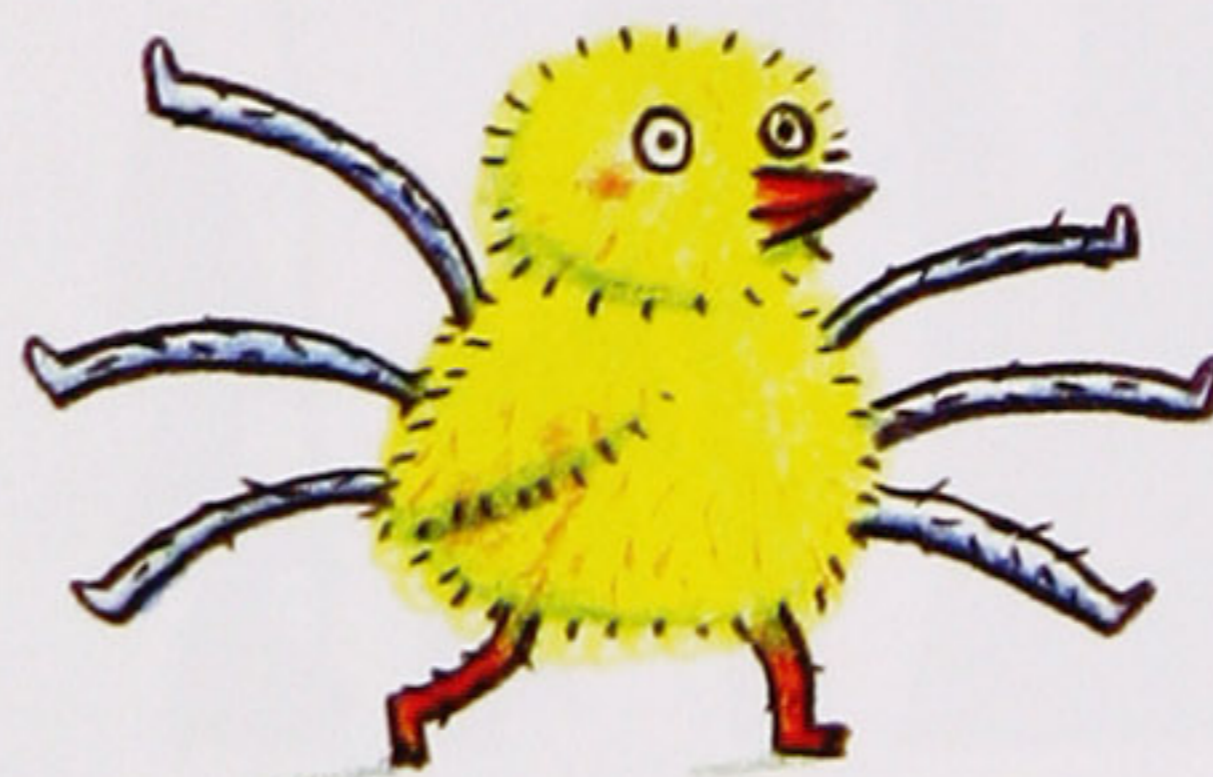
**Ten little ladybugs**

Santa Monica, CA: Piggy Toes Press,

2000 [24pp.] ISBN 9781581170917

Ten little ladybugs sitting on a vine, along came a butterfly – then there were ...

This is a rhyming counting book with the little ladybugs set in holes in the book, that gradually disappear from page to page. Only on the last page does the child find that all ladybugs are safely back home. This sturdy picture book has large text and is suitable for both sighted and visually-impaired children.



Au carnaval des animaux (cat. no. 31)

**34 Hoffman, Mary** (text)

**Asquith, Ros** (ill.)

**The great big book of families**

London: Frances Lincoln, 2010

[40pp.] ISBN 978-184507-999-4

This is a picture book about the diversity of modern families. The message is that every family is unique and special. The author takes a look through children's eyes at the wide variety of family life: from homes, food, ways of celebrating, schools and holidays, to getting around, jobs and housework. The simple, accessible text and abundance of delightful, cartoon-like illustrations create a fresh, contemporary look at families of today. Subtle inclusive images of disability are scattered throughout. These include several wheelchairs, lots of glasses, leg braces and a walker. It is a book packed with detail, humour and interest, reminding us that there is no such thing as *"normal"* or *"abnormal"* – we are all equal.

- fourmis, venez  
boire du nectar !

- pas le temps de siroter,  
les abeilles





### **35 Morel, Claudine**

#### **À la rencontre** [Meeting]

Paris: Didier Jeunesse, 2011

[20pp.] ISBN 978-2-278-06489-2

This mix-and-match picture book comprises of three books in one, which when combined offer multiple readings. Surreal creatures appear and quickly fade out - as creatures of nonsense often do. Altogether 343 combinations are possible, which creates hours of fun. The handsome line drawings and minimal palette of red, blue and black makes this an exciting picture book for all children.

### **36 Multiple authors**

#### **Kitabi al awal** [My first book]

Ramallah: Tamer Institute for Community Education, 2012, 64pp.

ISBN 978-9950-326-95-8

*Kitabi al awal* is a collection of short stories written and illustrated by creative Palestinian

children that had been submitted to a competition run by the Tamer Institute since 1996. The competition aims at encouraging children to express themselves through creative writing and illustration. The winning stories are then published in a booklet. The current volume focuses on stories that emphasize different values, particularly “caring” as a common theme whether for nature, friends or for the needy. One story highlights Lamia, a child in a wheelchair who firmly believes that she can be as “normal” as possible and play with other children, making kites, and having a good time with her friends.

### **37 Seeger, Laura Vaccaro**

#### **Green**

New York, NY: Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, 2012

[34pp.] ISBN 978-1-59643-397-7

*Green* is a picture book that will appeal to children of all ages and capabilities as

it has a high visual content with excellent illustrations. Each double page presents a different shade of green, like the lush green of the forest on a late spring day, or the fresh, juicy green of a freshly cut lime. All the pages are linked to the next one with small holes that allow the next shade of green or another colour into the page. For instance, two dark green leaves on the first page of the book become two light green fish in the sea of the next page. Later on, the green glowing fireflies on one page become red apples on a green tree on the next. The text is very simple and repetitive, and the word green is present on every double page. There is a hint of a cycle of growth with the last pages, as one of them shows a young boy planting a plant with two leaves. In the next page a man and young girl stand by a fully-grown tree with two green leaves on its trunk.

**38 Schimel, Lawrence** (text)

**Cushman, Doug** (ill.)

**Tak kot drugi** [*Just like them*]

(translated from Spanish by Brane Mozetič)

Ljubljana: Center za slovensko

književnost, 2011 [26pp.]

ISBN 978-961-6789-16-5

Kwame is unhappy because both his parents and his brother wear glasses and he does not! Eager to make him feel happier, the family go to the optician to get glasses for him even though he has perfect vision. Some days afterwards, his parents and brother appear with their hair in dreadlocks because they wanted to be just like him. This bi-lingual picture book in Slovene and English tells the story of an accepting and caring family who are taking great care to make an adopted child feel welcome and part of their family.

**39 Tamarkin, Annette**

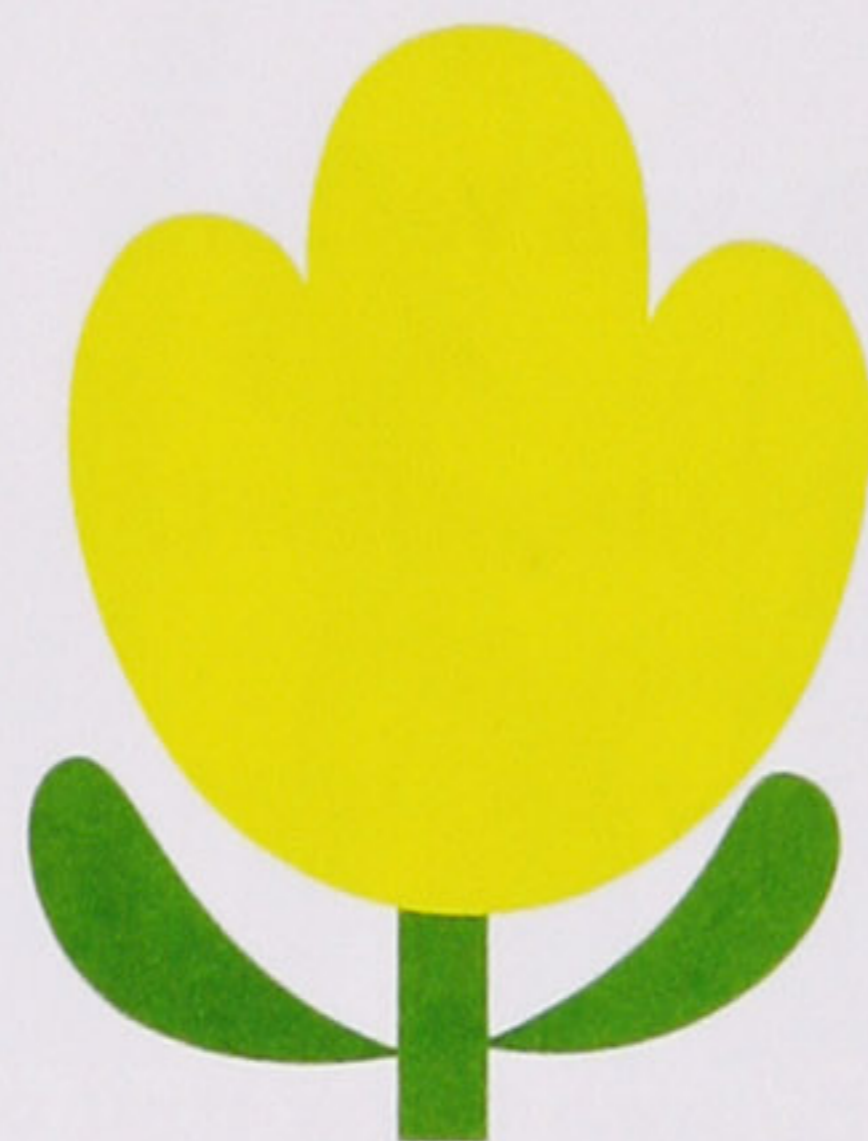
**Dans mon jardin, il y a ...**

[*In my garden ...*]

Paris: Les Grandes Personnes, 2011

[10pp.] ISBN 978-2-36193-103-2

In my garden ... there are multi-coloured flowers and all kinds of little creatures. The artist invites pre-schoolers or small children with disabilities to explore the garden in this lift-the-flap picture book. The simple drawings in primary colours and the easy handling add to the beauty of this small book, which is completely without text.



Dans mon jardin, il y a ... (cat. no. 39)

**40 Wakayama, Shizuko**

**Don-doko-don**

[*Ta-tara-ta*]

Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten, 2011

[24pp.] ISBN 978-4-8340-2680-1

Making use of a format that opens vertically, this picture book dynamically depicts the way root vegetables grow in the soil. One page shows just the leaves and, upon turning the page, the fully-grown vegetable appears. Pictures with clearly contrasting borders and large, bold characters make each page easy to see, as testified by the book's popularity with children with visual disabilities. The repetition of the words *Don-doko-don*, announcing the appearance of the fully-grown vegetables, has an appealing resonance from which you can almost physically feel the power of growth.



Dans mon jardin, il y a ... (cat. no. 39)



È non è (cat. no. 43)

# PORTRAYALS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

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**41 Ak, Sevim** (text) **Ak, Behiç** (ill.)

## **Horoz Adam ve Korsan**

*[The Rooster Man and the Pirate]*

Istanbul: Can Sanat Yayinlari, 2008

123pp. ISBN 978-975-07-0956-2

The young boy Yağmur was born deaf and mute, but as he was growing up he was able to feel the vibrations from the radio and could hear voices above a certain resonance. For a while he acted as a carrier for a band of teenagers who spent their days sniffing glue. He was happy to belong to a group and did everything they asked without recognizing that they were using him. Eventually an elderly neighbour took him under his wing and taught him the skill of copper painting. However, when the old man fell ill, another neighbour began to care for him. His new friend worked as a sound technician and soon discovered that Yağmur

had a special sensitivity for sound and was able to feel the vibrations from the music. This introduced Yağmur to a new profession and an independent life.

**42 Andrae, Giles** (text) **Ross, Tony** (ill.)

## **Me, the Queen and Christopher**

London: Orchard Books, 2012

96pp. ISBN 978-1-40832-005-1

This is a marvellously silly story about a seven-year-old girl's extraordinary day when she is invited to have tea with the Queen. The two strike up a genuine friendship and the Queen proves to be a delightful character, eccentric and hugely likeable. When she is shown a photograph of the little girl's brother Christopher (who uses a wheelchair), she wants to know all about him. The intuitive monarch can tell that he likes cupcakes and promptly bakes him a batch. Later, during a royal

procession, she spots the two siblings through the crowds and is keen to ensure that Christopher's day is extra special. Particularly effective in terms of the book's approach to disability is that it is Christopher's sense of humour that attracts the Queen's interest and affection, as much as the fact that he happens to use a wheelchair. The book is warm, touching and funny. The text is short and punchy, and the illustrations are exuberant, making it accessible to a wide range of ages and abilities.



Me, the Queen and Christopher (cat. no. 42)

**43 Carrara, Marco Berrettoni** (text)

**Carrer, Chiara** (ill.)

**È non è** [*Sara's world*]

Florence: Kalandraka Italia, 2010

32pp. ISBN 978-88-95933-24-5

Sara's story is told by her brother in an attempt to capture all the nuances of her complex character - her emotions, her impulsive shows of affection and her sudden shutting out of her family and the rest of the world. For those who are close to her, this continual change of mood is a tough test that often leads to despair. Nevertheless, Sara's brother speaks about her with a lightness and poetic wonder that makes the reader enter Sara's world without judgement and taboos. With few words and marvellous illustrations this picture book gives voice to the thoughts and feelings of brothers and sisters. It offers many siblings the opportunity to identify with Sara's brother and to voice their own complex feelings.

**44 Cseh, Katalin** (text) **Kovács, Péter** (ill.)

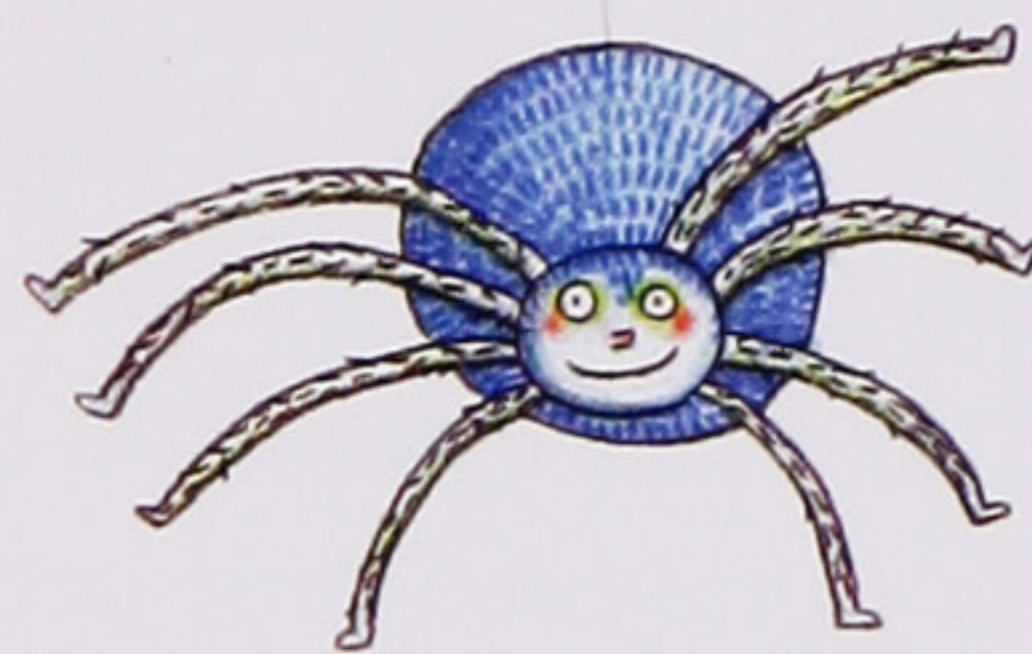
**Világtalan világosság - Gyerekversek**

[*Light in my darkness – Poems for children*] Budapest: Móra Publishing

House, 2010 44pp. +CD

ISBN 978-963-11-8862-2

This collection of poems is based on real experiences after the author spent several years among visually-impaired children. She has written poems about their everyday life and presents them in a well-constructed volume of poetry with titles such as *Drawing*, *Meditative* and *Confidences*. The book is illustrated by graphic images of a certain "inner view" of blind children, and the accompanying audio-CD contains the poems for all children to enjoy.



Au carnaval des animaux (cat. no. 31)

**45 Fensham, Elizabeth**

**The invisible hero**

St Lucia, Qld: University of Queensland Press, 2011

232pp. ISBN 978-0-70223-890-1

This is a novel for young adults about Philip, a dyslexic, mildly deaf boy who has been raised by his grandmother and is treated as stupid by his classmates, who call him Phil the Dill. The book includes diary entries by Philip in a painfully misspelled form. The unsympathetic Jack Mackinnon or Macca is the star of the school and uses bullying to maintain his power. When the class is set the task of researching heroes and villains, the social order starts to unravel. This novel has a credible cast of teenagers and teachers, and is a sensitive study of the challenges faced by one on the fringe. As Philip emerges from invisibility, he is revealed to have true courage.

**46 Fuwari** (text and ill.)

**Asuperuga no kokoro;**

**Watashi mo pazuru no hitokakera**

[Asperger's Heart: I, too, am part of the puzzle]

Tokyo: Kaiseisha, 2012

40pp. ISBN 978-4-03-528410-9

"Asperger is special, you know!" The author learned that she had Asperger Syndrome shortly before her ninth birthday. This is a book she created between fourth and sixth grades of elementary school. The layout of the book was worked out in consultation with the author to make it easy-to-read by others who have Asperger and it beautifully expresses her own personality in pictures and text.



Au carnaval des animaux (cat. no. 31)

**47 Girbés, Enric Lluch** (text)

**Olivero, Pablo** (ill.)

**Ànimes de cotó en pèl**

[Cotton souls]

Valencia: Andana Editorial, 2009

88pp. ISBN 978-84-933563-8-5

Carles and his family have just moved to a new city. Everything is new to him: the school, his classmates... and his learning disabilities do not help, although his parents and teachers try to ease his integration. However, the person who manages to help him is a mysterious old man called Tobias. With this curious character, Carles and his friends learn to do magic – to read with their eyes closed! Above all, they learn to understand limitations and to value the virtues that we all possess. The book includes an epilogue for young readers aged 8+, which helps them reflect on what it means to have a learning disability.



Asuperuga no kokoro; Watashi mo pazuru no hitokakera (cat. no. 46)



Modigt med Vilma och Loppan (cat. no. 50)

**48 Heinlein, Sylvia** (text) **Kuhl, Anke** (ill.)  
**Midwochstage oder "Nichts wie weg!",**  
**sagt Tante Hulda**

*[Every Wednesday or "Let's just go!"  
says Auntie Hulda]*

Hildesheim: Gerstenberg, 2011  
125pp. ISBN 978-3-8369-5276-7

When Sarah's mother decides that Auntie Hulda is to leave her city home for a sheltered flat in the country that provides better care, Sarah and Auntie Hulda are so upset that they board a train and run away. Along the way they meet different characters before ending up in a closed-down chocolate factory where artists are squatting. When Sarah's mother finds them there, she finally realizes that there is no such thing as "normal" and that she just cannot make decisions over Sarah's and Auntie Hulda's heads. Their wishes are quite different from hers, and she has to accept this. "To respect is to accept," says Auntie Hulda.

**49 Keighery, Chrissie**  
**Whisper**

Richmond, VIC: Hardie Grant Egmont,  
2011, 250pp. ISBN 978-1-92175-932-1

*Whisper* is a young adult novel about Demi, a teenager who has lost her hearing through meningitis and has transferred to a school for the hearing impaired. This book deals with many of the usual struggles of teenage life, but with some extra frustrations and challenges, especially of how to choose one's friends. The politics of deafness are interwoven into a very readable and engaging story.

**50 Khayatii, Anneli** (text)

**Sjömilla, Mikael** (ill.)

**Modigt med Vilma och Loppan**

*[Brave Vilma and Loppan]*

Linköping: Olika Förlag, (Silverdelfinen)

*[Silver Dolphin]*, 2011

37pp. ISBN 978-91-85845-53-8

The books about Vilma and Loppan are easy-to-read stories that many children aged 8+ can identify with. The topics of friendship, courage and love are set in familiar surroundings. Vilma and Loppan



are two inquisitive children who experience everyday adventures and conflicts. In a completely natural way the author places one of the main characters, Vilma, in a wheelchair. It is naturally part of the story and not something that is strange or treated differently in any way. In this book Vilma and Loppan learn how to stand up for themselves.

**51 Kooij, Rachel van**

**Bartolomé - The Infanta's pet**

*(translated from German by Siobhán Parkinson)*

Dublin: Little Island, 2012

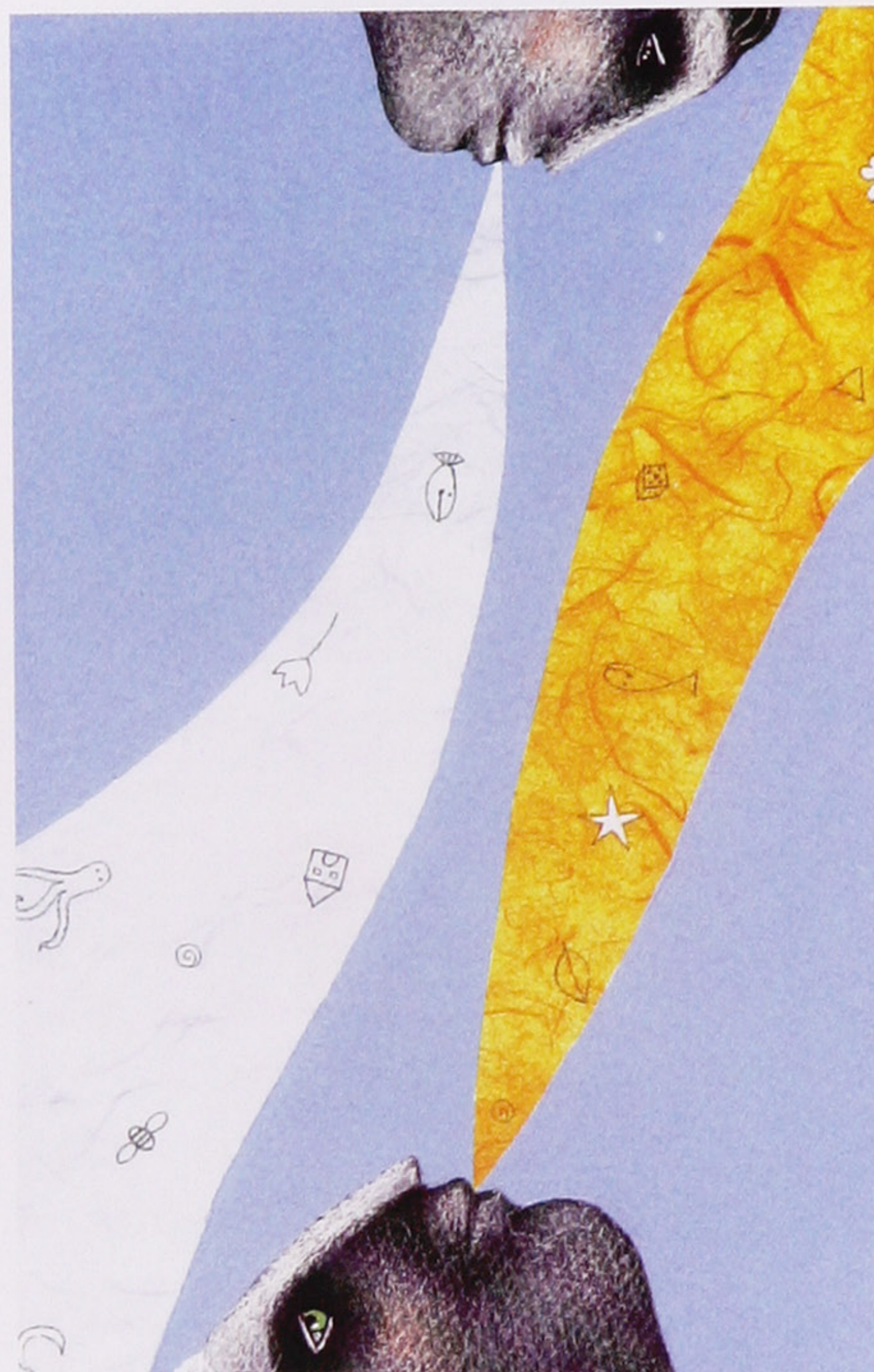
208pp. ISBN 978-1-908195-26-5

17th century Madrid is not a kind place for a dwarf like Bartolomé; his family has kept him hidden in a small back room to avoid the mocking and jeering he would experience on the city streets. Bartolomé longs to be able to read and write, and when he hears about a dwarf



Bilal wa Amer (cat. no. 52)

just like him working in the king's court, he and his siblings come up with a plan to sneak him out of the house for secret lessons in a nearby monastery. But one day, the king's young daughter, the Infanta, sees Bartolomé on the street and wants to have him as her "human dog". Life in the royal palace as one of the Infanta's retinue is scary and humiliating – until Bartolomé discovers the artists' studio, where he is shown some kindness and discovers his talent for painting. Colourful and gripping, this is an optimistic story of courage and hope on the edge of society. We see all the aspects of life from Bartolomé's refreshingly honest perspective and very much feel the cruelties and petty jealousies of court life as he is treated like an animal or plaything by the child princess. Based on the painting *Las Meninas* by Diego Velazquez, this is a very special book about being "different" and about overcoming seemingly insurmountable



Le Parole scappate (cat. no. 54)

obstacles. This is a very readable novel for readers aged 10+.

**52 Mheidly, Nabiha** (text)

**Al Assil, Loujaina** (ill.)

**Bilal wa Amer**

[*Bilal and Amer*]

Beirut: Al-Hadaek, 2008

[16pp.] ISBN 978-9953-447-14-8

Bilal and Amer are neighbours and the best of friends. When they play basketball, Bilal often wins, but when they race each other Amer is the quickest. Before they go in to lunch, Bilal wipes his feet and then notices Amer coming and going, coming and going. "What are you doing?" Bilal asks. "Can't you see I'm wiping my feet; I mean the wheels of my chair!" The simple and warm illustrations follow the text closely in this little picture book for children aged 8+.



Au carnaval des animaux (cat. no. 31)

**53 Palacio, R.J.**

**Wonder**

New York, NY: Random House, 2012,  
316 pp. ISBN 978-0-375-86902-0

Ten-year-old Auggie was born with a severely deformed face that not even 27 surgeries can correct. Though he is kind, funny, brave and smart, his “*tiny, mushed-up face*”, as Auggie calls it, causes others to turn away in horror and not want to be around him. After a number of years of home-schooling, Auggie’s parents enrol him to attend fifth grade at a local private school. Auggie is initially against this, but having no choice, decides to give it a try. He gradually makes friends and, while there are many ups and downs and social dramas throughout the year, Auggie and his classmates grow into a vibrant middle school community. While Auggie is the primary teller of the story, the author masterfully weaves in sections with first

person tellings by other characters, for instance his sister, who always has had to come second. The varying points of view not only provide rich insight into Auggie, but also into the thinking and learning of those around him. This is a compelling story of courage, bullying, acceptance and friendship. Readers aged 10+ will grapple with a range of issues related to being different.

**54 Papini, Arianna**

**Le Parole scappate**

[*Escaped words*]

Belvedere Marittimo: Edizioni Coccole e Caccole, 2011

52pp. ISBN 978-88-89532-70-6

*Le Parole scappate* tells the story of a dyslexic child and his grandmother, who has Alzheimer Disease. This is an intense tale about the relationship between two people with complicated and full lives, which cannot be defined because of their

escaping words. This is painful for both of them, but they eventually find the way to deal with their disabilities, supporting each other through art and storytelling. The novel is a two-voice tale, told in first person. The tales of the woman and the boy are alternated, also typographically – they are printed in two different colours to make it easier for the reader to follow the stream of thoughts of the two characters. The text is in bold print and aimed at children from the age of seven.



Au carnaval des animaux (cat. no. 31)

**55 Prewett, Melanie** (text)

**Prewett, Maggie** (ill.)

**Two mates**

Broome, WA: Magabala Books, 2012  
[32pp.] ISBN 978-19-2124-845-0

*Two Mates* is a simple picture book for young children, telling about the day-to-day activities of two boys who are friends: together they hunt for hermit crabs, fish for salmon, explore the markets, dress up as superheroes. The illustrations are clear and lively. The story is based on the real-life friendship of Jack, who is Indigenous and Raf, who is non-Indigenous. The fact that Raf has spina bifida and is in a wheelchair is revealed only in the illustration at the end of the story. The book succeeds in demonstrating that physical disability need not be a barrier to friendship.

**56 Ryrych, Katarzyna**

**Wyspa mojej siostry**

[*My sister's island*]

Warsaw: Stentor-Kora, 2011  
128pp. ISBN 978-83-61245-67-4

This is the heart-warming story of Pippi, named after her red plaits, presented from the perspective of her younger sister Mysia. For years Pippi has cared for Mysia and grants her a sense of security after the death of their mother. Pippi can neither read nor write, but she knows how to cook and is joyful and friendly. As Mysia gets older, the roles begin to change - not an easy process, because Mysia does not realize why Pippi is so different from other young adults. But Mysia slowly begins to understand her disabled sister. The relationship between the sisters gets more and more complicated, but is always full of love and acceptance. The author describes the situation with touching authenticity, but without playing

on the reader's emotions. She enters the world of a person who lives as if on a "desert island", the world is so close to us, just out of reach, but still incomprehensible and inaccessible. This is a story for young adults, telling of tough love, difficult relationships and responsibilities.

**57 Selznick, Brian** (text and ill.)

**Wonderstruck**

New York, NY: Scholastic Inc., 2012  
637pp. ISBN 978-0-54512-789-2

*Wonderstruck* intertwines two lives – Ben's told in words and Rose's in drawings. After the sudden death of his mother, young Ben has to live with his kind but financially struggling aunt and uncle, sharing a room with his cousin who seems to delight in bullying him. Desperate to find out more about his father whom he has never known, Ben is drawn back one night to the cottage where he used

to live with his mother, and in the middle of a lightning storm, finds a clue about his father that persuades him to run away to New York City. Fifty years before that event, young Rose is feeling stifled by her father in New Jersey and is frantically trying to connect with her film star mother. Both protagonists are searching for love and belonging. Both are deaf, but have come to deafness in different ways. Although a very long book, more than half of the pages convey the story in illustrations that will engage younger and older readers alike. With masterfully crafted prose and spellbinding graphite drawings, *Wonderstruck* presents deafness in a refreshingly affirmative way.



Au carnaval des animaux (cat. no. 31)

**58 Shabbani, Sana** (text)

**Sidani, Nadine** (ill.)

**Maza qararta ya Malik?**

*[What did you decide, Malik?]*

Beirut: Dar Maktabat Al Ma'ref, 2011  
24pp. ISBN 978-9953-69-230-2

It was Malik's birthday and he had invited his friends to his home for the first time. Everything was ready – especially the big, three-tiered birthday cake. But something was bothering him: was there a way to keep his friends from seeing his brother, Farid, who has a reading disability? Malik planned to give Farid a big bag of sweets and insist that he not leave his room until the party was over. As Malik's mother reminded him that Farid was still his brother, Malik realized that he had two choices; either to accept a brother who was different or to keep him imprisoned in his room. The book gives two scenarios inviting the readers to decide for themselves what would be the best choice.



Litamer alamon khass (cat. no. 59)

DRAUSSEN UNTERWEGS



Hand in Hand die Welt begreifen.  
Ein Bildwörterbuch der Gebärdensprache  
(cat. no. 3)

**59 Sharafeddine, Fatima** (text)

**Moussalli, Marianne** (ill.)

**Merhi, Farah** (photos)

**Litamer alamon khass**

*[Tamer's own world]*

Beirut: Yuki Press, 2012 54pp.

ISBN 978-9953-478-16-6

Tamer never takes part in the communal games, but plays alone on the periphery of the playground. At a safe distance he repeats the same movements over and over again while playing with his cars. He never really looks at anyone when they speak to him, and he totally loses control if people come too close for his liking. Watching Tamer, our narrator is perplexed by his behaviour. Only later she discovers Tamer's innate intelligence, his problem-solving abilities and the fact that beneath his aggressive exterior there is a brave boy dealing with reactions beyond his control.

**60 Viswanath, Shobha** (text)

**Ranade, Shilpa** (ill.)

**Little Vinayak**

Chennai: Karadi Tales Company,

*(Will you read with me?)*, 2008

[32pp.] +CD ISBN 978-81-8190-149-1

What happens to an elephant whose trunk is so long that he trips and falls whenever he walks? This is little Vinayak's problem. No matter what he does, he cannot keep his long, long trunk out of the way – until one day, a very special friend offers an unusual solution. This picture book is about a young animal with a disability that finds a way to overcome it. Published as an audio book and with a lot of music, this is a story that can be enjoyed by anyone. The book is vibrantly illustrated and subtly brings out how each of us is special in our own way.



Maza qararta ya Malik? (cat. no. 58)

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