

**IBBY SA**  
 NEWSLETTER NO. 61  
 JULY 2010

email: [info@ibbysa.org.za](mailto:info@ibbysa.org.za)  
 Books for Africa Newsletter email: [booksforafrica@iafrica.com](mailto:booksforafrica@iafrica.com)  
 website: [www.ibbysa.org.za](http://www.ibbysa.org.za)

*Books for Africa*  
**IBBY SA**  
 PO Box 847  
 Howard Place  
 7450  
 South Africa

• IBBY SA is the South African section of IBBY.  
 • IBBY is the International Board on Books for Young People.  
 • IBBY SA's area of interest is everything to do with South African books for children and young people.  
 • If you are a member of IBBY SA, you are also a member of IBBY.  
 • IBBY's 2004 World Congress was hosted by IBBY SA in Cape Town.  
 • The September 2010 World Congress will be in Santiago de Compostela, Spain

**WAMEKEKILE! SITHEMBA UKUBA UZA KUTHANDA UKUFUNDA ELI PHEPHA ELI FUTSHANE ELI NEENDABA. COME ON IN, AND ENJOY WHAT THE NEWSLETTER HAS TO OFFER BY WAY OF NEWS AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING IDEAS!**

**BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR FUNDACION SM INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR ILLUSTRATION**

The International JLF, composed by Antonio Faeti, Jeffrey Garrett and Alfonso Ruano, has decided to award the Illustration Prize of the Bologna Children's Book Fair and Fundacion SM to the work of Philip Giordano. To the winner a 30,000 dollar cash prize, the opportunity to illustrate a children's book which will be published by Gruppo SM and a special exhibition will be also organised to highlight the work of Philip Giordano in the 2011 Fair edition. Mentions have also been awarded to Sonja Danowsky from Germany and to Gi-Hun Lee from Korea.



Pictures of the 2010 Bologna Children's Book Fair. For more pictures, go to <http://www.bookfair.bolognafiere.it/en/giornalisti/immagini2010>

**2010 CAPE TOWN BOOK FAIR**

IBBY SA will once again be very much in evidence at this year's Cape Town Book Fair. We have our lovely stand, designed for us by Inge Paulsen, built and set up by Brand-Aid, and donated by Yamada Apiculture Center in Japan.

This year's CTBF has a slightly different format: Friday 30 July is a Trade Day, or a Professionals Day, not open to the general public, but to publishers, literary agents, public librarians, school librarians and booksellers.

The three public days are Saturday 31 July, Sunday 1 August and Monday 2 August 2010, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., except for Monday 2 August, when the Fair closes at 4 p.m.

**Entrance is as follows:**  
 • Adults: R60 per day  
 • Students & Pensioners: R25 per day  
 • Children under 14: Free

Watch out for the following features at the IBBY SA stand:  
 • Our new pamphlet *Recent South African Books for Children and Young People 2005-2010*  
 • Our two previous pamphlets *100 Representative South African Books for Children and Young People* and *100 South African Children's Picture Books*  
 • New Membership Competition. Become a member and be in line for one of the prizes. Membership for the remaining months of 2010 is R50.  
 • See the two articles below for the IBBY SA Events that will be happening in the Children's Zone – please bring your or other people's children along to those.  
 • Also see below for the special offer to IBBY SA members with self-published books



**IBBY SA EVENTS AT THE CTBF**  
**Events IBBY SA will be hosting at our stand**

**Friday 30 July (Trade Day), 11 am**  
 Join Marianne Serfontein and Zonke Silwanyana from Eduluis at the IBBY SA stand.

Marianne will talk about her top SA books that could be used as class readers and she will also reveal her five favourite SA picture books. Zonke, the specialist reader for books in isiXhosa, will discuss and recommend Xhosa books for Gr. R-12. She will also be available, at the stand, throughout the day.

**Friday 30 July (Trade Day), 3 pm**  
 nonikwe masholugu, a children's literature consultant previously with the Centre for the Book, will introduce you to the fabulous new website that she edits about children's literature in Southern Africa found at [www.puku.co.za](http://www.puku.co.za). She will also be talking about a couple of her favourite SA books.

**Events IBBY SA is hosting in the Children's Zone**

**Saturday 31 July, 11 am**  
*'Tantalising Tales' Age: 6-8 years*  
 Come and listen to Sally Boule, a superb storyteller, sharing some of her favourite children's books.

**Saturday 31 July, 3:30 pm**  
*'Book Bogging Quiz' Age: 8-10 years*  
 Love reading? Love quizzes? Win prizes! Join other like-minded readers at the Children's Zone. Come along and we will put you in a team or get your own team of four together.

**Monday 2 August, 12 am**  
*'Chill out at the library' Age: 10-14 years*  
 Check out the hottest cool reads with Marianne Serfontein.

**MEMBERS' SHELVES**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS:**  
 As was the case for the past two Cape Town Book Fairs, we are opening up a few shelves at the IBBY SA stand to our members!

Bring along a copy or two of your self-published book or books for us to display, together with any business cards, flyers or bookmarks (not large A4-size, please). The IBBY SA stand will be up and ready for display in the afternoon of the set-up day, Thursday 29 July, at the Cape Town International Convention Centre.

When you arrive, ask the door attendants to direct you to the IBBY SA stand or call one of the following to come and fetch your books from you:

**Robin 076 169 2789**  
**Fabian 076 209 1025**

The above also applies to the Trade Day, Friday 30 July, except that you might not be allowed inside the Exhibition Hall; we'll come and collect your book from you.

You are welcome to make use of this offer, even if you can only come along on any of the public days, Saturday 31 July to Monday 2 August.

This offer is open only to IBBY SA members, and only for books not published by mainstream publishers (whether they have stands at the CTBF or not).

**AUTUMN BOOKBASH**

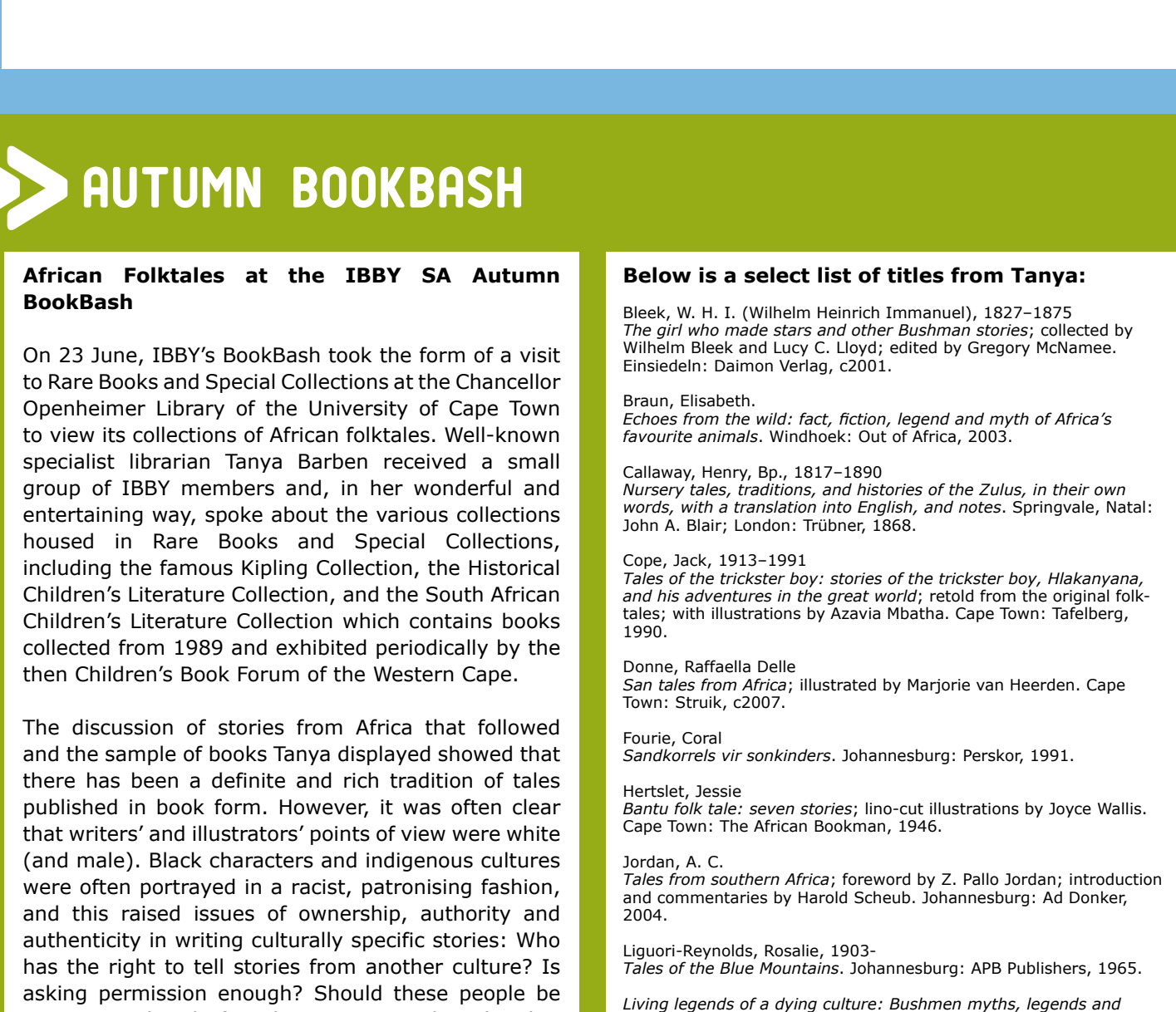
**African Folktales at the IBBY SA Autumn BookBash**

On 23 June, IBBY's BookBash took the form of a visit to Rare Books and Special Collections at the Chancellor Openheimer Library of the University of Cape Town to view its collections of African folktales. Well-known specialist librarian Tanya Barben received a small group of IBBY members and, in her wonderful and entertaining way, spoke about the various collections housed in Rare Books and Special Collections, including the famous Kipling Collection, the Historical Children's Literature Collection, and the South African Children's Literature Collection which contains books collected from 1989 and exhibited periodically by the then Children's Book Forum of the Western Cape.

The discussion of stories from Africa that followed and the sample of books Tanya displayed showed that there has been a definite and rich tradition of tales published in book form. However, it was often clear that writers' and illustrators' points of view were white (and male). Black characters and indigenous cultures were often portrayed in a racist, patronising fashion, and this raised issues of ownership, authority and authenticity in writing culturally specific stories: Who has the right to tell stories from another culture? Is asking permission enough? Should these people be remunerated and, if so, how? Reviva Schermuckler contributed a special piece for our newsletter titled 'Whose story is it anyway?'

After looking at numerous interesting books, we enjoyed a stimulating discussion and refreshments made possible in a venue organised by PRAESA. The BookBash underscored the magical richness and complexities of African folktales.

**- Fourie Botha**



- Below is a select list of titles from IBBY SA's Bantu Folk Tales (Wilhelm Heinrich Immanuel), 1827-1875**  
*The girl who made stars and other Bushman stories*; collected by Wilhelm Bleek and Lucy C. Lloyd; edited by Gregory McNamee. Einsiedel: Daimon Verlag, c2001.
- Braun, Elisabeth.  
*Echoes from the wild: fact, fiction, legend and myth of Africa's favourite animals*. Windhoek: Out of Africa, 2003.
- Calloway, Henry, Ed., 1817-1890  
*Tales from Southern Africa: a selection of Southern African folk tales, with a translation into English, and notes*. Springfield, Natal: John A. Blair; London: Trübner, 1868.
- Cape, Jack, 1913-1991  
*Tales of the trickster boy: stories of the trickster boy, Hakanyana, and his adventures in the great world; retold from the original folk tales; with illustrations by Azavia Mbatia*. Cape Town: Tafelberg, 1990.
- Donne, Raffaella Delle  
*Sun tales from Africa*; illustrated by Marjorie van Heerden. Cape Town: Struik, c2007.
- Fourie, Coral  
*Sandkorrels vir sonkinders*. Johannesburg: Perskor, 1991.
- Hertslet, Jessie  
*Bantu folk tale: seven stories*; line-cut illustrations by Joyce Wallis. Cape Town: The African Bookman, 1946.
- Jordan, A. C.  
*Tales from southern Africa*; foreword by Z. Pello Jordan; introduction and commentaries by Harold Scheub. Johannesburg: Ad Donker, 2004.
- Liquori-Reynolds, Rosalie, 1903-  
*Legends of the Blue Mountains*. Johannesburg: APB Publishers, 1965.
- Living legends of a dying culture: *Bushman myths, legends and fables*; edited and illustrated by Coral Fourie. Hartbeespoort: Ekogids, 1994.
- Mbanze, Dinah M.  
*The berry basket: three African tales*; with illustrations by Niki Daly. Cape Town: Kwela Books, 1999.
- Mhlophe, Gcina  
*Myths of Africa*; [illustrated by Kalle Becker ... et al.]. Pietermaritzburg: University of Natal Press, 2003.
- Miller, Penny  
*Myths and legends of Southern Africa*; introduction by T. V. Bulpin; edited by Rosemund Handler. Cape Town: T. V. Bulpin, c1979.
- Murgatroyd, Madeline  
*Tales from the kraals*; illustrations by Joyce Ordbrown. Cape Town: Timmins, 1968.
- Olse-voyl, Phillis  
*The best of African folklore*; illustrated by Gino Daniel. Cape Town: Struik Timmins, 1991.
- Werner, Alice, 1859-1935  
*Myths & legends of the Bantu*. London: Harrap, 1933.
- West African folk-tales*; collected and arranged by W. H. Barker and Cecilia Sinclair. London: Harrap, 1917.

**WHOSE STORY IS IT ANYWAY?**

This is an old story, an issue that won't go away.

At a recent IBBY BookBash very kindly hosted by Tanya Barben at the UCT Library, a splendid array of books was laid before us: African folk tales ranging in form from current picture books to old collections; and everything in-between; some beautifully illustrated, some not; some colonial in tone, some as politically correct as you can get. Tanya had been spurred to get this particular event together as a response to comments made on a previous occasion about the unsuitability of many African tales because of their gorminess and their portrayal of stereotypical gender roles. She effectively countered this by relating the grim and gory plot of a European traditional fairy tale (by Grimm?). "A hit with most kids I know," I thought to myself, but that was not the issue that was making me feel uncomfortable. I looked around at these dos, and then back down to the laden table. There seemed to be an invitation for the writers, publishers, booksellers and librarians present to view this as a wonderful resource, but especially to the writers to dip their hands into these riches, to dig in and explore and ultimately to refashion them into more books: retellings of retellings or brand new stories based on a thread discovered here and there. The prospect was delicious.

So, what was it that was bothering me?

I suppose it was that old South African issue of ownership. These stories are some of the richest products of certain cultures, for the Khoi-San or Bushmen, products of the Homers and Shakespeares of their society. Was it ethical for me to take anything that took my fancy and use it in whatever way I want?

On the one hand there is the basic tenet of artistic freedom – that (and necessarily!) of fully inhabiting any character that takes an author's fancy and expressing his/her feelings in whatever way she finds interesting. On the other hand, even artists must accept limitations to their freedom: we are not allowed to copy verbatim other artists' work – that is plagiarism; there are unspoken rules that we adopt to avoid material inappropriate to children – pornographic content or suchlike. So why do we find it difficult to understand that before diving into Tanya's books for a story or for inspiration, we need to ask ourselves what right we have over the material.

I have many questions and I'm not sure where I stand on them. I definitely do not want to take the moral high ground in this debate for over my quarry. I have most probably been as guilty as most in wandering into this ethical bog.

When we retell the stories of Norse mythology, for instance, we are writing about a people that no longer exists, but this is not the case when we retell the stories of the Bushmen/Khoi-San. Should we take into the equation the current lives of the remaining Bushmen? On the whole they live in abject poverty. These stories are undeniably their valuable and precious heritage. Should they benefit in some way from the publication of their stories?

Is it our duty to chronicle their stories if they show no interest in doing or are unable to do it themselves?

Do we have to earn the right to tell their stories? In what form is the "earning" to be done? Library research? Living alongside the "target" community? Why does it not rankle nearly as much when one hears that the chroniclers actually lived in the community for many years? (Best of all, **are members of the community**)! Do we then consider the work more authentic? Is this a valid distinction?

What distinguishes our C21 approach to the old colonial model of collecting stories for children from exotic peoples?

Do we need to be culturally appropriate to the tee or is this a straight-jacket on our freedom and the freedom of children readers?

Is all that matters how well (Imaginative, empathetic, gripping, etc.) we do the job? One of our members offered her take on the matter by emphasizing the universal child as the main character and the main recipient of our stories. To highlight quality and universalism goes some way to bridging cultural divides but does it adequately address the issue of the ethics of appropriating cultural treasures?

These are some of the questions that circled my head as I left the BookBash. What do you think?

**- Reviva Schermuckler**

**You are invited to**

**The AGM of IBBY SA**

This will take place at 17:30 for 18:00 on Thursday 5 August 2010 at SASNEV (the new name for Huis der Nederlanden), 4 Central Square Pinelands

... and immediately after the AGM:  
 (so you have to attend the AGM!)

**The Winter Bookbash**

What's new from Jacana Media? Come and listen to Carol Broomhall of Jacana on their current and future books for children and young people. Hear what Jacana has up their collective editorial sleeve!

After that, join us for some of Yvette's delicious soup-n-rolls.

RSVP to [info@ibbysa.org.za](mailto:info@ibbysa.org.za) before Monday 2 August 2010

**APPEAL FOR REVIEW COPIES**

This is another appeal to all publishers please to send IBBY SA review copies of your new books – especially the English and Afrikaans-language books (Lona Gericke receives only some Afrikaans books at her library).

**Why?**

- It helps us to build up a review bank on our website
- That in turn helps all of our members
- Overseas researchers often consult these
- We need your new books to select the Honour List books which are presented at the biennial IBBY World Congress

Those books automatically become eligible for the **Two Books IBBY SA Award** every second year (Two copies would be awarded)

So, all round, it's to your benefit to send them to us! Please send the two copies to the IBBY SA PO Box address as given in the banner at the head of this newsletter.

Many thanks! – we look forward to reading and reviewing them!

**QUICKCOMPETITION / KITSKOMPETISIE**

Yes, it was **Tanya Barben** again! She sent in the right answer to the question in the last competition: it was Jeremy Crutchley.

Tanya, a small selection of books is on its way to you for your special collection of South African books for children and young people.

(Publishers' alert: if you would like to add your new titles to Tanya's amazing collection in the UCT Library, send us a copy to forward to her.)

**WIN! WENI! WENI! WENI! WENI! WENI! WENI! WENI!**

**Hier is 'n nuwe vraag:**

In watter gedig van A. G. Visser skryf hy oor Jan van der Meer?

Stuur jou antwoord so gou moontlik – en jou posadres in geval jy wen – aan [booksforafrica@iafrica.com](mailto:booksforafrica@iafrica.com)

**WIN! WENI! WENI! WENI! WENI! WENI! WENI! WENI!**

**BOOKSHOP REVIEW: KALK BAY BOOKS**

This beautiful bookshop, owned by Don Donald, opened in December 2006. The children's section is run by Carmen van Ryneveld with the assistance of Aisling Heath, formerly of Exclusive Books, and it has built up a loyal following. Children from the local schools, the Bay Primary and St James Primary, are frequent visitors, many of whom come in just to look at the books.

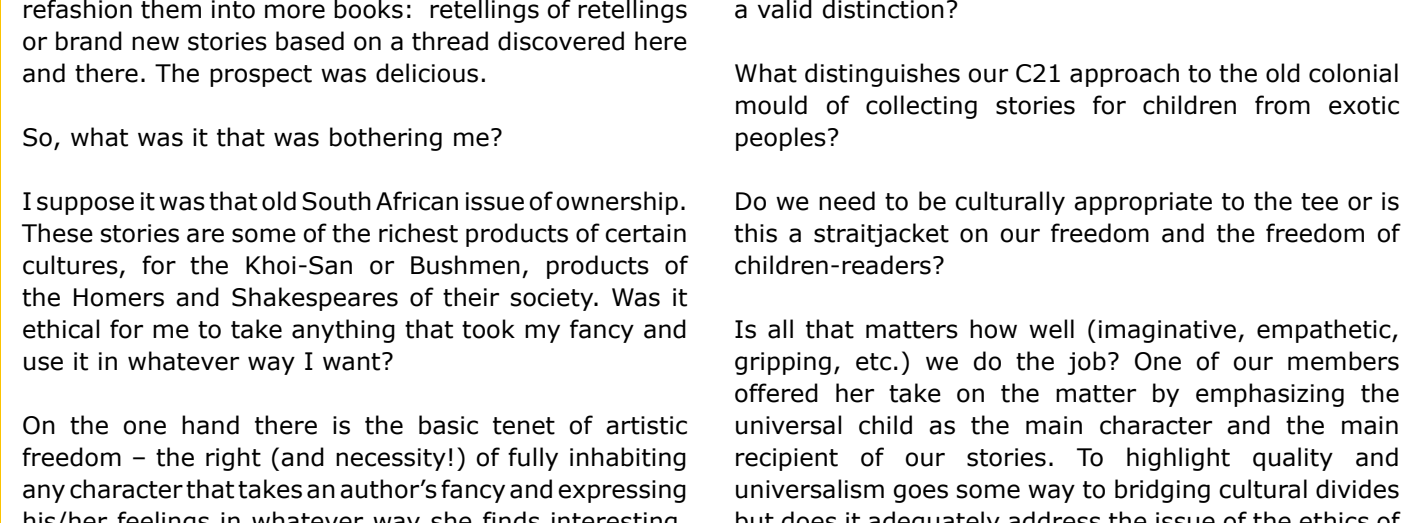
Carmen does not believe in slavishly following trends, she doesn't buy what she calls "movie-style books" and she tries to stock well-written, "good" books.

South African books that are soon to become classics like Michael Morpurgo's *Goodnight Mr Tom*.

Two of Carmen's favourite authors are Sharon Creech, especially the Fudge series, and Sharon Blume. Stephanie Meyer is not one of her favourites; she remarked that *Twilight* is badly written but admits that there is a big market for this type of book.

A book she has enjoyed recently is *The Summer I turned Pretty* by Jenny Han, written for teens about falling in love – and no vampires! Try it!

**- Kathy Madlener**



**REVIEWS / RESENSIES**

Until we find a new manager for our website (any offers, anyone?), we reproduce the full reviews here: Totdat ons 'n nuwe webmeester vir ons webwerf kry, plaas ons die volledige resensies hier:

**Mystery of the SS Waratah and the Avocado Tree**  
 by M. J. Honikman, with illustrations by Brice Reiglier (Tafelberg, 2010)

Two brothers, and then their two friends, become intrigued by the two elements mentioned in the title. The book recounts their detective research into the disappearance of the Waratah in 1909. It's well-written, of course: Marilyn Honikman has been involved in books and writing all her life. The research the writer had to do is impeccable and the book is a pleasure to read. Two brothers, and then their two friends, become intrigued by the two elements mentioned in the title. The book recounts their detective research into the disappearance of the Waratah in 1909. It's well-written, of course: Marilyn Honikman has been involved in books and writing all her life. The research the writer had to do is impeccable and the book is a pleasure to read.

**- at least, it sounds so; how would I know? In the end, I'm not 100% sure that it all "works". Is the story of the children and that of the avocado tree interesting enough in themselves, or do they serve as little more than a hook on which to hang the research into the disappearance? The trouble lies, I think, in the fact that the children don't do anything. It's fine to posit the idea that it's fun to do Internet research, to scour Google for information, to mosey around the public library for more information. There's nothing nerdy about these children, so all of that is great. But all the drama happens outside the children and the frame they're in, so everything, through all the research, is recounted, relayed, second-hand. Could it have been otherwise, I wonder. I hope the tweens will enjoy getting into this book – there's precious little around for them. – Robin Malan**

**Oempa-Kadoempa; rymies vir pret en plesier**  
 deur Jaco Jacobs, met illustrasies deur Susie Appleby (LAPA, 2010)

Jaco Jacobs beindruk hier met 'n besonder oulike versameling rymies, ideaal vir storytyd-programme of vir ma's wat speel-speel hul kinders lief vir taal wil maak. Elke rymie is in die bewoë – padda op 'n klip met die dwel in die water in; traptroetjies kom nader om die gogga te gruy; Kliele-kabouter doen net dit; 'n muisknibbel tog te lekker aan jou tone; wide perd galop op ma of pa se been; silke vinger speel 'n ander musiekinstrument; dinorosurt; 'n klop-klop seletjie; voelities wat hou van sing; narre wat op hul fietsie rondjaag; 'n skotloed-orkes; 'n spring-spring seletjie; etensyd vir voelities; tande borsel; spade in die bad; 'n slaaptydriempie en 'n wiggelied vir teddie, lg, wat die bundel baie mooi afsluit. Elke rymie word vergesel van voorstelle vir aksies en aktiwiteite sodat ouers of onderwysers en bibliotekeadresse die jong kind se leeservaring soveel lekkerder en interaktief kan maak. Waar ek self 'n program vir peuters aانبied, sal hierdie boek weer nuwe vars materiaal tot my beskikking stel, en ek sien reeds daarna uit om die nuwe rymies te leer en te gebruik. Hoogs aanbeveel. Die skrywer se aanvoeling is so fyn en gepas. – Lona Gericke

**Spreurder Annika los 'n raaisel op**  
 deur Eimarie Botes (LAPA, 2010)

Hierdie is die vierde titel in hierdie gewilde reeks met Annika, die speurder, as hoofkarakter. Die vorige drie titels was *Spreurder Annika*, *Spreurder Annika maak 'n plan*. Annika en haar klasmaats gaan op 'n uitstap na die museum, en Meneer Meiring verseker hulle dat hulle kan na die afdeling met voelies gaan kyk. Sheldon leen Annika se plooi om die vraelys te voltooi, en hy is so stadig dat sy moet sit en wag. Sy gaan sit plat op die vloer teen 'n houtpaneel, en haar hande in die vuur raak aan iets sag – 'n persliuwer wat onder die houtpaneel uitsteek. Sy wonder waar dit vandaan kom, en later as hulle hoor van die Kwahu-voel wat verdwyn het, besef sy die veer wat sy gesien het kon aan die Kwahu-voel behoort het. So begin haar speurderavontuur wanneer die houtpaneel haar en Sheldon toegang tot 'n geheime klein kamertjie gee. Gaan sy hierdie raaisel oplos? 'n Ligte ontspanningsverhaal vir 9-11-jariges; dit lees lekker, en behoort haar lesers weereens te betrek. – Lona Gericke

**Sonny Jim and his Sister**  
 by Robin Malan (Songololo, Shuter & Shooter, 2009)

This is a lovely recollection of the childhood adventures of Sonny Jim, a young South African boy growing up in Johannesburg with his sister, mother and aunt. Related with charming simplicity, it shares delightful anecdotes of everything from Christmas visits to Cape Town to rehearsals for the piano play, mixed in with scary school teachers, homemade milkshake, and the excitement of new story books. The evocative narrative offers us a glimpse of life through the eyes of a child, and a peek at the little incidents that make childhood such a magical time. I found that I enjoyed reading this as much as (if not more than) my little sister did. Sonny Jim reminded us that, with a good imagination, thrilling adventures can be found in our own backyard! – **Moonie Shaikjee**

**Wat is jy, Kartoffel?**  
 deur Marga Jonker, met illustrasies deur Alizette Prins (LAPA, 2010)

Sommer dadelik 'n groot geklunsing aan die skrywer en illustreerder vir hierdie dierbare, utters dadevriendelike boek! Ek is doodverlief op die aanbidding, want die skrywer verstaan werklik die hart en gevoelens karakteristiek identifiseer; dan is Kartoffel-wofel nie, want hulle ander probeer by elke keer iets doen wat die spesifieke dier kan 'n diertjie se ma darem gewoonlik tot sy redning, veral as rooifakkals hom as 'n lekker hapjie beskou! Groot pret; kinders sal die woordspeeling geniet; daar is selfs 'n spanningsleemant; en die illustrasies is lekker vrolik en sonder pretensie. Hoogs aanbeveel; utters geskik vir voorlees. – **Lona Gericke**

**The Billion Dollar Soccer Ball**  
 by Michael Williams (Maskew Miller Longman, 2009)

Michael Williams has done an excellent job of this. If you think it's nothing but an opportunistic "hook-on" to the World Cup, you're wrong. It's a thoughtful, poignant and disturbing account of what refugee life can be like for two young brothers. It's a hectic rite-of-passage book about Deo, who witnesses his Zimbabwe – entire, except for his elder brother Innocent, so named because of a mental disability. This makes him unable to cope on his own for most of the time, but it is in how he handles his emerging as a delightful and, in extreme situations, distinctly resourceful personality. The book covers their crossing the river, surviving being dragged into work on a fruit farm, getting to Joburg and then Cape Town, experiencing all the while the deprivation and tough times of living on the streets. Over-arching all is Deo's love for and skill in soccer. Williams's mesh-of the fad of a supposed street-soccer world championship and the World Cup is perfectly plausible. And his ending is spot-on: laduma! It's a moving book.

Maskew Miller Longman, however, miss the goal-mouth by series more attractive, and had left them as leisure-reading stuff at the end of the novel could and should have been kept for a separate class-use booklet for those poor teachers bereft of any inspiration of their own. – **Robin Malan**

**Jesse's Story**  
 by Fiona Macgregor (Maskew Miller Longman, 2009)

read South African story should be a hit with the boys. The main character, 14-year-old Jesse, lives with his mum and young sister Gemma in Cape Town. He attends a co-ed school where he plays rugby and likes music. Luca (Lucinda) is the girl he fancies and Promise is his best friend. Jesse's life is turned upside down after he is nudged on his way home one evening. How he deals with the effects of this forms an important part of the story. Short chapters, colloquial slang (lekker, bru, etc.) and the familiar events that happen to Jesse the most reluctant reader. For teachers there is a section of like a textbook and I hope the boys aren't put off. I think this from bergies and first teenage love to violence in our society, and friendships. – **Kathy Madlener**

**A Big Thank You to Inge Paulsen**, who is no longer going to be doing the design and layout of the newsletter – she's done you a great job since 2005. And welcome to **Raïël le Roux**, whose first sparkling newsletter this is!

**Text: Robin Malan, Kathy Madlener, Fourie Botha**  
**Layout & Design: Raïël le Roux**