

# Picture Books in translation

JOHANNA DE BEER

## Book Selector

In a recent article covering South African children's literature, Thomas van der Walt said that 'It was expected that with the change in government in 1994 and the elevation of the African languages to official status, there would be a marked development of children's literature in the African languages, but for several reasons this has not yet occurred. Many institutions and people are actively engaged in trying to promote the creation of children's literature in the African languages.' (Van der Walt, p.124.)

The efforts of publishers, organisations and individuals to bring books to young South African children in their mother tongue so that they can begin to develop a love of books and a culture of reading from an early age is to be applauded. And it is these efforts and the books that have been published as a result that are highlighted in the accompanying list of picture books, available in the three official languages of the Western Cape - English, Afrikaans and isiXhosa. This list was drawn up in response to a specific request from an ex-librarian who is involved with a library in an informal settlement in Cape Town. Children from this community are twinned with those who attend a private school in a neighbouring suburb and they regularly help one another by reading a text in each other's home language. The isiXhosa-speaking children help the English speakers with their isiXhosa language skills and vice versa. In this way the literacy skills of each are enhanced and practiced with equal importance being attached to both languages and texts.

I started trawling through the PALS database and from the list that has been compiled, a number of conclusions can be drawn. For me most importantly the paucity of titles on this list points to the

fact that we do not yet have a national children's literature, a common collection of indigenous texts that is available to our children in their mother tongue. But at the same time, this list points out something which I think is perhaps not acknowledged enough - the will and determination of so many to publish the books that will eventually form this national literature. Each book here has a story to tell - the story of its birth and the dreams, hopes and aspirations of its parents and godparents who brought it into this world. There are the authors, the illustrators, the editors, the translators, the publishers and many others who believe in the importance of books for children and books in their mother tongue.

Amongst the titles on this list are:

- ☺ translations of picture books that originated in Europe and America, bringing some of the best of the world's literature to our children in a language that they can read, for example, **Hungry Hyena** by Mwenye Hadithi and Liz Rosenberg's **The carousel**;
- ☺ original picture books by South Africans that in translation reach the widest possible audience, building up our common literary heritage, for example, Niki Daly's **Not so fast Songololo** and **Lulama's magic blanket** by Mari Grobler;
- ☺ books that were made possible by the funding and/or support given by to publishers by distribution agencies such as Biblionef, for example, Hijltje Vink's **Brenda has a dragon in her blood**; and last, but not least,
- ☺ books that were made possible by the fact that this library service purchased them in sufficient quantities to make their production possible.

## References

De Roubaix, Elizabeth. Library Service takes the lead! **Cape Librarian**, Nov/Dec 1993, p.51.

Snyman, Lydia. Breakthrough for Xhosa literature. **Cape Librarian**, Nov/Dec 1993, pp.50-51.

Van der Walt, TB. The same, but with a difference: South African children's literature in relation to Australian and Canadian children's literature. **Mousaion** 23 (1) 2005, pp.119-141.

## BOOKLIST

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## Book Selector

*Picture books available in English, Afrikaans and isiXhosa editions.*

Abiathar, Sanodji Yombel

**Louba the little soccer player: a story from Chad.**- New Africa Education, 2001.

**Louba die sokkerspeletjie: 'n storie uit Tsjad.**- New Africa Education, 2001.

**Ulouba, umdlali wesoka omncinane: ibali laseChad.**- New Africa Education, 2001.

Akuete, Cyprien KM

**When I grow up: a story from Mali.**- New Africa Education, 2001.

**Wanneer ek groot is: 'n storie uit Mali.**- New Africa Education, 2001.

**Ndakukhula: ibali laseMali.**- New Africa Education, 2001.

Amoi, Assamala

**The lost shell: a story from the Ivory Coast.**- New Africa Education, 2001.

**Die verlore dop: 'n storie uit die Ivoorkus.**- New Africa Education, 2001.

**Iqokobhe elilahlekileyo: ibali lase-Ivory Coast.**- New Africa Education, 2001.

Arnott, Kathleen

**Why birds with coloured feathers cannot sing.**- Anansi Pub., 1998.

**Waarom veelkleurige voëls nie kan sing nie.**- Anansi-uitg., 1998.

**Kutheni iintaka ezineentsiba ezinemibala zingakwazi.**- Anansi Pub., 1998.

**Why the rat lives in a hole.**- Anansi Pub., 1998.

**Waarom rotte in gate woon.**- Anansi-uitg., 1998.

**Kutheni ibuzi lihlala emngxunyeni.**- Anansi Pub., 1998.

Arrison, Lionel

**The wheel.**- Juta, 1997.  
**Die wiel.**- Juta, 1994.  
**Ivili.**- Juta, 1996.

Baker, Keith

**Who is the beast?**- Hodder, 1991.  
**Wie is die dier?**- Anansi-uitg., 1993.  
**Ngubani iramncwa?**- Anansi Pub., 1993.

Bebey, Kidi

**Why aren't I in the photographs?**- New Africa Education, 2001.  
**Hoekom is ek nie op die foto's nie?**- New Africa Education, 2001.  
**Kutheni ndingekho emfanekisweni nje?**- New Africa Education, 2001.

Block, Carole

**Vuyo's day: a story from South Africa.**- New Africa Education, 2002.  
**Vuyo se dag: 'n storie uit Suid-Afrika.**- New Africa Education, 2002.  
**Imini kaVuyo: ibali laseMzantsi Afrika.**- New Africa Education, 2002.

Browne, Eileen

**Handa's surprise.**- Walker Bks., 1998.  
**Handa se verrassing.**- Giraffe Bks., 2004.  
**Isothuso sikaHanda.**- Giraffe Bks., 2004.

Cave, Kathryn

**One child, one seed: a South African counting book.**- Pan Macmillan, 2001.  
**Een kind, een saad: 'n Suid-Afrikaanse telboek.**- Giraffe Bks., 2004.  
**Umntwana omnye, imbewu enye: incwadi yokubala yasemzantsi Afrika.**- Giraffe Bks., 2004.

Christopher, Wendy

**Sipho's new shoes.**- Garamond, 1992.  
**Sipho se nuwe skoene.**- Garamond, 1992.  
**Izihlangu ezitsha zikaSipho.**- Garamond, 1992.

Cooke, Trish

**So much.**- Walker Bks., 1996.  
**So graag.**- Tafelberg, 1996.  
**Kakhulu.**- Tafelberg, 1996.

Coplans, Peta

**Cat and dog.**- Tafelberg, 1995.  
**Kat en hond.**- Tafelberg, 1995.  
**Inja nekati.**- Tafelberg, 1995.

Daly, Jude

**To everything there is a season.**- Songololo Bks., 2005.  
**Elke ding het sy vaste tyd.**- Songololo Bks., 2005.  
**Into yonke inxesha elimisiveyo.**- Songololo Bks., 2005.

Daly, Niki

**Not so fast Songololo.**- Puffin, 1987.  
**Nie so vinnig nie Songololo.**- Human, 1985.  
**Ungangxami Songololo.**- Via Afrika, 1991.

**Once upon a time.**- F. Lincoln, 2003.  
**Eenmaal lank gelede.**- Tafelberg, 2004.  
**Kudala-dala.**- Tafelberg, 2004.

**Where's Jamela?**- Tafelberg, 2005.  
**Waar's Jamela?**- Tafelberg, 2005.  
**Uphi uJamela?**- Tafelberg, 2005.

De Satge, Rick

**The elephant that got stuck.**- Garamond, 1997.  
**Olifant sit vas.**- Garamond, 2004.  
**Indlovu eyaxingayo.**- Garamond, 1997.

Deetlefs, Rene

**Tabu and the dancing elephants.**- Garamond 1996.  
**Tabu en die dansende olifante.**- Garamond 1996.  
**Utaba neendlovu ezidanisayo.**- Garamond 1996.

**The song of six birds.**- Garamond, 2003.  
**Die lied van ses voëls.**- Garamond, 2003.  
**Umculo weentaka ezintandathu.**- Garamond, 2003.

Diarra, Ousmane

**Nana and the caterpillar.**- New Africa Education, 2001.  
**Nana en die rusper.**- New Africa Education, 2001.  
**Unana nombungu.**- New Africa Education, 2001.

Donve

**Modjadj, the Rain Queen.**- New Africa Education, 2001.  
**Modjadj, die Reënkoningin.**- New Africa Education, 2001.  
**Umodjadj, iKumkanikazi yeMvula.**- New Africa Education, 2001.

Dreyer, Joelyn

**Barry was sick.**- Juta, 1997.  
**Barry was siek.**- Juta, 1994.  
**Ubanzi ebegula.**- Juta, 1996.

Dunbar, Joyce

**This is the star.**- Picture Corgi, 1998.  
**Hier is die ster.**- Garamond, 1998.  
**Yinkwenkwezi le.**- Garamond, 1998.

Fox, Mem

**Whoever you are.**- Garamond, 1998.  
**Wie jy ookal is.**- Garamond, 1998.  
**Nobula ungubani na.**- Garamond, 1998.



French, Fiona

**Anancy and Mr Dry-Bone.**- F. Lincoln, 1991.  
**Anansi en meneer Miljoen.**- Garamond, 1995.

**U-Anancy nomnumzana uMathambo.**- Garamond, 1995.

Gerson, Mary-Joan

**How night came from the sea.**- Little, 1994.  
**Hoe die nag uit die see gekom het.**- Anansi-uitg., 1997.

**Indlela ubusuku obavela ngayo elwandle.**- Anansi Pub., 1997.

Grobler, Mari

**Lulama's magic blanket.**- Tafelberg, 1997.  
**Lulama se towerkometers.**- Tafelberg, 1997.  
**Ingubo yeziziba kaLulama.**- Tafelberg, 1997.

**Musa's journey.**- Tafelberg, 1997.

**Musa se reis.**- Tafelberg, 1997.  
**Uhambo lukaMusa.**- Tafelberg, 1997.

Hadithi, Mwenye

**Hungry Hyena.**- Hodder, 2004.  
**Honger Hiena.**- Garamond, 1994.  
**Inguka elambileyo.**- Garamond, 1994.

Honey, Hester

**When you are six.**- Human, 1995.  
**Wanneer jy ses is.**- Human, 1995.  
**Wakugqiba iminyaka emithandathu.**- Human, 1995.

Isherwood, Shirley

**William's problems.**- Macdonald, 1988.  
**Willem se probleme.**- Anansi-uitg., 1997.  
**Ingxaki kaWilliam.**- Anansi Pub., 1997.

Jackson, Debbie

**The foolish Baboon.**- Garamond, 1993.  
**Klein Bobbejaan leer 'n les.**- Garamond, 1993.  
**Imfene esisidenge.**- Garamond, 1993.

Lalinon Gbado, Beatrice

**Beautiful Debo: a story from Benin.**- New Africa Education, 2001.  
**Pragtige Debo: 'n storie uit Benin.**- New Africa Education, 2001.  
**Inzwakazi uDebo: ibali laseBenin.**- New Africa Education, 2001.

Leggat, Gillian

**Colour crazy.**- Garamond, 1995.  
**Kleure-paradys.**- Garamond, 1995.  
**Ukathanda imibala.**- Garamond, 1995.

Lerato, M'e

**Motselisi and the fireflies.**- Garamond, 1993.  
**Motselisi en die vuurvliegies.**- Garamond, 1993.  
**Umotselisi neenkanyezi.**- Garamond, 1993.

**The voices in the mountains.**- Anansi Pub., 2002.

**Die stemme in die berge.**- Anansi-uitg., 2002.

**Amazwi ezintabeni.**- Anansi Pub., 2002.

Lusted, Ian

**The magic box.**- Garamond, 2002.  
**Die towerboks.**- Garamond, 2002.  
**Ibhokisi yobugqi.**- Garamond, 2002.

**Sam's smile.**- Garamond, 2002.

**Kassie se glimlag.**- Garamond, 2002.  
**Uncumo lukaSam.**- Garamond, 2002.

**Wake up!**- Garamond, 2002.

**Opstaan!**- Garamond, 2002.

**Vuka!**- Garamond, 2002.

MacGill-Callahan, Sheila

**The children of Lir.**- Dial Bks., 1993.  
**Die betowerde swane.**- Anansi-uitg., 1997.  
**Abantwana bakaLir.**- Anansi Pub., 1997.

Mbonyi, Jean

**How the hippopotamus lost its fur: a story from the Democratic Republic of Congo.**- New Africa Education, 2002.  
**Hoe die seekoei sy pels verloor het: 'n storie uit die Demokratiese Republiek van die Kongo.**- New Africa Education, 2002.

**Yalahlekelwa kanjani buboya bayo imvubu: ibali laseDemocratic Republic of Congo.**- New Africa Education, 2002.

**Oh! and ah!: a story from the Democratic Republic of Congo.**- New Africa Education, 2002.

**Oe! en aa!: 'n storie uit die Demokratiese Republiek van die Kongo.**- New Africa Education, 2002.

**U- awu! No- shu!: ibali laseDemocratic Republic of Congo.**- New Africa Education, 2002.

Mennen, Ingrid

**One round moon and a star for me.**- Bodley Head, 1994.

**'n Ronde maan en 'n ster vir my.**- Human, 1994.

**Inyanga enye engqukuva nenkwenkwezi yam.**- Human, 1994.

Mhlophe, Gcina

**Hi, Zoleka!**- Songololo, 2002.  
**Haai, Zoleka!**- Tafelberg, 1994.  
**Molo, Zoleka!**- Songololo, 1994.

Midiouhan, Theola

**Afi and the magic drum: a story from Benin.**- New Africa Education, 2001.  
**Afi en die towertrom: 'n storie uit Benin.**- New Africa Education, 2001.  
**U-Afi negubu lomlingo: ibali laseBenin.**- New Africa Education, 2001.

Milne, Kathleen

**Dema & Demazana.**- Anansi Pub., 1994.  
**Dema & Damazana.**- Anansi-uitg., 1994.  
**Dema & Damazana.**- Anansi Pub., 1994.

**The legend of the Flying Dutchman.**- Anansi Pub., 1994.

**Die legende van die Vlieënde Hollander.**- Anansi-uitg., 1994.

**Intsomi yoMDatshi oBhabhayo.**- Anansi Pub., 1994.

**Paddy and the pooka.**- Anansi Pub., 1997.

**Paddy en die poeka.**- Anansi-uitg., 1997.  
**Upaddy nepooka.**- Anansi Pub., 1997.

**Van Hunks and the dark stranger.**- Anansi Pub., 1990.

**Van Hunks en die verleier.**- Anansi-uitg., 1990.

**UVan Hunks kunye nomntu omnyama ongaqhelekanga.**- Anansi Pub., 1993.

Molle, Tololwa M

**Rhinos for lunch and elephants for supper.**- Clarion Bks., 1991.

**Renosters vir ontbyt en olifante vir aandete.**- Garamond, 1993.

**Umkhombe ngedinala indlovu ngesopholo.**- Garamond, 1993.



Nevin, Thomas A

**Mbali and Lion: a Pondo fable.**- Garamond, 1996.

**Mbali en Leeu: 'n Pondo-volksverhaal.**- Garamond, 2004.

**Umbali nengonyama: intsomi yamaMpondo.**- Garamond, 1996.

**Why sugar cane is sweet.**- Garamond, 1995.

**Waarom suikerriet soet is.**- Garamond, 1995.

**Kutheni iswekile iswiti.**- Garamond, 1995.

Rankin, Joan

**Fat Paws and Pit Wit.**- Tafelberg, 1996.

**Dikkekat en Kollepiet.**- Tafelberg, 1996.

**Ukatana noMpangele.**- Tafelberg, 1996.

Roos, Vivienne

**The flower patch.**- Garamond, 2004.

**Die blommeveld.**- Garamond, 1997.

**Isiqithana seentyatyambo.**- Garamond, 1997.

Rosenberg, Liz

**The carousel.**- Orchard Bks., 1996.

**Die mallemeule.**- Anansi-uitg., 1998.

**Icarousel.**- Anansi Pub., 1998.

Schernbrucker, Reviva

**Stars on the dunes: a story from South Africa.**- New Africa Education, 2002.

**Sterre op die duine: 'n verhaal uit Suid-Afrika.**- New Africa Education, 2002.

**linkwenkwezi ezikwiingquzu zentlabathi: ibali laseMzantsi Afrika.**- New Africa Education, 2002.

Schröder, Brigitte

**Arnie.**- Anansi Pub., 1997.

**Arnie.**- Anansi-uitg., 1997.

**Uarnie.**- Anansi Pub., 1997.

Scott, Cheryl

**Childey's song.**- Anansi Pub., 1998.

**Kinta se lied.**- Anansi-uitg., 1998.

**Ingoma kaChildey.**- Anansi Pub., 1998.

Sisulu, Elinor Batezat

**The day Gogo went to vote, 27 April 1994.**- Tafelberg, 1997.

**Die dag toe Gogo gaan stem het, 27 April 1994.**- Tafelberg, 1997.

**Mhla uGogo waya kuvota, 27 Aprili 1994.**- Tafelberg, 1997.

Souza, Carl de

**Citronella: a story from Mauritius.**- New Africa Education, 2001.

**Sitronella: 'n storie uit Mauritius.**- New Africa Education, 2001.

**Ucitronella: ibali laseMauritius.**- New Africa Education, 2001.

Stewart, Dianne

**The dove.**- Songololo, 1994.

**Die duif.**- Tafelberg, 1994.

**Ihobe.**- Songololo, 1994.

**The gift of the sun.**- Tafelberg, 1996.

**Soos die son skuif.**- Tafelberg, 1996.

**Ukulandela ilanga.**- Tafelberg, 1996.

Urson, Meryl

**Vuyo's whistle.**- Anansi Pub., 2002.

**Vuyo se fluitjie.**- Anansi-uitg., 2002.

**Impempe kaVuyo.**- Anansi Pub., 2002.

Van der Walt, Dux

**The red dress.**- Garamond, 1997.

**Die rooi rok.**- Garamond, 1997.

**Ilokhwe ebomvu.**- Garamond, 1997.

Van Heerden, Marjorie

**Lana's long way home.**- Garamond, 1993.

**Lana se ompad huis toe.**- Garamond, 1993.

**Ulana uxakwe kukugoduka.**- Garamond, 1993.

Van Rooyen, Nanette

**The green cow.**- Garamond, 2004.

**Die groen koei.**- Garamond, 2004.

**Imazi yenkomo eluhlaza.**- Garamond, 1996.

**Lila at the reed-pool.**- Garamond, 1995.

**Lila langs die rietkuil.**- Garamond, 1995.

**Ulila ezingcongolweni.**- Garamond, 1995.

**Muggs and Muffin.**- Garamond, 1994.

**Onkel en Pops.**- Garamond, 1994.

**Umagi noMafi.**- Garamond, 1994.

Vanyaza, Mlungisi

**Boleki.**- Juta, 1997.

**Boleki.**- Juta, 1994.

**Umboleki.**- Juta, 1996.

Vink, Hijltje

**Brenda has a dragon in her blood.**- Garamond, 2005.

**Brenda het 'n drakie in haar bloed.**- Garamond, 2005.

**Ubrenda unegongqongqo egazini lahkhe.**- Garamond, 2005.

Walton, Ann

**The trickster.**- Anansi Pub., 2004.

**Haas maak 'n plan.**- Anansi-uitg., 2004.

**Umkhohlisi.**- Anansi Pub., 2004.

Willich, Beate

**Tsepo in trouble.**- Garamond, 1992.

**Tsepo in die moeilikheid.**- Garamond, 1992.

**Utsepo engxakini.**- Garamond, 1992.

Wulfsohn, Gisele

**Bongani's day: from dawn to dusk in a South African City.**- F. Lincoln, 2002.

**Bongani se dag: van dagbreek tot skemer in 'n Suid-Afrikaanse stad.**- Giraffe Bks., 2004.

**Imini kaBongani: ukusukela ngoms obomvu ukuya kutsho ngorhatya kwisixeko saseMzantsi Afrika.**- Giraffe Bks., 2004.

## Multilingual picture books

Rowe, John

**How many monkeys? a counting book in English, Afrikaans, Zulu, Xhosa.**- Human, 1993.

Van Wyk, Comien

**Wat? =What? =Ntoni?.**- Garamond, 1993.

