

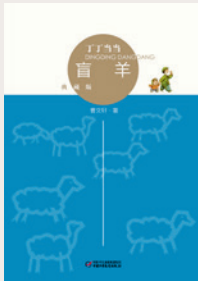
HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN AWARDS — SHORTLIST 2016

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CAO WENXUAN

China/Author

Cao Wenxuan grew up in rural China and studied at Peking University where he is now a professor of Chinese literature and children's literature. His first successful book, *Cao Fang Zi* (The straw house, 1997) was one of the first coming-of-age novels in China and it won the top National Children's Literature Award. His fluid, poetic prose depicts honest, sometimes raw and often melancholy moments of life. *Qing Tong Kui Hua* (Bronze and Sunflower, 2005) tells the story of a young city child trying to find her place in the countryside. *The Dingding Dangdang* (2012) series follows the life of two brothers with Down syndrome living in a small rural Chinese village. He has also written a series of fantasy novels, *Da Wang Shu* (The king book, 2007).



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LOUIS JENSEN

Denmark/Author

Louis Jensen began by writing poetry and books for adults, his first collection of poems was published in 1973. Ten years later, his debut for children was a short story for the anthology *Fantastic Tales*. He has published nine collections of *Hundrede firkantede historier* (Hundred square stories, 1992-2014). These stories have been published in several anthologies in Denmark and translated into English, German and Spanish. His most famous novel, *Skelettel på hjul* (The skeleton on wheels, 1992) was originally a play: the story of a boy's search for the soul of his murdered dog. Louis Jensen has received all Danish literary awards and in 2002 received recognition for his lifetime contributions from the Danish Art Foundation.



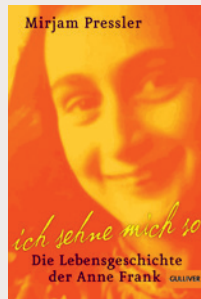
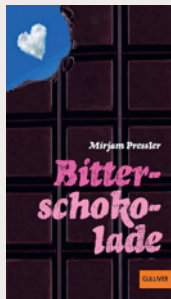
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MIRJAM PRESSLER

Germany/Author

Mirjam Pressler attended the Frankfurt Academy of Fine Arts and studied languages in Munich. After living on a kibbutz in Israel, she returned to Germany and worked at various jobs to support her family. At 40 she wrote her first book, *Bitterschokolade*, (Bitter chocolate, 1980), which won the Oldenburg Children's and Youth Literature Prize and was translated into several languages. She has written numerous stories for children and young adults including *Wenn das Glück kommt, muss man ihm einen Stuhl hinstellen* (When happiness turns up, offer it a chair, 1994), which won the Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis and *Malka Mai* (Malka Mai, 2001), which in 2002 won the Deutscher Bücherpreis. She is also an accomplished translator, translating from Hebrew, Dutch, Flemish, Afrikaans and English.



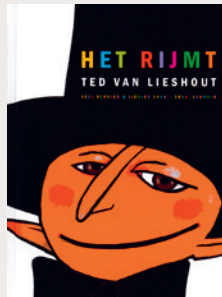
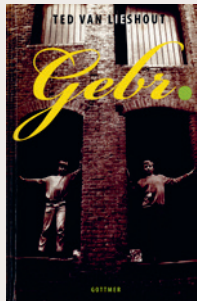
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TED VAN LIESHOUT

Netherlands/Author

Ted van Lieshout studied at the Art Academy of Amsterdam and began designing book covers and illustrating a Dutch children's weekly magazine. Influenced by the loss of his own father and brother, his poems often deal with conflicting feelings and with difficult but realistic issues. He expertly uses both words and illustrations to tell his stories. His collections of poems include *Ik ben een hel* (I am a hero, 1991), *Gebr.* (Brothers, 1996) and *Hou van mij* (Love me, 2009). More recently he has written and illustrated the picture book *Boer Boris gaat naar zee* (Farmer Freddie goes to the seaside, 2013). Ted van Lieshout has won several Dutch Griffels and Vlag en wimples awards and in 2009 he won the most prestigious Dutch children's literature award, the Theo Thijssensprijs.



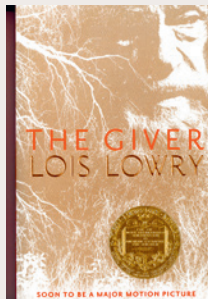
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LOIS LOWRY

USA/Author

Lois Lowry obtained a degree in English Literature from the University of Southern Maine in 1972 and began writing professionally. Her award-winning books encompass many genres including science fiction, historical fiction and fantasy but all deal with the importance of human connections. Her first book, *A Summer to Die* (1977) was a fictionalized account of the loss of a sibling and the effect of such a loss on a family. The horrors of WWII were related through the perspective of a young child in occupied Denmark in *Number the Stars* (1989), a book for which she was awarded her first Newbery Medal. She was awarded her second Newbery medal for *The Giver* in 1993, – a book that began the dystopian genre in young adult fiction.



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ROTRAUT SUSANNE BERNER

Germany/Illustrator

Rotraut Susanne Berner studied graphic design at the Munich University of Applied Science and worked for several years in advertising before becoming a freelance graphic artist and illustrator. Her popular *Wimmel* (Winter 2003, Spring 2004, Autumn and Summer 2005) books depict life in the four seasons in whimsical detail with the narrative told only through pictures. Some of her best-known books include *Dunkel war's, der Mond schien helle* (It was dark outside, the moon was bright, 1999), *Karlchen-Geschichten* (Stories of little Charly, 2003), and *Als der Tod zu uns kam* by Jürg Schubiger (When death came for a visit, 2011). In 2006 she won a special recognition for her complete works as an illustrator with a Sonderpreis der Deutsche Jugendliteraturpreis.



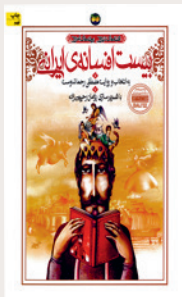
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PEJMAN RAHIMIZADEH

Iran/Illustrator

Pejman Rahimizadeh received a Masters degree in Visual Communication from the Art and Architecture department of the Azad University in Tehran. He has worked in advertising, magazine publishing and the printing industry and is now a professor and freelance graphic artist and illustrator. He uses signs and symbols from Iranian visual culture – paintings, stone inscriptions, architecture and decorative art – to illustrate many of Iran's mystical and historical tales. His most recent work is the story of *Rostam and Esfandiar* by Marjan Fouladvand (2014) for which he has received the Certificate of Honour for Illustration from the Children's Book Council of Iran and a Golden Plaque at the Sharjah Illustrations Exhibition.



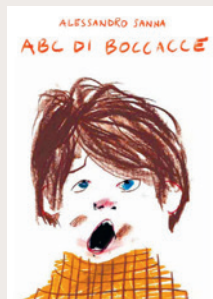
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ALESSANDRO SANNA

Italy/Illustrator

Alessandro Sanna has illustrated over seventy titles for children and adults. In dedication to the children who lost their home to the earthquake in Abruzzo he created the story, *Una casa, la mia casa* (A home, my home, 2009) which is a series of illustrations around three lines – two walls and a roof – the basic shape of a home. In 2009 he won the Premio Rigamonti and the Premio Andersen – Il mondo dell'infanzia as best illustrator of the year. Alessandro Sanna has a poetic and evocative style, perhaps best seen in his work *Fiume Lento* (The River, 2013) that charts the river Po through the seasons. He has also illustrated the works of several well-known authors, including *Lematmorfosi. Storie di mitologia* by Roberto Piumini (Metamorphoses, 2014).



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SUZY LEE

Korea/Illustrator

Suzy Lee completed a degree in Fine Arts in painting at the Seoul National University and thereafter participated in painting exhibitions and worked as a freelance illustrator. Her Border Trilogy – *Mirror* (2003), *Wave* (2008) and *Shadow* (2010) – are wordless stories that use the physical centre of the book as a border between fantasy and reality in the story. Suzy Lee's picture books have received international acclaim: *Wave* received several distinctions in the United States, including the New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Book 2008 and was selected for the IBBY Silent Books Honour List in 2013. *Shadow* was also selected as the New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Book 2010.



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MARIT TÖRNQVIST

Netherlands/Illustrator

Marit Törnqvist was born in Sweden but moved to the Netherlands as a child and studied illustration at the Rietveld Academie in Amsterdam. She uses a variety of materials and blend of techniques, though her favourite is painting with acryl-gouache, ink and ecoline. Her best-known books include: *Klein verhaal over liefde* (A short love story, 1995), which won the Zilveren Griffel award, *Wat niemand had verwacht* (What nobody had expected, 2009) and *Fabian Feest* (Fabian's party, 2014). She has also done illustrations for Dutch authors including Toon Tellegen, *Pikkuhenki* (2006), for which she won a Gouden Penseel award, and Jeff Aerts, *Groter dan een droom* (Bigger than a dream, 2013).

